THE LINK

June 2021







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Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the June Link

“My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pains
My sense, as though of hemlock I had drunk”.

Thus wrote Keats in his famous Ode to a Nightingale and from a very early age I have been desperate to hear a nightingale, that romantic bird of Berkeley Square (and apparently Hever station too). So off I went to Conyer Quay near Sittingbourne where nightingales were said to be singing their hearts out every morning. No night required.

And, on a dusty patch of scrub overgrowing a disused gunpowder works, I heard one loud and clear - and completely not what I had expected. Blackbirds win hands down on melody and what is notable about the nightingale is the plangent volume and variety of expression which is otherwise a bit dull. My agile twitching friends then heard a turtle dove. Now this threatened species arrived from sub-Saharan Africa is avian royalty – the day was made, time to walk on.

But no. My twitcher friends kept stopping to point out more nightingales, black cap, white throat, whimbrel (or was it a curlew) and my dogs lay down and started whining with frustration. I shared their pain and my desperation now focussed on a good chat and breakfast. As writer Hadley Freeman said recently of post-lockdown social phobia ‘I’ve lost the ability to engage with anyone who isn’t my cat’ – and so twitching is definitely for her’.

Eventually off the nightingales popped!



“Up the hill-side; and now ‘tis buried deep in the next valley-glades:

Was it a vision, or a waking dream?”.

Frankly, and shockingly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.

Joanna Wade

THE LINK

pet of the month

My name is Elsie Bain, I am 9 years old and I have two pygmy goats. Their names are Rosie and Rocky, they are half brother and sister. They live in a pen in my garden. Rosie is grey and Rocky is white with spots. They are about two and a half years old and they were born in February.

In their pen they have a house for when it rains, with a ladder so they can climb on the roof. We made a climbing frame because goats like to climb. They have a water bucket, a hay rack and a shelter.

We feed them twice a day with a goat feed which looks like muesli. At the end of the day we let them roam free in the garden.

Rosie is gentle and elegant, Rocky is playful and energetic. They love to run around and play the game– “it / tag” with their horns! They also love to eat



our nice roses and tulips and we get very cross with them. They often try and get in our house and if they could they would eat and destroy everything! Rosie likes to eat whatever we are wearing.



People that visit the farm shop love to visit them in their pen and Rosie likes the attention. They love it when children come and they get very excited and often jump around!

We would love for Rosie to have kids and she would make a good mum but that would mean separating Rocky from Rosie and we don’t want to do that because we love Rocky.

Next time you visit the farm shop please come and see my furry friends!

Elsie Bain
Falconhurst Farm House.

art in June

Art in June is back for 2021 with two exciting new venues in our area

The Barn at Falconhurst
Local artists, Michael Roberts, Angela Dewar, Polly Hosp, Emma Harvey, Sally Layne and Dione McKenna will be showing work at The Barn at Falconhurst, the recently renovated gallery space, next to the very popular Falconhurst Farm Shop on Cowden Pound Road, Mark Beech. The Barn at Falconhurst will be showing oil, water colour, mixed media paintings and textiles. Artists will be on site (appointments with specific artists should be made) giving demonstrations and talks on their work.
The Barn at Falconhurst will be open 4 – 20 June, Wednesdays to Sundays 10am-5pm. Cowden Pound Rd. Mark Beech TN8 5NR.

Marielou Avery Linklater
Landscapes and still life in varying degrees of abstraction. Paintings in acrylic, oils and watercolour on canvas and paper and a selection of limited edition prints. Inspired by studying at St Martin's and Canterbury, working in publishing design, 30 years as a food photographer, life in the Kent countryside and a half Swedish heritage. Now painting full time. Offering coffee/tea and Swedish waffles and a pretty garden in addition to the paintings!
Open at weekends 11am – 6pm or by appointment. Old Farm, Cow Lane, Mark Beech. TN8 5NX. Tel: 07860 436668.

The Red House Hever
A wide range of artwork will be found at the Red House in June, ranging from silk painting and ceramics to etchings, fine enamelled copper and oil paintings. The artists are Elitta Fell, Sally Grafton, Claire Longley, Anne McArdle, Sally Moore and Jo Wooltorton. Joining the group this year is Simon Probyn, with his magnificent garden sculptures.
The Red House, Rectory Lane, Hever, TN8 7LH, open 5 – 20 June, closed Mondays and Tuesdays 10 am -5 pm Tel: 01732 864874.

