

UNITED BENEFICE OF ST. MARY, GOUDHURST
WITH CHRIST CHURCH, KILNDOWN

Vicar: Revd. Bill Hornsby
The Vicarage, Back Lane Tel: 01580 211739
billhornsby@btinternet.com
Please note the Vicar's day off is Monday

For initial arrangements regarding Baptism and Marriage please contact:

The Vicar

ST. MARY'S

Church Wardens: Jo Meyer Tel: 01580 211750
jomeyer39@hotmail.com
Angela Pakenham-Walsh Tel: 01580 211610

Assistant Wardens: Sue Crookall & Tim Wormington

Treasurer PCC: Peter Gray Tel: 01580 211496

Gift Aid Secretary: Roy Dunstall Tel: 01580 211814

Secretary PCC: Jill Dunstall Tel: 01580 211814

Organist & Choirmaster: Alistair Curtis BMus (Hons) PGCE
Tel: 01892 782473

Verger: Vacancy Tel:

Deanery Synod: 2 vacancies
Tel:

Bellringing Captain: Rosemary Southon Tel: 01580 211791

Sunday Club: Rachel Bickersteth Tel: 01580 212404
Amanda Allison Tel: 01580 211283

Church Room Booking Officer: Rosemary Southon Tel: 01580 211791

Church Cleaners Organiser: Sue Crookall Tel: 01580 211710

Wive's Group Leader: Marilyn Whitewood Tel: 01580 211295
Clayhill Farm

Ready Call: Tel: 01580 211870
Transport: 01580 211870

Village Hall Booking Officer: Phil Coburn Tel: 01580 212023

CHRIST CHURCH

Church Wardens:	David Denton Patrick Mayhew	Tel: 01892 890244 Tel: 01580 211820
Treasurer:	Clive Roberts	Tel: 01892 890970
Gift Aid Secretary:		
Secretary PCC:	Annie Fellows	Tel: 01892 890354
Organist & Choirmaster:	David Denton Quarry House	Tel: 01892 890244
Verger:	Vacancy	Tel:
Deanery Synod:	Vacancy	Tel:

PARISH MAGAZINE

Editors:	David Denton Jo and Ann Meyer	Tel: 01892 890244 denton@kilndown.fsnet.co.uk Russets, North Road jomeyer39@hotmail.com
Magazine Advertising:	James Wickham	Tel: 01580 211462 Fax: 01580 212031 james@wickham.eclipse.co.uk
Distribution:	Pam Stubbs (Goudhurst) Hilary Bird (Kilndown)	Tel: 01580 211013 Tel: 01892 890554

FROM THE VICAR

'Fret not thyself because of the ungodly.'

Psalm 37.1

Nearly forty years ago Archbishop Michael Ramsey published a book of his talks to those who were about to be ordained – 'The Christian Priest Today'. The book, in its revised form, is still 'recommended reading' for anyone considering some form of ministry in the church.

In one chapter, the Archbishop reflects on Psalm 37.1 – 'Fret not thyself because of the ungodly'. He describes how so much of our life can be consumed by 'fretting'. Fretting about the bad news which occupies our newspapers, radios, (and nowadays, internet) and television; fretting about economic injustice; fretting about conflicts between and within communities and racial and religious tensions; fretting about what he identified in 1972 as 'the drift of Western democracies into spiritual aimlessness'. Fretting that the church and the world are falling apart at the seams...

And the Archbishop sought to provide wise counsel...

He suggested that, if we find that we are becoming over-burdened with cares for the world and ourselves, unable to let go of thoughts which are overwhelming our lives and making us feel sad or miserable, feeling the absence of God, then we should recall how God is present in judgment in the world and in our lives. As we recognize that God is present with us as judge we recognize also that God is, at the same time, calling us back to 'know at once his nearness also in mercy and forgiveness'. He suggests that it is in the self-giving love shown on the Cross and in the Resurrection that our fretting can be reconciled. And that, sometimes, it is through the pain that the nearness of Christ can be recognized.

At Easter, and Sunday by Sunday, and indeed day by day, we can enter into that great mystery of sins forgiven and new beginnings opening up for each one of us. Each one of us is called by our baptism to be ministers of God's grace to those around us and to recognize, first, God's grace in our own lives. We are challenged to forgive ourselves and others where we perceive there to have been wrongs. And, if that is too difficult for us, to seek to forgive...And, if that is too difficult for us, to want to seek to forgive...

Archbishop Michael concludes his chapter by drawing on other verses from Psalm 37.

'Trust in the Lord, and do good. . . Take delight in the Lord . . . Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him . . . Be still before the Lord . . . Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath . . . Do not fret . . .'

The Easter season gives us an opportunity to make a new beginning. Details of our services are given elsewhere in the magazine. Everyone is invited to come along and join in. Bring with you everything about which you have been fretting – and leave it all at the foot of the Cross.

