

APRIL 2023

£1.00

MARSH MESSAGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE

romneychurches.org



Romney Marsh
Benefice

Brenzett • Brookland • Burmarsh • Dymchurch • Fairfield • Greatstone • Ivychurch • Lydd
Newchurch • New Romney • Old Romney • St Mary in the Marsh • St Mary's Bay • Snargate

Romney Marsh Benefice Services



April 2023

■ Sunday 2 April, Palm Sunday

9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary in the Marsh
9.00am	Holy Communion	Newchurch
10.00am	Holy Communion	Fairfield
10.30am	Morning Worship	Dymchurch
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Bay
10.30am	Morning Worship	Lydd
10.30am	Holy Communion	Greatstone
11.00am	Holy Communion	New Romney

■ Wednesday 5 April

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Bay
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■ Thursday 6 April, Maundy Thursday

5.30pm	Evening service with stripping of the Altar	St Mary's Bay
9.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd
7.00pm	Compline	St Mary in the Marsh
7.00pm	Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar	Dymchurch
7.00pm	Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar	New Romney

■ Friday 7 April, Good Friday

9.00am	Good Friday Service	Brookland
10.30am	Procession of Witness	New Romney
10.30am	Stations of the Cross	Lydd
12.30pm	Good Friday Service and Procession	Dymchurch
2.00pm	Good Friday Service	St Mary's Bay
2.00pm	Good Friday Service	Greatstone
2.00pm	Good Friday Service	New Romney

■ Saturday 8 April, Easter Eve

7.30pm	Easter Vigil	New Romney
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■ Sunday 9 April, Easter Sunday

6.00am	Sunrise Communion in the Churchyard	Dymchurch
9.00am	Holy Communion	Snargate
9.00am	Holy Communion	Burmarsh
9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary in the Marsh
9.00am	Holy Communion	Newchurch
10.30am	Holy Communion	Dymchurch
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Bay
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd
10.30am	Holy Communion	Greatstone
11.00am	Holy Communion	New Romney

3.00pm	Easter Service	Old Romney
3.00pm	Holy Communion	Ivychurch
6.30pm	Evensong	Brookland

■ Wednesday 12 April

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Bay
6.30pm	Holy Communion	Brookland

■ Thursday 13 April

9.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd
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■ Sunday 16 April, Second of Easter

9.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary in the Marsh
9.00am	Holy Communion	Newchurch
10.30am	Morning Worship	Dymchurch
10.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Bay
10.30am	Holy Communion	Greatstone
10.30am	Morning Worship	Lydd
11.00am	Holy Communion	New Romney

■ Wednesday 19 April

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Bay
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■ Thursday 20 April

9.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd
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■ Saturday 22 April

3.00pm	Blessing of the Lambs	Brookland
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■ Sunday 23 April, Third of Easter

9.00am	Holy Communion	Snargate
9.00am	Holy Communion	Burmarsh
10.30am	Holy Communion	Dymchurch
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Bay
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd
10.30am	Morning Worship	Greatstone
11.00am	Morning Worship	New Romney
6.30pm	BCP Holy Communion (Patronal Festival)	Ivychurch

■ Wednesday 26 April

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Bay
6.30pm	Holy Communion	Brookland

■ Thursday 27 April

9.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd
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■ Sunday 30 April, Fourth of Easter

10.00am	Benefice Service	St Mary in the Marsh
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Revving Up...

Dear Friends

As I write this letter it is mid-March and we are half way through Lent, waiting in anticipation for the celebration of Easter, when we remember the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and his appearances to the disciples during the days following.

Outside my study window and in the hedgerows and fields as I drive around our benefice, and further afield, new life is showing. Lambs are appearing in the fields, blossom and leaves are appearing on the trees and the spring bulbs, snowdrops, daffodils and primroses are in flower. It seems that our approaching Easter festival is a celebration of new life for nature as well as the church.

At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, I reflected on a passage from Henri Nouwen's book *Finding our Sacred Center, A Journey to Inner Peace*. The passage describes Henri's journey through the Stations of the Cross at Lourdes. These 'Stations' are life-sized representations of 14 moments in the last hours of Jesus' life



beginning with "Jesus is condemned to death".

The last 'Station' finds 11 statues surrounding the body of Jesus before it is laid in the tomb. It is at this that Henri quotes part of Thomas Phillippe's reflection on the last Station.

'The Christian life is a continual struggle against the old self. Not just a struggle in the sense of a battle, but a real putting in the tomb....All authentic Christian lives...know these long "tunnels" where one does not see anything anymore, where one understands nothing, where one is disgusted. Jesus makes us descend with him in the tomb, in the weakness, in the darkness, in everything that seems dead



in our heart, but always to rectify us, to purify us, to liberate us.'

Henri writes:

'As I look into the long, deep, dark cave in the rock and see the body of Jesus carried into that darkness, I want to enter with him and let all my selfish needs and desires, all my violence, resentments, lusts and petty jealousies be put there, never to be taken up again.'

In those last few hours of Jesus' life we are invited to take to the cross all those things that we struggle with, the negativity, the unforgiveness, the hurts, pains and grief. In fact we are invited to take to the cross all that makes us feel less than human, the feelings 'that seem dead in our hearts' and to leave it all there. It is at the cross that Jesus takes them up and there they are crucified with him.

They are placed in the tomb with him and there they are left.

On Easter day Jesus broke the bonds of sin and death. The stone was rolled away and when the disciples looked for him he was not there. Jesus is alive and so we are alive with him. A new life. A life that is full of hope because in that tomb Jesus 'rectified us, purified us and liberated us.'

As Henri Nouwen left the Stations of the Cross at Lourdes he came upon a 'fifteenth' station. A huge round stone, carved with 'rays' coming from its centre.

'It looks like the sun; it speaks of light and freedom. Its simplicity stops me in my tracks....Beside it are the words: "At the first sign of dawn...they found that the stone had been rolled away." Turning to the other side of the stone I read: "He is risen, as he said he would."

It is here at this stone, rolled aside, revealing an empty tomb, that Henri found peace and solitude. He had been on a journey with Jesus through the last hours of his life. He had 'crucified' and then 'buried' with the body of Jesus all those things that are 'dead in our heart' and at seeing the stone Henri found peace.

When you see the stone, rolled to one side this Easter, I pray that you find the peace you are looking for. When you look into the empty tomb I pray that those things you carry in your heart are no longer there. This Easter I pray that you too find Light and Freedom. •

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Reverend Chris Hodgkins



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BURMARSH



Plants, Ploughmans' and Pimms

Sunday May 21st from 11am

Burmarsh PCC is holding a plant sale which will include bedding plants for the summer, vegetable plants and possibly some other donated plants! All at very reasonable prices. There will also be a cake stall selling homemade cakes and biscuits, cream teas and other refreshments available too. Ploughmans' lunches will be available with a glass of Pimms! An afternoon not to be missed!



At the Church, Church Road, Burmarsh TN29 0JJ

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With verses from the Bible as the starting point, Gaynor Cobb reflects on the worldwide message of love and friendship sent by Jesus through his disciples.

Inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 15 for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, this collection of Bible verses, powerful prayers and carefully curated reflections aims to motivate the reader to consider new ways to support individuals and communities as we strive for friendship and peace.

Within the collection are prayers for places: Ukraine, Africa, The Holy Land and The Middle East, as well as prayers for the displaced, strangers and the children of war. The book also looks at special places and people associated with peace as it considers the ways in which we find our own peace within.

Prayers for Peace and Friendship also considers our humanity and the way in which all people should be treated with love and dignity, preserving human rights and ending persecution and oppression. People and nations are invited to embrace the peace of Christ through friendship, love and human rights.

Sales will help support ChildAid to Eastern Europe and its work in Ukraine
www.kevinmayhew.com



Product code: 1501718
ISBN: 9781838581459



BURMARSH

Easter greeting from Burmarsh

Our churchyard is looking lovely this spring time with snowdrops in abundance this year as well as primroses and daffodils.

Some of the grave stones are starting to fall over, and in a conversation with Richard Marsh (our grave digger) he has said that he can put them back to their former position for a small fee. Obviously we are paying for his time and expertise. If anyone is interested, then please ring me on **01303 873781** or email **mrsbateman@yahoo.co.uk** so that I can give you his contact details.

Holy Communion Services are the second and fourth Sunday in each month starting at 9am. Everyone is welcome to our very small congregation!

We hope to have a service on Easter Sunday at 9am.

Fund raising for the church

Our annual Plants, Pimms and Ploughman's will be on **Sunday 21 May**. This starts at 11am although people start arriving before then! (see advert, facing page).

Any help on the day would be much appreciated. Please get in touch if you are able to help.

In view of the shortage of vegetables this year in the supermarkets, this would be an ideal opportunity to get your vegetable plants. They will be ready to put in your garden or pots after the last frosts (hopefully after 21 May!). We are taking orders now.

We are having a Flower Festival during the weekend of **21-23 July** – our theme will be 'Wedding Anniversaries'.

Should anyone like to sponsor an arrangement, either in memory of a loved one or an association, then we would be pleased to accept your money!



Those of you who have visited one of our flower festivals will know that we are not professional flower arrangers, but love flowers. Anyone interested, then please get in touch. At the moment, there is only Gina and myself! We usually have about ten arrangements in the church. Refreshments will be available during the weekend including home-made cakes.