Jessops Farm Studios,
Chiddingstone Causeway
This year, Sally Eldars' eco-sculptures grace the garden as Sheila Nash's flock of ceramic birds invade the Courtyard. Helene Brett, Larraine Shamwana and Jonathan Brown offer individual responses to local scenes. Gabriel Knollys and Georgina Roberts explore sea and land on canvas. Margaret Devitt's luminous works and Cathy Bird's lockdown Sweet peas and African studies complete the picture. Open 10am – 6pm. Late opening till 9pm – Fridays and Saturdays.
Jessops Farm Studios, Tonbridge Rd TN8 7AU, open 4 – 2 June, closed Mondays and Tuesdays: Tel: 01892 870067.

View the art in June brochure: www.artinjune.org



GARDEN OPEN at Little Chittenden Four Elms

Saturday 26th June from 2pm

Gardens only £5 with English Tea £10 Children free/£2 with tea

FOUR ELMS VILLAGE FETE

The Committee is working hard to get the show on the road again this year Saturday July 10th is the date

Flypast will happen as will most of the usual stalls

Save the date - ALL support appreciated!!

Falconhurst Cricket Club

Fixtures June 2021

Sunday 6 June v Chiddingstone (A) 1:30

Saturday 12 June v Hottentots (H) 1:30

Sunday 13 June v Penshurst Park (H) 2pm

Sunday 20 June v Cowden (H) 2pm

Sunday 27 June v Outwood (A) 2pm

If anyone wants to play please contact Tom Churton at churtont@gmail.com.

what we do

It has been all change at the food bank in Edenbridge recently. In April, Julie Barry retired after 10 years running God's Hand Food Bank and a small team established Edenbridge Food Bank in partnership with the national charity, The Trussell Trust. Every Tuesday morning at Rickards Hall on Edenbridge High Street we hand out free food to those who are in genuine need, often due to loss of employment, benefits issues or family/ health crisis.

The ongoing generosity of local residents is greatly appreciated and as the full impact of the pandemic continues to emerge, the food bank hopes to be able to meet the ever-increasing demand for temporary support. We aim not only to give food to those in need, but also to provide a listening ear and get to know our clients so that we can signpost them on to support organisations who may be able to help resolve the crisis which has led to them needing the food bank in the first place. For those who cannot come to collect food from Rickards Hall, perhaps due to ill health or transport difficulties, we deliver food to their homes.

All of our work is done within a Christian ethos as we strive towards the Trussell Trust long term goal of eliminating the injustice of food poverty in the UK and thereby ending the need for food banks. As the Trust says, "When one person goes hungry, our whole society is weaker…It's time to work together to build a hunger free future."

We have a great team of volunteers, not only those who help at the food bank centre on Tuesday mornings, but also those who collect the food from supermarkets and sort, weigh and pack it up to distribute. We also have good links with a number of local agencies, such as Citizens Advice, schools, housing associations, social services and NHS teams, who then refer to us people who need help.

During the next stage of our development we need to establish a suitable food storage facility as we are currently relying on temporary arrangements. We are therefore looking to raise enough funds to build a long term storage solution. If this is something that you are able to support then we would be very grateful and details of how to donate can be found on our website www.edenbridge.foodbank.org.uk or by contacting us at info@edenbridge.foodbank.org.uk.

Serena Barker



Jill Linden

–an appreciation by her son Matthew

Mum was born on 23 July 1936 to Sidney and Hilda Simms. She was an only child and with her Dad away a lot (he was a soldier in the Royal Army Medical Corps) Mum's early years were quite lonely. However, not long after the start of WW2 she and her Mum moved from Essex to Cornwall to live with relatives who were crab fishermen in Newquay. I loved hearing about the time there and how the place changed from fishing town and holiday destination to a massive base for the Americans waiting for D Day.

It was during the war that Mum started her lifetime of correspondence, firstly writing to her father, away at the war, and then Aunty Vi and Aunty Elsie who both seemed a ubiquitous part of her early life.

Hardly a week went by without somebody in our house getting a letter or card from Mum, her letters were always full of life, upbeat and interesting and would often include something cut out of the papers that she thought you would like. It wasn't just her immediate family she wrote to, she had regular correspondence with people in America, Australia, Belgium, Germany, New Zealand as well as old and new friends in the UK.