Every blessing, as we conclude our journey through Lent, as we celebrate the joy of Easter, and as we continue to travel as people of the Resurrection. **Without fretting!**

Bill

DEANERY EVENTS

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, STAPLEHURST FRIENDS of ALL SAINTS

Saturday 10th April, 2010 – 7.30pm for 8.00pm – Parish Room

BRAIN GAME

Quiz night for teams of 4-6 people

Please bring your own food and drink

To enter a team ring Andrew Brady, 01580 891840 or email:
andrewbrady@madasafish.com

ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, CRANBROOK FRIENDS of ST. DUNSTANS

Thursday 1st April – 1.00pm – Church

PIANO RECITAL Wind in the Weald

Light lunch served at 12.30pm

Admission is free but a retiring collection goes towards the work of the Friends.

Everyone welcome.

CALENDAR

Please note - re: 8.00am. Communion Service in St Mary's – order two from the Book of Common Worship, Traditional Language is used.

Weekday parish prayers: Morning prayer is at 8.00 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at St Mary's and on Friday at Christ Church. Evening prayer is at 5.30 pm on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday at St Mary's and on Friday at Christ Church when the prayers for Compline will be used. See weekly sheet for Bible readings.

Thur 1 st		Maundy Thursday
	10.00 am	No Holy Communion – St Mary's
	2.00 pm	School Easter Service – St Mary's
	8.00 pm	Eucharist, Foot-washing and Stripping of Altar – St Mary's
Fri 2 nd		Good Friday
	10.00 am	Ecumenical Procession from the Plain to St Mary's
	12.00	Service of the First Hour – Christ Church
	2.00 pm	Service of the Last Hour – St Mary's
Sat 3 rd		Easter Eve
	8.00 pm	Ecumenical Eucharist – The Light of Christ – St Mary's
Sun 4th		Easter Day
	8.00 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	9.15 am	Holy Communion – Christ Church
	10.45 am	Family Communion – St Mary's
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong – Christ Church
Thur 8 th	10.00 am	No Holy Communion – St Mary's
Sun 11th		2nd of Easter
	8.00 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	9.15 am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
	10.45 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Tues 13 th	7.45 pm	Goudhurst PCC
Thur 15 th	10.00 am	No Holy Communion – St Mary's
Sun 18th		3rd of Easter
	8.00 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
	9.15 am	Holy Communion at Christ Church
	10.45 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's
Tues 20 th	7.30 pm	Prayer Fellowship
Thur 22 nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion – St Mary's
Sun 25th		4th of Easter
	8.00 am	Holy Communion – St Mary's
	9.15 am	Holy Communion – Christ Church
	10.45 am	Holy Communion – St Mary's
	pm	Confirmation Group

Tues	27 th	7.30pm	Friends of Christ Church AGM
Wed	28 th		Kilndown – Annual Parochial Council Meeting
Thurs	29 th	7.45pm	Goudhurst – Annual Parochial Council Meeting

READINGS

Thursday 1st April	Maundy Thursday Exodus 12.1 - 14 Gospel: John 13.1 - 17, 31b - 35	1 Corinthians 11.23 - 36
Saturday 3rd April	Easter Eve Exodus 14.15 - 31 Romans 6.3 - 11	Ezekiel 36.25 - 28 Gospel: Luke 24.1 - 12
Sunday 4th April	Easter Day Isaiah 65.17 - 25 Gospel: John 20.1 - 18	Acts 10.34 - 43
Sunday 11th April	2nd of Easter Acts 5.27 - 32 Gospel: John 20.19 - 31	Revelation 1.4 - 8
Sunday 18th April	3rd of Easter Acts 9.1 - 6 Gospel: John 21.1 - 19	Revelation 5.11 - 14
Sunday 25th April	4th of Easter Acts 9.36 - 43 Gospel: John 10.22 - 30	Revelation 7.9 - 17

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

We welcome into the Church

Sun	28 th Feb	Christopher Roberts
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BURIAL

We commend into God's loving care

Thurs	11 th March	Norah Harvey-Lloyd (Funeral followed by Interment)
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PASTORAL SERVICES

Tues	16 th Feb	Peter Tony Coleman (T. Wells Crematorium)
Fri	5 th March	Malcolm Beresford (T. Wells Crematorium)
Thurs	11 th March	Patricia Aswani (Cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service)

WHAT THE CHURCH IS GIVING THIS YEAR

Each year Goudhurst church gives to a range of charities, local, national and international. In 2010 we plan to give the following donations:

£370 each to:

- Tearfund (Christian relief and development charity)
- Credit Action (Christian debt advice and financial education charity)
- Church Mission Society (mission society working in over 50 countries)
- Lawrence Barham Memorial Trust (supports the Anglican church in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, helping to meet physical and spiritual needs of people in those countries)
- Goudhurst Scouts
- Church Army, for the work of Captain Graham Nunn who works in our area

£185 each to:

- Christian Aid (Christian relief and development charity)
- Maidstone Christian Care (charity for the homeless)
- Salvation Army
- Maidstone and Weald Samaritans
- Crossroads (Kent charity supporting incapacitated patients and their carers)
- Scripture Union (mission society with emphasis on young people)
- Kent Air Ambulance
- Alzheimer's Society (Kent)
- RedR (a charity which trains aid workers, particularly engineers, for disaster relief and helps disaster relief agencies to recruit high quality personnel)
- Group Strep B Support (a charity giving information and support to families affected by Group B Streptococcus)
- Bible Society (making the Bible available around the world)
- Bible Reading Fellowship (provides Bible reading notes and other resources to help Christian discipleship)

£1000 to the Sri Lanka Theological College, with which Goudhurst has a long-standing link.