This will coincide with a Burmarsh Village fund-raising event on **Saturday 22 July** (more information next month). •

Church Hall

We have had the toilet and kitchen block removed from the back of the Hall. This revealed a serious crack in the side of the main building. A structural engineer was able to come at short notice. Repairs will have to be made. I have asked three builders for quotes. It is likely that this crack had been there for some time. There is very little evidence of the crack inside.

As funds are low after the demolition, it is hoped that we can make the front of the building look as if it is being used. The window needs cleaning and the porch over the front door either needs repairing or removing. Any help would be welcome.

I have had a phone call from the ratings officer of the District Council. I said that church halls were exempt. We are now on their register (I think this is so that the council can get more funding!).

I just hope we don't get charged.

Fund raising for this will be throughout the year, including a jumble sale on **Saturday 15 April**, 2pm until 4pm in the church hall, and a book and cake sale with Emma Batten on **Saturday 12 August** from 1pm until 3pm. •

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DYMCHURCH



St Peter and St Paul Events

Saturday 22 April, 10am-3pm.

Plants and Bric-a-Brac sale with a performance of singing by the *Seaside Singers* at 11am -11.30 and then again between 11.45-12:15. Refreshments will be available. Liz Acarnley is leading on this event.

Volunteers are required to run the stalls and provide the refreshments. Please contact Liz for more information or to offer your assistance.

Sunday 7 May, Coronation Celebration

In celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May, there will be lunch gathering after the Sunday church service. Further details will be advised via notices at the church and emails to the congregation members when the final plans are confirmed.

APCM

Note for your diaries – the Dymchurch Burmarsh and Newchurch APCM will take place after the Sunday service on **Sunday 14 May** at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Dymchurch.

Organist

Our prayers have been answered. Our thanks go to Barbara for putting us in contact with Canon David Frost who, depending on his availability, has agreed to play the organ on the fourth Sunday of each month. The congregation was delighted to hear the organ being played at the Holy Communion Service on Sunday

26 February. In appreciation David was given, not one, but two rounds of applause. Beryl will continue to play the electric organ at the services held on the third Sunday of the month.

Dr Syn prints



A few of the signed Dr Syn prints which were donated have been sold for church fund-raising.

There are still some of *The Phantoms Revenge* Dr Syn prints which have been donated and signed by local artist Terry Anthony. It has been suggested that a donation of £25 be given for each print.

If you wish to view or purchase the prints, please contact Chris Clark on **07740 395497** or by emailing **chrisclarkcw@dymchurch@gmail.com**

World Day of Prayer

A big thank you to all our friends from the Methodist and Catholic churches in Dymchurch and beyond who joined with us in prayer on Friday 3 March for Taiwan, its isolation and its people struggling to avoid conflict with the dominant powers in their area. It was a joyous service entitled *I have heard about your faith* based on Ephesians and written by the women of Taiwan.



The service included letters of encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice and our offering of £162.90 will be added to other churches giving to support project and development grants and mission around the world.

Thank you to all involved on the day and I would also like to record our church's thanks to Maureen, who has organised this service for us for many years and has now decided to take a step back – a bouquet of flowers was presented to her at the service.

Janet Haskell



Dymchurch Synners WI

At their March (Annual General) meeting, Dymchurch Synners WI members were joined by our East Kent Federation representative to carry out the task of electing a new President and Committee for the forthcoming year.

We very much appreciate all that our outgoing President, Barbara, and her committee have done for us over the past year to get this group up and running. We will not be letting Barbara rest on her laurels though as we are hoping she will be instrumental in setting up our very first Craft Group.

We already have a thriving Book Group, Lunch Group, Walking Group and Gardening Group, so if you would like to join us, we meet on the second Thursday of each month at The Masonic Hall in Dymchurch from 10am to 12 noon.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 13 April** when we will be enjoying a tour of the Masonic Hall.

For further information or to arrange to come along as a visitor to any meeting please contact Jo on **07702 016101** or **secdymchurchsynnerswi@aol.com**

ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE WEDDINGS, BLESSINGS and BAPTISMS



To arrange and discuss your forthcoming Wedding, Blessing or Baptism within the Benefice, please contact Ann Rolfe on **01797 362719**.



Marriage in the Benefice

Following agreement with all the churches in our Benefice, the rules on Marriages have changed.

Henceforth any person who lives in one of our parishes (or who has a qualifying connection) is now able to marry in any one of our churches.

Additionally, there are changes that simplify the way banns are called.

For more information contact:

■ **Ann Rolfe 01797 362719**



GREATSTONE

St Peter's Church

Patches of wild winter weather found weak spots in the mortar on our tower – and buckets in church became necessary as more water came in. Expensive repairs are looming now! On the brighter side, our new Deputy Warden is a wizard with practical and electrical matters and has already rectified an assortment of problems in the building (St Peter has deputy wardens as it is not a parish church!).

Through March we have been enjoying June Noakes' lunchtime Lent course which is light hearted but challenging, while at the same time sampling a wide variety of soups produced by members. Combining study with food seems to work well. The Saturday Big Breakfast in March was also much enjoyed. If you missed it, the next one will be on **Saturday 15 April**.

Our monthly lunches for lonely people and folk from Pebbles Dementia Café continue to flourish and the next is on **Sunday 23 April**.



We are one parish with two churches, St Peter being the little sister to All Saints in Lydd, so the APCM is a joint affair, held in each church in alternate years. This year was our turn and we tried a different experiment. It was added to morning service, with a bring-and-share lunch. As we waited for Rev'd. Chris Hodgkins to join us we were able to read the annual report before tucking into the intriguing variety of dishes people had brought. It made a more relaxed occasion with better opportunity to chat and reflect than the more usual evening gathering. There was overwhelming support for a repeat performance next year!

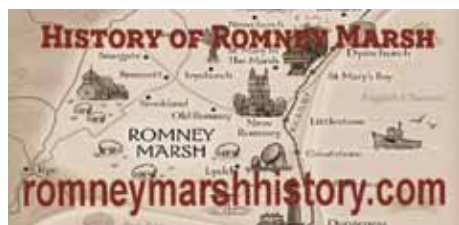
Now we look forward to Easter and the renewal of life – in the developing garden here, in the church here and across the Marsh and in ourselves as we work together to follow our Lord's leading. •

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St Peter's Church

BIG BREAKFAST

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9 - 12 noon**
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IVYCHURCH

Services at St George

On **Easter Sunday 9 April** at 3pm there will be a short Family Eucharist Service telling the message of Easter and the Resurrection, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the churchyard if the weather is good or, if it is not, in the church.

Sunday 23 April is the Patronal Festival of St George, and this will be commemorated at a service of Evensong at 6.30pm.

On **Sunday 7 May**, one of the three days of Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles, there will be a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in St George's church at 6pm.

The Annual Parochial Council Meeting, will be held in the church at 5.45pm on **Sunday 23 April**. This is a meeting in two parts. The first, the Easter Vestry meeting, which is to elect the churchwarden (or churchwardens) for the coming year and it can be attended by anyone who is on the Electoral Roll of St George, and by anyone who lives in the parish and whose name is on the register of local government electors. The second is when those on St George's Electoral Roll choose members of the Parochial Church Council, and reports are given about the activities of the church, its fabric and its finances.



Daffodils , an early welcome to spring in Ivychurch.

Other diary dates.

Saturday 1 April 10.30am.

Village Brunch in the Village hall. The Parish Council is arranging a Brunch to which all residents of Ivychurch are invited. Tea, coffee, croissants, bacon rolls and more will be on offer, as will information about the work of the Parish Council and the Ivychurch Amenities Association. Do come and enjoy the brunch and ask any questions you may have. There will be information about the progress of the work the Parish Council



has been doing liaising with Kent County Council regarding the speed limits through the village and beyond.

Wednesday 19 April, 7pm for 7.30pm.

The Ivychurch Film Club meets every third Wednesday of the month, in the Village hall. The film for April is *Mrs Harris goes to Paris*. All welcome.

Saturday 6 May, Village Coronation Celebrations

The Bell is planning Live Music from 3pm. Look on *The Bell* Facebook page for details.

Sunday 7 May, 6pm

Service in the church (see above).

Monday 8 May, from 12 noon.

Ivychurch Coronation Celebration Lunch event on the Village Green. Barbeque, Pimms, 'Lets Go Clubbing' (a juggling troupe providing

interactive entertainment for the whole family), stalls, Ivychurch 'Chuck the Chicken' (replacing Loo Brush Hurling for this special Coronation Event), Kings and Queens fancy dress, games, craft for the children, and much more.

Keep the Date

On **Saturday 5 August** there will be a Barn Dance in St George's Church. Details will be in the *Marsh Message* of June and July

Finally, The First Responders are again offering courses on CPR, use of defibrillators, and related first aid. If you are interested in attending please email Margaret on mlwaite@hotmail.co.uk or ring **01797 344283**.



Tower OPEN DAY & May Day Fayre

All Saints', Lydd Church

- craft fayre, refreshments, fun etc.
- view the herons nesting from above
- see our Parish from a new viewpoint
- see the bells and the ringing room

**Monday 1st May
(Bank Holiday Monday)**

10am – 4pm (First tour 10.30am last 3pm)

Limited space, so places for tower can be booked in advance.

Telephone 01797 320108

Admission free; tower trips £3 per person.

Minimum Age for Tower visits 10 Years Old

Conditions of tower visits:

Adverse weather conditions could result in the tower visits being cancelled.