Throughout her life, the most important things to Mum were her family, her friends, her community and her faith. I'm not sure when Mum started to go to church. I do know that when the family were reunited in London she went to All Souls Langham Place for a little while and then St Martin's in the Fields, where Mum and Dad were eventually married. The stories that Mum told about cosmopolitan London



in the 50's where fascinating and it must have been a big change from a small Cornish town.

Mum went to a grammar school (Highbury Hill I think) and her love of history and English literature grew there and she must have been a decent student because she ended up as head girl.

I think both the church and her school gave Mum an opportunity to meet with people from many backgrounds and cultures. Mum loved meeting new people, especially on her extensive travels with Dad and kept in contact with many of the people she met, inviting them back to Water Garden and then Peach House.

After leaving school Mum studied to be a librarian and went on to set up a scientific Library for the British Institute of Management. It was here she met Dad, or Mr Linden as he was supposed to be called. Apparently Dad was considered quite a catch being a former pilot and now senior designer. I know that Mum and Dad went on an early date to a pub in World's End and that she would often go to Dad's house in Carshalton on Saturdays after the football. I think there was quite a difference in the two families and Mum enjoyed the hustle and bustle of 129 Robertsbridge Road.

Mum and Dad got married in St Martin's in the Fields and started a partnership that lasted over 60 years. Mum would often say how much Dad did for her and of course that's true but Mum was the strength behind Dad and she worked hard to make a fantastic, loving and nurturing family life for us all. As with every family there were difficult times, but Mum was the one who lead us through.

So many local people have shared some part of the last 40 years of Mum's life from Orchard Close to Water Garden House and then Peach House. They know how much the community at Markbeech meant to her and how many really good friends she had here. She always spoke to me so happily of her involvement with the church and how much she enjoyed being part of Hever School working in the library there.

It was an honour and pleasure to be with Mum during the last weeks of her life, even in that difficult period when Mum was in a lot of pain she never complained about her misfortunes. All the carers, nurses and other people that came to help her were amazed at her spirit and determination to be happy, and by being like that she made all our lives better.

She represented her faith in a determined way without being overpowering and I think represented all that is good about Christianity. Mum is at rest now, a deserved and much needed rest. She was the kindest, toughest, most supportive and bravest person I know and I will miss her but I am blessed to have known her and am a better person for it.

Terry Cook

Terry Cook, who died in April, lived in Hever for nearly 70 years. This is a tribute by his family.

Terry John Cook was born on the 4th July 1933 in Camberwell, London. His start in life was a hard one, affected by poverty and parental difficulties. So much so that while still very young both he and his sister Pam were taken into the permanent care of Barnardo's. Life there was still extremely tough, and he and his sister were often separated. Despite these difficulties, Terry was described in his Barnardo's records as a happy-go-lucky little boy, very honest, and very intelligent and in these early years he learned to be resilient, independent, sensible and strong-minded.



Although life was hard, Terry had many fond and vivid memories of this time. He would often relate how, whilst living with his first foster family at Caterham, he watched the dogfights high above his head during the Battle of Britain. He remembered seeing endless lines of tanks and other vehicles filling the roads around Caterham, ready for D-Day. And most of all he liked to relate how a Doodlebug landed nearby, destroying the windows in the house, and blowing all the feathers off the canary in its cage. Sadly, it did not survive.

Terry was sent to naval college as ex-Barnardo's boys were expected to join the Navy, but Terry was having none of it, and set his heart on joining the army. After leaving school at the age of 14 in 1947, Terry moved to a foster family at How Green in Hever and worked on the farm there until he was 18 when he joined the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, a tank regiment. He trained at Catterick and after the toughness of his upbringing found it easy to adapt to army life. He was determined to make something of himself and passed every exam, quickly attaining the rank of Sergeant, and then became a tank commander.

Terry always said that being assigned the responsibility for a 52 tonne Centurion tank, at that time the most advanced in the world, was one of the proudest moments of his life.

His regiment was posted to Germany to patrol the Russian border, and this was to be the most memorable period of his life. The job sometimes involved covert foot patrols into Russian territory and Terry and his colleagues were told, whatever you do, do not get caught. However, on one occasion the patrol was cut off by Russian soldiers. A skirmish ensued, and although his patrol eventually reached safety, Terry was injured in the leg by shrapnel.

During his time in the army, Terry both attended the Queen's coronation parade, and stood only a few feet from iconic figures such as Field Marshall Montgomery, and General Eisenhower. Indeed, when Prince Philip inspected the regiment, it was Terry who was chosen to give him a ride in a Centurion tank!

