THE LINK

December 2021







In this issue:

- Farewell Ann Greig
- 12 Preludes and pictures
- 60 years together
- Christmas, carols ...and much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the December Link

There are reasons to be cheerful as we head towards 2022, the Commonwork Trust at Bore Place has won a grant from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund which aims to retain and create green jobs and boost nature recovery - it is one of only ninety projects nationwide. Bore Place is looking for volunteers to help with conservation and other work, email volunteering@boreplace.org if you are interested in starting the new year with a spring in your step. Then, if you want to give a virtual gift this Christmas the Woodland Trust has a variety on sale including a "Hedge Fund" - for only £30 you help to restore Britain's hedges, or you could buy a Bee Good gift from the Bees for Development Trust. And I have just taken delivery of an eco-duvet made by Eve Sleep from recycled plastic bottles.

More traditionally, here is a nice recipe for a slightly different type of Christmas cake:

1.5 cups shelled whole brazil nuts
½ lb stoned dates
1.5 cups walnut halves
2/3rd cup candied peel
½ cup red cherries and ½ cup green or just red ones(drained of syrup)
½ cup seeded raisins
¾ cup flour
½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
¾ cup sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla

Grease sides and base of a large loaf tin (8in x 5in) and line with a layer of greaseproof paper. Place the unchopped nuts, dates, peel and raisins in a large bowl. Sift flour, baking powder and salt together 2 or 3 times, then mix thoroughly. Make into a stiff mixture with beaten eggs and vanilla. Spoon into the prepared tin, pressing and flattening with the back of a spoon. Bake in a slow oven for 2-2.5 hours. Leave in the tin for 10 mins, loosen around the edges and turn out on to cake rack, then remove the paper. When completely cold wrap in foil and store in the fridge.

The Link team wishes you all a very happy Christmas! It seems like tempting fate to be looking forward to singing carols together - but here's hoping!

Joanna Wade

THE LINK

pets of the month

Hello – we are Mr Tumble and Simon, donkeys living at Hever Brocas.

We are aware of our special significance at Christmas time and are very proud to stand near a manger looking noble as long as we have had plenty of supper first.

Indeed, the manger looks quite tasty but as we are quite intelligent we know that eating it would not be very popular. We have been shown photographs of the crib outside Hever church and think it is very lifelike.

We are both rescue donkeys but we weren't badly treated in our former lives. Mr Tumble was a beach donkey at Whitby before he retired and Simon came from Ireland. We are best friends. Our favourite food is carrots and they help us get through the boring winter when it gets rather muddy in our field although we are entertained by our friends, the two horses next door, Treacle and Tuppence. Our human servants are nice too and do a good job picking up our poo and brushing our coats. Now and then we have our toenails clipped which is quite entertaining. When we are hungry we make a terrible braying noise which lets them know that it is time to get our supper ready, though we must say that they can be a bit slow on the uptake.



Simon (left) and Mr Tumble

We are looking forward to an engagement on Palm Sunday next year when we can parade around, suitably dressed for church.



The Grove Singers

directed by Beverley Howard

This London based chamber choir will sing a varied repertoire of Christmas music including carols for choir and audience

St Peter's Church, Hever
Friday 10th December at 6.00 p.m
Tickets £10
– available at the door.

Proceeds to improving facilities in the church



Remembering Ann Greig (1926 – 2021)



Ann was brought up in London and had an exciting war in the Special Operations Executive, also known as the "Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare". She and her husband Dennis (who died in 2004) moved to Five Fields Lane in 1953. He ran the David Greig supermarket chain, later Somerfield. They had five children, countless grandchildren and great grandchildren and many friends. Some of those friends remember her here…….

From Daphne Owen-Jones: Over 60 years ago Alan and I, with Pete an infant, first arrived Edenbridge with nowhere to live. Alan's senior partner in the doctor's practice mentioned our predicament to the Greigs who immediately, with what we came to learn of as typical generosity said we could use No 1 Owl's Court, one of two cottages on their land. We stayed for at least a year, maybe almost two, rent free as they wouldn't accept any payment.