As always, the collection from the Remembrance Day service will go to the Royal British Legion to support serving and former servicemen and women in need, and their families.

The collection from the Christmas Eve Nativity service will go to Demelza House, a hospice for children.

As in previous years, we plan to fund, together with Kilndown Church, the cost of a Goudhurst and Kilndown school trip to Canterbury Cathedral and half of the cost of providing a bible to each Goudhurst and Kilndown school leaver.

Many thanks to everyone who makes these gifts possible. If you have any suggestions of other charities we should give to, please let Rosemary Southon, Richard Bickersteth or Barney Mayhew know.

DO YOU WISH TO SUPPORT A WORTHY CAUSE AND TO MEET SOME NEW AND INTERESTING PEOPLE?

The Friends of St. Mary's Church in Goudhurst are presently planning their year of events for 2010. The Friends represent the wider community who are interested in raising funds to preserve the fabric of what is a beautiful building and the centrepiece of the village.

We are presently seeking new members; so do please come and join us! Our membership fees are £10 per year. We would also welcome any members who may wish to serve on our committee and to help arrange and organise this year's activities.

This is a very special year for us as this will be the 25th year of our annual Art and Craft Exhibition.

Please call 01580 211528 for a chat or join us by picking up a membership form from the Church or visiting our website. Do come along to our AGM on 24th April; following a short business meeting there will be a delicious two course supper and entertainment. Tickets are £8 each from Andrea, tel 01580 211037.

Come and have some fun and in doing so help our plans come together!

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Gift Aid Covenant envelopes for the tax year 2010 - 2011 are available for collection on the Bread Tomb, for use from 11th April.

ST MARY'S FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who has said they will contribute to the Easter arrangements in Church. We will be able to purchase £100 worth of Lilies and other flowers as a result of the donations received.

Judith Farnfield and Angie Withers 211665



SRI LANKA LINK

We hope that many of you were able to share in the weekend last month when Bishop Kumara and his family visited and took part in some events here in Goudhurst. As our Vicar, Bill, was committed to Christ Church Kilndown that Sunday, Bishop Kumara shared our Mothering Service in St Mary's with the Revd Diana Bourne. It is always a great pleasure and privilege to have our friends from Sri Lanka visiting. Some of us go back a long way now – but please do not think that this is a clique society: if you would like to know more, there are leaflets available in both churches, or you can call or speak to Roger Coombs our Chairman (01580 211505), Gillian Kirk our Secretary (01797 230345) Sue Crookall (PR Liaison 01580 211710) and John McCaig our Treasurer (01580 212329). **Please remember that this is our Benefice outreach and we value your support**

Our next event will be the **AGM on 10th July at 6 pm in Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School**. The short business meeting will be followed by a presentation on the life and work of the Theological College of Lanka (the prime focus of our Link) by the Revd Rosemary Fletcher. Rosemary has been the Methodist Mission Partner at the College for the past 5 years fulfilling many functions as Lecturer, Faculty Secretary and more, together with James who has also been involved as Development Officer and English Teacher at the College within that time. I am sure that they will be sorely missed at TCL.

Revd Rosemary moves this summer to her new Methodist posting in the UK. Amongst other things Rosemary will be a Superintendent of the North Lambeth Circuit and will also be recognised by the Bishop of Southwark as an Anglican Priest in the ecumenical parish of St Mary's, Lambeth. We look forward to welcoming Rosemary here and to an interesting evening. Please do come if you can.

In the traditional Sri Lankan style, "short eats" and liquid refreshment will follow the presentation.

Revd Rosemary will also be preaching in St Mary's at a joint service with Christ Church on Sunday 11th July.

Sue Crookall, for Sri Lanka Link

THANK YOU FROM THE BURIAL BOARD

A recent meeting of the Burial Board recorded their sincere appreciation of some work performed in the churchyard at St Mary's. 'Someone' – unknown - has trimmed the grass around all of the memorial stones in the Garden of Remembrance. If you are that person – please accept our thanks. If you know who it is – please pass on our thanks!

READYCALL
Begged, borrowed or mislaid?

Readycall has some items of Special Aid equipment which are intended for short or medium term loan only. Would the person who borrowed the folding wheelchair from Grange Garden Cottage before Christmas kindly return it or phone 01580 211229 as soon as possible.

Sheila Klopfer

GOUDHURST AND KILNDOWN LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Again we had a full house to hear Mr Waller describe the history of Fegans and the Home Farm together with a snippet about their continuing work with families. April 6th will be our last session of this series. We will have the AGM - all members should have received separate notice of this. The talk which will follow will be on "Some House History Discoveries" by Jane Davidson. 7.45pm on 6th April in the Church Room, Back lane, Goudhurst.