After three years Terry left the army and moved back to Hever, where he was to stay for the rest of his life. He entered into village life wholeheartedly, playing village cricket, and was captain of Hever football team for many years until the age of 36. He joined the engineering firm Ailsa Craig in Edenbridge, and stayed there until retirement, rising quickly from machine operator to factory manager, where he was in charge of a large workforce who respected his work ethic and fairness. He married a local girl, Janet, in 1959 and Terry acquired through her the parents he never had. They had two sons, Graham and Martin, of whom he was very proud and although they sadly eventually divorced they remained on good terms, and for many years Terry helped to look after Janet's mother.

Terry retired in 1998 and was able to enjoy many more happy years at his beloved Parsons Croft in Hever. He took great pride in keeping his garden looking nice, growing flowers and vegetables, and tending to the lawn. A familiar figure around the country lanes, he would often walk many miles a day in all weathers.

Holidays were spent in Cornwall or Devon with his son Martin, but he also visited America several times; a welcome adventure. In 2014 Terry received the unexpected cancer diagnosis which he fought bravely recovering from several difficult operations and always saying "I won't let this beat me". Sadly, he also developed dementia, and this led to his passing on 1st April.

Terry always felt extremely lucky to live where he did. He loved being able to look out of the window across the fields to the North Downs, to see the trees blowing in the wind, and to hear the birds singing every day. He also greatly appreciated all of his wonderful neighbours, who did so much to support him and Martin with many acts of generosity and kindness.

schooltime

news from Hever

We've had another great week in school with lots of exciting activities taking place. Everyone has been raising the importance of connecting with nature to support our mental health as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. Classes have weaved natural objects, planted seeds, learned in our forest school and taken time to enjoy and explore the natural world around us.

Reception and KS1 children have been looking at lifecycles this term. They are also super excited because their caterpillars have just turned into chrysalides! The book 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle has been a much loved story this week. Children have written their own versions of the story with pictures, we are super proud and impressed with their work!



This week would have been SATs week for our Year 6 pupils, but this year has been very different. In many ways it has been refreshing for the children not to have been focused on tests in the same way that they would be normally. Yet, our Year 6 were signalling they required the validation from these assessments and the rite of passage to showcase their success.

So, next week our Year 6 children will be sitting unofficial SATs and we wish them good luck with these internal assessments. They have worked so hard through the journey of Covid 19. They have made us so proud and we believe in them.

Our Year 6, Oak Class created a music assembly this week. Three pupils played pieces on the cello and keyboard that were recorded and shown to the whole school. Thank you Oak, we were very impressed with your performances and you inspired other classes to enjoy music.

Lastly, a number of children including the school council shared their love of Hever and reading with Mrs Cooke and Ms Harris the Co Chairs of the Governing Body. The children demonstrated their passion for reading, the range of books they enjoy and their fluency and understanding of the passages shared. Mrs Cooke and Ms Harris thoroughly enjoyed hearing the children read and expressed how delighted they were with the children.

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

news from Four Elms

This month we'd like to give you an in-depth update on our Rights Respecting School Award journey and what it means to our school. In 2020, Four Elms Primary achieved Silver status and now we are hoping to be awarded the highest status of Gold.

So what is a 'Rights Respecting School'? The Award puts children's rights at the heart of schools. UNICEF works with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens. Over 1.6 million children in the UK go to a Rights Respecting School and nearly 5,000 schools in the UK are working through the Award.

At Four Elms, through our engaging and creative curriculum, we teach children about their rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child. Those rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential. Pupils learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. We provide opportunities for children to exercise their rights and to be social activists.

Being a Rights Respecting School has allowed us to create an environment which is respectful, nurturing and safe. The children are involved in a curriculum which allows them to have ownership, to have a voice and to be engaged in purposeful learning.

Below is a summary of just some of the things we do at school to support children's rights:

- Each classroom has a class charter and a playground charter created by the children. These outline specific rights that the children have agreed to respect inside and outside of the classroom.
- Teachers and pupils refer to their rights regularly during the day.
- There are weekly assemblies focused on teaching children about the rights of a child.
- Restorative justice is used to help pupils talk through and solve issues e.g., friendship disputes.
- Each class has an appointed member of the 'Justice League' who help classmates to use restorative justice to solve very minor disagreements.
- Pupils are taught about fairness, equity and dignity.
- Children play an active role in their learning through self-evaluation and reflection.
- Each class has Rights Respecting Ambassadors who make up the School Council which meets weekly.
- Each class has a pupil voice box for the sharing of ideas.
- Children take part in campaigns based on their rights and the rights of others.
- We use questionnaires and surveys to ask children about their views and opinions.