They were such fun and asked us round often. Ann became Godmother to S-J and I became Godmother to Ben. Ann taught me a lot about gardening and cooking, she let S-J ride her ponies and both children swam in their pool. When Alan died we were given a chicken and a dozen eggs from their model farm every Saturday! She was my best friend.

From Christina Hodson: To say Ann Greig was an exceptional lady who was well known and well-liked by everybody is a bit of an understatement. Several years ago, a friend and I decided it would be nice to give Ann a party to celebrate her 90th birthday. "We will keep it small – just a few local friends" was our mission. Of course, word spread and we had quite a gathering. The reason wasn't just a nice tea but a genuine desire to say "Happy Birthday" to Ann. Ann was the consummate entertainer. Carol Singers of Four Elms village have very happy memories of trudging around the houses on cold evenings and then returning to the Greigs for delicious mulled wine and trays and trays of mince pies. Very many years ago (63 in fact) Ann and her family were among the first stallholders in what is now the Four Elms Village Fete. She bought the hoopla stall which survived for 50 years until it was deemed too much of a hazard to erect (health and safety at the village fete!) For all the memories, Ann, Four Elms village thanks you very much.

From Margaret Bates: Ann and Dennis were among the first people who we met coming to the village over 40 years ago. They had such outgoing natures that charmed us all. She and Dennis in those early years involved themselves hugely with so many activities. Raising money for the Cheshire homes and every summer she would invite the residents to a tea party in her garden. Memorable travelling dinners for the church with the main course in their barn. Cooking for the fete, her famous meringues!

When anyone was in trouble, she was the first to be on their doorstep with posies of flowers, sympathy and support. Her garden was her joy and she created a delightful little garden at the Old Stables where we had many a happy gathering. So skilled. She also enjoyed bridge and we had hilarious chatty games in the kitchen.

Her passing leaves a big hole in our village. She kept smiling to the end of her long life.

From Pat Erasmus: One of my first jobs when I arrived in April 2018 was to make some flapjacks from Ann's recipe – I passed the test and after that we cooked, baked and entertained endlessly.

Ann had the most amazing zest for life – "What's happening today?" she would say " Let's make something happen!" . She would sit in the porch after church and invite people back for refreshments, whether it was convenient or not, which could be a little exasperating for me, but that was our Ann.

She had many great qualities, but for me the key ones were her generosity, her positivity and her stoicism. She had a saying which made us laugh "CDB CDW" – "could do better, could do worse"

I loved working for Ann, because we became real friends, we laughed endlessly and this made my stay a very happy one. I was also touched by the kindness of her friends who were so welcoming – thank you. She has touched my life for the better and like many of you I will miss her enormously

From Wendy Izod: Ann would often describe herself as "a lost soul". She wasn't of course. In fact she was far from lost - to say she was the life and soul of Four Elms might seem an exaggeration, but she did seem to exemplify all that the village stood for, and could always be relied on to arrive with meringues and flapjacks (even if she hadn't been asked).

I remember her support for the Café service in her later life, she said it appealed to her because she could join in, sing the hymns and complete the Wordsearch! Such was Ann – always modest, always encouraging and importantly always there. We shall miss her.

What I do

The Link's designer, Paul Houlton, describes a recent project:
I have always admired the work of my friend, the composer David Sutton Anderson. Rhythmically and harmonically, his music has always seemed fresh and interesting. So I was delighted when he told me of his project to write twelve preludes for piano and to include twelve of my pictures to accompany them on YouTube – all but one shot around Markbeech.

Paul on David
David taught composition and musicianship at the Royal College of Music for sixteen years and is currently a lecturer at the School of Media and Performing Arts, Middlesex University. He has conducted film and TV sessions (including for Peter Greenaway, Palace Pictures and Channel 4 – (for which he also composed music).

