March 2022

THE LINK







In this issue:

- What's on at the Film Club?
- A trainee minister
- Sir Fred Bramwell, a local life
- Asaka Quartet in concert
- Waking up your garden

...and much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

£1

Welcome to the March Link

...and as the year marches on I am greatly enjoying the geometric, clipped hedgerows which stand to attention waiting for the unruly spring leaves to start sprouting and distorting their shape.

I keep looking at a dead tree in my field which, before reading Isabella Tree's book Wilding I would have wanted to cut down and tidy away. Now, as it sprouts remarkable fungi, I know to let it decline gently because of its great value. The notable mycologist Roger Phillips died at the end of last year, remembered by the Guardian as a David Attenborough of the mushroom world and the guru of the foraging movement. When he wasn't teaching his neighbours how to slow cook a ham in compost he was writing about mushrooms.

There is literally a fungus for every occasion and the one on my dead tree is enjoying the decay. The British Mycological Society informs me that fungi are called 'decomposers' because they can break down dead animals and plants.

They are also good recyclers because the nutrients they release by breaking down the dead organisms go back into the soil. I have looked through my 365 page mushroom book, 6 different types to a page, and I haven't really got a clue what it is but I think it isn't a midnight disco or a bog bell; it is probably a bracket mushroom called a polypore…. but I will have to leave it there.

So I don't even need to think about cutting the tree down as it will be gone in time, pausing only perhaps to make a good hiding place for a hedgehog. I very much hope so.

Joanna Wade



THE LINK

pet of the month

Life changed when a large long-haired black cat went walkabout one day and found himself in a glass-fronted enclosure at Cats Protection, Chelwood Gate. No name, no ID, no home and in a bad temper after being neutered at the age of five.

Cats Protection decided to name him Perseus, after the Slayer of Monsters and Mycenaean king. Unlike the real Perseus, he had to endure people staring at him all day and making strange noises. Then, three months later he was whisked away to a new life and a new name. Perseus became Percy.

The resident cats at that time - Big Tom and JackCat, were none too happy with the new interloper who decided he owned the place and talked too much. Order was restored once Percy understood JackCat was the brains of the operation, and in charge. Big Tom became the reluctant enforcer.

The Slayer of Monsters became a prolific hunter albeit with mixed success. It was deeply troubling to him that the humans who thought they owned him kept rescuing the live food he brought in every day. That jack rabbit, which unfortunately got stuck in the cat-flap, would have kept everyone well-fed for a week.

A mid-life crisis saw Percy answer the call of the wild and set off on walkabout adventures. He disappeared for weeks, wandering for miles, feeling invincible, at one with Mother Nature and surviving many scrapes. These wanderings were curtailed when the humans fitted a tracking collar. Almost overnight his empire became small and very local.

Roll forward to 2022 and Percy the elderly king is now house bound but still regal. Life is good despite a lack of teeth and a dodgy back. There is a choice of sofa on which to recline, soft blankets, clean bathroom facilities, daily grooming, and gourmet cat food.

And the downsides to this feline retirement living? Well, stairs are now a challenge although the on-demand human stairlift is a wonderful service.

When asked for his thoughts on a good life well-lived, the old king yawned, licked around his gums, and walked off slowly in search of dinner.

Helen Sloman



What I do

I set up How Green Market Garden in 2021 after being inspired by the growing number of small-scale farmers providing







nutritious, seasonal food for their local communities. To my mind, the most healthy and environmentally friendly diet is one that is organic, seasonal and locally produced and I really wanted to become part of the local food movement.
I set about converting the first field block into twenty 15m long beds using the no-dig method championed by Charles Dowding. This method of growing produces far fewer weeds whilst the soil and its helpful soil organisms (such as the fine threads of mycorrhizal fungi which help plants to find nutrients and moisture) remain undisturbed. Not to mention the added bonus of less back-breaking digging in the Kent clay.

