April 2020

THE LINK







In this issue:

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- Tribute to Napier Crookenden
- Photo competition
- Pothole alert

Village magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the April edition

We hope you enjoy it.

There was going to be a great deal going on in the next month or so but we are sorry to report that most, including the VE Day celebration, have been postponed. The litter picks on Good Friday in Four Elms and Markbeech have been cancelled but at the time of writing the Hever Litter Pick will take place in a “socially isolated” way. The churches have had to cancel their services with great reluctance.

The Hever Festival in the open air theatre will be hoping to get going during the summer but the Chiddingstone Literary Festival has been cancelled.

And then there is that virus.....If anyone ends up being stuck indoors and needs some local help such as shopping please do ring the editors or any of the churchwardens or those people listed on the back page. The Henry VIII, and possibly some of the other pubs, area offering takeaways (you need to collect). If you haven’t already, now is a good time to sign up for village emails, covering all three villages, on www.hever.org and many of us are now also signed up to Nextdoor Hever. There is also information on the church Three Spires website.

If you are stuck indoors, or need a break when working from home here are some ideas:

- Computers - now is the time to learn.
- If you are running low we can find you wool for knitting, jigsaws, lend DVDs etc. Just ask.
- Do a spring clean or do the weeding
- Learn to play bridge on line (BBO and Bridge Club Live) or phone (Fun Bridge)
- Telephone an old friend
- Write your memoirs
- Make some bunting which we can sew together in a long chain round each village once the isolation is over (and use later at all these postponed events).
- Or, best of all, write an article for The Link!!!

I am off now to have a Skype drink with a friend (in other words we connect via the cameras on our computers and raise our glasses to one another from the comfort of our splendid isolation).

Joanna Wade



Rather than embarking on yet another "freestyle" scarf, you can find knitting patterns on the Knit for Peace website.

The charity grew out of projects established in Rwanda and India to bring women from traditionally hostile communities to knit together to make clothes for street children.

The website has knitting and crochet patterns for simple things like toys for refugees or blankets for care homes. You can also sign up for its newsletter.

Easy delicious no knead overnight bread

For each 2 lb loaf tin:
600g mixed bread flour
(I use 300g strong white, 200g wholemeal flour and 100g rye flour)
2 tsp salt
2 tsp quick yeast
a couple of handfuls of seeds, I use sunflower hearts, pumpkin seeds and chia seeds (optional)
500g (500ml) cold tap water

The night before baking put all the flour and seeds, if using, in a large mixing bowl together with the salt and yeast and add the water. Mix well just to the point when all the flour is incorporated in the sticky dough and you can't see any dry bits. This takes me less than 5 mins. Cover the bowl with a tea towel or clingfilm and leave in the kitchen. Ours is cool overnight, if you have an Aga I'd leave the dough in a cooler place.

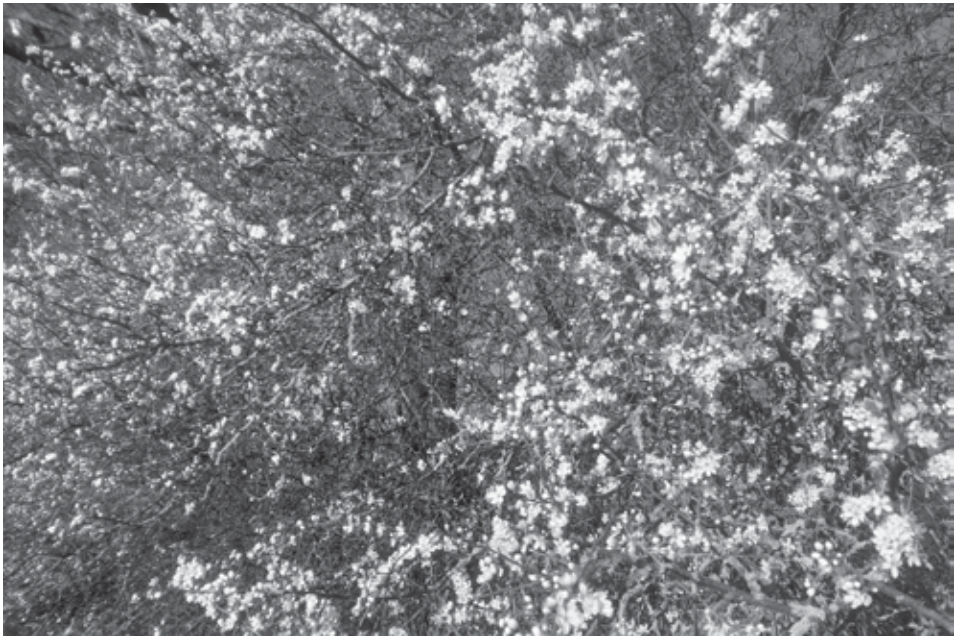
The next morning (about 10 hours later) grease a 2 lb bread tin. Put a little oil on a board and spread it with your hands. Then with oily hands scoop up the dough. It will just hold together but be very sticky. Put on the oily board and spread out the dough into a rough rectangle, roll up and spread again and repeat.