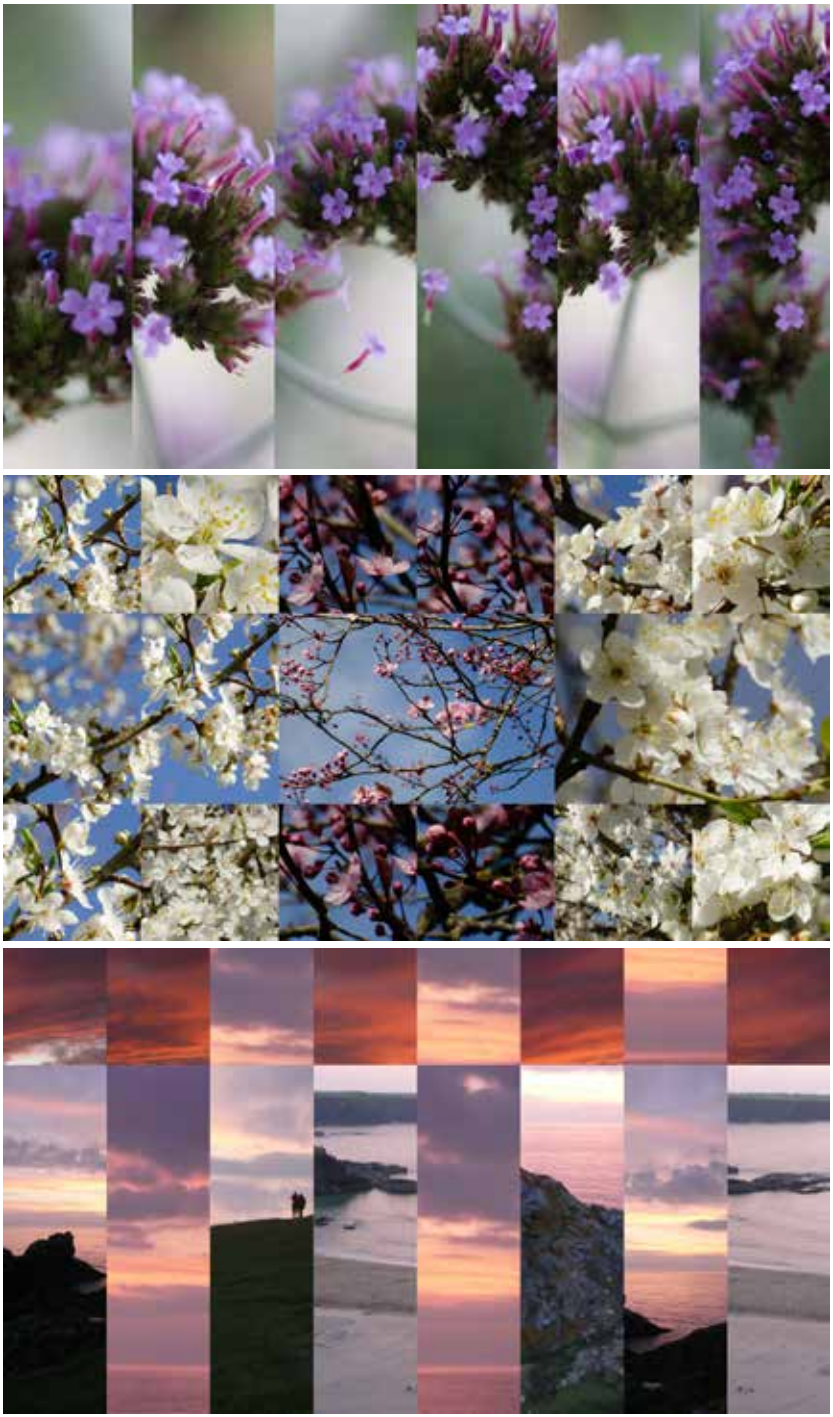
At the Royal Opera House he has worked as rehearsal pianist on productions of operas from Handel to Henze, and is about to start rehearsals for the revival of Richard Eyre's production of La Traviata which opens next month.

His works have been performed at venues including the Sydney Opera House, the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, Southbank Centre, Westminster Cathedral, and Colourscape Festival. He also enjoys playing keyboard in folk bands.

David on Paul
"What appeals in Paul's work is the relationship between realism and abstraction; the rhythmic variety – how the eye moves around the images; the harmony of colours; the emotions that the above elicit. Above all, the celebration of the natural world and why we must preserve it."

To see and hear Twelve Preludes go to Paul's website: www.paulcharleshoulton.com and click on Twelve Preludes in the top menu.





The Boyles

Gold, frankincense and…. diamonds!