It was a difficult start to the 2021 season with a cold spring and some late frosts, which meant everything took a while to get going. But nature did its thing and soon the field was abundant with summer vegetables and the tomato plants in the polytunnel were producing more beautiful fruit than we could pick. I started to deliver veg boxes locally, had a weekly delivery to supply Ide Hill Community Shop and took part in some pop-up markets at Hooper's Farm in Marsh Green.

This year I will be doubling my growing space, adding a wider range of vegetables and some soft fruits, and hopefully eggs (bird flu permitting). I am also going to be working with Hever School to develop their vegetable garden so the children can experience the rewards of growing and eating their own food.

How Green Market Veg boxes will be available from early June until around November time and all the details can be found on my website www.howgreenmarketgarden.co.uk where you can sign up to be on the mailing list.

Alex Enston

village screen film club 2022

Friday 25 February
Whistle Down the Wind
Friday 25 March
The Hundred Foot Journey

The films are shown at Hever Castle Golf Club. They are all less than two hours long, start at 7.30 pm and doors open at 6.30 for the pre-show meal and bar – with ice cream and popcorn in the interval.

Tickets are a suggested donation of £3 for the film or £15 to include the meal (scampi or vegetarian quiche with chips). You can book with Bridget Harris on 01732 700986 or bcharris@btinternet.com or buy tickets at the door.

However please pre-book your meal by the Wednesday morning before the show if you would like to eat.



Penshurst Point-to-Point

Horse racing on Sunday 20th March
Pony racing at 12 Noon. Firstrace at 1.30pm

Sunday 10th April 2022. Firstrace at 2pm.

To be held at Brookers Farm,
Chiddingstone Hoath TN8 7DD

Admission: £30 per car. Pedestrians: £10 per person

Fun for all the family. Bring a picnic. Funfair, trade stands, food & refreshments.

EASTERCARD COMPETITION

Calling all artistsand designers, big or small!
Easteriscoming up and we are looking to create a new Easter Card for our church. Sopolish your brushes,sharpen your pencils, grab a piece of A4 paper and draw,paint or create a collage, then take a picture of it and email it to us at beneficeemail@gmail.com.

We are looking for a card that will show the true meaning of Easter,the love of Jesus and His rising from the tomb.
We'll select the best creation and we'll use it to print our 2022 Eastercard, which will go out into our parish.
Thewinner will receive a real chocolate Easteregg from us.

The deadline for submitting your creations is Sunday 20th March at midnight! Get creative!



Hever Village Hall

In November last year, the Hever Village Hall Management Committee held an open morning for residents to view the plans for re-building the Hever Village Hall. We were delighted with the positive response that we received and took note of comments that were made. We submitted our plans to the Sevenoaks District Council in December and I am so pleased to tell you that they have granted us full planning permission.

Our next steps will include the start of a fund-raising campaign. We will be funding this project through donations from local residents, local fund-raising events and applying for grants.

Once we have a fund-raising goal for this project we will start the ball rolling without delay. Please support this building project generously and help us build our village a hall that will last the next one hundred years and continue to be at the centre of our community.

Mandy Yarnold
Chair of the Management Committee

firework noise, an apology

From Duncan Leslie, Chief Executive Hever Castle

I apologise for the noise generated from a Hever Castle private function on Sunday 30th January which finished shortly after 22:30.

I am at a loss as to why these were so loud especially having had a discussion with a colleague back in the early autumn about how important it is to not upset neighbours. As a consequence I have decided that other than in an exceptional case such as a national celebration (fireworks night, New Year etc – we do not currently do either) Sunday fireworks will cease – other than those we have already contracted to do (20th March 6.30pm and 12th June 9pm 2022 – both are much shorter and I am assured will not be nearly as loud). We will also review other fireworks, in particular midweek.

If you notice the fireworks on these dates do please let us know how much of a nuisance they are – that would help future policy. Please advise us if you would like your email address added to our list of people to contact with future notifications.



