



Marsh Matters

MAGAZINE OF THE
ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE

MAY 2017

60p

ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE SERVICES MAY 2017

DYMCHURCH			
Sunday	7th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	14th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	21st	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	09.00 am : 10.30 am	Said HC : Unity in Worship
Each Thursday		9.30 am	HC / Morning prayer

NEWCHURCH			
Sunday	7th	10.30 am	Unity in Worship Service
Sunday	21st	10.30 am	Holy Communion

BURMARSH			
Sunday	14th	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	9.00 am	Holy Communion

NEW ROMNEY			
Sunday	7th	10.30 am : 6:30 pm	Holy Communion : Evensong
Sunday	14th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	21st	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	10.30 am	Family Service
Each Tuesday		9.30 am	HC / Morning prayer

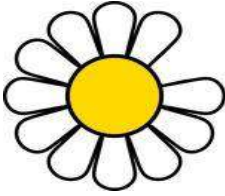
OLD ROMNEY			
Sunday	No Services		

ST MARY'S BAY			
Sunday	7th	10.30 am	Family Service
Sunday	14th	10.30 am	HC with Laying-on-of hands/healing
Sunday	21st	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	10.30 am	Holy Communion
Each Wednesday		9.00 am	HC / Morning prayer

ST MARY in the MARSH			
Sunday	7th	9.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday	14th	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday	21st	9.00 am	Holy Communion

IVYCHURCH			
Sunday	14th	5.00 pm	Holy Communion
Sunday	28th	6.30 pm	Sung Evensong

THE REVEREND JULIE COLEMAN ~ PRIEST-IN-CHARGE



One is important. Whether it's a letter in a word, a petal on a flower, or an ingredient in a cake, *one* missing can make a big difference.

One is important. One could imagine our Queen saying those words – except that it would be out of character, as she has devoted her life to the service of others. Yet each of us is indeed important, as we will show at the polling booth this month and next. Our elected representatives are wise to remember that they do not just affect whole Boroughs and countries; they affect individuals – the life of each person who elects them. But isn't it a shame that we individuals can convince ourselves that one vote won't matter? Let's make sure we use our votes!

One is important to God, too. The Bible is packed with the accounts of people who stood out against the crowd, lone people whose actions changed whole communities, and God seeking out individuals demonstrating His love and care for each as well as for all. For instance, read about Esther, Ruth, Jeremiah, Daniel; remember Jesus telling of the lost son, lost sheep, lost coin; and over 100 times in the Gospels, Jesus says “anyone”. If we don't care about individuals, we can't care about people.

The trouble is, our eyes and minds often only see what's there, not what's missing. In a strong community, though, we do notice when we haven't seen a neighbour out and about – and when someone's not in Church on Sunday. That's because there's a gap in the pattern, like the missing petal above, plus a gap in our lives because we care.

If we accept that we're an important part of the community, uniquely placed and valued, we'll know that our Village is imperfect without us. And as we care for one another, we'll want to draw everyone into our circle of friends – and will miss them when they're missing!

So here's a list of things to remember:

One. You're important!

Yours in Jesus,

Revd Julie Coleman

Benefice Bulletin

Myself and the church wardens are extremely grateful to Malcolm and Charlotte Watkinson for their tireless efforts to work with me and Red Dragon as we designed our web site for the Romney Marsh Benefice. To find service times, information and NEWS on each of our 8 churches, go on our new website www.romneychurches.org

Evening Prayer in St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mary in the Marsh

There will be Evening Prayer every Tuesday at 5.30pm at St. Mary the Virgin as well as Dymchurch. If you would like to join us as we pray in to this wonderful community and church, you would be warmly welcomed. *Julie*

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MIKE WORTHINGTON – An Appreciation

I was so very sorry to hear that my friend Mike Worthington will no longer produce the monthly benefice magazine. Few people will realise the amount of work and effort that goes towards making a success of such an enterprise. It's not simply a matter of collecting articles and sending them away for printing. Mike's role as editor of 'Marsh Matters' has been so much more. He has been the supreme juggler with a multitude of monthly balls in the air; reading and correcting of magazine copy, laying out the pages, organising the printing, collecting advertising, scheduling distribution throughout the eight parishes in addition to the raising of the annual subscriptions and everything to a tight deadline. If there was space, we could always expect one of Mike's countless jokes or funny stories which added a human perspective to what could otherwise have become a rather 'dry' publication. Editing a magazine can be a thankless task but few actually consider everything that it entails and the countless hours of work were all done in Mike's free time. It's always very difficult to put a price on what amounts to goodwill and those who ignore this fact do so at their peril. Most readers could not fail to notice that under Mike Worthington's watchful eye our magazine has flourished.

Advertising in particular plays an important part of 'Marsh Matters' as it helps keep down the cover price we pay. Mike's friendly and outgoing nature have always made him a natural salesman and over the years he managed to build up strong relationships with many local businesses who were happy to advertise simply because they liked him.

It was 14 years ago that the excellent and greatly respected Revd. Roger Ellis first asked Mike to take on the Dymchurch, Burmarsh and Newchurch magazine giving him full editorial control. His trust was immediately rewarded and Roger was happy to allow him free reign knowing that his faith in his Editor would be fully justified. Ivychurch eventually subscribed to the Dymchurch magazine and then, two years ago, the twin benefice publications came together and 'Marsh Matters' was born. This inevitably brought new challenges to Mike's skill as Editor but typically, under his command he took them in his stride and made our magazine the envy of many others. He knew instinctively what his readers would enjoy, and more importantly what they would not, and his unerring judgement gained respect throughout the benefice. The layout was easy and simple to follow; we knew exactly where to find the service times and the parish news while the inclusion of details relating to local clubs and societies helped to make it a community rather than simply a church magazine. This brought news of the churches and our activities to a broader public, helped spread the missionary message and widened circulation.