Tim and Mary Boyle have been married for 60 years and have been living in Markbeech for 55 of them. They met when they were still at school. Mary had come back from Australia in 1945 (see her and Tim's war stories in our May and June 2020 editions, still available on www.hever.org) and was at Channing in north London. Tim had moved from Lancashire to East Anglia aged 12, and went to Felsted school, but the two schools were linked because they had been evacuated together in the war. At a reunion event, Mary picked Tim's name out of a hat to partner her at table tennis. Neither of them wanted to play and they did not get on. Mary was therefore surprised when the boy she had thought rather rude turned up at the Seymour Hall swimming pool, which the girls were waiting to enter in their neat crocodile, and presented her with a box of After Eights. She was, of course, then the talk of the school - and you could say that the rest is history.

After that they stayed in touch, Tim paying six shillings and sixpence to travel from Colchester to London, once to take Mary to Tchaikovsky's 5th at the Proms which, being very musical, she loved. Tim left school in 1954 and did national service in the navy, visiting every country in the Mediterranean except Albania and Israel. He then studied history at Queen Mary College London followed by a post-graduate course at King's College, Cambridge. Mary was not interested in university as she had a great passion to be a



Mary and Tim Boyle

nurse. Her father asked her if she would please do secretarial training first in case the nursing didn't work out, which indeed it did not. Instead, she found a job which she loved working for Ruth Railton, the inspiring founder of the National Youth Orchestra, though she did regret not having gone to university.

The Boyles got engaged on Mary's 21st birthday in 1958 and married on 12 August 1961 in Limpsfield because Mary's mother was living in the area. The newlyweds honeymooned with a trip to St Malo by ferry and bus, intrepid in those days when travel abroad was rarer and set up home in north London. By this time Tim was teaching at Goldsmiths College in south London and they wanted a more permanent and rural home for their new family, so they started to hunt within a 30-mile radius of London Bridge station. They came to Markbeech quite by chance when a two up, two down cowman's cottage came on the market in 1966; they fought off gazzumpers and became the proud owners of "Jersey Cottage". Over the years they have doubled it in size and made it a comfortable and happy family home.

Although there were 13 buses a day in and out of the village, before Mary learnt to drive living in the village with two small children wasn't easy. The village did have two shops, including Mrs Seymour's Post Office in Cow Lane which sold sweets, and Malcolm came by twice weekly in his van selling groceries. There was also another shop down at Horseshoe Green. But they soon made friends and threw themselves into local activities, Mary was parish clerk for eight years and Tim sat on both the parish council and the village hall committee and wrote a definitive history of Markbeech for the millennium. They also travelled all over the world and kept up their shared love of music.

Mary did "the best thing" aged 70 when she earned a degree in comparative literature from Kent University. She was amused to be approached by an usher when standing in the queue at the degree ceremony - he thought she must be in the wrong place, but no! Meanwhile Tim retired from Goldsmiths in 2001 after a distinguished 35-year career specialising in British foreign policy in the 19th and 20th centuries, including being elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1987. Both their children live quite nearby, Nick a surgeon and Robert a lawyer and Tim and Mary are proud to have seven grandchildren.

What is the secret of a successful long marriage? Keep on keeping on and laughter. And remembering that all of the experiences you have in your life are worthwhile in the end.

With very best wishes to Tim and Mary.

Carol service
St Paul's
Four elms

IN THE CHURCHWARD
WEATHER PERMITTING

WITH EDENBRIDGE TOWN BAND



SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER 3PM



Mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Rooms.

A big 'THANK YOU' from the Hever Christmas Fair Committee

We are proud to announce that this year the Hever Christmas Fair raised in excess of £5,400. The funds will be equally divided between the School and St Peter's Hever. We are very grateful to Hever Castle and Gardens for hosting this event and to their team for helping out. Thank you to our amazing sponsors, SoulFit Hever, Neptune Tonbridge, The Wheatsheaf Pub in Bough Beach, to name just a few. Thank you to our wonderful stallholders, the committee, the volunteers, the amazing help from the Hever School parents and governors, to everyone who came, shopped and supported us on social media @HeverEvents Thank you everyone!