Bridge near Whistlers

news from the General Synod

I am Jane Rosam, I live in Hever and am training to be a Licensed Lay minister.

General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It considers and approves legislation affecting the Church, debates matters of national and international importance and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level.I was elected to serve for five years last November. I stood for election because I am passionate about opening up the church to inclusion for all, making it relevant in contemporary society and hopefully during my term there will be motions about Living in Love and Faith. The General Synod meets three times a year in November, February and July. Both meetings so far have been at Church House in Westminster but July is held in York.The sittings are spread over three or four long days according to the agenda and it would be quite difficult to describe a typical day as most seem to be anything but!

We receive the Agenda and accompanying papers about 10 days before each sitting and these require a lot of reading as some of the individual reports can be up to 88 pages long. Luckily these are now sent in electronic format to an app and through this app we can communicate directly with the Synod support staff.

General Synod is large. It currently has 467 members in total and this includes the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity. We all have a number (I am 389) and in all our dealings we identify ourselves by Name, number and Diocese. This includes the Archbishop of Canterbury who unsurprisingly is number 001. Church House has large circular debating chamber that many are familiar with, plus also myriad smaller rooms, chambers, floors and staircases. It is very easy to get completely lost and disorientated and legend has it that some inexperienced members have entered via the wrong door and found themselves next to the Archbishops on the platform, livestreamed on TV.

Next time, the actual business!



forgotten grandees

...the Bramwell family in Four Elms and Hever

As I was sitting in Hever Church the other day I looked again at the familiar stained glass window in the South aisle and wondered why and who the figure with an anvil was.

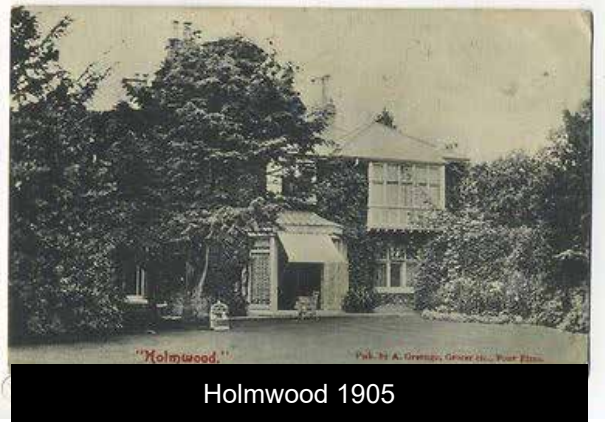


I read that the window was in memory of Sir Frederick Bramwell who died in 1903 and that the window depicts St. Dunstan on the left and Tubal-Cain on the right. It was made by Burlison & Grylls in 1906. St Dunstan was the patron saint of goldsmiths, silversmiths, blacksmiths and bellringers and Tubal-Cain is mentioned in the Bible, in Genesis 4:22, and is known a the first blacksmith - and Sir Frederick was President of both the Institutions of Civil and Mechanical Engineers, President of the Royal Society of Arts and a member of the Goldsmiths company, not a strong connection, but understandable. The Bramwell story in fact begins with Frederick's brother, George Bramwell, first (and last) Baron Bramwell of Hever (1808-1892). He was a legal star who sat in the Court of Appeal and was responsible for a number of key developments in the law notably the rule in Rylands v Fletcher which modernised the law of tort and which students still learn about to this day. Say "Rylands and Fletcher" to almost any lawyer and they will say "Ah, yes!", there are very few cases which get this level of recognition.

Although it may seem obvious now that if a landowner has dangerous substances on their land and this affects a neighbour, they will be liable. However, back in the nineteenth century Mr Fletcher lost his claim right through the lower courts. Only Lord George dissented and he was then vindicated and upheld by the House of Lords.