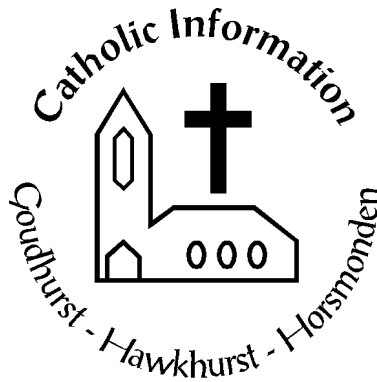


WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On a bitterly cold February evening a goodly number of members struggled into the Village Hall to be entertained and informed by John March talking about furniture restoration and of course there is so much more to the subject than one would ever imagine. To begin with one needs an encyclopaedic knowledge of all the different wood used and then a life time of experience as to how it responds to being worked both of which John March had in abundance and it was a pleasure to listen to an enthusiast in full flow!

The next meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 21st April at 7.30 when John McCaig will talk about a Vet's life and the competition is a pet's photograph. Visitors and new members are always welcome, for further information please contact Annie Fellows 01892 890354 or annie@afellows.co.uk.

NB The annual Jumble Sale will take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 10th April between 2 pm and 4 pm. Donations of jumble are welcome and helpers are needed! For further information please contact Eileen Jackson 10580 211242



Parish Priest

Fr. Victor McClean - The Presbytery, Beresford Road Goudhurst TN17 1DN
Phone: 01580 211268

Masses

Saturday:...	5.30pm	Goudhurst (1st of Sunday)		
Sunday:	8.30am	Hawkhurst	Tuesday	9.30am Goudhurst
.....	10.30am	Goudhurst	Wednesday.....	9.30am Goudhurst
.....	5.30pm	Horsmonden	Thursday	9.30am Goudhurst
Monday	9.30am	Goudhurst	Friday.....	10.00am Hawkhurst

Baptisms by appointment / Confessions as requested
especially before and after Mass

Parish Contacts

Fr Vic	01580 211268	Miriam Firth	01622 817600
Chris Roome	01580 891686	Nick Rourke	01580 211315
Helena Lesniewska	01580 753861	(Hawkhurst)	
Keith Reardon	01892 722799	(Horsmonden)	

GOUDHURST RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY

For the final meeting of the 2009/2010 season, David Flood will be speaking to the Society at 7.45 pm on Thursday, 15 April in the Goudhurst Church Room. As Organist and Master of the Choristers at Canterbury Cathedral, David holds one of the most prestigious musical appointments in English church life. He has been responsible for the music for special occasions such as the enthronement of Archbishops, two Lambeth Conferences and the visit of Pope John. In addition, he has directed workshops on the training of boys' voices and hosts a 400-strong American Children's Choir. All are welcome to this event (£5 for non-members).

Quentin Rappoport (01580 211514)

VILLAGE WALK SATURDAY 10 APRIL

Pamela and I will lead an interesting walk on Saturday 10th April starting by the Goudhurst pond at 1.10 pm and returning there by about 4 pm. We will start by taking the bus that leaves the bus stop on North Road at 13.24 and which arrives at Curtisden Green about 7 minutes later. It is Arriva Bus number 26 to Maidstone. The walk will be at an easy pace on footpaths that lead through the grounds of Bethany School, past Bockingfold and finally arrive back in Goudhurst. The walk will be suitable for all ages. It will involve a few easy stiles and, depending on the weather, there could be some muddy stretches. Everyone is welcome to join this walk. Please bring coins for the bus fare or your bus pass.

If you have questions about this walk or suggestions for a walk route or are interested in leading a Village walk in the future please contact me at d.boniface@hotmail.co.uk or by telephone at 01580 211430.

David Boniface

KILNDOWN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thank-you to Wendy Bates of Rotherview Nurseries, who kindly presented an excellent talk on Camellias at the March meeting, and was rewarded for her trouble, by a large number of members (and some visitors) turning out, on what was a pretty chilly evening. She also brought with her a selection of plants, which gave us a taste of just how many different and varied types of camellia there are. A most interesting and informative evening.

Once again, April brings with it the society's annual Spring Show, and this is taking place on Saturday 3rd April (yes, Easter Saturday), and will be most memorable, as if plans proceed with the building of the new hall on schedule, then this will be the last horticultural show to be held in the existing building. The photograph class is "Kilndown Village Hall", and open to all, so if you have a qualifying picture, please enter. We have the usual array of daffodil and spring flower classes, although at the time of writing this, Spring has still to arrive. No such problems for the floral art and cookery classes, and as it is Easter weekend, we have included a Simnel Cake class, as well as 3 Decorated Easter Buns for the children, to continue the theme of the weekend.

Classes are open to members and non-members, and if you haven't entered before, but think you might like to have a go, just give me a call and I will be happy to let you have a schedule - and let you know what is involved. Closing date for entries is Wednesday 31st March. It really is a lovely village event to be involved with, and even if you don't take part, do come along in the afternoon, between 2.30pm and 4pm, to enjoy a real taste of Spring in Kilndown, and a cup of tea and cake.

Sarah Heaton
Show Secretary - Tel. 01580 211691



QUARRY CENTRE

Our Saturday Shop is still doing well, with many of our customers commenting on how well the prices compare to other shops, farm and/or supermarket. We now sell fresh milk, just in case! Still not got to grips with the request for newspapers, not quite sure how that would work. We still try to provide locally grown fruit and vegetables, if not British grown (apart from the obvious) the eggs are local, and so is the bread, and yes, we have listened to the various observations on that.