Hever Parish Council

Your Hever Parish Council
PROUDLY REPRESENTING HEVER, MARKBEECH & FOUR ELMS
Any questions? Please contact clerk@hever.org

Hever PC is recruiting a new Parish Clerk! If you are interested please look at Facebook or search "Clerk vacancy" on Hever.org. The closing date is 30 November.

Four Elms pond work

On Sunday 14th November, more than 10 local residents gathered at 9am, at the Four Elms village pond, to volunteer their services to clear up accumulated debris from the inlet/outlet drains and generally give a spruce-up to the pond and surrounding banks.

HPC has recently agreed to purchase the pond, but as the banks to the back and left-hand side have now been removed from the sale, there is slightly less ongoing upkeep required than initially envisaged.

Occasionally heavy rainfall has caused flooding at certain pinch-points and it's necessary to keep on top of maintenance issues. Much gratitude must be given to Bobby Groves for his efforts over the years and his understanding of the pond water-flow mechanics.

Although the weather was kind to the working group, hot soup was on hand to provide nourishment and warmth. Several trips to the local dump were needed to dispose of non-compostable rubbish.

Thanks to all who gave their time and got grubby. Particular appreciation to Scott from Willerby Landscaping, for providing the use of a boat and a truck to transport compostable waste and for the use of the disposal sites at Willerby.

Nick Roberts



news from Hever Primary

I am incredibly proud of the achievements and outcomes that all our students have made. There have been some outstanding individual performances, which reflect the hard work of staff, students, parents and carers. It has been very rewarding to see the opportunities our students have had to widen their skills and aspirations both here in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities. Staff have consistently given their time to encourage our students to succeed in all areas of the curriculum and have been looking to see where small incremental shifts in teaching and learning can make a significant difference to achievement and personal development.

We are grateful for the support of parents and the PTA leading on so many exciting projects like the Shepherds Hut and the Library and also to the parents who have made school trips possible for children. Willow students dressed up for their Victorian Trip to Kent Life and Acorn and Magnolia children enjoyed a Hever Castle 'conker walk' from school on what turned out to be a perfect Autumn afternoon. The children had a fabulous time on their first welly walk across the fields and through the woods looking for signs of Autumn.

Since we have returned from half term, we have taken part in the Big Write on the 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' providing a whole morning for each child to immerse themselves in their writing.

This November, as always, we paid tribute to those who had laid down their lives so that future generations can live in peace. We had a very moving service around the war memorial in St Peter's Church and then took the time to walk through the church to see the 'There but Not There' silhouettes.

We have also had a successful week of fundraising. Our PTA planned, organised and coordinated a pirate themed sponsored walk in each of the PE lessons and we hope to have raised the money we need to go to see the Pirates of Treasure Island at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. Many parents and governors also attended and donated cakes to the Hever Christmas Fair which was held on 11th November. Many thanks to Hever Castle who hosted the event and to Ana Roxburgh who excellently organised the day. We are very excited that work on our new kitchen has now begun and we look forward to unveiling the completed kitchen very soon! It is such an advantage to cater for pupils on site and the number of pupils having school meals are increasing significantly because of the new style menus and delicious nutritious food. Hever students enjoy lunchtimes hugely!

Joanna Stratton
Headteacher

business directory

to add your company email the Editors.
Just £25 per annum

Accommodation		
Edenbridge Manor Care Home, residential, dementia and respite care		01732 492282
Agricultural Engineers		
Leppards	plant and machinery hire and more	01342 850888
Bookkeeping		
David James	accountancy services	01892 871 139
Southworth & Co	accounting services and software	01732 700 670
Building & Design Services		
Albourne roofing	slating, tiling, flat roofing, repairs	01732 700 353
Causeway Joinery	bespoke joinery for the public and trade	01342 850170
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
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341 415
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559
Cleaning		
Housecleans	cleaning, ironing	01959 532 223
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
Dog grooming and walking		
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
Garage Services		
Stuart Rieman luxury passenger car servicing & repairs		01883 715 037
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
Local Produce		
Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
Falconhurst Farm Shop and deli		01342 850172
Travel, Taxis and bike hire		
Country Hire and Go,	electric bike hire and local taxi service	07723054863
Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800
Venue Hire and Weddings		
Falconhurst Weddings		01342 850526

Church in December

We hope that this year we will be able to enjoy all the Christmas services and festivities in person whilst still taking care. So watch out for any late changes with details of services below and also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/ We will also be recording one service a month asterisked and putting this on the website.