As Wikipedia says "Rylands v Fletcher [1868] UKHL 1 was a decision by the House of Lords

which established a new area of English tort law. Rylands employed contractors to build a reservoir, playing no active role in its construction. When the contractors discovered a series of old coal shafts improperly filled with debris, they chose to continue work rather than properly blocking them up. The result was that on 11 December 1860, shortly after being filled for the first time, Rylands' reservoir burst and flooded a neighbouring mine, run by Fletcher, causing £937 worth of damage (equivalent to £86,500 in 2018). Fletcher brought a claim of negligence against Rylands,



Holmwood 1905


A Vanity Fair caricature of Sir Fred

through which the case eventually went to the Exchequer of Pleas. The majority ruled in favour of Rylands. Bramwell B, however, dissenting, argued that the claimant had the right to enjoy his land free of interference from water, and that as a result the defendant was guilty of trespass and the commissioning of a nuisance".

George lived in Holmwood in Four Elms. Holmwood was, and remains, a fine house set back from the road which later was home to General Sir Henry and Dame Edith Sclater during the First World War. The 1881 census records him living there aged 72 with his second wife Martha, 46, and a butler, lady's maid, cook,

kitchen maid and housemaid. The housemaids, Martha Malyan and Harriett Nicholls, were aged 17 and 18 and were from Edenbridge. All the servants are described as “single”, as was expected in those days.

It seems that Frederick came to live at Holmwood too, perhaps after his brother’s death in 1892. I do not know why George’s only surviving child, Jane, did not inherit it; of course the title, Baron Bramwell of Hever, given to him when he retired, died with him. Frederick and his wife Harriett had three daughters, Eldred married Sir Victor Horsley a pioneer of neurosurgery and a social reformer. They had three children, Siward, Oswald and Pamela (I tell you this mainly because I like the names). He volunteered for field surgery duty in Iraq during WW1 and died there of heatstroke aged only 59.



Sir Fred’s grave

Frederick trained as an engineer and studied steam propulsion and constructed a locomotive for the Stockton and Darlington Railway before setting up his own business concentrating on legal and consultative work, for example advising the London water companies.

He became a leading expert witness in high profile court cases. George once joked that witnesses could be divided into four categories “liars, damned liars, expert witnesses and, of course, there’s brother Fred”.

Sir Frederick was knighted in 1881 and created a baron in 1889, four years before his death aged 85. He is buried in the churchyard at Hever, which is odd given that their local church, St Paul’s Four Elms, was opened in 1881, but perhaps he was by then attached to Hever. I cannot find out where Lord George is buried.

Joanna Wade

Hever Parish Council

The past month has seen me busily settling in to the varied and interesting role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. There is certainly a lot for me to learn!

We were pleased to arrange the Bulk Refuse Freighter which was well utilised with another date in the summer scheduled for 23rd July.

On the recycling front the guidelines are:

- **Plastic Bottles** - Empty, rinse & squash. Put lids back on before recycling
- **Trays & Punnets** - Remove film lid, absorbent layer & put these into general waste. Recycle the clean & empty tray or punnet
- **Pots** - Empty & rinse Put lids back on before recycling.

You can also recycle carrier bags and other flexible wrappings at some local supermarkets. Please remember to always rinse the item clean before recycling it, otherwise it may contaminate the whole batch of recycling.

Further information can be found at: https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20000/rubbish_and_recycling/163/your_weekly_refuse_and_recycling_services

At the end of January, the rules for all types of road users were updated in The Highway Code to improve the safety of people walking, cycling and riding horses. Did you know you are now required to give a cyclist at least 1.5 metres (5 feet) when overtaking them and when passing people riding horses giving them at least 2 metres (6.5 feet) of space, with the same rule applying to passing people walking in the road?

These rules effect all road users. There are changes in eight important areas:

- introducing a new hierarchy of road users
- crossing the road at junctions
- walking, cycling or riding in shared spaces
- positioning in the road when cycling
- overtaking when driving or cycling
- cycling at junctions
- people cycling, riding horses and driving horse-drawn vehicles on roundabouts
- parking, charging and leaving vehicles

For more information, please visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022

Our next meeting is on 9th March 2022 at Markbeech village hall. Please see www.hever.org for the Agenda nearer the time.