As stated by Unicef: 'The difference that a Rights Respecting School makes goes beyond the school gates, making a positive impact on the whole community'.

Nicole Holt

Hever Parish Council - affordable housing consultation. May / June 2021

Drop in sessions to find out more / leave written comments - Four Elms village hall

Any further comments to clerk@hever.org by end of June please. Please see www.hever.org for information. All comments received to date are recorded and will be included. Results of consultation will be considered at Council meeting in July.

- **Thursday 24th June 4 - 8pm(English Rural Housing Association also present)**
- **Sunday 27th June 2 - 4pm**



If you would like to book a timed slot, please contact Clerk@hever.org





Sheering time



Last month, Her Majesty set out the Government's legislative programme for the year ahead. Thirty-one Bills were outlined; I wish to focus here on three.

Having recently held elections, starting with the Electoral Integrity Bill seems appropriate. This has garnered attention for seeking the introduction of photo ID to vote. The proposals are not new (they were included in both the 2019 manifesto on which the Government was elected as well as the Queen's Speech of the same year) but I include it because it will place on you as well as the District Council new responsibilities. In the case of identification, it will fall to the former to issue such documents free of charge to those currently without.

The second is the Environment Bill. Carried over from the last Parliamentary Session, it is in this that the nationwide standardisation of rubbish and recycling collections, about which I wrote two years ago, is contained. With recent months seeing the Bill progress line by line through Committee Stage in the Commons – in addition to the release of a further round of consultation documents for which much of the detail was reserved – we're beginning to be able to fully assess its implications. Preserving everything every week collections is our priority since enjoying no complicated collection calendars, no food festering a fortnight, and a simple, environmentally friendly service are hallmarks of the Sevenoaks District which everyone I know wishes to see maintained.

And third is the Planning Bill, with the reforms highlighted in October's Link not having disappeared.

A little over a decade ago, it became apparent that as the country balanced its books, local government would see its funding removed. The risks arising from inaction outweighed those from action, so the Council chose the latter and applied itself to forging a new path. Sevenoaks consequently became the first authority independent of government grant, hence it finds itself today in a position of stability and strength in a sector characterised by cuts and concern.

As creatures of statute, used by government as delivery bodies, councils are heavily exposed to the whims of Westminster. Still, by acknowledging such challenges with positivity, patience, and an open mind we can realise opportunities. It is that approach we will continue to follow and apply to these and other Bills as well as anything else that may be sent to try us.

Matthew Dickins
District Councillor for Cowden & Hever
Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Rd,
Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG
cllr.dickins@sevenoaks.gov.uk
07910 328 110

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Southworth & Co	accounting services and software	01732 700 670
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Clare Elizabeth	painting and decorating	0777 5328781
G Moss	joiner & builder	07778 440 644
Jem Pickard	painting and decorating 07850 371558 or	01732 863062
M & M Walker	painting & decorating, plumbing, heating	07774 218 684
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W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559
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Rockport Cleaning	dry carpet & upholstery cleaners	01732 387 046
Commercial Property		
Hever Business Centre Office Suites - Karrison Property		01959 563800
Hever Castle Golf club - modern office space to let		01732 701006
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Amy's Top Dog Grooming - dog grooming - Amy		0792 3351299
Yappy Days	dog walking and pet sitting – Katie	07768 614577
Wash n blow, dogs to go – dog grooming - Chris:		01892 740170/07736 484184
Education		
Markbeech Nursery	for children 2-5 years	01342 850403
Chiddingstone Nursery School	for children 2-5 years	01892 871315
Equestrian		
Four Elms Farm Livery		07771 634995
Fitness		
Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 701017
Chiddingstones' Tennis Club		0776 964 2590
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
Pilates by Lorna at Four Elms and Ide Hill village halls		07747 628993
Smart Nutrition and Fitness and beyond	personal training for midlife women	0771 8588847