Then place in the tin and leave to rise. After about an hour put a tray in your oven* and turn your oven on to its highest setting. As soon as its up to temperature slash the rising dough with a sharp knife, ideally serrated and pour some water onto the hot tray to create steam and put the bread in for 25 mins. Then turn the oven down, without opening it, to 180 degrees C** for a further 20 mins. Remove from the oven, take out of the tin and tap the loaf to check it sounds hollow. Leave to cool on a rack.

*I have a fan oven and I use the pan that came with it that hangs from grooves on either side of the oven. Then I put the oven rack on top. With conventional ovens you can just put the pan on the oven floor.

**With a conventional oven set to 200 degrees C

Bridget Harris



The trustees of Hever village hall would like to express their appreciation and gratitude for the very generous and unexpected bequest of £25,000 from the estate of the late Anne Simmonds.

The gift will enable the committee to proceed to the stage of seeking planning permission from the local authority to go ahead with the regeneration of the hall in line with the results of the public consultation which took place in 2018.

This very welcome gift from Anne's estate has boosted both our funds and our enthusiasm to forge ahead with this very worthwhile project for the village and local areas.

Gerry Ryan
Chairman of Trustees

Litter pick on Good Friday

Hever village hall
9am – 12pm

Wear sensible clothes and boots and bring gloves. All other equipment (litter pickers, bags, bag hoops, high visibility jackets) provided.

The red-haired Dean

"He is of small stature, with red hair, sober in eating and drinking, and speaking little". This is a contemporary description of John Barlow who became Rector of Hever in 1525. John was born in Essex and began his university education at the new Corpus Christi college in Oxford in 1517, the same year that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. After a few years as a fellow of Merton college he arrived in Hever, a condition of his appointment being a "first fruits" payment to the Pope of £15 (about £15,000 today).

As chaplain to Sir Thomas Boleyn, Viscount Rochford, John found himself in the midst of a fascinating family. It was not long before he was at the centre of Henry VIII's courtship of Anne and his attempts to divorce Catherine. Henry sent Barlow to Italy in 1527 as his personal courier to carry a message to the envoy sent to Rome to intercede with the Pope. The envoy, William Knight, wrote to Henry from Foglino, about 100 miles north of Rome:".....a chaplain of my Lord Rocheforte arrived here with yor Graces letters directed unto me, and in the same a minyute for your dispensation, newli conceived".

That mission failed and Barlow was sent on a second perilous mission to Italy the next year. Whilst the missions failed the Boleyns were pleased with John and wrote to Cardinal Wolsey asking him to give him the living at Sundridge which had become vacant. Wolsey made a mistake and offered Tonbridge causing Anne to write reproachfully:"I do trust your grace do grant him Sondrig. And considering the pains that he hath taken, I do think that it shalbe very wel bestowed. And in so doing I reckyn my self much bound to your grace for al those that hath takyn pain in the kings matter. It shalbe my daily study to imagine al the ways that I can devise to do them service and pleasure."

John duly received the Sundridge living in 1528 and held it until the reign of Queen Mary whilst also being appointed as Dean of the college of Westbury-on- Trym near Bristol. His Channel-hopping continued for a few more years and he carried messages to George Boleyn who was Ambassador to France so his parish work would probably have been carried out by curates whose salaries he would have paid from his own income.

No one knows what John's views were about the break with Rome but there is evidence that he and his brother William, Bishop of St David's, both benefitted from Anne Boleyn's patronage as Marchioness of Pembroke and promoted her cause in return. His star did not wane with Anne's execution, by 1544 he was Dean of Worcester Cathedral, but it plummeted to earth when Queen Mary came to the throne in 1553. William was imprisoned, recanted his Protestant views and was released into exile and John disappeared from view - no one knows how his story ended.