Rachael Turner
Clerk and RFO
077849 12645
clerk@hever.org

This morning I was in Swanley. Although only fifteen miles separate us, the villages of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech are likely as relatively unexplored to Swanley's residents as it is to most of us. Nevertheless, it is one of the four towns in the Sevenoaks District, rich in history, and is today a popular home for many commuters, falling as it now does within reach of London's Oyster. What took me to the District's northern most tip was the opening of the White Oak Leisure Centre, a £20m investment in the wellbeing of an area which has for too long been a poor relation to us in terms of its health inequalities.

As Sevenoaks District Council's Portfolio Holder for Finance & Investment, I've had the privilege of working on both this scheme and other initiatives designed to improve the provision of amenities across the patch. For example, we've nearly completed building a business hub for start-ups, and hope shortly to embark on two mixed use town centre developments. In West Kingsdown we're seeking to provide self-contained units of purpose built temporary accommodation, helping the homeless off the streets and into safe, affordable lodgings from which they can rebuild their lives. And closer to home, we've been able to provide much-needed parking in Sevenoaks, with investment in Edenbridge to follow shortly.

These are not just a matter of local government providing for those it serves, nor one of moral responsibility, but an economic question too. Happy, healthy, stable populations draw less and contribute more to public services. Being able to look to the longer term, properties can be of a quality only rarely found in the private sector. Design and environmental standards can be of the highest order. And the vibrancy of our town centres can be safeguarded, benefitting all those within their catchment.

In the 2019 local elections, much was made of the phrase 'Bins not Brexit'. As you'd expect from a slogan, it doesn't quite capture the whole picture. But the essence was there. Local government is not about what takes place in Westminster. Nor, in fact is it all about bins. Rather it can and should be a catalyst for something more: improving wellbeing.

Usually I write about those things on our immediate doorstep. It's right that I do. Yet it's equally right that I let you know what else it is I get up to at the District Council since it is thanks to you that I have the immense privilege of not just representing Kent's finest corner but of playing a small part in bringing moments of joy, pride and dignity to our neighbours too.

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

EDENBRIDGE MUSIC AND ARTS TRUST

presents



THE ASAKA QUARTET

Saturday 26th February 2022 at 7pm

EDENBRIDGE PARISH CHURCH, SS PETER & PAUL

Programme includes quartets by

Haydn, Prokofiev and Beethoven

Tickets £12.00 from Farrington's Jewellers,

77 High Street, Edenbridge, TN8 5AU

(open Wednesdays to Saturdays)

or at the door

Edenbridge Music and Arts Trust

Registered Charity 802486

We are starting a children's choir. Would your child like to join in?

We are looking to start a children's choir with the aim to perform at the 900 years celebration service at St Peter's Hever on Sunday 26 June and other occasional events.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and we want to create something truly fun and wonderful! Please get in touch with Ana Roxburgh (beneficeemail@gmail.com) if you'd like to join in.

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
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
Catering		
Gorard Dean Catering -	all events undertaken call Melanie Dean	07710 005 635
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
Dog grooming and walking		
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 personal training for midlife women and beyond		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 Roper Chartered physiotherapist	home physio visit, pilates classes	07771 925346
Paul Marro	Cognitive Hypnotherapy www.htherapy.co.uk	01732 808211
Step by Step	foot health practice	07786 038149
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
Markbeech Village Hall		01342 850328

Church in March

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 2nd March. Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below and also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/2021/06/08/our-next-service/