We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Mike Worthington, not only for his juggling skills but because he is a genuinely good person whose wisdom in terms of magazine content was always second to none.

Rather than finish on a serious note, I'd like to remind Mike that chopsticks are one of the reasons the Chinese never invented custard.

John Hendy



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ST MARY THE VIRGIN, ST MARY IN THE MARSH

EASTER FAIR: Our thanks to everyone who helped at, took part in and visited our Easter Fair on Saturday, 8th April. It was lovely to see so many people in the church with their families. In all, around £450 was raised for the church and for local charities and good causes.

ST MARY'S SUMMER CONCERTS:

Saturday, 3rd June – The Astor Palm Court Quartet

Saturday, 1st July – Dr Jazz and Lyn Falvey

Saturday, 5th August – “The Last Night of the Proms”

We have managed to hold ticket prices at £10 for the past eight years but rising costs, year on year, mean a small price increase price this year to £12.50 per ticket (£7.50 for children 14 and under). The ticket price includes interval refreshments.

To book your tickets, please send a cheque, payable to St Mary the Virgin PCC, together with an SAE to St Mary's Summer Concerts, Fenny Bridges, St Mary in the Marsh, Romney Marsh, Kent, TN29 0DE. For more information, phone Andrew on 01797 362097 or email stmarysproms@vfast.co.uk

THANK YOU

The members of the St Mary the Virgin PCC and congregation, The Haywardians choir and The St Mary in the Marsh Project Fund trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank the Editor, Mike Worthington, for a fantastic publication and for all his efforts and hard work in ensuring a professional publication is produced each month.

We thank you, Mike, for your friendly, professional and courteous manner in all your dealings as editor. We are all very sorry to see you go. It has been a pleasure working with you, Mike, and you will be greatly missed.

ST MARY IN THE MARSH PROJECT FUND

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

Our Night at the Musicals evening at the end of March was both a sell-out and a great success. Many, many thanks to Dean Hayward and The Haywardians for providing a wonderful evening of music and special thanks to our chairman, Helen Carr, and her helpers for the magnificent interval buffet. Last but not least, our grateful thanks to everyone who supported us on the night and helped to raise in excess of £650 for the funds.

COFFEE MORNING & SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE

The next book sale will be on Saturday, 10th June from 10am to 12noon in the church at St Mary in the Marsh. A large selection of fresh stock. Stalls selling home-made cakes and pre-loved items and a raffle. Tea or coffee and a biscuit just £1. Fill a 5p-size supermarket bag with books for just £2!



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ALL SAINTS CHURCH ~ ST. MARYS BAY

MAY! Fa la la la la la la la - Fa la la la laa la la la la!

On Saturday 18th March we enjoyed a very good Quiz and Ploughman's Supper. Thank you, Nigel and Sharon, and we are looking forward to our next quiz in September.

Thanks go to the kind ladies who made up the daffodil posies for Mothering Sunday, and to everyone who supported the Sightsavers Coffee Morning on 1st April. £350 as raised for the Sightsavers Charity, and not an April Fool was in sight.

All Saints was able to send £260 to the Christian Aid East Africa Crisis Appeal – the amount collected at a retirement appeal after church one Sunday.

On 8th April, enthusiastic people met to confirm dates and events for the rest of 2017. Ask Pauline for a list or look in the church entrance.

SPRING DRAW "100 CLUB" RESULTS:

First No.	69	£25	Gary Moses
Second No.	8	£15	Ellen and Reg
Third No	10	£10	Margaret Adams

New numbers now available for next years draws in July, October November and 2018 March. Thank you all for your support since 2003!

EVENTS IN MAY

1. CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13th May. 10.00am /all the usual stalls and chat!

2. CHRISTIAN AID SOCIAL

Saturday 20th May. 7.30pm. Can you do a turn? See Pauline. This is a traditional evening of fun and mixed entertainment **NOT TO BE MISSED**.

Come along - £5.00 each and bring own drinks and nibbles.

JUNE DATES

AUCTION Saturday 3rd June. Bring lots for sale to the Church Hall on Saturday morning after 8.00am. Anything that carried, promises, cakes, plants coupons, offers of services (!) or to cook a meal. All proceeds to Church Funds and the fun will start at 2.30pm

TEA DANCE

Saturday 17th June at 2.30pm

NOTABLE DATES IN MAY:

May 1st Bank Holiday
May 7th FA Cup Final
May 8th VE DAY (1945)
May 21st Rogation Sunday
May 25th Ascension Day.
May 29th Bank Holiday and Oak Apple Day.

With God's blessings to you all

Pauline Moses



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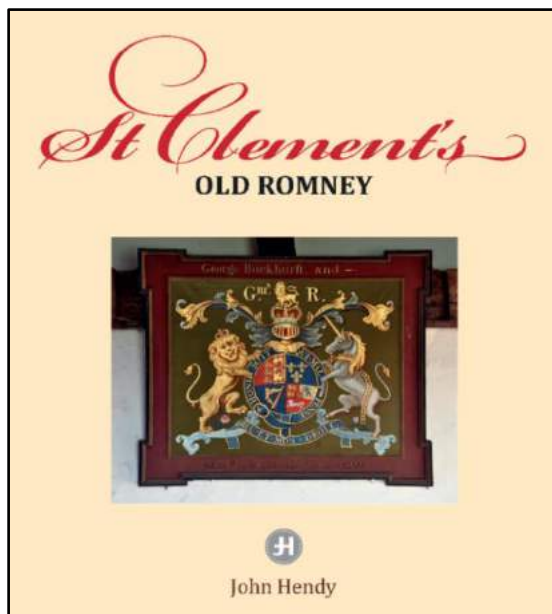
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Foreword by John Doyle, MBE, PPRWS
President of the Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust

England still rejoices in areas of outstanding natural beauty that developers so far have not ruined: the Lake District is one; the Somerset Levels; the Fens: Romney Marsh can hold its own with all of these and the history of this ancient land is richer than any.