It is a hard climb up the spiral staircase, and the upper steps are fairly worn. Climbers must wear shoes with a good grip (e.g. trainers) and not be suffering from a medical condition which would make the climb inadvisable. You will need both hands free, so cameras and binoculars must be in pockets or in a bag with shoulder strap. The minimum age is 10 yrs., and those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult (one adult per young person). Stewards decision is final. Climbing is at your own risk.

Event in Aid of All Saints General Fund - Charity No 1146683

LYDD

Pausing and reflecting

At the Ash Wednesday service I used the following poem in my sermon about pausing and reflecting. It was written by a Japanese poet called Toki Miyashina. People seemed to enjoy it!

The Lord is my Pace Setter, I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,

He provides me with images of stillness,
Which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency, through
calmness of mind; and his guidance is
peace.

Even though I have a great many things to
accomplish each day,

I will not fret, for his presence is here.

His timelessness, his all-importance will
keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in
the midst of my activity,

by anointing my head with his oils of
tranquility,

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be
the fruit of my hours,

For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord,
and dwell in his house for ever.

Blessings, Chris Maclean

World Day of Prayer

Please will you express my thanks to
those who took part and those who
attended the World Day of Prayer Service



at Lydd Methodist church on Friday
3 March. We had representatives from
four churches and have raised £141.86p. •
Rosemary Clarke

Friends of Lydd Town and Museum

This month we continue with our
programme of exciting talks of local
interest. Our speaker on **Wednesday
19 April** will be Andy Nash, encyclopaedic
railway historian and RH&DR archivist –
not to be missed!

Come along to the Hardy Hall, 7pm for
7.30pm. Admission is £2 for non-members
or £1 for members, refreshments included.
Membership is only £1 per year.

We can also announce that Lydd
Museum will be open over Easter this year,
8-10 April, St George's Day **23 April**,
early May Bank Holiday **29, 30 April and
1 May**, plus the Coronation weekend
6-8 May. We plan many new displays and
activities, so why not visit us and bring the
family? Entry free, as ever.

Any enquiries, please contact
lyddtownmuseum@btinternet.com •
Jenny Cavanagh

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NEWCHURCH

Country market

Our Easter-themed Country Market and Coffee Morning is on **Saturday**

1 April between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

We already have a good selection of stall holders booked in, and hope to see you as well for a Spring 'catch up'.

Coffee morning new date

Note the May Coffee Morning has been moved to **Saturday 13 May** because of the Coronation the previous weekend.



Picnic in the park

Newchurch Village will be having a 'picnic in the park' and other events on **Sunday 7 May** – see the village website in April for activities!

Peter Dunning



NEWCHURCH SPRING COUNTRY MARKET with ARTS & CRAFTS and COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 1st APRIL

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OLD SCHOOL PLANT SALE

AND

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY MAY 13th

10am-1pm

The May Plant Sale and Coffee Morning is now a firm fixture in the Old School Calendar. This year we are holding it on Saturday May 13th from 10am to 1pm. There will be a grand variety of plants and garden items on sale and also refreshments including scrumptious cake. All profits will go towards the upkeep of the Old School.

Come along to our lovely garden and Old School building in Church Lane, support us and meet your friends. In addition to the Plants and Refreshments there will be a raffle, garden themed games and care advice about the plants on sale.

Hopefully the sun will shine on us but in the event of bad weather the plants will be on sale in the Scout Hut.

We will be at the building collecting any donations of plants and cakes on Friday 12th between 3 and 5pm.



NEW ROMNEY

St Nicholas fundraising for TVS



Our collection for TVS Tyume Valley Schools Development Association for education in Eastern Cape, South Africa raised £365.

On behalf of the charity, Gaynor Cobb

would like to thank all those who contributed to this worthy cause.

We will keep in touch with news from the area. Please see Ann Rolfe for boxes for our new local collection. •

Wine, pie and cheese evening

There will be a special evening on **Friday 23 June**. This will be a Gusbourne wine tasting evening with pork pie and cheese. Further details will be given in the next issue of *Marsh Message*. •

Easter Garden



- ☐ What's made of leather yet sounds like a sneeze? A shoe.
- ☐ If the earth was flat, I think cats would have pushed everything off it by now.



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OLD ROMNEY

St Clement

Our first service this year will be held on **Sunday 9 April** – Easter Sunday – at 3pm.

Although there are normally no candles kept at St Clements, on occasions visitors have brought their own and have left them lit after leaving.



This is a fire risk, and we ask all visitors kindly not to bring candles into the Church.

SNARGATE & BRENZETT

Services at St Dunstan and St Eanswith

A warm welcome awaits you at both these churches. We have a modest but very committed congregation. At the present time, services are held regularly on the second and fourth Sundays at St Dunstan and occasionally at St Eanswith.

Refreshments are available after the Services, and *The Red Lion* across the road is always pleased to welcome you after evening services!



☐ Snargate services
Sunday 9 April, 9am.
Easter Day Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 23 April, 9am.
Holy Communion (BCP).

☐ Brenzett service
Good Friday 7 April, 11.30am.
Devotional Service.

For further information about Services, please contact Rev'd. Michael Gooch on **01797 361886.**

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ST MARY'S BAY

"April/May Diary Dates"

Sat 15th April
Fun Quiz Night
7.30 pm

Friday 21st April
Coffee & Cake
10.00am

Mon 24th April
BINGO & Tea
2.30pm

Thurs 4th May
Coronation
Maypole Dancing & Tea
2.30 pm

Friday 12th May
Coffee & Cake
10.00am

Sat 13th May
Christian Aid Concert
7.30pm

Mon 22nd May
BINGO & Tea
2.00pm

St MARY'S BAY

All Saints

Pauline Moses is temporarily incapacitated at the moment (*writes Jeff Erston-Lane*) so I have been afforded the honour of writing this month's piece for St Marys Bay – and what a busy little bay it has been in the past few weeks!



which is probably correct, as they were delicious.

Many thanks and well done to Len and Ron for their efforts over the gas rings and for all others that worked so hard in making such a fun morning.

A raffle provided some additional much needed funds.

The February Bingo and coffee morning was very well attended so keep a look out for the next month's date to make sure you get a good seat.

It was almost standing room only in the Church Hall for Len's Saturday film double matinee on the 4 March. A full house enjoyed the mad cap *Mousehunt* starring Lee Evans as well as the Robert Downey Jr classic *Due Date*.

This will become a regular event so look out for future dates. Also don't be

St Mary's Bay *continued on page 25*



Saturday 18 February saw a packed church hall for the 48th annual pancake morning – the aroma as one entered the hall was truly fantastic. All those attending sampled some delectable Lent-themed morsels enjoyed in a lovely atmosphere. There is a rumour on the Marsh that someone managed to eat seven pancakes...



*All Saints Church, St Mary's Bay
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St Mary's Bay *continued from page 23*

shy, and let Len know if there is a film you feel the good folk of St Mary's Bay might enjoy watching together. The front runners for the next event are *Das Boot* (without English subtitles) and the ground-breaking 1922 *Nosferatu*. More choices needed! •

Gardening tips

The weather is very unsettled at the moment but rest assured, your garden is resilient and will come back good again whatever mother nature throws at it.

My tip to you is to forget the garden for the moment and get up onto the sea front for a bracing walk. A warm hat, sturdy shoes and snugly overcoat will help you enjoy this most wonderful natural ever-changing space we have on our door step.

Take a pad and pen and when resting on one of the benches make a sketch of what you see or write some prose relevant of your stroll. When you get home tape your work to the fridge door as a reminder

of your time on the front – believe me, your garden won't mind! •

Saints to remember this month

23 April, St George

Patron Saint of England and world famous dragon-slayer.

21 April, St Anselm

Everyone's favourite 11th Century philosopher.

9 April, St Ivel

Famous for putting cream into jars but yet to be officially canonized. •

Events for your diary

All in the church hall,

27 March, 2.30pm. Bingo and tea

15 April, 7.30pm. Church Quiz night

21 April, 10am. Coffee and cake •

God bless and much love to you all
Jeff Erston-Lane

St MARY IN THE MARSH

Lenten Pennies for Porridge

There are still a few jam jars available in the church porch for anyone wishing to take part in the 'Pennies for Porridge' campaign this Lent. All funds raised through collecting and donating your small change will go to the Mt Kenya Tree Nursery's provision of a daily nourishing porridge drink to the young children of the area. •

Easter at St Mary's

Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm

Compline followed by the stripping of the altar and silent reflection.

Good Friday, 7.30pm

Stainer's *Crucifixion* performed by The Haywardians. Retiring collection in aid of CARM.

Easter Day, 9am

Holy Communion. •

Haywardians Concert

The Haywardians will be performing John Stainer's highly evocative and moving work *Crucifixion* on Good Friday at 7.30pm in the church. Wine and nibbles will be served at the end of the performance. The retiring collection will be in aid of CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh). •

Benefice Service

The benefice service for the month of April will be at St Mary the Virgin, St Mary in the Marsh on **Sunday, 30 April** at 10.30am. •





Romney Marsh
Benefice

LENT GROUPS 2023

**The Lent Group at St Nicholas will now run from
Wednesday 1st March 7pm at St Nicholas Church
weekly until Wednesday 22nd March (4 weeks) and
will be on 'Living in Love and Faith'**

**St Mary's Bay is on Wednesday mornings 10.30am,
at All Saints' Church Hall, starting on Wednesday
1st March and running for 5 weeks.
It is titled 'A walk with Jesus.'**

**For further details and to sign up for a group please contact Reverend Chris Hodgkins on
01797 335003, ctahodgkins@hotmail.co.uk**

Easter thoughts and prayer



*Eternal Father,
Help us to walk with Lord Jesus
as we come to Holy Week once again.
May we set aside special time to think
about
the events, suffering and conflicting
emotions
faced by Our Saviour during the first
Easter.
His quiet courage
driven by his love for the world
is an inspiration to all Christians.
This Holy Week,
may I renew my faith,
drawing closer to You
and to my Saviour.*

Amen

We may imagine Jesus in the Holy Land, or in church, but often it is in a garden that we find it easy to imagine walking with the Lord.