We've not forgotten the Porch, time and weather don't always match up! Hopefully this year we will have the exterior painted, perhaps if all goes to plan the Quarry centre will be looking smart for its Birthday Celebrations later in the year.

Lynda Shepherd



FINCHCOCKS

Best laid plans of mice and men don't always go to plan! Unfortunately the blooming of the snowdrops and other early spring flowers coincided with the digging up of the drive to put a new water pipe in. There were diggers and dumpers and men all over the place and we thought a bit reckless to invite the public to negotiate them, not to mention the potholes. The drive to Finchcocks is a shared one, and we believe there are plans for the worst parts to be attended to.

Our Garden Fair is on May 30 and 31 and as last year we have a lot of nurseries, garden and outdoor living orientated stall holders coming. Including, Laurels Nursery, Happy Hampers, The Old Potting Shed, King Johns Nursery, Cranbrook Iron and Roots to name but a few. We also are pleased to have a couple of charity stalls, Hospice in the Weald (Cranbrook Link), and Canterbury Oast Trust. Look out for the posters and flyers for details.

Lynda Shepherd



QUIZ NIGHT

on

Saturday 15th May 2010

7.30pm at the Village Hall,
Goudhurst

COST £8.00 PER PERSON

(to include Fish & Chip Supper)

Teams of six (maximum)

**Licensed Bar, Raffle
& Pudding Auction**

Tickets available from Andrea Kirkby (01580 211037)

All proceeds go to Smugglers' Den Pre-School



This term the Children are learning about Spring and new life and planting seeds that grow into flowers. On Thursday 4th March the children dressed up as their favourite book character .

As some of you are may already be aware, we currently have some very exciting plans to build an outdoor play area for the children. In September 2008 Ofsted stipulated that every Pre-school must offer a safe and secure area for the children to play in. After careful consideration and discussions with the Church Rooms Committee/PCC we shall be installing a door to the rear of the Church Rooms and decking (approximately 16m x 4.5m) to be laid on the area between the Church Rooms and the field behind. We believe that this will greatly enhance the Church Rooms and benefit the wider community, as well as meeting the Ofsted requirements.

Don't forget our Quiz Night – Saturday 15th May. Maximum number for each team is six people. Please see our advertisement for further details.

For more information regarding the Pre-School please contact Tracy Edmonston on 01580 212179 during term times or alternatively visit our website www.smugglersden.org.uk.



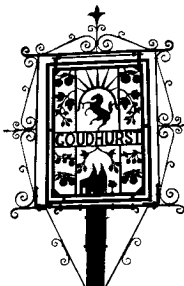
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Branch's fund-raising day will be on Saturday 1st May when there will be a sale of plants, cakes, bottled fruit and jams, books, DVDs, raffles and other competitions. Please support this occasion. Gifts of bottles and produce for our stalls will be very welcome.

In spite of last year's record-breaking Poppy Appeal R.B.L. Kent's welfare budget has been cut this year so your contributions are important.

We look forward to seeing you on the 1st May.

Robin Mitchell
01580 212151



WASTE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council **Amenity Lorry** (Cory) will be at these locations:

Goudhurst , Balcombes Hill Car Park, 8.00 am to 11.00 am			
11 April	25 April	09 May	23 May
Kilndown , Beresford Close, 12 noon to 1.45 pm			
	25 April		23 May
Curtisdan Green , Outside Bethany School 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm			
	25 April		23 May

This service is meant for the disposal of medium sized household rubbish items. If you have trouble putting your waste into the lorry, ask the driver for help.

If you have large items for disposal such as bulky furniture, old cookers, washing machines and fridges, or potentially hazardous items, please phone Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for advice, and to arrange a special collection (for which there is a small charge).

Note that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council now provides a fortnightly kerbside service to separately collect compostable waste from your brown wheelie bin, paper and cardboard from one of your green boxes, and plastics and cans from your second green box.

Everybody is invited to use the **Recycling Facilities** at:

Balcombes Hill Car Park –	glass and cans
Bethany School –	glass, cans, paper and cardboard
Finchcocks –	glass, cans, paper and cardboard
The Peacock –	glass
Globe & Rainbow, Kilndown –	glass and cans

Please phone Tunbridge Wells Borough Council 01892 554246 if you have any queries about waste collection and recycling.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

You will have noticed the great number of new speed limit and repeater signs which have sprung up throughout the parish. About three years ago a group was set up by Kent Highways to take a comprehensive look at speed limits in an area including several parishes between Goudhurst and Maidstone. When their suggestions were published we were invited to comment but our comments were not adopted. Three years later and a plethora of signs are suddenly installed without any notice to the parish or consultation on detail. We now have expensive gateway signs at each end of Goudhurst on the A262 when we are in consultation with other Kent Highways officers about the new bespoke gateways we have had made with KCC funding and which we hope to install shortly! And that despite John Ward having contacted the responsible Highways Officer and gaining his assurance that the gateway work would not be progressed. We have had a 30mph repeater sign erected by the Pond on GPC owned land without permission when we are in dialogue with other Kent Highways officers about removing the clutter of signs from that area ! The thinking behind the location of the change from 40mph to 50mph in North Road is flawed as we advised three years ago. Similarly making the Marden Road to Summerhill 50mph while spending money to retain an unlimited speed limit in Gore Lane is frankly absurd. In fairness much of what has been done is a very beneficial change but the inability to consult is woeful.