John Hendy captures the remarkable past of the Marsh in the excellent account he has written on Old Romney, one of the most beautiful and evocative churches among a group that are loved and treasured by all who value such things.

Old Romney, as its name implies is older than its neighbour New Romney, whose history itself can be traced back to before the Conquest. The two Romneys are inseparably linked by a past that impinges upon them both and it is this history that John Hendy has addressed in such delightful and informative prose.

The Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust is fortunate to count John Hendy among its most enlightened and dedicated members; this little guide is a gem.

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The Next Book Sale will be
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10.00 - 12.00 noon

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If you have books to donate: - Please bring them to the Church on Saturday 13th as early as possible. Or give us a ring and we will collect them locally.

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ST MARY IN THE MARSH AND ST. MARY'S BAY TWINNING ASSN.

On April 4th, a coach full of people who like "entente cordial" (warm understanding) set off for Lille and Ypres. At St. Andre (Lille) we were welcomed with lots of kisses, drinks sandwiches and cakes. We then went to Ypres for 2 hrs. to take in the ambience and consider the sacrifices made in WW1. This was further enhanced by a visit to Tyne Cot Military Cemetery. This was an interesting day out. Where to next?

Thank you Sharon and Nigel.

Whilst in Ypres some members visited St. George's Church, which is the British Memorial to the fallen. Whilst there they found some kneelers that had been made and embroidered by Beryl Burgess and sister Rene.



Caroline Berry - Ray Moses



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IVYCHURCH

CHURCH SERVICES

These continue as usual with Eucharist (Holy Communion) on the second Sunday of the month (14th) at 5 pm and Sung Evensong from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer on the 4th Sunday (23rd) at 6.30pm. All welcome.

RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT OF ST GEORGE'S

The restoration of the West Window of St George's and installation of toilet and refreshment facilities continues. Despite some delays the kitchen and toilet area are now on their way to completion and this will make it much more viable to hold public events - both religious and secular- in the church. In advance of the removal of the medieval West Window, the internal walls of the tower have been re-rendered and limewashed. Interestingly, tiny fragments of paint from the original medieval wall paintings which would have adorned the walls were detected during the process. If all runs to schedule the removal of the window should begin this month. A full photographic and structural record has been made of the existing window which is now badly weathered. The ragstone for the new window will come from the Hermitage Quarry at Barming, one of only two remaining Kentish ragstone quarries. You can read more about the restoration at <http://ivychurchhistory.weebly.com/restoration-west-window.html>

IVYCHURCH AMENITIES ASSOCIATION QUIZ NIGHT

Will take place on Friday 5 May 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the village hall. Come as a team, or we can fit you into one. An entry fee will be charged, which will include nibbles – bring your own drinks. Contact Julia Berry on 01797 344623, email juliaberry@onetel.com for further details.

BENEFACTIVE FUN DAY SATURDAY 27 MAY

This will take place on the village green from 11 am.
Next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 18th May 7.30 pm in the village hall.

ADVANCE DIARY DATES

- Kids' Mini Olympics. Saturday 3rd June, 11am – 1pm on the Village Green. A chance for children to take part in some fun activities and raise money towards new play equipment on the Village Green. Sponsorship will be invited for running, goal-scoring, skipping, bean-bag shot-put and basketball.
- Beer Festival at the Bell Inn. Friday 7- Sunday 9th July
- JAM on the Marsh. A series of classical concerts with several taking place at St George's Ivychurch between 7th and 16th July. For further information see <http://www.jamconcert.org/>

THANKS AND FAREWELL

I would like to extend my thanks to Mike Worthington, in this his last journal as editor, for making me welcome as a new contributor to the magazine and for the sterling work he has done over the years to make Marsh Matters the excellent publication it is. You will be much missed Mike.

Celia Heritage

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The logo for The SMAE Institute, featuring a crown icon and the text "THE SMAE INSTITUTE".



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St Mary The Virgin Church ~ Saturday 13th May at 7.30

The Marsh Poetry and the Making of a Book

Richard Selby and Nigel Davison present a short reading and talk about "The Marsh", a book of three prose poems about aspects of Romney Marsh and its history.

The three pieces in the book, written by Richard Selby and beautifully illustrated and designed by Nigel Davison, are prose poems that explore incidents and times in the history of Romney Marsh: a mystery or miracle play from the fifteenth or sixteenth century; an incident two hundred years ago which led to the death of some Lookers; and a piece reflecting on the years of the second war, the present day and Shakespearean times.

Nigel Davison will also talk about the printing, design and physical construction of the book, a piece of art in itself; the illustrations he produced and printed and the materials used in the construction, by hand, of the book.

"The Marsh" was published in November 2016 by Get To The Point Publications. This is the first opportunity to hear these pieces in situ.

The readings and talk will be followed by light refreshments. Retiring Collection.