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
5 Dec 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6	Advent 2
11 Dec 6pm	Community carols in St.Peter's Hever		
12 Dec 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms with baptism	Colossians 2:6-12 Matt 3:13-17	Advent 3
12 Dec 3pm	Christmas Forest church		Advent 3
12 Dec 6pm	Lessons & carols at Holy Trinity Markbeech		Advent 3
17 Dec 6pm	Nine lessons & carols at St.Peter's Hever followed by supper		
19 Dec 10am*	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45	Advent 4
19 Dec 3pm	Carols at St.Paul's Four Elms with town band		Advent 4
19 Dec 6pm	Carols at the Kentish Horse		Advent 4
24 Dec 5pm	Crib service at St.Peter's Hever		Christmas Eve
24 Dec 11.30pm	Midnight communion at St.Peter's Hever	Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14	Christmas Eve
25 Dec 9.15am	Christmas Family service at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14	Christmas Day
25 Dec 11am	Christmas Family service at St.Paul's Four Elms	Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14	Christmas Day
26 Dec10am	Said communion St.Peter's Hever	Acts 7:51-60; Matt 10:17-22	St Stephens Day

For the four Mondays in Advent (starts 29th November) we will be following the Church of England's booklet 'At the heart of Christmas' on Zoom at 6.00pm OR 8.00pm. This is an excellent opportunity to try out Bible Study and discussion. Zoom Evening prayer is 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
07802 809849 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

our rector's thoughts

Hopefully after the disappointment of Christmas cancelled last year, this time we will be able to enjoy Christmas lunch with our nearest and dearest. For me this is usually followed by a short walk and then the family sits down to watch the Queen's Christmas broadcast. This one may be rather poignant as Her Majesty looks back on a year in which she said farewell to her husband, Prince Philip.

I was born in the year after Queen Elizabeth was crowned and, in a sense, she is part of all our lives – her head on stamps and coins, the royal crest on the post box and on businesses who have the coveted words: 'by appointment.'

The Queen is known for many things: for being Head of State, confidante to 14 prime ministers, mother, great grandmother, horsewoman and still working at 95 years of age! One striking thing is her continued Christian faith. In all the years she has demonstrated a consistency of character, a commitment to service, a concern for others and a clear dependence on Christ that is all the more remarkable because it is at once ever-present but never domineering.

Brilliantly, in an age that is on the one hand increasingly secular and, on the other, fraught by religious conflicts, her approach is winsomely inclusive. She is the head of the Church of England but in her speeches never tell anyone they must attend. Rather she points to Jesus and how he expands her capacity to love people: 'Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people'

Here are some more words from a recent broadcast – words which are less an argument and more a personal testimony: 'I hope that, like me, you will be comforted by the example of Jesus of Nazareth who, often in circumstances of great adversity, managed to live an outgoing, unselfish and sacrificial life. Countless millions of people around the world continue to celebrate his birthday at Christmas, inspired by his teaching. He makes clear that genuine human happiness and satisfaction lie more in giving than receiving; more in serving than in being served. We can surely be grateful that, 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus, so many of us are able to draw inspiration from his life and message, and to find in him a source of strength and courage.'

Last month at Remembrance we sang a prayer that God would 'save our gracious Queen'! God has saved her and she has been gracious and 'noble' in her hope and faith. There's certainly no doubt about the identity of the King our Queen serves. I pray that you too will encounter Jesus the King this Christmas.

I wish you all a very joyful and peaceful Christmas

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

There is always an anticipated excitement as Christmas approaches. This year more so, since last year was a challenging time due to Covid. Before Christmas, in the church calendar, we have Advent, starting November 28th. For Christians it is a time of reflection and anticipation as we await the birth of Christ. As you will read, Simon will be taking an Advent course for those who wish to have a deeper understanding of this period.

It was with great sadness we learnt of the passing of Ann Grieg in early November. Ann has been such a wonderful asset to our church and village for over 60 years. She, together with her lovely carer/ companion Pat, came to the October Village Harvest Supper. So many people were so pleased to see Ann looking as cheerful as ever. It was a wonderful last memory of a very gracious and much-loved lady.