Funeral Services		
Alex Jones	funeral directors & monumental masons	01732 860047
Gardening and landscaping		
APF Trees,	tree surgery and garden maintenance	07786 884924
Hever Landscapes	for all your garden projects	01892 740133
French's Fencing	gates, automation, fencing supply & fitting	0779 5551436
R. Bennett	hedges, fencing, grass cutting	01732 862971
Thompson Tree Care Ltd,	tree surgery, tree felling, hedge cutting	07747345815
Health		
Emma Darthuy Chartered physiotherapist	home physio visit, pilates classes	07771 925346
Paul Marro	Cognitive Hypnotherapy www.htheraphy.co.uk	01732 808211
Step by Step	foot health practice	07786 038149
Hairdressing		
Lorna Galbraith	hairdressing in your own home	07989 587931
Home services		
Andy Sayers	electrical services maintenance and repairs	07836 256146
Daren Wood	Chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
Pegrum	fuels, boilers, plumbing, solar panels, water/oil tanks	01732 463256
Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206
IT		
My IT Wizard Ltd	Computer problem solving	07779 285839
MR Computing	computer repairs in your home, no call out charge	01732 590077
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Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
Falconhurst Farm Shop and deli		01342 850172
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Country Hire and Go,	electric bike hire and local taxi service	07723054863
Stuart Rieman	luxury passenger car service	01883 715 037
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800
Venue Hire and Weddings		
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526

Church in June

We hope to be returning to more normal worship following the expected lifting of Covid restrictions on June 21st and so our Patronal Festival at Hever on 27th June will be the first such service under new rules: watch for announcements on the details on our website and Facebook page. As we are worshipping in person, we are no longer recording or livestreaming services.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
6th June 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35	Trinity 1
6th June 6pm	Evening prayer at St.Peter's Hever	Psalm 36 Jeremiah 6:16-21 Romans 9:1-13	Trinity 1
13th June 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	2 Corinthians 5:6-17 Mark 4:26-34	Trinity 2
13th June 3pm	Forest Church at St.Peter's Hever (Jane's farm)		Trinity 2
20th June 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 5:21-43	Trinity 3
27th June 10am	Patronal Family communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Matthew 14:22-33 Hebrews 12:1-3	Trinity 4

Our weekly Bible study which is following 'the Prayer Course' continues by Zoom at 6.00pm on Mondays and our Zoom Evening prayer on Thursdays at 6.00pm. For details of both please contact Simon.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help including obtaining text versions of the above services or having them read over the phone.



Priest-in-charge
Revd.Simon Braid
01892 871453 and simonbraid@icloud.com
Wardens
Hever
Mandy Yarnold
01342 850028
Four Elms
Christina Hodson
01732 700247
Richard Bennett
01732 862971
Markbeech
Nicki Talbot
01342 850526
Marielou Linklater
01342 850579
Administrator
Ana Roxburgh beneficeemail@gmail.com
Prayer hotline
Elly Heard 01732 865564
or Revd.Simon Braid (above)

our rector's thoughts

We are all no doubt hoping and praying that the Government's road map out of Covid, which expects the lifting of social contact restrictions from 21st June, will come to pass. As I write this the indications are good.

As a result there are many community activities being planned once again and we are looking at what the new normal might look like for our church services. Navigating the Covid lockdown has enabled us to experiment with a new pattern of services, which is hopefully simpler and also encourages the three parishes to continue to worship more together. The key principles driving this are simplicity and equality between the three parishes. The church wardens and I will be explaining this to a meeting of the United Benefice Council in July.

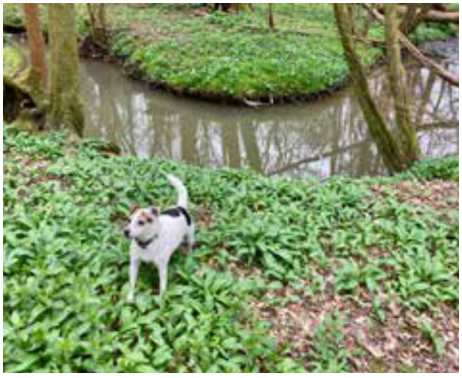
The plan is to have one main service each month at 10.00am. The first Sunday in the month will be at Four Elms, the second at Markbeech and the third at Hever. The fourth Sunday will be a short Family service with an 8.00am said Holy Communion. We will also start an Evening service, which will vary in style, usually on the first Sunday in the month at 6.00pm. All these services will rotate around the churches. We will continue to hold Forest church at Hever on the second Sunday in the month at 4.00pm in the summer and 3.00pm in the winter. We will also continue with our Zoom Evening prayer at 6.00pm on Thursdays but from July we will hold one of these in person followed by refreshments.