St. Patrick's-on-the-Hill in the Eastern Cape has a beautiful Prayer Trail, where it is possible to pause and pray at particular places.

One reference on a cross quotes from *Luke 23:34* –

Father forgive (them) for they do not know what they are doing.

The journey from pain and loss to the joy of Easter Day and the resurrection, is a strong and moving experience of faith, no matter how many times we have experienced it.

The stark pain of the cross at Golgotha on Good Friday leads to the contrasting peace and beauty of the garden on Easter

morning, when Mary Magdalene turns to speak to the gardener and finds Jesus.

Mary's Lament

Morning of sorrow,
Sad, tired footsteps,
My Lord gone,
Enclosed in a tomb.

Silent garden,
Why do birds sing?
My heart hangs heavy with loss.
Anointing his body,
Sacred, precious.

To assuage my grief,
Service to one
Who served all people:
The Lord's anointed Son.

Rock rolled, open tomb.
Sorrow to despair is given.
Scattered shroud,
No oils needed.
Sepulchre's cold stone.
He is gone!

Turned away in dull gloom,
No warmth in morning sunlight,
Cave's cold shock numbs feeling.

Forlorn garden tended.
Where have you taken him?
In pity, tell me.

"Mary!"

Rabboni! Teacher!
Sorrow fled,
Joyous, bright, blessed morning!

He is risen!

Gaynor Cobb

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New web site for our Team Ministry



At the Team Rector's request, I have been working on pulling together material from the three previous websites which covered our churches into one new website. The new site is **www.romneychurches.org** and is now live.

Don't just type in the address. Do a search for 'romney churches' on Google. If everyone does that, we will soon be top of the search list!

On the initial version of the new web site there is a 'home page' for each of the 14 churches. In a very complicated benefice we need to keep the web site as simple as possible so that people can find what they are looking for.

Each 'home page' under Our Churches is in the same format, under which I can add more and more material as people feed it to me. The format of the church home pages is that each has four main headings: Our Services, History, Church Officers and Location. Have a look at Greatstone to see how that works – it is only a little ahead of your church because I worship there and know what goes on. There is also a picture page for each church, so if you have events send pictures to me, subject to the caveat that they should not include children without specific parental consent.

I have been working closely with the editor of *Marsh Message* and there will be an online version of our magazine on the

homepage each month. We also hope to have links to any social media accounts. If your church or village has one, please let me know. The main social media account for the whole benefice is on Facebook – Romney Marsh Churches keeping in touch. If you are on Facebook please join that.

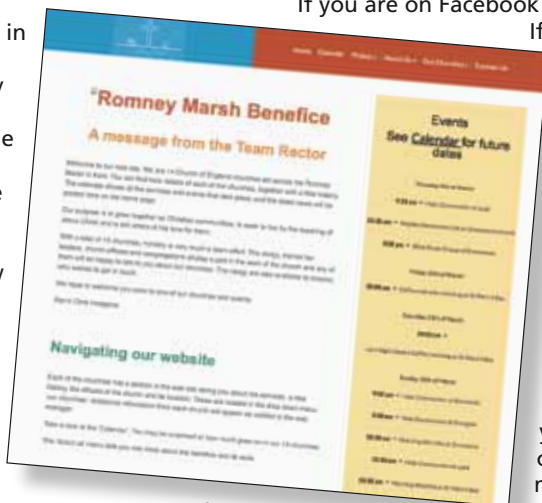
If you look at the calendar you will see just how much happens in our benefice. It reminds us how hard our four licensed clergy and many people in each church work.

I will capture any events which go into *Marsh Message*, but if your PCC Secretary can send me the minutes of your PCC, I can advertise

events as early as possible. Anyone who reads this is welcome to let me have details of news or events and I will gladly get it onto the website. I can also add pictures of past events on your 'picture' page. It will only be of use if you keep sending me information.

In today's world communication is critical. You will have ways in which you already communicate events and services locally. Don't stop doing that. The web site is an additional way for those who are not normally part of our networks to find out what is happening. I look forward to your support as we move forwards. •

David Parrott
Web manager
web@romneychurches.org



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Saturday Morning openings

The Old School in Church Lane New Romney has been used extensively over the last few years as a Covid Vaccination Centre with around 40,000 vaccinations administered. We are proud that the building has been used for such a vital purpose.

With the vaccination programme running down we are now in a position to start opening regularly again so that people can come into the Old School to see the many documents, historical records and artefacts that we hold. Most are about local people, places and events.

We also hold copies of the Old School registers as well as numerous photographs. We act very much as a local museum, research and heritage centre as well as a community centre for local groups and classes.

We used to open on Sundays but in order to hopefully encourage more people to come and visit us **we will be opening on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month from 10am to 12.30pm.**

Entrance is free, so please come and visit us!

For more information please refer to our website:
newromneyoldschool.co.uk
or contact Pat Goodsell on **01797 458200**.

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Dogs on the streets



**On Sunday
28 May 2023**

I will be riding the 'Ford RideLondon-Essex 100' together with thousands of other cyclists of all abilities. It is described as a 'tough but achievable challenge' covering 100 miles on closed roads starting and finishing in central London.

I have chosen to ride for 'Dogs On The Streets (DOTS)' as it is a charity set up to help the homeless by looking after the needs of their pets. It operates a mobile veterinary surgery, gives essential items to pet owners on the streets and fosters street dogs. Fostering enables both the owners and the dogs to get back on their feet, especially in the cold winter months or when suffering from ill health.

DOTS is headed up by Michelle Clark who, prior to the launch of DOTS back in 2016, had already been running a street outreach programme for six years, tending to the needs of the homeless with dogs, where she steadily built up a strong rapport and in-depth knowledge of their true needs.

Via Michelle's extensive work in this area, the true inspiration for DOTS came



in the waggy-tailed shape of a very special street dog called Poppy who changed Michelle's life forever. Poppy's homeless dad was taken very ill and having heard about Michelle's work made contact to see if she could help with Poppy's welfare while he moved into accommodation to try and better his health.

Michelle has been involved in a number of cases where she has been successful in getting homeless people

and their dogs off the streets for good and hopes to do more of this in the future because everybody, human or canine, deserves a roof over their heads.

My goal is to raise £1,000 for DOTS but in reality, with a continuing cost of living crisis, this is a huge ask. All I ask is that if any of you are able to help me to support DOTS you can do so

via this link or the QR code on this page.

www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/dots-ride-londonessex100

•



God bless

Reverend Chris Hodgkins

- ☐ A policeman arrives at the scene of an accident, in which a car has smashed into a tree. The officer rushes over to the vehicle and asks the driver, "Are you hurt?" "How should I know?" the driver responds. "I'm not a lawyer."
- ☐ Am I the only one who is tempted to light the wick on the top of a beret?



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Brenzett & District WI

There was a fine turnout for the second meeting of Mange Tout, the informal dining and discussion group, when we met on 1 February at Ham Street Garden Centre Cafe.

The other groups are running, some monthly, others on an *ad hoc* basis. The Craft Group meeting was 7 March at Sue Burfoot's house but will revert to meeting in Brookland Hall in future months.

Barbara Gold will relaunch the Book Club. The Garden Group has a meeting on

27 March, 10.30am, at The Warren Golf

Club. The Stroll, Amble and Coffee Club was on 27 February at Folkestone Leas and future dates for films or the lunch group are to be arranged.

Following an enjoyable lunch at *The Ship* in Dymchurch the Theatre Group made their selections and we have some exciting shows booked this year. We were all so excited to be going to *The King & I* after the Christmas break and weren't disappointed. It was outstanding, and the person we all wanted to see was Helen George (*Call the Midwife*) playing the governess to the King's children. She has the most amazing singing voice, and the costumes were wonderful. Tea and shortbread followed in *Abode*.

The latest show was Fishermen's Friends. Sadly four of our members were unable to go but tickets were passed on. The show was amazing and soon had us tapping our feet along with the sea shanties. We thoroughly enjoyed every moment. Afternoon tea has now become a must to round off our outings.

The East Kent Federation is holding a Spring Spectacular on **1 April** in Canterbury and needs preloved handbags. The Annual Meeting of the EKFWD is at The Lees Cliffe Hall, in March.

On 13 February Melanie Gibson-

Barton talked on *Suffragettes and Suffragists – Votes for Women*.

The term 'Suffragette' will always be associated with women's fight to win the vote but Melanie's talk presented a much wider insight into the struggle that took over a century. The early, often overlooked, pioneers of women's rights were presented to show the difficult path to Britain's universal suffrage.

Melanie discussed the numerous crossroads during the campaign and how each resulted in disappointment for

women at the hands of those men and women fearful of losing power.

The difference between the Suffragettes and the Suffragists (not prepared to use violence) was explained, encouraging the audience members to consider which they would have had the courage to become, at a time when even wearing a badge would have resulted in verbal and even physical abuse.