This article comes from research by Tim Treml, if anyone would like a copy of his booklet, please ask the editors.

Joanna Wade

Bobby – pet of the month

For about three years we have had two cats, Bobby and Florrie, named after Carol's parents. We had always thought that Florrie was the feisty, adventurous one, so when Bobby went missing recently, on a Sunday evening, we thought it was unusual, but not really worrying, especially as he had eaten some of Carol's cake!

When he had not returned on Monday we started worrying, even more so when he had not returned by Tuesday, and then Wednesday. Late Wednesday afternoon a lovely neighbour called to say she thought Bobby was high up in one of her oak trees, and, indeed he was. A local tree surgeon managed to entice him down on Thursday morning and this is a picture of him looking a bit bedraggled, after his safe return.

Initially, Florrie seemed to miss her brother, but she had become used to having the house, and us, to herself and was a bit miffed when he returned. After a few 'arguments' they seem to have settled down and now get on pretty well.

Carol and Doug Bowern



A message from the County Council

As County Councillor for Sevenoaks Rural South, I am writing to get KCC's message out that Social Care services both for the elderly and the young will do their utmost to cope in this growing crisis, looking after those in their care. They are quietly confident that they can do so, however they welcome all the help that local volunteers can give, looking especially after the elderly who are going to have to self isolate in their own homes.

As for me, I too will be self isolating but constantly in touch with colleagues at KCC. I of course do not want anyone to fall through the net so I can contact the right people at County Hall to give advice and help and come to their rescue if necessary.

My email address is Peter.lake@kent.gov.uk and my mobile is 0774070 1695. I am sure we will all get through these very difficult times if we stick together and follow the advice given by Government and the NHS.

Peter Lake

local heroes

Lieutenant General Sir Napier Crookenden KCB, DSO, OBE, DL



Napier Crookenden was a career soldier born in 1915, trained at Sandhurst and commissioned into the Cheshire Regiment in 1935. He was 24 when WW2 broke out and in 1943, having volunteered for parachute training, he served as a Brigade Major in the 6th Airlanding Brigade, planning to land soldiers in gliders on D Day near key bridges across the River Orne which flows through Caen, the city at the heart of the Normandy landings.

The gliders were duly despatched on 6 June 1944 in an audacious and perilous exercise aimed at taking the Germans by surprise and capturing Benouville Bridge. They landed mainly on target but with some serious injury to soldiers who could not see where they were landing in the dark. The bridge was taken in a decisive victory during the bumpy and agonising progress to victory. The bridge was renamed Pegasus Bridge, the shoulder emblem of the Parachute Regiment. It is impossible to avoid recording that one of the Parachute battalions was led by the wonderfully named Lieutenant Colonel Pine-Coffin.

Napier Crookenden's part in the success was recognised with promotion to Commanding Officer of the 9th (Eastern and Home Counties) Parachute Battalion, leading his Regiment in a famous action at Merville and capturing a massive German gun battery, constructed of so much concrete that it was impervious to bombing, which was a great threat to troops landing on Sword Beach. He was in the thick of bitter fighting during the winter of 1944 called "the Battle of the Bulge", the last German offensive against the allied advance towards Germany. He then took part in the last great parachute operation of the war, the crossing of the Rhine. He was awarded a DSO (like his father before him) and was moved on to Israel to help maintain order during the dying days of the British mandate.

After the war he was Director of Operations during the Malayan Emergency. He was made Director of Land/Air Warfare at the Ministry of Defence in 1964 and was the last General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Command from 1969. He served in Northern Ireland and, as he was very much a "soldier's general", made a point of going out on foot patrols on the Falls Road. He was knighted in 1970 and retired in 1972.

In retirement he and his wife moved to Four Elms and he became Colonel of the Cheshire Regiment, a trustee of the Imperial War Museum, lieutenant of the Tower of London, a notably successful chair of SSAFA (the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Families Association), Deputy Lieutenant for Kent and - most importantly of all of course - a Churchwarden at Hever where he was very active and much loved. He also lectured on military history and wrote three books. Una Higgs remembers a trip to the D Day sites with him. They found Leo Marks' poem "Yours" on the wall of the Pegasus café:

The life that I have
Is all that I have
And the life that I have
Is yours.

The love that I have
Of the life that I have
Is yours and yours and yours.

A sleep I shall have
A rest I shall have
Yet death will be but a pause.

For the peace of my years
In the long green grass
Will be yours and yours and yours.