Date & time	Service details	Readings	Sunday
2nd March 6pm	Imposition of ashes at St.Peter's Hever	Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Ash Wednesday
6th March 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms with baptism	Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13	1st of Lent
6th March 6pm	Contemporary service with 'Cabin Worship' at St.Peter's Hever	1 Peter 2:4-10	1st of Lent
13th March 10am	Eucharist at Holy Trinity Markbeech	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1	2nd of Lent
13th March 3pm	Forest church at St.Peter's Hever		2nd of Lent
20th March 10am	Holy Communion with Revd.Canon David Kitley* at St.Peter's Hever	Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9	3rd of Lent
27th March 8am	Said communion Holy Trinity Markbeech	Galatians 4:21-31; John 6:1-14	4th of Lent
27th March 10am	Mothering Sunday Family Service at St.Paul's Four Elms	1 Samuel 1:20-28; John 19:25b-27	4th of Lent

* David is the Bishop's adviser for overseas partnerships and will be speaking on Africa.

We will be starting a weekly Zoom Lent course from Monday 7th March at 6.00pm using the Church of England's 'Live Lent – embracing justice'. In addition, the Tonbridge deanery is running a 'Living in Love & Faith' (Church of England's book on 'Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage) in Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall for five Thursdays in Lent starting on 10th March and we will also be running a shorter Zoom course on Sundays.

Zoom Evening prayer continues on Thursdays at 6.00pm. For details of all these please contact Simon or see our website or Facebook page.

Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help.

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

One consequence of the pandemic has been to postpone the celebration of Hever church's 900 years as a place of Christian worship. We're now making plans for a number of events later this year and as a centrepiece our service on St.Peter's day morning which is Sunday 26th June – watch out for details and any ideas to help us mark this historic occasion are welcome.

It's hard to imagine what changes may have taken place in worship over 900 years in St.Peter's. There would have been the theatre of the Latin Mass during the medieval period with processions, mystery and colour. With the Reformation in the 16th Century, the improvement in literacy, and the availability of printed Bibles in the vernacular, the emphasis would have changed to the preaching of the Word necessitating seating in the form of wooden pews. The 19th Century saw the explosion in church building which brought into being our other two churches in Four Elms and Markbeech, and the writing of many hymns we sing today. More recently we've seen the growth of almost limitless choice which is reflected in the diversity of styles even in Anglican churches with some bringing in increased informality and lay participation.

As one would expect there are many and varied references to worship in the Bible but very little guidance on the style or form. In the story of Jesus meeting the woman at the well, she asks him some detailed questions about where to worship. Jesus replies:. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks (John 4:24). Perhaps this suggests that the most important thing is that we worship authentically. CS Lewis once said he was less concerned about 'high' and 'low' church and more concerned about deep church.

Variety brings challenges for rural churches as we try to have something for everyone whilst keeping the regular more traditional 10.00am services of Holy Communion each Sunday. We are using the Evening services to experiment: everything from Choral Evensong to this month a contemporary service assisted by a worship band from Eden Baptist church! After Easter, we will be introducing an additional quiet and contemplative service at 8am and also another Family service.

We all have different preferences and encounter God in different ways. I'm sure there is something you will find with us that helps you to worship. But do also think about trying something a bit different from the variety of worship in an Anglican context.

One thing I want to say very emphatically is that we welcome all whatever your background or belief to come and see – we even welcome dogs!

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Markbeech

Despite the huge numbers of people dropping 'between the lines' with Covid in February and children once again missing great chunks of school time and learning to get bored at home, services in Church returned to a sense of normality. Our monthly eucharist service was quite a celebration of love and birthdays. Nick and Fiona Irens celebrating their Golden wedding anniversary and Una Higgs her 100th birthday. Both amazing achievements! We thank them for coming to celebrate these milestones with us.

There was plenty of planning in progress at our recent PCC meeting. It is so good to once again plan with some degree of certainty that the event will actually take place! The summer is looking like a busy time with the celebration of the installation of Simon as our Rector; a service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the long awaited 900th anniversary at Hever. We hope to host a great choral evensong in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's long reign on Thursday 2nd June. If you are a singer, or your child would like to take part then please let me know. Zadok the Priest will be sung! Other dates for your diary this summer you should note are:Edenbridge Music & Arts Jazz at Saxby's Mead (courtesy of Nick & Fiona Irens) on Sunday 3rd July, and the Markbeech Parish Lunch at Old Farm (courtesy of Marielou Linklater) on Sunday 17th July.