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A FEW UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT MARSH MATTERS

- The name ‘Marsh Matters’ devised entirely by **John Hendy**
- Most front cover submissions made and used – **John Hendy**
- Largest amount of constructive *and* positive criticisms made – **John Hendy**
- Extraordinary knowledge of church material detail supplied – **John Hendy**

It just would not have been the same without you John – Thank you. *Ed*

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE

Like most small boys in the 1940s and 50s I would spend much of my free time watching trains and crossing out numbers and names in my Ian Allan train spotters guide (1/6 from all good booksellers). Not for me the dull, green, suburban Southern Electric trains - no, my interest lay with *real* trains - the express trains hauled by majestic steam engines of the Battle of Britain, West Country and Schools Classes bound for such exotic destinations as Dover, Ramsgate and Hastings. I would stand by the railway line which ran close to my Dad’s allotment and lovingly watch these magnificent machines as they toiled up the gradient away from London heading for the coast. I longed for the day when I could travel behind one.

Like most of my contemporaries I was a member of the local Cub Pack. One day Akela announced that all the South London Packs were chartering a train to take them to Hastings for the day. Many children in those times had never seen the sea so the news caused great excitement. I was particularly pleased as, at last, I would be a passenger on a proper train with a steam engine.

On the great day I stood with my friends on Grove Park Station. At last, in a cloud of steam and smoke, the train pulled into the station. My heart sank. Where was the lovely, powerful Schools Class engine normally used on the Hastings line? No, the train was hauled by that lowliest of engines, an 0-6-0 shunter. My disgust knew no bounds. If a Schools Class was the Rolls-Royce of engines, an 0-6-0 was not even an Austin Seven. I felt cheated and spent most of the journey sulking while the ancient train wheezed through the delightful Kent and Sussex countryside.

However, the sun shone and, suitably fortified by fish-paste sandwiches, lemonade, candy floss and ice cream, I soon succumbed to the pleasures of a sandy beach, a Punch and Judy show and the Pier.

Before embarking for the return journey though, the day had a final sting in its tail. A bee sting to be precise - on my neck. “Did you have a good day dear”, my Mother asked. “Yes, wonderful thank you”, I replied, the bee and the 0-6-0 temporarily forgotten. But not forgiven. *Bill Riley*

IT’S THAT DID YOU KNOW TIME.....

- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open (I bet you try it!)
- Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump (Now that is reassuring!)
- Statistically, people are more afraid of spiders than they are dying.
- Mosquitoes have teeth (Well I never!)
- Crocodiles cannot stick out their tongue (Who has ever got that close to notice!)



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THE HAYWARDIANS CHOIR: Is a four-part harmony choir based in St Mary in the Marsh with members from as far afield as Brookland, Dungeness, Folkestone, Lyminge and even Whitfield. The choir sings a range of music, both sacred and secular, from Handel to Bob Dylan. As a non-profit making choir, our aim is to have fun and enjoy singing a wide range of music while raising money for local charities and good causes. Our 2017 dates so far are:

17th June 7.30pm – Methodist Church, Lyminge

5th August 7.30pm – “Last Night of the Proms” for the St Mary in the Marsh Summer Proms Concerts (tickets in advance only from 01797 362097 or stmarysproms@vfast.co.uk)

2nd September 7.30pm – Dymchurch Methodist Church

8th September 7.30pm – Last Night of the Proms, Charing

28th October 7.30pm – Last Night of the Proms, Lydd

The choir meets every Friday evening at 7.30pm in St Mary in the Marsh and new members are always welcome. If you would like to learn more about The Haywardians, book us for your fundraising event or you would like to be put on our mailing list, please contact the choir’s administrator on 01797 362097 or email haywardians@vfast.co.uk

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ST MARY'S BAY MONDAY & FRIDAY ART GROUPS

will be holding their exhibition at St Nicholas Church

Monday, June 5th-Saturday June 10th. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

All welcome with free admission

As always, we will give 15% of all sold paintings to the church

THE SECRET VISITOR

April 2017

One definition of an Anorak is ‘a studious or obsessive person with unfashionable and largely solitary interests’. I must confess that some of these descriptors I call my own and they have served me well over the years.

Thanks to Genes Reunited, Ancestry.Com and other heritage websites I have discovered a good deal of my family history and of its association with the Marsh over many generations. I have discovered ancestors whose names appear in church registers dating back some 300 years – God-fearing families who moved around the Marsh to eke out a living. As a practising member of the Church of England, my discovery of association with several villages within your benefice dovetails with another interest – a study of the relationship between the church and its worshipping community. Given these interests it’s perhaps not surprising that I’ve attended services in several churches in your benefice. They undoubtedly provide a flavour, but another aspect of community relationships can be read in – and between – the lines of your benefice magazine ‘Marsh Matters’.

I read many parish magazines in the course of my work. The great majority illustrate the continuing flourishing of public manifestations of Christian belief and values and the tangible benefits of Christianity in education, charitable works and social cohesion, the good neighbourliness that binds us together and helps relieve some of life’s trials and problems. Parish magazines as such are open windows onto the lives of communities that otherwise would remain inaccessible to many. They also have much to say about the dynamics at work in these communities and Marsh Matters is, of course, no exception. I’ve read several editions of your magazine over the years since its inception and been impressed at the way it reflects and celebrates its community, the efforts made to make sure it’s attractively presented, often with wonderful accompanying photographs; the way it provides comprehensive lists of church services, social activities and social comment. It includes extensive and colourful advertising and this must help immensely with production costs.

I trust you will now excuse me for this excursion into criticism. Lately, despite the best efforts of your editor - who has made Marsh Matters the success it is - and who is shortly to be replaced in what appear less than happy circumstances, windows are now in danger of being shut. I am sure I’m not alone in expressing the view that over time there has been a steady deterioration in the quality of the magazine contributions of church leaders which culminated in this April’s monologue - and which, for reasons very few can understand, includes a ‘rap’ possibly more appropriately performed in a music hall. I am in little doubt that including such an item says much about church leadership generally.