The poem was written for his girlfriend Ruth who had died in a plane crash in Canada but it had a second purpose as an encrypted message. Marks was head of the Code office of the Special Operations Executive in Baker Street (where Anne Greig and Paul Aronow's father also worked) and the poem was used to send coded messages to agents in France, including Violette Szabo.



Napier Crookenden died in 2002 and there are memorial plaques to him in Chester Cathedral, the Tower of London and Hever Church.

what I do

Hello, I'm Ailsa Molyneux. I am the Theatre Director at Hever Festival Theatre.

Having studied music at university, my theatre career was based firmly in the world of opera until I decided I wanted to work more locally, to stop touring and to enjoy the privilege of working in a beautiful place. This led to my first job with Hever Festival Theatre in the days when the Theatre was a repertory house based on the loggia. I have loved both the Theatre and Hever Castle ever since.



Hever Festival Theatre is 37 years old this Summer. It began as a rep season, the passion of Ron Palmer and his family and has grown into a diverse, bustling Festival. Spread over six weeks in the Summer, there are events to suit every taste. Described as 'The West End in the Garden of England' a visit to the theatre at Hever Castle is an unforgettable experience.

2020 promises to be another exciting year in which we will be celebrating 'the best that Britain has to offer.' Shakespeare's Globe on Tour is one of our new partners and at the end of August they will be performing three of the Bard's plays. We are also working with many local artists as well as historians, musicians, a vicar, Harry Potter enthusiasts and magicians.

Hever Festival Theatre combines world-class performances and a picture book Tudor Castle set in beautiful gardens with stunning views. Whilst many enjoy a lakeside picnic, the restaurant, providing delicious food, is open throughout the Festival. No wonder I don't want to be anywhere else this summer…

www.heverfestival.co.uk
Box Office 01732 866114
23 May – 30 August 2020

Potholes

Kent County Council, Highways Dept. is responsible for the 10,000 km of roads around Kent (not for motorways or trunk roads). 1.64 million people use these roads and almost 1,000,000 vehicles and usage has doubled in the last 25 years. KCC's website allows you to report a problem very easily: https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

KCC says: "We are continuing to fix potholes as part of our £7.5 million Pothole Blitz. Since the beginning of the year, we've fixed over 26,000 potholes in response to over 14,000 received fault reports. You can let us know about any potholes via our online reporting tool, which will help us schedule repairs as quickly as possible.

We aim to make a permanent, quality repair by cutting out a small section of the road around the hole, clearing out the old material and filling it with new tarmac. If a road has lots of potholes we may need to complete a larger patch or resurface the whole section. For emergency potholes, we sometimes make an instant repair by quickly filling the hole. This is to make the road safe straight away whilst we schedule a full permanent repair to prevent potholes from forming in the future.

Following recent bad weather and flooding, we will be prioritising pothole and emergency repairs and reports of floods that are a risk to road users or property for the next few weeks."

Photographic Competition: 'Your Eden Valley'

Open to all, this is a chance to get your photograph in Eden Valley Museum's 2021 calendar.

The photos will be judged at the Museum's 20th anniversary coffee morning on 27th June and afterwards will be displayed in the museum until the 31st August.

The top 12 will be printed in the 2021 calendar and winners will receive a free copy. It's one submission per person, 8"x6" landscape. Please submit before the 31st May and include a title and location, your name, address and contact details to curator@evmt.org.uk



Hever Parish Council

by Charlotte Cole, parish clerk

Gatwick The Clerk attended a "roundtable" meeting regarding Gatwick Northern Runway Project. The current consultation is part of the process to bring the emergency runway into use. The runway is 2.5km long (the main runway is 3.3km). If brought into regular use, it would enable up to 70 movements of planes an hour, an increase of 74 million passengers per year. There would not be in increase in cargo flights. The plans have to include infrastructure such as improving the access from the M23 (Junction 9). The plans would lead to about 20,000 new jobs (8,000 on the airport site).

The Consultation document (over a 1000 pages) will be out soon and now is the time to engage. The Secretary of State is expected to make a decision late in 2022. Hever Parish Council is part of the High Weald Councils Aviation Action group and the 3 HPC Councillors who attend this on your behalf will consider our response carefully http://www.hwcaag.org/
For more information see www.gatwickairport.com/community
If you have views on this, please attend a parish council meeting, email the Clerk (clerk@hever.org) or comment on Facebook (Hever Parish Council).