Now for the less good news. Our lovely church has some serious health problems! Much of the stonework is in dire need of repointing. Some fifty years ago, when we knew no better, this was done using cement. The acid in the cement has eaten into the sandstone and will now need to be dug out and re-filled using lime-based materials. The cost will be vast – at least £25,000. As a PCC we have procrastinated over this decision but now decided, to protect our church, the work must go ahead. I know that Simon has the finance of our churches very much on his mind so as well as praying, we must now put our hands deeply into our pockets.

Nicki Talbot
Churchwarden

Four Elms

What a joy to see snowdrops appearing in our gardens, and to hear birdsong. While the world news always seems to bring us the tragedy of humanity, its wise to remember that there is so much to be happy about.The beautiful countryside around us is just one joy of many.

Thanks to Simon's careful management and distribution of services within the Benefice, we have adjusted ourselves to a regular pattern for Holy Communion interspersed with different forms of worship. Simon and the Church Wardens hope there is something for every taste of worship so all may enjoy what suits them best. This includes Family Services as well as

the traditional non eucharistic forms of services.

2022 is going to be a busy year. The Queen's Jubilee celebrations will take place over the Spring Bank Holiday commencing 2nd June -5th June. Please look out for what is happening. The Four Elms Village Fete will go ahead on Saturday 9th July.If you really want to know what is going on in Four Elms and how you can become part of the village activities, please come to the Quiz Night on Saturday 23rd April at the Village Hall. It's a fun night as well as meeting your neighbours and finding out what's happening for the Jubilee and the Fete.

The Parish Lunches, held in the Hever Village Hall, have been a great success. We plan to add to this, having a Parish Tea at Little Chittenden, Four Elms. It will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month between 3pm – 4.30pm.The first tea will be on Thursday 24th March. Please let either John or Christina know if you wish to attend.

Our Mothering Sunday Service is on Sunday 27th March.Please join us for this lovely service.

Christina Hodson
Churchwarden

Hever

As part of our 900th celebrations weekend, there will be a talk in the church by Dr Lauren Mackay who will spend an evening delving into Thomas Bullen's life and career, moving beyond the myths and stereotypes to establish his place in Tudor history. Dr Lauren Mackay is an historian and author specializing in Early Modern diplomacy, and whose focus of study goes beyond familiar historical figures to the customs and diplomacy of the 16th Century. Tickets are available to book from the Hever Festival website www.heverfestival.co.uk from 22nd February

We had marvellous celebrations of both Una Higgs 100th birthday and Wendy Izod's 75th birthday with champagne, birthday cakes and balloons at the recent parish lunch.

The next Parish lunch will be held on Thursday 10th March starting 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 or have any special dietary requirements.

A big thank you to Sandra Dell who has been providing us with coffees after our 10am services

Mandy Yarnold
Church Warden

From the register

Funerals

at St Peter's Hever 24 January
John William Russell age 80

at St Paul's Four Elms 25 January
Sheila Summers-Asquez age 78

at Holy Trinity Markbeech 28 January
Ann Hermoine Idenden Swatland age 93

gardening

March is a very exciting month in the gardening calendar – it signifies the start of Spring and a month where our gardens begin to wake up!
That's also true to be said for our plants here at the nursery and our garden designer customers start to come out of hibernation!

Ordinarily, we would also be well under way with our growing for the Chelsea Flower Show, but we have made the difficult decision not to grow this year. We had plenty of enquiries, but we've decided to switch our growing to a peat-free compost (500,000 plants annually).