Melanie showed how the personalities of the key players, many very active but not as well known as the Pankhursts, shaped their

campaigns and even how women's fashion forced change as the years went on. Suffrage for all women, not just those with property, came first in New Zealand, followed by Australia. How enlightened they were 'down under'.

The meeting on 13 March was the Annual Meeting which comprised the voting in of the Committee and election of Officers. Wendy Richley was standing down so we required a new Secretary – thank you Wendy for your sterling efforts. We had some more members tell us 'Something you do not know about me' following the election.

On **Tuesday 11 April** at 7pm Andrew Ashton will speak on *Absinthe and Art*. For details about this WI contact Gill McFarlane **01797 344297**.



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Romney Marsh Rotary Club



You will all have read of the success of our Santa Sleigh runs in the run up to Christmas last year, and now we are able to report on the donations made to local charities from those runs and other recent fundraising events.

Since the start of this Rotary year (July 2022), the club has donated in excess of £10,000 to charities. Most of this has benefitted local organisations and good causes on the Romney Marsh but we have also helped the disaster appeals for Ukraine as well as Turkey/Syria following the recent earthquake.

The bulk of the donations from the sleigh runs have been distributed to local Dementia Support groups in New Romney, Lydd, St Mary in the Marsh and Greatstone, Folkestone Rainbow Centre to help with Foodbank and other support services on our patch and Pilgrims Hospice. We have also made significant donations to Littlestone RNLI, CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh), Shepway Homestart (Romney Marsh) and 1st New Romney Scouts to help one of their explorer scouts who is working hard to raise funds for a planned trip to Kenya with Kent County Scouts in March 2024.

We have also joined with Hythe, Folkestone and Folkestone Channel Rotary Clubs to help fund a project at Beacon School and other events for Young Carers in our area including trips to a local alpaca farm, the Tower Theatre pantomime and a funday hog roast at Littlestone Warren Golf Club.

At the time of writing we have three more public events where we would welcome



Receiving cheques for £2,000 from the club's president President Stephen Hagues are (top) Suzanne Lepper (Pilgrims Hospice) with Peter Lefeuvre (Rainbow Centre) and (above) Suzi Finch (Dementia Support).

further public support – a golf day at Littlestone Warren GC on **26 April** (see panel below), a St George's Day concert at St Mary's Bay Village Hall on **22 April** and a Quiz Night at New Romney Bowls Club on **13 May**.

Details for all of these can be found on our website at:

www.romneymarshrotary.co.uk

Romney Marsh Rotary Club Annual Charity Golf Day

This will be held at Littlestone Warren Golf Club on **Wednesday 26 April**. Proceeds principally support the Dementia Cafes of the Romney Marsh. The event will be in **Texas Scramble** format, with teams of four. Registration from 8.30am, first tee time 9.30am.

The cost is £40 (£20 for LGC and WGC members) to include green fees and prizes (1st, 2nd 3rd, nearest the pin and longest drive



competitions) and a Littlestone breakfast muffin with coffee before you start. There will be a raffle too!

Contact Mark Singfield on **01797 367258** or email him on: **marksingfield123@btinternet.com** to register your interest or request an entry form. Full payment will secure your place in the event, **entries will close on 31 March 2023** (unless all spaces filled beforehand).

Want to sponsor the event? Call Stephen Hagues for details on **01797 361246**.

Rotary Club of Romney Marsh Reg'd Charity No. 281361

Lent at St Nicholas



Being a church school, Lent is a really important part of our school year as we build up to Easter.

Every Lent, we try to raise money for Christian charities chosen by the children and this year they have chosen to support MAF. MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is a Christian charity which supports people around the world who can be hard to reach, supporting them with education, medicine and food.

Lent started off with an Ash Wednesday service for Years 5 and 6, who wrote some very moving prayers saying sorry for things that they have done wrong and asking for God's forgiveness, they were then asked by Rev'd. Chris and he in turn was asked by one of the children. All of the children wrote private sorry prayers, which were then burnt at the end of the service. Prayers were written around a variety of themes which are important to the children: friends and family, the environment and people in hardship around the world.

*Dear Merciful God,
Thank you for the wonderful world on which beautiful and remarkable plants and animals thrive. You entrusted your precious creation to us and I am sorry for how humans have destroyed this world and your trust with our thoughtless and greedy behaviour. The world is polluted and forests and animals are becoming endangered or extinct because of our actions. Please give us the courage to stand up for what is right and fix what we have broken. Please help us to return to your loving light and stop us from heading further into darkness.
We ask this in your name
Amen*

Joseph H

*Dear God,
Thank you for giving me a lovely life and a magnificent family who love and care for me. I am truly sorry for not following the rules for a long time but I promise I*



will get back on track with the love of those around me. Please help me to be more grateful for what I have because there are lots of people with even less. Please help me to believe more in myself and help me to know that I am worthwhile. I know I am loved by you. Amen

Georgie

explaining the importance of Ash Wednesday and demonstrating what it looks like to be ashed. "I had a cross put on my head by Harry because I said sorry to God. It felt good," said Ollie.

The school is raising money this year with an Easter egg raffle, a 10p coin race and an Easter breakfast and hot chocolate on the last day of term.

Victoria Turner

A couple of worship leaders stayed back at school and did a worship for KS1

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Tern raft preparation.

We have seen the first signs of spring here at RSPB Dungeness this past month, such as buds appearing on the trees and bitterns booming in the reeds. It's an exciting time of year for us with the first swifts and sand martins hopefully being seen mid-March, closely followed by swallows, wheatears, black redstarts and yellow wagtails. Cuckoos should be present from mid-April and there will also be a large increase in warblers. Sedge and reed warblers and whitethroats all nest on the reserve while willow warblers, chiffchaffs, and blackcaps pass through on migration.

In preparation for the breeding season, the team have been busy getting most of the habitat management completed and are now very close with only a few small tasks left before we start the big clean-up and get onto our spring/summer task programme.

This month the team have prioritised clearing willow from two areas of reedbed on the reserve; an area at the south end of ARC and another area along the track to Badgers Field (towards Lydd from the Viewing Ramp). They have also been repairing and relaunching the ARC seabird raft with the hope that a new location will improve seabird species nesting and help with ongoing monitoring.

The half-term holidays were a



Pond dipping.

busy week especially with our pond dipping events attracting over ten families. They were able to discover some of the smaller invertebrates such as water boatmen and water fleas. Hopefully this will continue to be popular especially as the weather conditions begin to improve.

Upcoming events:

- **19 April and 17 May** Wildlife Guided Walk.
- **8 and 12 April** Pond Dipping Open Sessions.
- **25 March** Sound Mirror Exclusive Art and Photography Day.
- **23 July** Sound Mirror Open Day.



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Ivychurch Croquet Club

Our annual Spring Quiz, held on 4 March, saw 14 tables battle it out to be the champions. Our congratulations go to Team New Beach, the worthy winners, and our thanks go to everyone who took part and supported the evening. £578 was raised which will go towards the maintenance of the croquet lawns.

The club will re-open for play on **3 April**, weather permitting. New members are always welcome. Please contact Andrew on **01797 262097** or email **asinden@vfast.co.uk** for information.




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Sunday 9 April
The Prayer Pastors will be meeting at All Saints, St Mary's Bay at 3pm to start our prayer around the village. Please join us at the start or the finish or to come round with us. It is so encouraging when that happens. If not, please keep us in your prayers during that time as opportunities come to share Jesus' love and care. Do phone Sue Richardson on 01303 980027 for more information.

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Middlemarsh WI

Middlemarsh WI meet the first Thursday in the month at the village hall, Jefferstone Lane St Mary's Bay at 9.45am. We have speakers each month, regular outings and lunches out. We are a friendly group and welcome new members.

We also meet the second Tuesday in the month for our craft group, which tries a different project every month, but you are always welcome to bring your own craft along for coffee cake and a natter. The crafts group meets at 1.30pm in the same hall – but a different room! – until about 3pm. Come along and give it a try. The accompanying picture is what we made last month!



For further information ring Rosemary on **01303 875359**.

Newchurch WI

Due to changes in the WI Calendar, our March meeting was our Annual Meeting, albeit our last annual meeting was actually in October 2021 so it all seemed rather strange but no doubt we will all get used to it eventually.

The financial statement was given by Valerie Denby (treasurer), and adopted by all members. Brenda Wimble (secretary), read out the committee's annual report and Gill Colbourn gave the president's address. In the absence of any new nominations for committee our current committee remains unchanged with current officers remaining in post and Lesley Beeching, Viv Peebles and Roma Biggin making up the full committee complement.

Members had thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury to see a performance of *Fisherman's Friends* which was a brilliant 'feel good' show. Several members will be attending the Council Meeting at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone on 22 March and the Group Meeting being hosted by Middlemarsh WI in April. We are also having a table at the Newchurch Church Easter Fayre on the **1 April**.

Dates were given out for future events including our Coronation Celebration, a cream tea, barbecue, bat-and-trap, jumble

sale and a fish-and-chips supper so we have a lot to look forward to in the coming months.

The birthday meal this year (later than in previous years due to the annual meeting) will be at Newchurch House Restaurant, so members were given the menu in order to choose their options.