Licensing The Clerk now receives updates electronically from the Licensing Authority (Sevenoaks District Council) on any new or amended licensing applications in our parish and will list these at every Council meeting.

Four Elms pond Excess aquatic plants are to be removed from the pond soon, these will have to "rest" on a part of the bank to allow the bugs to crawl back into the water, so if the area is a little unsightly for a while, please bear with us.

Bus shelters The Clerk received happy news that the refurbished Four Elms bus shelter (which was a salmon pink colour previously) with its new green bench and enlarged perspex window is much appreciated by users. Watch this space for new, covered, accessible, magnetic noticeboards for all the bus shelters in the parish. They are a vast improvement and no more injured thumbs trying to post notices on them. Hoorah

Christine Thompson resigns The Councillors and Clerk would like to express huge thanks to Christine Thompson, Councillor for Four Elms ward for her many years of stellar service to the Council and community. In particular, her lead of the Planning Committee has been key to the high praise the Council receives from the District planning authority for considering all planning applications with such a logical, thorough and expert approach and not shying away from contentious applications or decisions.

Free family fun days
30th July Four Elms recreation ground (behind school)
13th August Hever village hall 10am – 2pm.
More information to follow, bring the kids and a picnic for free activities (indoors and outside).

Next Parish Council meetings
Tuesday May 5th Four Elms village hall Meeting / AGM 7.30pm
Thursday 28th May Hever Village hall Annual Assembly 7.30pm

Any queries please contact the Clerk clerk@hever.org

schooltime

news from Hever

In a climate of uncertainty and change we are doing all we can to keep everyone safe and well. While the school has closed following government guidelines we will continue to care for vulnerable children and those whose parents are key workers.

This week Acorn class has been practising using their phonics sounds for reading and writing. They are learning how to write a short sentence. Acorns have been trying so hard with their reading and parents and carers have been supporting learning at home. In Maths they have been learning about pairs and working out how many pairs of socks different animals would need! They are also using numbers in their roleplay and shapes in construction. It has been an extremely muddy few weeks out in the forest! This week children built a rain shelter and huddled underneath it to drink hot chocolate and they created little rafts for the stream.

Elderberry have been growing cress to conduct an investigation into what plants need to grow, deciding what to change in their variables. The children have been working hard on their multiplication and division skills, using arrays and making equal groups through sharing.

Elm Class have been deepening their understanding of non-fiction explanation text, the children worked collaboratively to create a new food for robot dogs, with a new brand name and catchy slogan. Also this week the children have designed their own experiments based around the scientific principles of the 'fair test' and their understanding of the factors needed for healthy plant growth. They spent time discussing their thoughts regarding the control of variables, before settling on one which they wanted to explore.

Willow Class, over the last two weeks, have written some amazing pieces about the book, 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. The children were asked to explore the language and style of the Iron Man before creating their own descriptions and then writing a prologue in the style of Hughes.

We have had another fantastic week of learning in Chestnut class this week. The children have worked hard to complete their biographies on Claude Monet and moved onto planning a missing poster, based on an accident with a group of explorers in an Avalanche. Inspiration for this was seen from a disappearance reported in Scotland last week.

Last Thursday, our teachers and pupils had a great time celebrating World Book Day. A lot of fun and exciting activities took place. The children were thrilled to hear the news that Michael Rosen, the famous children's author, is coming to visit us in November! We are all looking forward to hearing his inspirational words!

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

news from Four Elms

Rights respecting
Recently, the whole school has been focusing on raising awareness about disabilities as part of 'The right to be treated fairly'.

Class One have created an audio book for those who are visually impaired which was shared with a member of the local community who is visually impaired. They provided feedback and the children will respond to this before sharing their audio book with a larger audience of visually impaired people. When visiting the school, the lady stated that the children "were lovely and had great questions" and also commented that it is wonderful that we are raising awareness of disability as a school.

Class Two have learnt a great deal of sign language and have created a video of key phrases and words. They have been visiting other local primary schools to share their learning in the hope this will also inspire other schools to become more inclusive and learn sign language.

Class Three have been learning about hidden disabilities and how our local Waitrose can support people with these. This term they will have a visit from a representative from Waitrose Head Office, to present their ideas and, once approved, they will share these ideas with our local Waitrose in Edenbridge.

Class Four's goal is to raise awareness of accessibility for people with physical disabilities. So far, they have tested out our school and field environment to identify how wheelchair accessible this is. They will be writing letters to the local community to raise awareness of the impact of an accessible environment.