Kent Highways has undergone a succession of reorganisations over the last several years. Many staff have left and it appears to be a thoroughly demoralised organization. However it is above all the responsibility of our KCC members and Cabinet to ensure that we have an effective and economic service endeavouring to meet our needs. The absurd waste of resources we so often see when the financial position is desperate indicates an organization unfit for purpose. We have written to Alex King our dedicated KCC Member on these issues as have many of you.

At our last meeting we discussed arrangements for bringing the football field adjacent to the Primary School into service in the autumn. We have now learned that TWBC have accepted a tender from Hurstways to build the pavilion and work on site should have started when this magazine appears. We have given some thought to a name for the field. Our History Society has kindly given us sight of a Tithe Map of the area from the 1840s and we note that the bulk of the field is in what was then known as Chequer Barn Field. Accordingly we consider that "Chequer's Field" would be a good choice of name. However, it may be that readers have a more imaginative suggestion which draws on our history in some way. Please feel free to make your suggestions.

Tom Crookall,
Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Dates for forthcoming Parish Council meetings are:

Parish Council	Thurs 15 April	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Planning Committee	Tues 13 April	6.30 pm	Jessel Room
Goudhurst Annual Parish Meeting	Mon 19 April	8.00 pm	Goudhurst Parish Hall
Kilndown Annual Parish Meeting	Wed 21 April	8.00 pm	Kilndown Village Hall
Youth Forum	Thurs 22 April	8.00 pm	Goudhurst Scout Hut
Planning Committee	Tues 27 April	6.30 pm	Jessel Room
Highways & Footpaths Committee	Tues 27 April	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Parish Council Annual Meeting	Mon 10 May	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Planning Committee	Tues 11 May	6.30 pm	Jessel Room
Planning Committee	Tues 01 June	6.30 pm	Jessel Room
Amenities Committee	Tues 01 June	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Parish Council	Mon 14 June	7.30 pm	Jessel Room
Planning Committee	Tues 15 June	6.30 pm	Jessel Room

All are welcome to attend these meetings at which time is set aside for questions from the public.

Anthony Farnfield, Clerk 01580 212552
clerk@goudhurst.co.uk www.goudhurst.co.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

The Annual Parish Meetings this year will be held:

Goudhurst Annual Parish Meeting	Monday 19 April	7.45 for 8.00 pm	Goudhurst Parish Hall
Kilndown Annual Parish Meeting	Wednesday 21 April	8.00 pm	Kilndown Village Hall

All those who are local government electors are welcome to attend the Annual Parish Meetings, which are quite separate from Parish Council meetings. It is an opportunity for various village organisations to report on their activities and for local residents to raise matters of concern. Councillors will be present to respond to any matters you wish to raise. Do please put a note in your diary now and come along to hear the latest news.

Anthony Farnfield, Clerk 01580 212552
clerk@goudhurst.co.uk www.goudhurst.co.uk

NATIONAL EXPRESS COACH TO LONDON

I have heard from Barbara Uren, Clerk to Lamberhurst Parish Council that the National Express daily coach service 023 Bexhill - Flimwell - Lamberhurst - Tunbridge Wells to London Victoria will cease to stop in Lamberhurst as from 22 March 2010. It will now only pick up and drop off "locally" at Flimwell & Tunbridge Wells.

Some Kilndown and Goudhurst residents use the Lamberhurst boarding point as do those from the Wadhurst and Cousley Wood area of deepest Sussex.

Lamberhurst residents, with their Parish Council's full support, have got up a petition and are writing letters in an attempt to change the minds of National Express managers and get the service reinstated. Greg Clark MP has delivered the petition personally to National Express.

If anyone would like to contact National Express about this, please write to:

Mr Steve Way,
Head of Network Planning,
National Express House
Birmingham Coach Station
Mill Lane. Birmingham. B5 6DD

Anthony Farnfield, Clerk to Goudhurst Parish Council

KILNDOWN VILLAGE HALL

Now that the weather is beginning to improve the new fund raising season has begun and an enthusiastic group of (mostly) ladies congregated in Kilndown Village Hall to try their hand (feet?) at Circle Dancing recently. It was a most entertaining evening with much muttering about two left feet or the other left but mostly people got the hang of it pretty quickly and our thanks go to Madeleine Jordan and her team for organising the event.

Thanks also go to Knight Frank, the estate agents who have made a generous donation of £1000 to our fund, this is greatly appreciated especially as we are concerned about grant funding in the current economic circumstances. We are still waiting to hear from KCC and our hardworking Chairman & Treasurer continue to lobby assiduously on our behalf, it is a real balancing act as there is an element of matched funding involved so keep your fingers crossed!

For the future we are planning open gardens in June and possibly a Barn Dance if we can find a suitable barn - any offers?? As ever the fund raising committee welcome any ideas or offers of help so if you think you have a good idea for raising money please do feel free to share it!

GOUDHURST EX-SERVICEMEN'S CLUB

Sat March 27th Cake and Savouries Stall and Easter Egg Tombola to be held on the Plain opposite the Club at Goudhurst. Starts 10 am till 12.30. All welcome. In the event of bad weather it will be held in the Club.