Members were delighted to witness a surprised Brenda Wimble being presented with the Newchurch Millennium Award by Helen Langrish. It was a complete surprise to her – to such an extent that she was actually speechless! The recipient of the award is always someone who does a lot of work 'quietly behind the scenes' so it was lovely to witness the presentation to Brenda as this year's worthy winner.

The competition was for 'six homemade sausage rolls'. These were eagerly consumed along with mugs of tea during our interval but not before Helen Artlett and Viv Peebles had been declared joint winners, with Gwen Colley the runner-up.

Our next meeting will be our birthday meal and will therefore be for members only. If anyone would like more information about our WI please contact Brenda on **01233 720181** or Gill on **01303 874154**.

The next events at the Romney Marsh Community Hub

**** Friday 21st April - Race Night ****

Even if you cannot come along on the night, you can join the fun by purchasing a horse or sponsoring a race!

Friday 5th May - Coronation Lunch with Entertainment!

Booking essential - £15 per person

New classes starting at the Hub:

Thursday 6th April - Pilates

Thursdays 2.30 - 3.30pm £5

Friday 28th April - Seated Exercise

Fridays 11am - 12pm £5

Crafty Club Activities

Monday 3rd April - Easter Cake icing

1.30 - 4.00pm - £5

Monday 15th May - Diamond Art

1.30 - 4.00pm - £5

For more information about any of these events and activities

Call 01797 363888 | visit www.rmch.org.uk | email hello@rmch.org.uk

Romney Marsh Community Hub

Romney Marsh Community Hub's Heat and Eat Appeal, which was launched at the end of November 2022, has raised over £3,500 in donations from the local community to date.

The appeal was launched in response to the increasingly challenging times facing older people who reside on the Marsh, and who are struggling to cope with the rising costs of living.

The Heat and Eat Appeal ends on 31 March. Donations will help to ensure that the Romney Marsh Community Hub is able to continue the following:

- Provide the opportunity to take part in a variety of exercise classes and specialist interest groups.
- Being a safe place for people to keep warm during the day without the worry that they might have about their energy bills.
- Providing a transport service which enables anyone from across the Marsh to access our hub.
- Offering an information and advice service – helping our attendees understand their rights and what services and benefits they may be entitled to.

We thank you for your continued support of the Romney Marsh Community Hub!

New CEO

The Romney Marsh Community Hub has appointed Liz Taylor as its new CEO. Liz, who lives in Brookland, will take up the post on Tuesday 2 May; her appointment follows the departure of Jon Wilson, who announced that he was stepping down in December.

Liz has extensive experience of working in the Health and Social Care sector and has been working with the Alzheimer's Society in Kent since 2014.

Neil McClure is the Hub's Chair of Trustees, and says, "I am delighted to welcome Liz as our new CEO. I know Liz believes passionately in the provision of



Jon Wilson hands over to new CEO Liz Taylor.

care for older people. Liz has a huge amount of experience in this sector and is ideally placed to support the board of trustees to further develop and implement our strategic vision for the benefit of all in our community.

Liz Taylor says of her appointment, "I live locally and have watched with interest as the Hub has evolved in recent years and I consider it an honour to have been appointed CEO. I bring with me over 20 years of working in the sector and a well-rounded knowledge and hands-on understanding of the needs and experiences that people face as they age. I am keen to explore innovative new ways of developing community services, and playing my part in the future of the Romney Marsh Community Hub."

•
*Clare Grove
Press and Marketing Support
Romney Marsh Community Hub*



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New Romney History Society

Our February meeting was a talk by Keith Swallow on Dungeness, known as Nanny Goat Island from the time when the keeping of goats there was commonplace.

Keith told us about the railway from 1883 until the Beeching closure of the 1960s and the use of old railway carriages. PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean) was important in the area during the war and there were many details about the Nuclear Power Station. Keith has written a number of books about Romney Marsh, including books about Dungeness and also Littlestone and Greatstone.

A report about the March meeting, a visit to the New Romney Town Hall hosted by our mayor, Cllr. Paul Thomas, which will take place on Monday 27 March, will be given in the next issue.

On **Monday 24 April** George Chittenden from the Deal History Project, will give a talk about Deal. The meeting will be at the Old School, New Romney, starting at 7.30pm. George gave us a very informative tour around Deal last summer



Keith Swallow speaking about Dungeness to the New Romney History Society.

and we are looking forward to his talk. The evening will be of interest to those who were able to go on the visit and also to anyone who missed the day out.

New members and visitors are very welcome. Please come along to the Old School on the evening of a meeting, or email g7.cobb@gmail.com. The cost for visitors is £4 and members £2. Annual membership is still great value at £10. •

- ☐ Beginning your day with an early morning run is a great way to ensure your day can't get any worse than it started.
- ☐ "If you're going to kick authority in the teeth, you might as well use two feet." – *Rolling Stone guitarist Keith Richards*



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Dean Hayward The Haywardians



John Stainer's Crucifixion

St Mary the Virgin,
St Mary in the Marsh

Good Friday,
7th April
7.30pm

*Retiring Collection
in aid of CARM*

The Haywardians



The Haywardians is a four-part harmony choir, based in St Mary in the Marsh. We welcome members from all over Romney Marsh and SE Kent. The choir sings a wide range of music, both sacred and secular, from Handel to Snow Patrol. As a non-profit making choir, our aim is to have fun and enjoy singing while raising money for local charities and good causes. Last year we raised £3,540. In total, we have raised £40,500.

We will be performing John Stainer's evocative and moving piece *Crucifixion*, on **Good Friday, 7 April** at 7.30pm in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, St Mary in the Marsh. Refreshments will be served after the performance. Booking is not required. There will be a retiring collection in aid of CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh).

Our next concert will be on **Saturday, 22 April** which will be a St George's concert for the Rotary Club of Romney Marsh. For ticket information and to book, please contact the Rotary Club by email at info@romneymarshrotary.co.uk

Dates for 2023

Good Friday, 7 April, 7.30pm

Stainer's *Crucifixion*, St Mary in the Marsh.

Saturday, 22 April, 7.30pm

St George's concert for RM Rotary, St Mary's Bay village hall.

Saturday, 8 July, 7.30pm

St Mary's, Langley.

Saturday, 12 August, 7.30pm

Last Night of the Proms, St Mary in the Marsh.

Saturday, 9 September, 7.30pm

For Dymchurch Methodist at New Romney Methodist Church.

Saturday, 9 December, 7.30pm

Christmas Concert for Mt Kenya Tree Nursery, St Mary in the Marsh.

The choir meets every Friday evening at 7.30pm in St Mary in the Marsh and new members are always welcome. For more information, contact Andrew on **01797 362097** or email haywardians@vfast.co.uk

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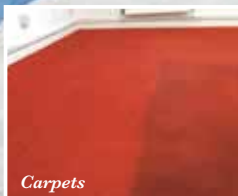
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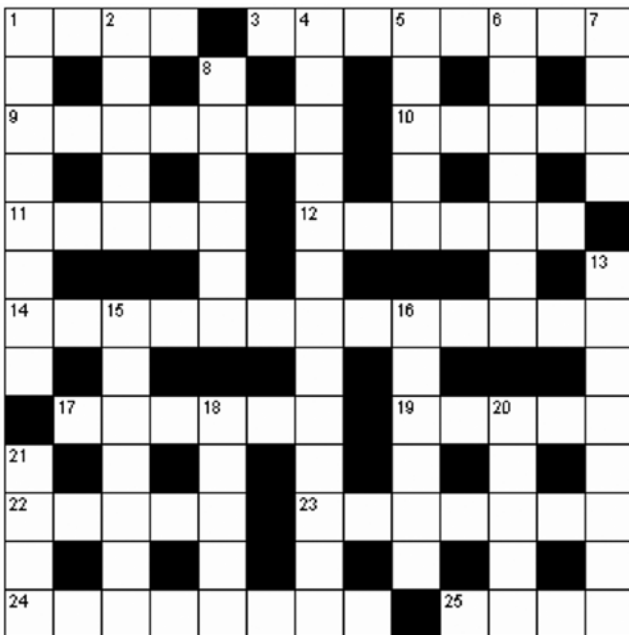
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Across

- 1 Mountain lake (4)
- 3 Promptly (4,4)
- 9 Endanger (7)
- 10 Rogue (5)
- 11 Religion founded by Muhammad (5)
- 12 Frightened (6)
- 14 112 pounds (13)
- 17 Orb (6)
- 19 Smell (5)
- 22 Hunting dog (5)
- 23 Tranquil (7)
- 24 Monday to Friday (8)
- 25 Jab, nudge (4)

Down

- 1 Dusk (8)
- 2 Drive back (5)
- 4 In good health (4,3,6)
- 5 Card game (5)
- 6 Title at top of page (7)
- 7 Supplication (4)
- 8 Small quake (6)

- 13 Surprised (8)
- 15 One of the planets (7)
- 16 Self-centred person (6)
- 18 Terminated (5)
- 20 Tender (5)
- 21 Arab boat (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 57

- ☐ "My name is Fin, which means it's very hard for me to end emails without sounding very pretentious." - *Fin Taylor*



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The **Romney Marsh Photographic Club** is **your** local camera club for the Romney Marsh and welcomes anyone interested in any aspect of photography – including smartphone photography, 3D, printing, digital projection and image manipulation.

The club meets each Thursday at 8pm, from September to mid-May, at the St Mary's Bay village hall, Jefferstone Lane TN29 0SW (opp. *The Bailiffs* pub) or uses Zoom meetings if required.



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Jefferstone Lane, St Mary's Bay.