Positive relationships and anti-bullying programme
The whole school has signed up to a fun five-week programme delivered by the West Kent Community Youth Services Team. The programme focuses on positive relationships, empathy and self-esteem, to help the children understand the importance of kindness and teamwork.

Sport Relief
Sport Relief is a fundraising event run by Comic Relief that harnesses the power of sport to raise money and transform lives. In exchange for a donation to the charity, all the children were able to come to school dressed in either sporty clothes or as a sports star.

During the afternoon, the Rights Respecting Ambassadors ran some fun sports activities for each class with prizes for the winners, bringing the whole school community together to get active and have fun. It helped the children to understand that their own school can make a real difference to people's lives.

Nicole Holt

news from the pews

Announcing the appointment of Rev Simon Braid as Priest in Charge

We are delighted to announce Simon's appointment, a unanimous decision by the panel of local PCC members. Simon and his wife Susie are well known to most of us and Simon brings a wealth of experience. Until recently an associate Vicar in Hildenborough, he is currently licenced to the Deanery where he has helped lead mission and growth in the Diocesan 'Called to Grow'. As a retired accountant it is also a measure of his experience that he is a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee.

Simon is a very capable individual who more than satisified the criteria we identified for a new incumbent. His licensing was to be a big public event but it will now be held privately in the near future.

Simon has added the following message: 'Susie and I are delighted to be joining you. But obviously we hadn't expected to be doing so in such unprecedented circumstances. Despite the fears, worries and uncertainty caused by this pandemic, it's so encouraging to see the communities pulling together. The church will be playing its part and we are putting together lists of people who need particular help – especially those who may not have access to the internet - and I will be part of a plan to phone any who are isolated to offer a friendly word, prayer and encouragement as well as whatever help we are able to provide. I'll be recording short Eucharists for Sundays and the Easter services, as well as some other spiritual help and guidance including how to pray during the crisis. This will be put on the church website and Facebook page. Do also look out for national broadcasts from the Church of England. God bless you all.'

Four Elms

Rarely (if ever) do we cancel a service. However, the exceptionally bad weather in February caused our minister, Sally Musson to be stopped in her flooded tracks somewhere between Hildenborough and Four Elms. We thank Sally for making the effort to get as far as Bough Beech. Had she arrived at St. Paul's she would have witnessed mops and buckets to the fore attempting to dry out the church. Our problem was minor compared to others around the country who have lost possessions and homes to the unprecedented rainfall. Our thoughts and prayers are with these very unfortunate people.

All of which concentrates our minds on the serious problem of climate change. This has taken a back seat to the Coronavirus outbreak, equally serious, but the climate change issue is not going away any time soon. We all need to address the way we use resources which contribute to the problem. And St. Paul's must address it as well. The APCM of the PCC has had to be postponed. When it is rearranged everyone will be welcome, especially those who are on our Parochial Electoral Roll. Membership of the Parochial Electoral Role demonstrates that you are an interested supporter of

St. Paul's Church Four Elms. You may not regularly worship at the Church but you still love the building and its place in the village. You may even enjoy the seasonal services and, of course, those times which touch your own families. A notice board in the Church will provide you with more information.
And finally, Leslie Griggs has retired as a greatly respected Church Warden. Richard Bennett has replaced Les. Thank you Les and thank you Richard.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

Last month's Hever Parish lunch was a time of celebration as we shared Ann Cleeve's birthday. Given current advice about gatherings it will be the last for a while. Regrettably the church services have stopped but we are putting in place alternatives such as online readings and services that can be followed at home at regular times, such as morning prayer at 9.30am on Wednesdays and afternoon prayer at 4.30pm on Thursdays plus a Sunday service. As we continue through Lent we will also make available the 'Caring for God's creation' lent course readings, prayers and reflections. Please check the ThreeSpires website for regular updates and news.

Our obvious joy in Rev Simon Braid being appointed Priest in Charge has been very timely indeed and Simon is currently compiling a large list of telephone numbers and details so that he can stay in touch with us all.

We may all find that we have more time on our hands in the coming weeks and I would like to offer the following:-

Gardening. Now is a very good time to start thinking of the growing season ahead. If you are in need of any compost, seeds or other gardening sundries, I can help deliver these to your door in my wonderful little red van! Hever Horticultural Society are asking their members to sow a few extra seeds to make seedlings and plants available and we are hoping to do the annual plant sale by telephone ordering with delivery or a collection point.