These arrangements may vary slightly due to festivals and special times of the year as in the past. None of this is set in stone but I hope we can see how it goes. Nor does it mean that we don't continue to honour the character, tradition and distinctiveness of each of our churches. So I encourage you all to feel able to attend churches outside your own parish and to continue to show the mutual love, generosity and support that has been evident during the pandemic.

King David writes in Psalm 133: How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity and Jesus prayed for all believers that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:21). We're still waiting for that prayer to be fulfilled completely; but perhaps the Three Spires can be an answer to that prayer and an example of that unity.

So do come and worship with us – you can be assured of a warm welcome. God bless you all

Simon



news from the pews

Four Elms

A pair of swallows may not make a summer but there is a certain frisson when you hear the cuckoo for the first time in the year. Everyone stops to make sure that it certainly is the cuckoo and on 5th May I heard the cuckoo – so summer is on the way.

Our services were held inside church in May, although without singing. It was a joy to welcome four times our usual numbers at our 8am Eucharist and we welcomed May with Holy Communion service with music played by Angela. This was followed by the delightful baptism of Florence Twinam, who we welcome into our Church family. As we move out of lockdown our church services across the Benefice will work on a monthly rota with St. Paul's having their 10am Sunday service on the first Sunday of the month, Markbeech on the second Sunday and Hever the third Sunday. But do look out for the extra services which will occur during each month.

For sure it's the summer when preparations tentatively go ahead for the Four Elms Village Fete on Saturday July 10th. This is an important fund raiser for St. Paul's Church (and the school). We hope to have our usual stalls and lots more. All support for this event most welcome. Another summer event in aid of St. Paul's, is a Garden Open with English Tea at Little Chittenden on June 26 at 2.30pm. Teas need to be booked so look out for the notices.

It's always good to say thank you. I wish to thank Edenbridge Hospital Minor Injuries Unit. Imagining I was Nigella slicing away with a mandolin slicer I cut my finger quite badly. The MIU took great care of me with smiles and tender hands. Thank you and thank you to everyone who made it possible to have the unit providing a 7 day a week service in Edenbridge. It is greatly appreciated. Finally, our APCM will be on Tuesday 25th May in the Church at 7pm Everyone is welcome to attend.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

May has been a busier month at the St Peter's with the resumption of face to face services. We have had the first baptism for over a year and welcome Kaiya into the Church family.

The church clock is working again and it is wonderful to hear the chimes of the bells on the hour. I was fascinated to find out that our church clock would have been made by a blacksmith in the seventeenth century and many of the original workings are still in use today! The graveyard has had a haircut thanks to Richard Bennett and it is looking great. The next project at St Peter's will be the conservation and repair of the writing on the South Wall of the church and the repainting of the church, vestry and porch. We hope that Rochester Diocesan Advisory Committee complete the final steps of the permissions and sign off the required certificate at the end of May and we can then start the work in June. For this reason, St Peter's will not reopen to visitors until the end of June when we celebrate the Patronal festival on Sunday 27 June

Parish lunches will start again on Thursday 10 June and we look forward to seeing you again for a light lunch and lots of catching up. Everyone is most welcome to come along, if you have a moment, please let Jane Rosam or I know in advance to help us with catering numbers.

Once we are opening the church for visitors again, we need some new members for the teams that support the church building so if you are able to help on the cleaning rota, with flower arranging or being a church opener and closer then please get in touch.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

The wedding season is upon us! We have 10 weddings at Holy Trinity this year – very exciting! This year has been particularly hard for couples organising their special day – a day that has probably been dreamt about and planned for years. It has been traumatic for many to see this dream shattered, sometimes more than once. It has caused angst and tensions in families, sometimes to the point of serious distress. I am often very involved with these couples both at Falconhurst and in the church. My advice when planning weddings is always NOT to overthink, overspend or begin to think about the weather! An anxious bride is not a happy one. Guests will not mind if the food is simple or the bubbly is prosecco rather than champagne, but they will mind if the couple look strained. The happiest weddings are small, simple and most importantly have the love of God and each other at the centre of their planning.

One aspect of the few weddings we have been able to have over the last year that we have really missed, is singing. I notice that 'Jerusalem' is slipping down the list of favourites now and being replaced with 'Morning has broken', 'All things bright and beautiful' or 'Amazing Grace'. I wonder why?! I am going to keep a tally this year. We are still unsure of when we will be able to sing in church, but when we do, we are very keen to get our 'Three Spires Choir' up and running. If you enjoy singing please get in touch with Charles Talbot charles@falconhurst.co.uk . He will be in touch just as soon as the choir is able to start singing. We are particularly hopeful that this will be in time for the Patronal Festival at Hever on 27June. Fingers crossed!