Tel: Paul on 01797 458646

Email: SecRMPC@gmail.com or go to
www.RomneyMarshPhotographicClub.co.uk

For anyone interested in any aspect of photography (including smartphones, and image manipulation in computer software).

IVYCHURCH CROQUET CLUB

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Millbank Farm, Marsh Road,
Ruckinge, Kent TN26 2QB

Tel: Andrew Sinden on 01797 362097

The club welcomes new members or anyone who is interested in finding out about croquet. Come along and try your hand!

MEETING POINT

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and Thursdays, 10am-midday

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Tel: Valerie on: 01233 629815.

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St Mary's Bay Village Hall,
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turn up).

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NEW ROMNEY CRAFT GROUP

Each Tuesday 7pm to 9pm.

New Romney Old School, Church Lane,
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Tel: Sandie 01797 362689 or

Sue 01797 364133.

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Each Wednesday 9am-11am.

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Greatstone, Kent TN28 8RG

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CIETIES and MEETINGS

*Entry in this listing is free,
though the listing does not
necessarily appear in all issues.*

CARM MEETING POINTS

(Caring All Together on Romney Marsh)

Dymchurch: Each Monday
10am-12 noon.

The Methodist Church Hall, Dymchurch.

Coastal: Each Tuesday 10am-12 noon.
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First Saturday of each month,

10am-2pm. (not January or February)

St Peter's Hall, Roberts Road,
Greatstone.

*Hand-made crafts like sea art, jewellery,
knitted and sewing items, cards and
much, much more. Beverages available.
Free parking, free entry.*

ALL SAINTS LYDD FLORAL GUILD

Chair: Mrs. Annette Willows,

tel: 01797 320 997.

Secretary: Mrs. Helen Paice,

Tel: 01797 321 883.

ROMNEY MARSH LITTER PICKING WATCH

Everywhere, all the time!

Email: litterpickingwatch@icloud.com

W/site: [www.litterpickingwatch.](http://www.litterpickingwatch.weebly.com)

weebly.com

*Created 2016 by Eric Brown, Keep
Britain Tidy Ambassador. New pickers
always welcome anywhere and
everywhere on the Romney Marsh.*

ALL SAINTS LYDD BELL RINGERS

Each Monday 7.30pm.

Captain: Mrs. Margaret Alflatt,

Tel: 01797 367 606.

Ringin practice and learning to ring.

FRIENDS OF LYDD CHURCH

Rev. Chris Maclean, tel: 01797 320345.

NEW ROMNEY HISTORY SOCIETY

**On the fourth Monday of the month at
The Old School, Church Lane,
New Romney.**

**Further information from Gaynor Cobb
at g7.cobb@gmail.com or 01797 363747.**

*Meetings currently outside during the
pandemic since The Old School has not
been available.*

PEBBLES DEMENTIA CAFE

**The second and fourth Thursdays of
each month 10.30am to mid-day.**

St. Peters Church Hall, Roberts Road,
Greatstone TN28 8RG.

Tel: 07880 704049.

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Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers



The March Meeting was held on a cold afternoon, but the attendance was high. A big welcome was given to Ellouise Hasler-Scott. She is an excellent Demonstrator and gave to all of us great cheer and inspiration in her design of Spring.

She demonstrated five designs and at each illustrated the delicate colours of spring. One particular design was made of pale peach coloured flowers and there was a delightful small arrangement of pale orange roses and carnations. Spring is surely on the way.

Carol Harvey the Chairperson announced that the Kent County Show schedule for Floral Art had now been printed. The show is to be held over **7 to 9 July**. A wide range of classes from novice to expert was included in the

schedule. The title of the schedule is *100 years to celebration of Floral Art*. Entries are welcome.

Diary dates

27 March – Afternoon session to assist the craft group, at the Community Hub.

12 April – Demonstrator Helen Hare (Kent Area Demonstrator) and the title is *Spring Romance*.

5 May – National Flower Day

Summer outing to Wakehurst – details to follow.

All meetings are 2pm for 2.30pm at St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, visitors always welcome.

For more information contact Carol on **01797 363662**. We look forward to seeing you.

☐ "The good thing about lending someone your time machine is that you basically get it back immediately." - Chris Coltrane



ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD ON PAGE 51

Across 1 Tarn; 3 Chop chop; 9 Imperil; 10 Knave; 11 Islam; 12 Afraid; 14 Hundredweight; 17 Sphere; 19 Odour; 22 Hound; 23 Restful; 24 Weekdays; 25 Prod.

Down 1 Twilight; 2 Repel; 4 Hale and healthy; 5 Poker; 6 Heading; 7 Plea; 8 Tremor; 13 Startled; 15 Neptune; 16 Egoist; 18 Ended; 20 Offer; 21 Dhow.



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Meeting Points

Dymchurch Meeting Point

Mondays 10am-noon.

Dymchurch Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Dymchurch TN29 0NL.

Greatstone Meeting Point

First and third Tuesday of the month 10am-noon.

St Peter's Church Hall, Baldwin Road, Greatstone TN28 8RG.

Lydd Meeting Point

Thursdays 10am-noon, Hardy Hall, Skinner Road, Lydd TN29 9HN.

Brookland Meeting Point

Fourth Friday of the month 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Brookland Village Hall, Boarman's Lane, Brookland TN29 9RG.

The Bridge Meeting Point

First and third Friday of the month 10am-noon

Unit 12, Mountfield Road, New Romney TN28 8LH.

Burmarsh Meeting Point

Watch this space...

Are you ready to see some friendly faces and have a chat together over a **cup of tea and a biscuit?**

Then do come along! There are rumours of **cake...**



CARM Meeting Points are your local place to drop in, enjoy the occasional speaker, outings and games, **and make friends.**

£1.50 voluntary contribution.

If you would like more information just call **CARM** on **01233 758 122**

We are a local charity working to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Registered charity no. 1184552 **www.carmromneymarsh.org.uk**

National Trust Rye & District

All are welcome to our events. Walks start 10am and are five to six miles, £3 only. Talks start 2pm at Brede Village Hall, entry (includes refreshments) is £5 or £4 for members. Do come along, we are a friendly group!

Thursday 13 April: Meet at *The Bull*, Three Leg Cross near Ticehurst. Our easy five miles walk will take us up to Bewl Bridge Reservoir – paddle anyone?

Thursday 20 April: Virginia Portman / Jon Barker: 'WW2 installations on the White Cliffs'. In 1912 the National Trust acquired the missing link of coast path between Langdon and the South Foreland Lighthouse and, with it, a series of accommodation tunnels used during WW2. In 2017, they deepened their ownership inland, acquiring some more WW2 surprises! The talk will tell us about

the major renovation project – and the role of these structures in WW2.

Saturday 13 May: Spring Lunch, *The Brickwall Hotel*, Sedlescombe. The hotel is a charming 16th century Tudor mansion overlooking the pretty award-winning village green. We have been able to agree a really delicious three-course menu – with a choice of four for each course – all for the special price of £35pp (including tea/coffee and gratuities). This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to get together and enjoy good food and conversation in a really attractive setting.

If you wish to join our association, or just come along, contact Membership Secretary Dee Williams on **07760 115413**, or Louise Hull on **07791 383323**.

John Wright



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07541 365670

foothealthcare@yahoo.co.uk

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Practice: 01797 369242

Sarahjayne Seath

07454 050100

sseath1970@gmail.com



March Rainbow Food Poster Help feed local people in crisis

Items we would appreciate are:

Squash, Toilet Rolls, Toothpaste, Washing Pods, Cooking Sauces, Coffee



We have plenty of tinned soup, pasta & baked beans.

Please ensure all food is not **OUT OF DATE** and **UNOPENED** as we are not allowed to distribute out of date food, and it costs us money to dispose of. **Thank you!**

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Mar 2023

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Romney Marsh Morris

Raising funds with heart and soles!



You've heard that music and dancing is good for the heart – well, Romney Marsh Morris has been working and dancing hard, raising money for an organisation which is at the heart of its community.

At a recent practice the members of Romney Marsh Morris were pleased to be able to present the proceeds of all its fundraising efforts in 2022 to Romney Marsh Community Hub. Not only have the members been going round their audiences, far and wide, with their charity buckets, but they have run their own make and buy sale, held singing evenings, collected 5ps, knitted and sold Robins, donated to a virtual Christmas card and held a Grand Christmas Raffle – all to raise a whopping £2,435.76.

The Morris dancing side, which comprises over 50 members, and is based in New Romney, is in its seventh year, and over that time has supported a variety of good causes, including the Foodbank, Hystio UK, and Littlestone RNLI, raising an increasing amount of money each year.

"Romney Marsh Morris members choose a charity each year to support, and we were especially pleased that this last year was one that is so local to us", commented Judith Ruffhead, the Squire of Romney Marsh Morris. "In these times of financial hardship, we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our members, friends

and supporters who have made it possible for us to raise this amount, and we thank everyone who donated. We also were pleased to be able to offer physical support to the Romney Marsh Community Hub by dancing for them when HRH the Duke of Gloucester visited, and by assisting with Christmas gift wrapping and card writing for their clients. In addition, we are grateful to the Hub for helping us out by allowing Romney Marsh Morris a space to hold several of our 'Bootcamp' sessions."

CEO of the Community Hub, Jon Wilson, on receiving the giant cheque, explained the vital importance of the fund-raising to assist the Hub to offer help and services to the older people living across Romney Marsh, particularly more isolated people, and thanked the Morris side for its support and hard work.