Christmas and our celebrations. Our usual Carol Service will take place in the churchyard (outside weather permitting, inside if weather inclement) on Sunday 19th December at 3pm. Mulled wine and mince pies follow in the Parish Rooms. On Tuesday 14th December at 6.30pm the Four Elms Inn will host an evening of jolly carols and Christmas favourites. On Christmas Day we have our usual Family service at 11am We shall have our lovely village Christmas Tree (thanks to Hever PC and Willerby Landscapes) and our Nativity Tableau and Christmas tree in the churchyard. Christmas is coming in Four Elms.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

We look forward to seeing Hever residents at the services and events which will be running through December. The Carol supper will take place after the nine lessons and carols on Friday December 17th

We are looking forward to be putting up the Christmas tree in time for the HRA carols on 11th December. Would anyone like to sponsor or donate the Christmas tree? We would like a non- drop tree, to cut down the work of the people who clean the church, which is 6-7 foot in height.

Carbon neutral Christmas Card delivery- this year we are offering free delivery of Christmas cards to addresses within the Hever Parish Council area. The blue post box, which will be available in the daytime, will be situated at the corner next to Brocas Manor from 28th November and delivery of the cards will be made by foot, bicycle, and horse! Please ensure the cards are correctly addressed with postcodes, if you want more information then please contact Jane Rosam.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 9th December at 12.30. We normally have between 18 and 24 people and serve hot soup, bread

and cheese, fruit and a delicious home-made cake. Everyone in the Parish is very welcome but it would be helpful for catering, if you can, to let us know that you are coming.

A big thank you to Ana Roxburgh and her hard working team for putting on an amazing Christmas Fair. The profit will be shared between St Peter's Church Hever and Hever CE Primary School.

I am delighted to report that we have had a volunteer come forward to help Sue with cleaning our historic brasses. We have other volunteer roles at the church, in particular we would love to have more people on the flower arranging rota-you don't need to be Constance Spry or Simon Lycett! You can get more information from Jan Tolfree or myself.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

From the register

Funeral
at Markbeech
25 October Bryan Walter

Weddings
22 October Bethan Mort and James Whiberley
13 November Elizabeth Jane Edwards and Bryan Gartner

Internment of Ashes
at Markbeech on
18 November Harry Bluff

Markbeech

As I write we are busy preparing for our new Winter Market in Markbeech which we are contemplating with a mix of anticipation and fear. It's a big new venture for us and we are praying for success - by the time you read this we will know how we did! But that's just part of the preparation for Christmas and now in December we are deep into it, and decisions about who will be where for the holiday are probably all made. We hope that you are including in your plans, where you will welcome the Christ child, and where you will sing carols and enjoy Christmas music.

At Holy Trinity Markbeech we are really looking forward to having a proper Carol service this year, on December 12th. Charles is working hard to get the choir back into shape after these long months of restricted singing and we are rehearsing diligently and enthusiastically. It should be beautiful. Not to be missed.

For a really jolly singalong we are gathering at the Kentish Horse on the 19th December, where Steve Thomson will lead us in a possibly slightly more raucous version of carol singing which will be enormous fun.

And the culmination of Christmas, Christmas morning at Holy Trinity is always a wonderful service. The church full of families and friends who gather together to welcome the Infant King and a real feeling of the strength of community in this little village of Markbeech.

Merry Christmas!

Marielou Linklater
Churchwarden

Gardening and beyond at Hever Castle

I always think that the Castle looks really splendid when dressed up for Christmas inside and out. It is also great fun - I really enjoyed my ride on the carousel a couple of Christmases ago.

Sarah Cole, Marketing and Communications Manager at the Castle loves the gardens in December and writes: “As the sun rises over the lake and loggia in December, the light catches the architectural splendour of the trees, bare of leaf, and begins to melt the dusting of frost on the banks of the outer moat, where sometimes, if it’s cold enough, the water will have frozen in places. And while the cold sends much into hibernation, there’s still plenty to see and do in the gardens at Hever Castle.”