Sat April 3rd 'Radio Active' Disco are at the Club. Non-members are most welcome for a small fee of £2 at the door. Starts at 8.30 pm.

Sat April 10th Darts competition for members only. Starts at 8.30 pm.

Sat April 17th 'Timeless' (group) are playing at the Club. Starts at 8.30 pm. Non-members are welcome for a fee of £3 at the door.

Coming on 1st May: 'Cliff Castle' is back as 'ELVIS'. Starts at 9 pm. Non-members are welcome - £3 at the door.

Tickets are now on sale here for the Ladies Night to be held in the Village Hall at Goudhurst. Yes, Jonathan and Jed are back. Don't miss out on this great night. Put this date – Friday 11th June- in your diary and buy your ticket (£12 each) now for this great evening.

Also the Club is available for outside bars in the village (we need at least one month's notice). Why not join and have a party, christening, funeral wake, etc in the Club and enjoy free entertainment, pool, bingo, darts, youth club (Monday) and cheaper drink. Just call Liz on 01580 211308 or pop in.

P Penfold
Social Secretary

STAPLEHURST MUSIC CENTRE

Calling all string players! Pick up your instruments and come along to play in the new Staplehurst orchestra on Saturday mornings starting April 24th. All ages welcome. Register via the website or ring 01580 895177.

Staplehurst Music Centre is open each Saturday from 8.30am to 1.30pm during term-time offering ensemble opportunities and instrumental lessons to all ages and abilities. Individual instrumental lessons are offered with experienced teachers in all woodwind and brass instruments, classical guitar, recorders, violin, cello, piano and drum kit.

The Centre runs a Wind Band, recorder ensembles and Kent Music Zing Zone classes which are available throughout the morning for children aged between 12 months and nine years.

The Music Centre website: www.staplehurst-music-centre.co.uk is updated regularly with news, term dates and concert information.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING
Pat Crawford provides the
HADLOW COLLEGE COMMENT AND ADVICE COLUMN

The University of East Anglia and the IPPC (Inter-government Panel on Climate Change) have a lot to answer for in relation to growing scepticism concerning whether or not global warming is really occurring – and if it is, to what degree it is exacerbated by man-made carbon emissions.

Leaked emails from the university have led to accusations that scientists suppressed and manipulated data. The IPCC problem relates to data issued two years' ago about the rate at which the Himalayan glaciers are melting. According to the IPCC, the range of mountains could lose all its glaciers by 2035 – an analysis which has no scientific validation. The matter was further exacerbated by some muddled handling of the situation which would have been best served by an admittance that errors had occurred.

Polls conducted all round the world demonstrate a loss of confidence in science. This surely indicates confusion in people's minds between *science* and the integrity and transparency of the *scientists* who practice it? Meanwhile, senior scientists worldwide insist that such glitches should in no way undermine the overwhelming evidence that human activity is causing climate change.

At a recent conference held in the United States, Lord Rees, president of the Royal Society and Astronomer Royal, said that communicating climate change issues to the public was made difficult firstly because it is 'diffuse and international' and secondly because it is 'remote in time' – in other words, the impact will be felt by future generations. Which surely brings us round to the 'not in my backyard' syndrome and refusal to get involved in any really meaningful action?

We all know that the *Big Challenge* is the *combination* of climate change-related issues, vastly increased global population and reducing natural resources. Food security is very much part of this challenge. Now we learn that some rich nations are buying up vast acreages of land in various parts of Africa in order to be able to grow food and produce bio-fuels to fulfil their country's future needs. This surely gives rise to any number of questions, both ethical and practical?

Pat Crawford, Hadlow's press officer, can be obtained: pat.crawford@hadlow.ac.uk 07771 635684

MATERIAL FOR THE MAY 2010 ISSUE should be left at
Goudhurst Newsagents or at **Russets, North Road** by
THURSDAY 15th APRIL.
Thank you. Keep your contributions coming in!

VILLAGE ECHOES

Established in 1868, the Goudhurst Gas Works was situated on the outskirts of the village in North Road and was originally owned by L.C. Lawson & Company Limited of Cranbrook.

Following an agreement to sell, the works passed to Mr Charles Archer of Kingston upon Thames. He was a merchant and a trustee of the Kent County Gas Light & Coke Company Limited. This company had been formed by a notorious promoter named Eaton who had taken over several similar small companies. A subscription list was opened on 15th May 1906 seeking £50,000 divided into 6,000 6% preference shares and 4,000 ordinary shares at £5 each. When, in November of the same year, 23 of the shareholders went to court to get their money back, it was judged that, although not fraudulent, the prospectus had been artfully worded and the court awarded them their money back plus 4%. The company immediately went into liquidation and was put up for auction by the Official Receiver, the auction being carried out by Brackett & Sons in the Swan Hotel, Tunbridge Wells on Friday 25th October 1907. Unfortunately Bracketts no longer have any records from that period so it is not known who purchased it.