We've trialled peat-free for nearly 20 years without much success, but in the Summer of 2021 we had some fantastic results using a new product. However, top-growth is slightly slower, so we didn't have the confidence in growing 'show quality' plants for Chelsea – we are looking to get a growing season under our belt before we can commit again next year.



This has all been part of a drive to improve our 'green' credentials as a business over the last few months. (Not forgetting our end-product is very environmentally friendly!) Here are our new changes:

Peat-free compost (mainly bark fibre in different grades, with little coir fibre); Recyclable, recycled pots; Recycled paper; Bark topping machine(adds a layer of bark to act as a mulch & save on water); Improved irrigation system – saving on water; Hand-made trolley jackets – stop the use of shrink-wrap plastic; New vehicles with low emission engines

Peat sales will be banned from garden centres from May 2024 but as of yet, there are no time frames for commercial horticulture – we're trail-blazing in our sector! This is important as peat bogs act as a carbon sink in the battle against climate change.

Here are some recommendations for plants for your garden this March:
Pulmonaria 'Shrimps on the Barbie' (Lungwort) New cultivar with deep pink flowers
Narcissus 'Rip Van Winkle' – intriguing double flowering cultivar
Daphne odora 'Marianni' – fantastic shrub with highly scented blooms
Primula vulgaris – common Primrose – can't beat it!
I**ris reticulata 'Katherine Hodgkin'** – stunning intricate Iris (see picture)
We hope to bring you some exciting news on the return of our public open weekends very soon! Happy gardening!

Simon Sutcliffe
How Green Nursery

Benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Four Elms	**2020**	66	106	55	38	6	45	21	42	35	142	59	88
	2021	134	46	30	6	58	79	45	54	41	121	21	78
	2022	22											
Hever	**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	14.5	87.5
	2022	16.5											
Markbeech	**2020**	96.25	140	47.5	40	10	49.25	31.6	36	54.6	163.75	40.5	95.6
	2021	120	40	51	4	55.5	38.5	48	0	39	141	11.5	86
	2022	21											

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
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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 **April** edition should reach us no later than **15 March**-
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

March diary

25 Feb	**Film club**, Hever Golf Club, doors open 6.30pm,	film at 7.30pm
26 Feb	**Asaka Quartet concert,** Edenbridge Parish Church	7pm
28 Feb	**Midlife fitness class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847) and every Monday Hever Village Hall	10.30am
3 Mar	**Midlife stability ball class** (contact Fiona 0771 8588847) and every Thursday Hever Village Hall	10.00am
5 Mar	**Yoghurt making workshop** at Bore Place	10 – 12.30 pm
6 Mar	**Hever Hort talk 'The Arts and Craft movement and its gardens'**, Hever Village Hall	8pm
9 Mar	**Hever Parish council meeting** Markbeech Village Hall	7.30pm
10 Mar	**Hever Parish lunch** Hever Village Hall	12.30pm
11 Mar	**Astronomy Evening: The Moon** at Bore Place	6.30- 8.30 pm
20 Mar	**Penshurst point to point,** Brookers Farm Chiddingstone	from noon
24 Mar	**Parish Tea** at Little Chittenden	3- 4.30pm
25 Mar	**Film club,** Hever Golf Club, doors open 6.30pm,	film at 7.30pm
9 Apr	**Hever Hort Spring Show**, Hever Village Hall	2-4pm
10 Apr	**Penshurst point to point**, Brookers Farm Chiddingstone	2pm
23 Apr	**Four Elms Quiz Night,** Four Elms Village Hall	7.15pm
10 May	**Hever Parish Council AGM**, Four Elms Village Hall	
26 May	**Hever Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly**, Hever Village Hall	
28 May	**The London Mandolin Quartet concert,** Edenbridge Parish Church	7pm
2 June	**Queen's Platinum Jubilee**, Hever Castle	
3 July	**Jazz AlFresco**, Saxby's Mead, Cowden	
9 July	**Four Elms Fete**	