We are currently being told repeatedly that we live in a post Christian age, a country permeated by either non-belief or non Christian belief. Unless church leaders raise their game, reflect carefully on how they perform their leadership roles, including how they communicate with their church communities, and manage a worship

continued

formula that encourages participation through church attendance, then for many the gloom at a general dumbing down will become a self fulfilling prophesy of failure.

We are in the midst of a world of opportunity to promote our faith and our values in the face of new challenges and to do it successfully. The search for divine truth involves not only faith, but sustained and logical argument. It is to be hoped that church leaders recognise this and will do rather more to elevate their contributions to this magazine and ensure that the new editor is allowed to do his job without fear or favour. My thanks to the outgoing editor for all he has done to make this magazine the success it is.

(The Secret Visitor)

May

There's no delay to the start of May
When skies are now a lesser grey
Two bank holidays this month are cast
The beginning Monday and the last
May spreads Its blossoms like teeth so white
Throughout the hedgerows smiling bright
Breathing heady scents of the air
Exhaling worries and many a care
Luscious days of warmth that swell
Buds and leaves with life's magic spell
Clothes we shed with little doubt
Not wishing to wait till May is out

Kate Brownnett

NEW ROMNEY OLD SCHOOL



SATURDAY MAY 6th
10.00 am – 1.00 pm

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THE SEASIDE SINGERS, TEA,
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THY KINGDOM COME Jesus calls us to be the light of the world

‘Thy Kingdom Come’ has become a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

What started out as an invitation to the Church of England from the Archbishops’ of Canterbury and York in 2016 has become, in the Archbishop of Canterbury’s own words a, ‘bizarre and incredible’ movement of the Holy Spirit.

Thy Kingdom Come 2017 will again be between Ascension and Pentecost when people will be encouraged to join together to Pledge2Pray, just as the early disciples did, for people to come to know Jesus and for Christians to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share their faith.

In less than a year **Thy Kingdom Come** has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer with many thousands expected to ‘Pledge2Pray’ in faith that the Holy Spirit would come and lead the way in witness and evangelism across the world

In our Benefice we have heard the call of **Thy Kingdom Come** and taken up the ‘Pledge2Pray’.

During the days from Ascension Day May 25th until the Eve of Pentecost June 3rd 2017 there will be daily prayers in the Benefice using the Diocesan Novena or Nine Days of Prayer booklet. Copies of the booklet will available in all our Benefice churches.

Then on Friday June 9th, the day when the worldwide church recognizes the tender and generous ministry of Barnabas we will be holding a Benefice a Half Night of Prayer at St.Peter and St.Paul Dymchurch between 6:00pm and midnight. We will have one hour slots so that people come and go as they please. Various Christians from across the Benefice will be taking part in the evening.

The time table is as follows:

- 6pm. Choral Evensong
- 7pm. Informal Worship with Praise and Prayer
- 8pm. A Ploughman’s Light Supper finishing with an Informal Agape
- 9pm. Praying visually with Pictures and Images
- 10pm. Praying with and for and out in the Community
- 11pm. Praying Alone and Together with the Northumbria Community
- 11:45pm Compline and Good Night.....and home to bed!

Even if you cannot make any of the Benefice gatherings you can still use the special ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ prayer and in so doing join in prayer with others from your benefice, diocese, nation and world.

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit
and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word
may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lastly, if you have internet access, why not go to www.thykingdomcome and discover how you too can Pledge2Pray

Sheila McLachlan, John Richardson

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NEW LIFE

This year we have all been enjoying an unusually warm spring. I am writing this just after returning from a March holiday spent amidst the Yorkshire hills. I had expected lots of beautiful winter scenery, and indeed we did get one day of that, when some four inches of snow descended overnight and spent most of the following day glistening as it gradually receded up the hills in the warm sunshine. There were one or two days when it rained very hard, too, turning the steep road outside the cottage where we were staying into a rippling river coursing down from the higher parts of Buttertubs Pass. Those were the exceptions amongst weather more typical of May in those northern parts.

There was an abundance of new life, bearing up bravely amidst the worst of the weather. Daffodils in full bloom along the roadsides, dashed to almost horizontal position by weight of snow or violence of rain, yet soon upright again and dancing in the sunshine. Tree blossoms lost a few petals, but were soon showing their full beauty in the sunlight, with leaves also beginning to unfurl in the early warmth. It was the same with the living creatures. Ewes stood in front of tiny lambs, sheltering them as they cowered beside the stone walls. Then the sun came out and the mothers grazed happily whilst their offspring gambolled amidst the early emerald green grass.

In the worst weather, everything became strangely quiet as all the birds huddled in whatever shelter they could find – even at the less exposed side of a large clump of grass next to our garden wall, in the case of a hapless cock pheasant who, defeated by another who had walked away with all four hens, was denied the better refuges of the area and cowered, only too aware of our proximity, eyes pleading with us to leave him there. Then the sun came out and bird cries again filled the air. The victorious cock paraded with his hens in all his glory, the defeated flew off to safer regions; blackbirds resumed their search for nesting materials, wood pigeons cooed contentedly from the rooftops and a thrush sang magnificently on the wall.

It was such a privilege to watch this unusually early spring mixture at such close quarters, during a Lent when I had looked forward to exchanging the usual business of life for more time in quiet contemplation.

It is also a privilege to be able to look back upon these things now, in the Easter season, which, unusually, this year, continues till almost the end of May. So much of the reality of God's loving faithfulness and care for his creation was evidenced in those holiday scenes. So was the fact that his life pervades and makes itself known even in the most unlikely and unexpected situations. This is as true for us today as it was for the uncomprehending Mary who heard the risen Christ speak her name beside the empty tomb. My prayer is that each of us may experience this reality ever more deeply as we go through this joyous season, then allow it to change the way in which we meet our own life circumstances and communicate the good news of God's love to those around us.