The gardeners at the castle are busy, she says, with the “tidying of the herbaceous borders, maintenance of our extensive tool collection, pruning of trees and shrubs and the ordering of seeds and plug plants keeps the team busy.

Colour is provided by the first blooms on the camellias sheltered on Pergola Walk, the flowering of the hellebores (or Christmas lanterns), the bright reds and yellows of the Cornus (dogwoods) in the Winter Garden and ‘Early Sensation’ daffodils popping up beside the whites and purples of the heathers.”

The Christmas extravaganza is quite something, heralding the start of Christmas proper. Preparing this is quite a mammoth task and the planning starts 13 months ahead. Sarah says: “It is a real team effort with staff from all departments involved and all the props for the festive trail made bespoke in house



Geese on Hever Castle lake



As dusk falls visitors can witness the enchantment of the Castle, gardens and lake festooned with fabulous colours and twinkling lights as part of the Twilight Christmas event. Decorating the castle with all its lights and traditional decorations takes 10 people two long days to complete. All the christmas trees in the castle are from Hole Park in Kent and each year 50-100 small Christmas trees are planted on the Estate so in about 10 years' time the site will be more sustainable. On average each tree has a minimum of 200 lights on it.

or repurposed from a previous year. This year the theme is Pinocchio and visitors can take a magical journey along the immersive Christmas trail in the grounds beginning in Geppetto's workshop surrounded by his woodcarving creations and finishing when the blue fairy grants Pinocchio's wish of becoming a `real boy'.

The Hever events team works closely with Maidstone-based STL installing light fixtures and effects to create a magical display for visitors. New for 2021 is a ferris wheel offering visitors spectacular views across the grounds."



To book tickets visit hevercastle.co.uk

Joanna Wade

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	56	79	45	54	41	121		
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	65.5	84	61	73	41	139		
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	55.5	38.5	48	0	39	141		

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
Margot McArthur 03000 414817
Margot.McArthur@kent.gov.uk
Sevenoaks District:
Matthew Dickins 07910 328110
Hever Parish:
Christina Divall 07733228748
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

The views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial team. There is no implied approval or recommendation for any service or event advertised in the magazine.

Copy for the January edition should reach us no later than 10th December -
PLEASE NOTE EARLIER DEADLINE.
Subscriptions cost £5 pa if delivered by a volunteer. For payment there are 2 options:
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

December diary

27 Nov	**Bulk refuse freighter** Four Elms village hall	9.15-10am
27 Nov	**Bulk refuse freighter** Hever bottle bank	10.15 – 11am
27 Nov	**Bulk refuse freighter** Markbeech Village Hall	11.15- 12 noon
4 Dec	**Forest Row RNLI choir Christmas concer**t	
	Freshfield Hall, Forest Row	2.30pm
4 Dec	**Christmas wreath making and market**,	
	Four Elms Parish rooms	4-8pm
6 Dec	**Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona Coppard 0771 8588847)	
	Hever Village Hall	10.30am
9 Dec	**Hever Parish lunch** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
10 Dec	**The Grove Singers concert of Christmas music**	
	at st Peter's Hever	6pm
11 Dec	**Forest Row RNLI choir Christmas concer**t,	
	Trinity Methodist Church, East Grinstead	2.30pm
11 Dec	**HRA village carols** at St Peter's Hever	
12 Dec	**Markbeech carol service** Holy Trinity Church	6pm
13 Dec	**Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona Coppard 0771 8588847)	
	Hever Village Hall	10.30am
14 Dec	**Favourite carols and Christmas song** at the Four Elms Inn	6.30pm
17 Dec	**Nine Lessons and Carols** at St Peter's Hever	
	followed by the carol supper	
19 Dec	**Carol Service with the Edenbridge Town Band**	
	St Paul's Four Elms	3pm
	mince pies and mulled wine afterwards in Parish Rooms	
19 Dec	**Pub Carols in The Kentish Horse,** Markbeech	5.15pm
20 Dec	**Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona Coppard 0771 8588847)	
	Hever Village Hall	10.30am
3Jan	M**idlife fitness class** (contact Fiona Coppard 0771 8588847)	
	Hever Village Hall	10.30am
28 Jan	**Film club,** Hever Golf Club, doors open	6.30pm, film at 7.30pm