Knitting. I have lots of surplus wool and also patterns and needles so if you fancy taking up a new skill or indulge an old one let me know. There are wonderful tutorials online on YouTube or I can photocopy some instructions. Blanket squares are simple but much in demand - give it a try! In particular, why not start knitting for November's Christmas Fair? I can let you have a pattern for knotted Christmas decorations.

Pets. Should your pet need to see the vet, then we can help by collecting and taking then for a consultation or treatment.

Jigsaws. I have a large stash. Mainly 1000 pieces or under. All in great condition and am happy to share/ deliver.

Throughout the parish we have a considerable number of people who are willing to help out in these difficult times. Please do not worry or become anxious - share any concerns or needs

and we will very probably be able to help, however large or small.

Keep cheerful.

Jane Rosam
Churchwarden

Markbeech

The constant rain and the onset of Coronavirus made March a rather bleak month but the light came shining through with confirmation from the Bishop of Simon's position as our future priest. A warm welcome was evident from the good sized congregation who came to hear the news at our service in March.

We have been following the Church of England Lent course 'Caring from Gods Creation' by reading their excellent booklet, studying the prescribed passages and coming together for an evening of discussion and supper. It has given us plenty of food for thought and it is always just so good to share time together.

The practical side of a churchwarden's duty is to care for the building and churchyard and I fear this will be tested as we are about to undergo our 'Quinquennial Inspection' by the Diocese. We spend a morning with a surveyor who has a long form to complete and then await a thick document of items that will need our attention. I can't wait! We are, however, very aware that the fallen oak needs removing and hopeful this will have happened by the time this magazine goes to print. I am also awaiting confirmation of a faculty to install the new security lighting and cameras. And finally, you may have noticed that the stone finial on the roof of the church became damaged by either Ciara or Denis (I can't remember who was the culprit). Never a dull moment!

Sadly all our plans for Easter services have had to be cancelled. Likewise the Parish Lunch on Tuesday 7th April; Easter Lambing Tea Party at Ockhams on 15th April 2-4pm; Church Quiz on Saturday 18th April at MBVH have been called off thanks to Coronavirus restrictions. In the meantime we can all be thinking of new and exciting events for the autumn!

Stay safe and please do let me or Marielou know if there is anyone in our community that needs our help. We will do what we can!

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Lectionary readings April 2020

Date	OT	Psalm	NT	Gospel	Sunday
05 Apr	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31: 9-16	Philippians 2.5-11	Matthew 26.14-27.66	Palm Sunday
12 Apr	Acts 10.34-43	118.1-2,14-24	Colossians 3.1-4	John 20.1-18	Easter Day
19 Apr	Acts 2.14a,22-32	16	1 Peter 1.3-9	John 20.19-31	Easter 2
26 Apr	Acts 2.14a-36-41	116.1-3,10-17	1 Peter 1.17-23	Luke 24.13-35	Easter 3
03 May	Acts 2.42-end	23	1 Peter 2.19-25	John 10.1-10	Easter 4

Extract for Easter Day

from the Church of England Live Lent booklet

Rest and Restoration
Supposing him to be the gardener, Mary said to Jesus, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him."

Read John 20.11-18

Reflection
Genesis 2 begins by describing the Seventh Day - the Sabbath, when God rested from the work of creation. But by Genesis 3 we encounter Adam and Eve's disobediance and the tragic consequences of human sin. As Ruth Valerio writes in her conclusion to Saying Yes to Life:

"The rest of the Bible is then the story of how God works to bring restoration: to put back to rights what has gone wrong and bring about the Sabbath rest that has been promised."

Adam and Eve turn away from God in a garden, and it is in a garden that Mary Magdalene first encounters the risen Jesus. For Christians, the First Day becomes the new Sabbath, a day not only of rest but of resurrection and restoration.

Our faith in the risen Jesus gives us hope of a future when creation will be set free in the age to come. But this hope also strengthens us to live in the world as it is - a world where there is great suffering, a world which we are called to serve and to sustain.

Action
What will you take forward from all that you have learned and done during Lent?

How might your prayer, your actions and your giving, change to reflect your care for God's creation?