Edith Martin

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ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE
'SUMMER FUN DAY' SATURDAY 27th MAY

Yes, it's back on again this year!

The venue for the Romney Marsh Benefice Summer Fun Day, on Saturday 27th May, (Bank Holiday weekend), will be at The Village Hall and Green, Ivychurch, opposite St George Church and The Bell Inn.

ROMNEY MARSH WALKING SOCIETY WALKS FOR MAY

All are welcome on our walks. No dogs allowed though! Everyone walks at their own risk. Visit our website www.romneymarshwalkingsociety.org.uk

- **Wed 3rd May** 10am 9.5 miles Egerton Village Hall, circular walk, lunch stop at the Pepperbox, Ulcombe. TN27 9DR TQ906473.
- **Sat 6th May** The George Hotel Lydd, meet at car park at the rear of pub.4miles TN29 9AJ TRO 41209.
- **Wed 10th May** 10am Meet at Tin Tabernacle Portland Rd 10am 4 m CT216FL
- **Sun 14th May** 2.00 pm Northiam Village car park 4.5miles TN31 66ND TQ830243.
- **Wed 17th May** 10am Black Horse Pluckley 4miles TQ926454TN270PA
- **Sat 20th May** The George Lydd same as the 6th May.TN29 9AJ TRO41209
- **Wed 24th May** 10am Rose and Crown Stelling Minnis Orchid walk 4 miles tr142470 CT 6AS
- **Sun 28th May** 2.00 pm Wittersham church 4.5miles TN30 7EATQ897.

SOME FUNNY STUFF..... A young couple invited their vicar for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their young son what they were having.

“Goat” the little boy replied.

“Goat?” replied the Vicar, “Are you sure about that?”

“Yes,” said the youngster. “I heard Dad say to Mum, “We might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day”.

ENGLISH AROUND THE WORLD – If you do not think that a language barrier can make for some really gross misunderstandings, here are some classic examples of actual signs see around the world.

- Cocktail lounge Norway: Ladies are requested not to have children in the bar.
- At a Budapest zoo: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.
- Doctors office, Rome: Specialist in women and other diseases.
- A Nairobi restaurant: Customers who find our waitresses rude ought to see the manager.
- On the grounds of a private school: No trespassing without permission.
- On an Athi River highway: TAKE NOTICE: When this sign is under water, this road is impassable.
- A city restaurant: Open 7 days a week and weekends too.

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FRIENDS OF LYDD & LYDD TOWN MUSEUM: Our speaker – or entertainer – in April was Jacqueline Aviolet and she was very amusing as well as knowledgeable on flowers etc. After the talk, she sold some of the plants on display and some of our members will be looking forward to an excellent display during the forthcoming summer months.

As copy has to be in before our April meeting – also opening of the museum for the first time this year – our report on these events will follow next month. In addition to the Easter week-end our May Bank Holiday will follow at the end of the month when we will again be open on April 29th, 30th, and May 1st at the usual times. If you will be going up the Tower of the Church on May Day (well worth the effort) you could come along to us afterwards to complete your day. Our speaker for May will be George Taylor with Peter Clayton – musicians – and on 17th they will again entertain us with a programme entitled “We’ll Meet Again”. They are returning by special request from members so we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible then.

Finally, on May 27th, 28th and 29th there will be another Bank Holiday weekend and the museum will be open from 2.30 – 5 pm on each day so if you miss Easter and May Day weekends you have a chance at the end of May – or you could visit us each weekend! We look forward to welcoming you at any of our gatherings. *Alice Boxall*

OUTING: NORTHERN BALLET – THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER THE LITTLE MERMAID

Matinee Performance leaving Lydd 10.10 am and travelling via the Coast with various pickups. Total cost will be £40.50. If you wish to join this coach please reserve the date. Complete the details (as below) on paper and send along with your payment made payable to A.S. Boxall **asap** as this will be popular.

**Name & Address: - Tel No: - Number of tickets required: Pickup place
£14.50 per person Send to A Boxall, 11 Seaview Rd, Greatstone TN28 8RH**

CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Our efforts to promote our club unfortunately did not pay dividends this month, but nonetheless those present enjoyed a talk by Mr Peter Ewart on family history. It is an interesting topic and pastime which can virtually be researched via the internet nowadays, unlike say twenty years ago, when a trip to London was a necessity to glean any information from records. Questions were fielded from our members interested in their own family ties and rounded off a very interesting talk full of facts and also suggestions of where to go to research records, other than on the web.

If anyone is interested in joining us at our meetings, we would be very pleased to see you. We can be found at The Assembly Rooms, Church Approach, New Romney and on arrival we offer tea, coffee and biscuits. There is a small charge of £1.50 per visit, and we also hold a raffle.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th May at 10a.m. and the speaker will be Mrs Pru Anderton (her topic: Relatively Speaking). *Barbara Harris*



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ROMNEY MARSH FLOWER ARRANGERS

Much fun was had in our March Workshop with fruit, flowers and vegetables used in the designs! The results were a wonderful variety of bright original arrangements. We are looking forward to our garden outing to see the tulip displays at Hever Castle in April. Visitors will be very welcome at our next DEMONSTRATION entitled "The magic word is?" on 12th JUNE from 7pm at St. Mary's Bay Village Hall.