Finally, due to clashes we have moved the date of the Parish Lunch from 3 July to 22 August. Save the date!

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

From the register

Baptisms

St. Paul's Four Elms 2 May
Florence Jane Twinam (parents Jack & Cheryl)
St. Peter's Hever 23 May
Kaiya Marie Watts (parents David & Natasha)

Wedding

Holy Trinity Markbeech 12 May
Jessica Platt and Barnaby Hewlett

gardening

Now we are in June, the beginning of Summer. Long lazy warm days with the gardens looking a picture after our hard labours in a cold dry Spring. Hopefully by now we will be allowed to mix with family and friends without fearing Covid.

The plants I ordered online during lockdown, having time to scan the different websites, have started arriving. Now where do I put them? The small greenhouse is full to bursting and as the weather is so unpredictable, frosts most nights, I dare not put plants outside. Hopefully friends and neighbours will come to the rescue when the plants are large enough to go to a new home.

Plants I have received are perennial Gerbers Garvinea (see photo below) in glowing orange, yellow and purple. It will be interesting to see if these survive in our climate as I have only seen them in bunches of flowers sold at supermarkets. Agastache 'Crazy Fortune' has green and white delicate foliage with purple tall bottle brush spikes. These will be planted in front of Geum Total Tangerine. Another purchase was Philotheca Myoporoides 'Gin and Tonic' The perfume is supposed to be the fragrance of gin and tonic – not so tasty! In another article, I said, that after two unsuccessful years trying to grow sweetpeas, this will be my last attempt. How true! Small plants have been planted around a wigwam, neatly tied in and raring to go. But no! After extremely high winds one day and night, the wigwam was transported to another part of the garden. The plants survived sitting neatly in a ring, but no support. So will I make another attempt to overcome the 'sweet pea problem' and start re-planting? Yes, of course!

I imagine in the near future we will be planting more seeds to ensure we grow the vegetables and flowers we want, as buying from nurseries will become harder as importing plants will be more difficult and obviously more expensive.

Have you thought of a colour scheme for the hanging baskets and window boxes this year? I am planning on planting a window box with a few of the very colourful Heucheras. They produce so many colour combinations from bright yellow to orange, red and even mahogany.

The hedgerows are beginning to come into flower and the lanes are full of lovely white cow parsley. We have so much to look forward to - enjoy!

Happy Gardening and take great care.

Jan Tolfree



Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2019**	28	33	54	12	29.5	111	55	27	58	112	115	114
	2020	66	106	55	38	6	45	21	42	35	142	59	88
	2021	134	46	30	6								
Hever	**2019**	23	56	45.5	12	24	90	63	28.5	64	119	98	114
	2020	77	125	48	38	13.5	45	25	41.5	41	160.5	55	97
	2021	127	42	41.5	5								
Markbeech	**2019**	39.5	41	59.25	13.25	29	78.5	74.5	38.5	71	133	92.5	138
	2020	96.25	140	47.5	40	10	49.25	31.6	36	54.6	163.75	40.5	95.6
	2021	120	40	31	4								

Hall Bookings

Four Elms:
Village Hall
– Kevin Haydon 07787 394 806
Parish Rooms
– John Southworth 01732 700670
Hever
– Mrs Ryan 01732 864168
Markbeech
– Mrs Paige 01342 850328

Councils

Kent County Councillor
Peter Lake 07740 701695
Sevenoaks District:
Matthew Dickins 07910 328110
Hever Parish:
Charlotte Cole 01342 322123
clerk@hever.org

The Link Team

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade, Paul Houlton
email: thelink@hever.org
Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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Copy for the July/August edition should reach us no later than **15 June 2021**
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 18) or call any of the following. We would all be very happy to help.

Laura Palmer – 01732 864257
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
Four Elms Helpers 01732 700247

You can also email thelink@hever.org or hra@hever.org or fevhlunch@btinternet.com

Don't forget Go2 bus services if you are considering transport options, for instance, to the Sevenoaks Medical Centre for vaccinations. You can request a bus from a bus stop near you to the Fire Station in Sevenoaks which is next door to the Medical Centre. The bus should be at your chosen stop within 30 minutes. Fares vary but all adults pay £6.50 each way for any journey over 8 miles. To use the service you first need to register using the Go2 Sevenoaks app or by phoning 01732 463 964.