Prayer
Now let the heavens be joyful,
And earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

From "The day of resurrection", John of Damascus (c. 750), translated by J.M.Neale(1816-66)
see www.churchofengland.org/livelent for more information

Churchwardens

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Markbeech	Nicki Talbot Marielou Linklater	01342 850526 01342 850579

Blunts Brook is a 10 Acre wildlife haven where a plantaholic lives. Alleluia the sun has got its hat on and on a positive front the beautiful spring flowers came early and have lasted longer. We must all be behind in the garden, but not to worry, seasons always have a way of catching up.

Due to my vegetable plot being soggy and stodgy, I started certain vegetables off in the greenhouse (onions, garlic, broad beans, leek, sprouts) which are now screaming “get me in the soil”. I put my compost (home produced) on in November so now it only needs a rake to get a finer tilth where I am directly sowing seed. I don’t put compost where carrots and parsnips are to be sown. Vegetable seed I would normally sow directly into the ground at the beginning of March, but this year it will be the end of March/beginning of April. These are parsnip, radish, spinach, beetroot and lettuce, with carrots at the end of the month.

In February my potatoes took up residence in the porch for chitting and will be planted out this month. Remember when sowing vegetables/ salad leaves do fortnightly sowings to stop it all arriving at the same time. I start other vegetables in the greenhouse in late March/April – tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli etc. then plant out end of April/May.

The beginning of April is when I tackle my herbaceous borders, chopping back, lifting and dividing. Hardy annuals get sown once the bed is cleared and composted. Put labels in where you have sown seed. Now is a good time to plant any summer flowering bulbs. Also, this month is when I repot all my fuchsias & pelargoniums and get most of my cuttings from plants in the greenhouse and outside. Although most of the pruning had been done in March, this month I prune the fig tree, cut down the dogwoods and chop back the penstemon/fuchsias and early flowering shrubs. Remember to continually tie in the clematis and honeysuckles, as they romp away.

Roses and shrubs get their annual feed this month and don’t forget your houseplants. Containers get a top dressing of compost and slow release granules. April is the best month to take a look at your lawns and do any re-seeding. Remember to protect anything fragile from late frost with fleece.

I love this month and the excitement it brings. Our bluebell wood is beginning to come to life and our wildlife has taken up residence. Our Barn Owl (Snowball) has been in her box since November and the Tawny Owl is now in hers and she is starting to lay. Beautiful Mr Kingfisher is once again fishing and Mrs is sitting. The kestrels are unhappy as their box has Snowball in it, but we have put up another for them. The mandarin duck is not settled in yet but has checked out her box.

Happy gardening to you all and a very happy Easter.

Lorraine Harrington

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2018**					62.7	1.2	44.7	67.2	17.1	38	96	70
	2019	28	33	54	12	29.5	111	55	27	58	112	115	114
	2020	66	106										
Hever	**2018**	79	36	81	65.5	79	0	36	63	32	41	127.5	81
	2019	23	56	45.5	12	24	90	63	28.5	64	119	98	114
	2020	77	125										
Markbeech	**2018**	83	40	82	77.25	70.05	1.5	51	68.5	33	47.5	105.5	91.5
	2019	39.5	41	59.25	13.25	29	78.5	74.5	38.5	71	133	92.5	138
	2020	96.25	140										

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Mike Follows 01732 700280
or 07887 950921
Parish Rooms
– John Southworth 01732 700670
Hever
– Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech
– Mrs Paige 01342 850328

Councils

Kent County Councillor
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Sevenoaks District:
Matthew Dickins 07910 328110
Hever Parish:
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Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer. For payment either: a) Send a cheque payable to 'The Link' with your address to 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL or b) Make a bank transfer or set up a standing order payment to 'The Link' at Lloyds a/c 01057697 sort 30-92-92 with postcode and surname as reference.

A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org

Are you self isolating? Do you need help?

If you need help with shopping, prescriptions, posting letters etc please call the editors (see page 21 for numbers) or the churchwardens (see page 19) or call any of the following. We would all be very happy to help.

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Jane Hall – 01732 862569
Laura Hands – 07792 167 470 (based in Hever)
Beverley Thomas – 07855 968 006 (based in Edenbridge)
Toria Corcoran – 07885 491 893 (based in Edenbridge)
Andrea Hayto – 07766 503 062 based in Four Elms)
Sophie Fraser – 07793 464 705
Amy Hurlstone – 07982 996 642
Emma Short – 07985 047 746 (based in Four Elms)
Cheryl Small – 07795 841 178
Caroline Crooks – 07887 505 409

You can also email thelink@hever.org or hra@hever.org