For more information tel: Cecilia 01303 249582



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Rainbow contact Joan Duckworth 01303 872513

NEW ROMNEY METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee morning held every Saturday in the church hall 10 am – 12 noon (March – Dec.). Stalls include cakes, jams, pickles, vegetables, flowers & crafts. A warm welcome awaits you at these coffee mornings and also at our worship service on Sundays at 10.30 am



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BRENZETT & DISTRICT WI

Sloe Seduction is the name of Katherine Hook's small business, based in Marden. We were seduced by the flavour of the award-winning chocolates, a crisp shell filled with a sloe-gin ganache, when she visited us in March. We heard how she started making sloe gin then branched out into the chocolate making and all the research involved before settling on a particular Belgian chocolate. It was very entertaining to hear how Katherine combines this winter-intensive, part-time enterprise, with her other occupation involving motorcycles. It is good to hear about such a successful local enterprise, but even better to taste the fruits of their labour.

Members enjoyed the Annual Council Meeting in Margate on 22nd March. Terry Waite spoke and read two of his poems, which were very moving, more so because they were written in his head, whilst in captivity, as he was not allowed any writing materials.

We celebrated our 95th birthday with a meal at The Secret Garden 28th March. Good food and even better company, made a very memorable evening.

April 1st saw another very successful Soup and Pudding event at St Nicholas Church, no fooling. 70+ diners were well served and we hail the band of helpers who with their smooth efficiency belied the immense amount of work involved.

At our April meeting, Lucy Vertue, medical herbalist, came to tell us about Little World Herbs of Woodchurch. She brought many samples and we were able to try dandelion root tea (earthy) or liquorice tea and see the other tisanes and balms that she uses in her therapies. Almost every weed seems to have an efficacious use. Feverfew leaves in a sandwich, for example, have long been used to treat migraine. Myrrh seems to be a panacea for all wounds, hence one of the biblical gifts. Craniosacral and deep tissue massage are also offered as well as individual consultations, herbal workshops, a herb group and herb walks.

Suzanne Tyrrell was the lucky recipient of our £200 educational bursary draw with three others receiving the smaller amounts towards an educational topic.

Garden Group have planned their year of visits the first being to Chilham Castle Gardens, all 18 members are growing a selection of flowers for one member's family wedding so fingers crossed. They are also holding a plant swap morning.

Audition Day, 12th April, hosted by our WI, was a great success, with a full house to see speakers on such varied topics as Health and Beauty, Estate Planning (Wills Trusts etc), Inspiration and The History of Chocolate, in the morning. After lunch we heard of a Schoolgirl's War in Kent (Maidstone Grammar), Hair loss, Recovery and Wigs, and finished with a rousing Music in Action from a very talented violinist and raconteur.

The next meeting is 8th May with Craft and Resolutions, 7.30pm in Brookland Village Hall. Contact Gill McFarlane on 01797 344297 for details.

SOME FUNNIES....

- I just got back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport.
- Patient: "I have a ringing in my ears. " Doctor: "Don't answer!"
- Doctor: "You'll live to be 60!" Patient: "I AM 60!" Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?"

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NEW ROMNEY HISTORY SOCIETY

March meeting

On March 27th, members of New Romney History Society were delighted to hear another talk by Roger Chadwick, a long-term member of the NRHS. Following Roger's talk in 2015 about the Story of the Spitfire Bomber Harris and his bomber tactics talk.



Roger described the various aircraft used in the raids, detailing the merits of each along with their disadvantages in an entertaining way that the wide audience could easily understand. The enlightening talk was accompanied by a slide show during which Roger indicated details of the various airplanes using a genuine machine gun cleaning rod as his pointer. After answering the audience questions Roger was then asked to bring his next World War II themed talk to the New Romney History Society - as soon as it is written!

April meeting: The next meeting for the NRHS will be a visit to Old Romney Church, hosted by John Hendy, on Monday 24th April, and is for members only. We will meet at the church in Old Romney at 7-15 pm for a 7-30 pm start. Although the church is closed for repairs, the visit will still go ahead.

May Meeting: The May meeting will be at The Old School at 7.30pm on Monday 22nd May, when Ray Moses will continue his story of his boyhood in St Mary's Bay when visitors will be welcome to attend, at £4. Ray will be talking about the area during the 'Swinging '60's. This walk down memory lane is certain to be very popular with baby boomers! Please come early to be sure of a seat!

Membership enquiries can be made to the Secretary on g7.cobb@gmail.com Further information about the NRHS society can be found by visiting our Facebook page or email Gaynor on g7.cobb@gmail.com, or phone 01797 363747.
Gaynor Cobb

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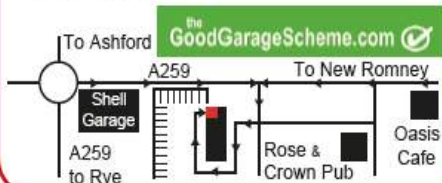
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NEWCHURCH WI MEETING

In a change from the programme, our speaker, Martin Newcombe gave a fascinating illustrated talk on 'The Countryside of Dr Syn'. Most of us, had not realised that most of the names in the Dr Syn books could be found on headstones in Dymchurch churchyard. Martin brought the books to life by explaining scenes from the books and showing pictures of the appropriate sites including New Hall, Dymchurch and Red Lion Square, Hythe. We heard tales of the Ransley Gang, Revenue Men and smuggled goods hidden in our local churches! Our pictorial tour included Littlestone, New Romney and Ivychurch churches, wonderful flora at Dungeness and the Royal Military Canal plus the unique 'lookers huts'. Martin certainly made us realise just what a beautiful part of the country we live in.

Martin kindly judged the competition of 'An Item of Sporting Memorabilia'. Paddy Elleman was declared the winner (horse racing card) with Viv Peebles (baseball bat) and Gill Colbourn (Kent Spitfires hat) the runners up.