It is clear that the gas works reverted to its original name, Goudhurst Gas Works, and was owned by the Goudhurst builders, Davis & Leaney, in 1918. They may have owned it earlier, as a Mr Henry Saunders is reported to have started there in 1916. He ran the works single-handed until the early 1930s. A London man who came to do seasonal work on a local farm took over. Known as 'Gassy' Fisher* (real name: Arthur) he often let the village run out of gas, including one Christmas day when many villagers' Christmas dinners were ruined. It was not unusual to find a shovel propped up by the gate with "gone to dinner" chalked on it.

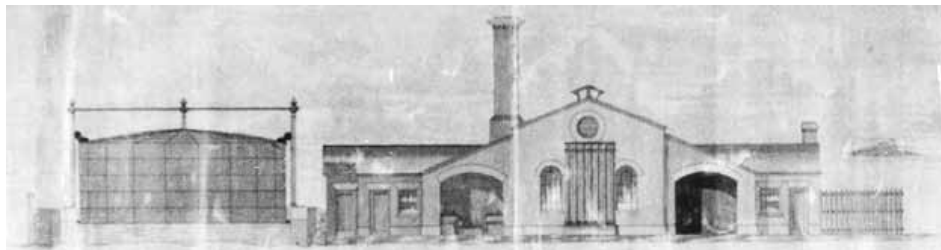
The gas works was in a bad way structurally and the equipment worn out by the time the last man worked there. He was Jack Saunders (son of Henry), and when he was called up for military service in 1940 the then owner, Mr Hyde from Cranbrook, finally closed the gas works.

For a short time, the site was used as a landfill site for the village rubbish until it was purchased by Mr Joseph Penfold of Cranbrook who applied for permission to build a house there. For some reason the house was never built, but finally a bungalow was built there in 1968.

*A 45 second clip of Arthur Fisher at work in 1938 can be viewed on the Pathe News website. <http://www.britishpathe.com> (enter Goudhurst in the search box).

Local History Society

Email: historysociety@goudhurst.co.uk



CAB ADVICE

I got a letter telling me I was overpaid tax credits dating back to the time I separated from my husband. This came as a total shock. I don't have the amount of money they want me to pay back. I don't know what to do – please can you help?

You may be affected by recent changes to the way some overpayments of tax credits are calculated.

If you have been overpaid because you separated from your partner or started living with a new partner and reported this change late, your overpayment may be reduced or even written off.

This is because under the new rules, HM Revenue and Customs will work out what you would have been paid if you had reported the change and made a new claim on time. They will offset the overpayment against this amount. HMRC calls this 'notional offsetting'.

Ask the Tax Credits Helpline on 0845 300 3900 for more information or write to the Tax Credit Office requesting that they look again at the amount of your overpayment.

If you have been asked to pay back tax credits and you don't understand why, or you think you don't owe the money, you should ask the Helpline for an explanation of how the overpayment occurred.

If you don't agree with the Helpline's explanation of the reason for the overpayment, you can ask HMRC to look at their decision again. This is called disputing an overpayment. You can do this in writing or by filling in form TC846 which you can get by calling HMRC on 0845 300 3900.

For more information, or help with sorting out a tax credit problem, go to the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk Details of Tunbridge Wells & District CAB can be found at www.twcab.org.uk To telephone for advice please call 0844 499 4140.

FUNDS AVAILABLE?

ACRE launches £500,000 grants fund for communities affected by quarrying

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)¹, and RCAN member², Action with Communities in Rural Kent, announce the launch of this year's COMMA fund.

COMMA, the Community Aggregates Fund, uses money from Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) to address the impacts of aggregate extraction on the environment and local communities.³ COMMA supports community-based projects in 23 qualifying areas in England including Kent and Medway.

Almost any community activity can be supported and the Fund offers a fantastic opportunity to get the support needed to make a real difference for local people. Grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 are available in each county.

Miranda Hayes, Deputy Director of Action with Communities in Rural Kent said '*The COMMA Fund has supported a diverse and exciting range of community initiatives which have made a real difference to Kent and Medway communities. In 2010, we look forward to working with Defra to continue this successful programme.*'

A full list of the national 2009 project awards is available on the ACRE website. These include: reducing the carbon footprint of a community hall, improving access to a play area, provision of allotments and restoration of a Motte and Bailey!

Download the application form and guidelines from www.ruralkent.org.uk.

Miranda Hayes - Deputy Director



Agricultural Engineers	B	Newsagents	F
Bowen Therapy	B	Nursing Homes	G
Care Workers	B	Painting & Decorating	H
Chimney Sweep	B	Pamper Parties	G
Cleaning Services	C	Pharmacy	H
Curtains & Soft Furnishings	B	Physiotherapists	H
Dental Work	C	Piano Tuning Services	H
Education	D	Plumbing	H/I
Electrical	E	Pre-School Music and Dancing	J
Essential Indulgence	E	Pre-School Playgroups	I
Financial Advisor	E	Taxis	J
Florists	B	Veterinary Surgeons	J
Funeral Directors	E/F	Wasp and Hornet Control	J
Mathematics Tuition	F		

TRADE DIRECTORY

Additional entries or modifications to existing entries will be made in March, June and September for publication in the April, July and October issues of the Parish Magazine. Please contact James Wickham for information on layout and cost.
Tel: 01580 211462 Fax: 01580 212031 Email: james@wickham.eclipse.co.uk