Romney Marsh Morris is now practicing hard for its exciting new performance season, which kicks off with a Spring Equinox music and singing event on **Saturday 18 March** at 8pm at The British Lion in Folkestone. The side can then be seen dancing for St George's Day on **23 April** at Unit 1, West Hythe, and on **1 May** in Greatstone and Deal, ahead of its summer season. Full programme and details of the side can be seen on its Facebook page or by visiting: www.romneymarshmorris.com •

LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

■ Councils

Lydd Town Council

Guild Hall, 13 High Street, Lydd,
Kent TN29 9AF.

Tel: 01797 320 999.

Website: www.lyddtowncouncil.gov.uk

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9am to 12.30pm.

New Romney Town Council

Town Hall, High Street, New Romney,
Kent TN28 8BT.

Tel: 01797 362348.

Website: www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

Monday-Friday 9am to midday with additional 12.30pm-3.30pm on Wednesday.

Benefits Tel: 01303 853 853

Concessionary travel Tel: 01303 858 660

Rent Enquiries Tel: 01303 853 700

Council Tax Tel: 01303 853 555

Environmental Services Tel: 01303 858 660

■ Libraries

Lydd Library

20A Skinner Rd, Lydd, Kent TN29 9HN.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 11am-4pm.

Friday midday-4pm.

Saturday 9am-1pm.

Closed Wednesday and Sunday.

Free computer use/internet access and Wi-Fi, Shepway District Council Services website – free membership to access the above and borrow books, audio books, eBooks, eNewspapers, eMagazines.

Reading Group on first Saturday of the month (all welcome). Mah Jong group Thursday afternoons 1.30pm-4pm (all welcome). Free-to-use community space/reading room/gallery. Children's library.

New Romney Library

82 New Romney High Street,
Kent TN28 8AU.

Monday and Friday 9am-2pm.

Tuesday 1pm-5pm.

Wednesday and Saturday 9am-1pm.

Thursday 10am-4pm.

Closed Sunday.

Internet, children's library, online catalogue. No wheelchair access.

■ Doctors

Orchard House Surgery

Bleak Road, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AE.

Tel: 01797 320307.

Website: www.orchardhouse@nhs.net

Church Lane Surgery

Church Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8ER.

Tel: 01797 364756.

Website:

www.churchlanesurgerynewromney.nhs.uk

Oak Hall Surgery

41-43 High Street, New Romney,
Kent TN28 8BW.

Tel: 01797 362106.

Website: www.oakhallsurgery.nhs.uk

Martello Health Centre

20 Chapel Road, Dymchurch,
Kent TN29 0TD.

Tel: 01303 875 700.

Website: www.martellohealthcentre.nhs.uk

■ Emergency contacts

Emergency, Fire, Police, Ambulance or Coastguard Tel: 999

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Tel: 101

Community Wardens

Dymchurch Tel: 07969 583915

New Romney Tel: 07773 369751

Lydd Tel: 07969 583917

Gas leak Transco Tel: 0800 111 999

Electricity EDF Energy Tel: 0800 783 8866

Water Affinity Tel: 0845 888 5888

Shepway Council Tel: 01303 853000
or out of hours 01303 221888

■ Other

Fix My Street

Report graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, broken street lighting, etc.

Website: www.fixmystreet.com

Dungeness-Folkestone tide times

Website: www.tidetimes.org.uk

Crimestoppers

Reporting crime and anti-social behaviour.

Tel: 0800 555111 (100% anonymous)

Website: www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour



MARSH MESSAGE

EDITORIAL and ADVERTISING (all enquiries)

Paul Sanderson • mm-editor@romneychurches.org • 01797 458646

Communications to and from the editor are not confidential.

SUBSCRIPTIONS/DISTRIBUTION (subs. / distrib. queries, subscription payments)

Ann Rolfe • mm-sub@romneychurches.org • 01797 362719

ACCOUNTS (queries, payments for adverts)

Joe Butterworth • mm-accounts@romneychurches.org • 07470 196460

MAGAZINE DEADLINES FOR 2023

To assist your forward planning for material to appear in *Marsh Message*, here is a list of key dates in the production schedule for six months ahead. These are correct at the time of this issue going to press, though may change due to circumstances we are not yet aware of.

Note 1: The August issue is combined with the July issue; the January issue is combined with the December issue.

Note 2: 'Delivery to Benefice' is the earliest time a copy of *Marsh Message* might be seen; distribution takes place on and after that date.

ISSUE COVER DATE	Final text/pics to editor, noon on	Delivery to Benefice
May	Mon 17 Apr	Wed 26 Apr
June	Mon 15 May	Wed 24 May
July/August	Mon 12 June	Wed 21 June
September	Mon 14 Aug	Wed 23 Aug
October	Mon 18 Sept	Wed 27 Sept
November	Mon 16 Oct	Wed 25 Oct

ADVERT SIZES AND COSTS

VAT is not charged for these adverts. Advertising is a tax deductible business expense.

Advertising not paid for in advance will not be printed.

Whole page: 125mm wide x 186mm deep **£350.00 per annum** (£35.00p per issue).

Half page (horizontal): 125mm wide x 92mm deep **£175.00 per annum** (£17.50p per issue).

Half page (vertical): 60mm wide x 186mm deep **£175.00 per annum** (£17.50p per issue).

Quarter page (horizontal): 125mm wide x 45mm deep **£87.50 per annum** (£8.75p per issue).

Quarter page (vertical): 60mm wide x 90mm deep **£87.50 per annum** (£8.75p per issue).

Sixth page (horizontal): 125mm wide x 29mm deep **£80.00 per annum** (£8.00p per issue).

Sixth page (vertical): 61mm wide x 60mm deep **£80.00 per annum** (£8.00p per issue).

Twelfth page (horizontal only): 61mm wide x 29mm deep **£40.00 per annum** (£4.00p per issue).

Adverts submitted for printing need to be a high-resolution JPEG or PDF (not a website screen-grab).

If you do not have an advert we are happy to put one together for you at no extra cost.

Marsh Message financial queries to Joe Butterworth at:

mm-accounts@romneychurches.org

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01580 753322 • www.wealdenprint.co.uk



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ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE TEAM MINISTRY



romneychurches.org

■ TEAM RECTOR Rev'd. Christopher Hodgkins

Tel: 01797 335003 • Email: ctahodgkins@hotmail.co.uk • Day off: Friday

■ TEAM VICAR Rev'd. Christopher Maclean

Tel: 01797 320345 • Email: busyonasunday@gmail.com • Day off: Tuesday

■ ASSOCIATE TEAM PRIEST Rev'd. Jacky Darling

Tel: 07484 224973 • Email: jacky.darling@aol.com

■ ASSOCIATE TEAM PRIEST Rev'd. Shuna Body

Tel: 01797 343977 • Email: shunabody@hotmail.com

■ CHURCHES

All Saints, Burmarsh • All Saints, Lydd • All Saints, St. Mary's Bay • St. Augustine, Brookland
St. Clement, Old Romney • St. Dunstan, Snargate • St. Eanswith, Brenzett
St. George, Ivychurch • St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mary in the Marsh • St. Nicholas, New Romney
St. Peter, Greatstone • St. Peter & St. Paul, Dymchurch • St. Peter & St. Paul, Newchurch
St. Thomas Becket, Fairfield

■ MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Rev'd. Mike Gooch (PTO) • Rev'd. Shuna Body (SSM) • Rev'd. Jacky Darling (SSM)
George Faulks (LLM) • Les Carter (LLM) • June Noakes (LLM) • Penny Lowe (LLM)
Frances Aubrey (ALM) • Veronica Brown (ALM) • Christine Clark (Funerals)
Penny Mackrell (Pastoral Team)

■ PASTORAL TEAM

Penny Mackrell, Co-ordinator, tel: 01797 362560 • Sue Richardson

■ FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Charlotte Watkinson, tel: 01797 362685

■ CHURCHWARDENS

New Romney: Ann Rolfe, tel: 01797 362719

Dymchurch: Christine Clark, tel: 07740 395497

Burmarsh: Heather Bateman, tel: 01303 873781

Old Romney (custodian): Charlotte Watkinson, tel: 01797 362685

St. Mary in the Marsh: Bill Caudwell

St. Mary's Bay: Pauline Moses, tel: 01797 363175 • Ian Bentley, tel: 07808 510912

Newchurch: Mike Barclay, tel: 01303 872376 • Peter Dunning, tel: 01303 311779

Ivychurch: Margaret Waite, tel: 01797 344283

Lydd, Greatstone: Mike Botten, tel: 01797 321615

■ CHURCH BOOKINGS

St. Nicholas, New Romney: Ann Rolfe, tel: 01797 362719

All Saints, St. Mary's Bay: Len Dignan, tel: 01303 873451

All Saints, Burmarsh: vacant

Hardy Hall, Lydd: Maggie Clifton, tel: 07905 433302

St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone: Carol Comber, tel: 01797 367597

■ BENEFICE WEDDINGS, BLESSINGS AND BAPTISMS BOOKINGS

Ann Rolfe, tel: 01797 362719

■ WEBMASTER

Rev'd. Canon David Parrott, tel: dwparrott01@googlemail.com

MARSH MESSAGE

Editorial, Advertising (sizes and cost), Subscriptions/Distribution and Accounts information for this magazine is listed *inside this back cover*.

MAY DEADLINE: Monday 17 April before 12 noon