Two members, wearing suitably themed 1920s outfits, had thoroughly enjoyed helping Woodchurch WI celebrate its 90th birthday. Others were looking forward to attending Greatstone WI 50th birthday celebrations and the Group Meeting being hosted by Middlemarsh WI later in the month. A date for our first walk of the season was agreed - starting in Hamstreet to enjoy the bluebells in Hamstreet Woods.

Three members recently visited Denman College learning about 'Art on London Streets' and working on 'Patchwork: Beach Huts'. Another group attended the Spring Garden Day at Canterbury and heard talks from the gardeners at Hever Castle and the Salutation Gardens, Sandwich before an afternoon watching some impressive flower arranging. We were not lucky enough to win any of the arrangements but did go home with some interesting plants for our gardens.

Future events in the pipeline are a trip to 'Remembering Fred' at the Leas Cliff Hall, a 'bat & trap' afternoon, summer barbecue, fish & chip supper, jumble sale, group quiz and group meeting. So, we have a rather active summer ahead.

Our next meeting is our Resolutions Meeting. We will be discussing resolutions relating to 'Alleviating Loneliness' & 'Plastic Soup'. Our votes will be passed to our delegate for the Annual Meeting in Liverpool in June. The competition is '4 Home Made Jam Tarts'. If anyone would like more information about our WI, please ring Brenda on 01233 720181 or Gill on 01303 874154.

Gill Colbourn

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Dymchurch & District Heritage Group

Meeting in March: Melanie Gibson-Barton's talk entitled "Wandering on the Somme" was excellent. It gave us all a clear understanding of the Battle of the Somme and its impact on the course of WW1.

Saturday Events: This year we will be extending the scope of our regular, first Saturday of month opening of the Heritage Room by including the Schoolroom, which will give us more display space. The idea is to have a theme each month – for April it was "Maps & Documents". This proved to be very successful. In May, instead of opening the Heritage Room, we will be at the Parish Church to explore its history onsite - the details are:



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Our Next Meeting: This will be on Thursday 18 May at 7:30 pm in the Dymchurch Methodist Church. Raymond Moses will be giving a talk entitled "Growing Up in St Mary's Bay".

Coach Trips: 5 June – Houses of Parliament £20 & 12 Sept – Chatham Dockyard £30. A few places left on each, phone Margaret on 01303 872805 for more details.

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NEW ROMNEY CRAFT GROUP - Meets each Tuesday 7 pm to 9 pm Old School Trust, New Romney - Rita 01797 367457 or Ann 01797 362020

ST MARY'S BAY COMPUTER CLUB - Meets each Wednesday 10 am to 12 noon, 1:30 to 3:30 pm St. Mary's Bay, Village Hall. You don't have to sign up for a whole course, but for whatever length of time you like. Tel: 01797 362397 - 01797 321096

MATURE MOVERS FITNESS CLUB FOR THE OVER 50's - Meets each Monday at 10.30am at the Romney Marsh Day Care Centre, Rolfe Lane Tel: 01797 363888

COUNTRY MICE NEEDLECRAFT CLUB - Meets each Wednesday 7 pm to 9 pm Old School Trust, New Romney. Tel: Nina Miller 01797 363417

ST MARY'S BAY CAMERA CLUB - Meets each Thursday 8 pm Sept to mid-May, St Mary's Bay village hall Jefferstone Lane. Anyone interested in all aspects of photography (including smartphones, point-and-shoot, 3D photography and image manipulation in computer software) welcome. Tel: Paul Sanderson 01797 458646, smbcc@onetel.com or website www.stmarysbaycameraclub.co.uk

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY - If you have dementia, or are caring for someone with dementia, come along to your local café at Old School, New Romney TN28 8ES. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month 10.30 12.30 08450 405919.

NEW ROMNEY BOWLS CLUB – Sussex Road, New Romney. The greens are open and now is the time to get bowling! Coaching at all levels is available with free equipment loan. Our club has excellent facilities so come have a look around. A range of social and competitive bowling to suit all levels plus a full social and winter programme ensures our clubs popularity. Contact Carolyn 01797 363576.

SHORT MAT BOWLING – Come and give it a try in St Marys Bay Village Hall. We meet Sunday mornings at 10.30am, Tuesdays 2pm and Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Telephone Richard on 01797 363077 or just turn up.

DYMCHURCH ART SOCIETY - Meets every Tuesday afternoon 1pm to 4pm at the Peter Sloper Room Dymchurch Village Hall. We are a friendly like-minded mixed ability art group; we have a few empty easels we would love you to fill. Call in for a chat and a cuppa and see us in action. Anne on 01303872049.

DYMCHURCH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB - Meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at Dymchurch Village Hall 6.00 pm for 6.15 pm. We are currently full and a waiting list is now in force. Telephone Margaret 01797367183 or Brenda 01233720181

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FINAL MESSAGE FROM THIS EDITOR

I have so much appreciated the incredible amount of support received via emails, letters, telephone calls and even texts following the news of my sacking as Editor of Marsh Matters. My concern is not about me losing an unpaid job, however I am very worried by what is happening to the Romney Marsh Benefice. The way things are moving I fear the Benefice will end up with one main church and seven Festival Churches, something we should all be extremely uneasy about! **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

May I take this opportunity to thank all the people who have contributed to the magazine during the last 14 years of my editorship and to those who assisted in so many other ways, it simply would not have been possible without you.

That's enough from me, just to say its all been said and done, it's real and its been fun. Thank you all very much and goodbye. I'm now off to the job centre!

Mike Worthington



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Front cover: Burmarsh Church, John Hendy

Marsh Matters Issue no: 26

May 2017