

The
GABRIEL
UPCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

TWINNED WITH FERQUES-ELINGHEN, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE

April
2025

Wishing a very



.... to all our loyal readers ☺☺



GOOD FRIDAY ~ 18th April

EASTER DAY ~ 20th April

EASTER MONDAY ~ 21st April



TEAM GABRIEL



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DAVE CANDY

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M^{RS} LESLEY EVERSON

RAY LeBORGNE

& all those who do the

door-to-door drops

PLEASE SEE THE VERY

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON THE

COVER

DISCLAIMER

GABRIEL relies on the integrity of the people/organisations submitting articles. Without this the magazine would be unable to run. Any mistakes or concerns, must be referred to the person/organisation entering the article. Similarly, the views expressed in such articles and letters are not those of the editorial staff. No unattributed articles will be accepted. Any organisation or person wishing to contribute an article does so on the above understanding

Editor

Thank you for your co-operation.

DEADLINE DAY **for the March Issue is** **FRIDAY** **18TH APRIL**

Any contributions should be submitted to the Editor no later than midday on the above date, either by hand to 6 Bradshaw Close or by E-mail to the above address.

Contributions by e-mail in MS Word format are preferred.

Thanks you

A PLEA FROM THE PRODUCTION TEAM ~

I AM SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE GABRIEL IS A WHOLLY BLACK -AND-WHITE MAGAZINE PRODUCED ON EQUIPMENT WHICH FALLS SOMEWHAT SHORT OF "STATE-OF-THE-ART". IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE PRINT PROCESS IF, WHEN SUBMITTING MATERIAL, EG FLYERS ETC, THAT YOU AVOID THE USE OF SOLID BLACK AREAS (OR DARK COLOURS WHICH WILL TRANSLATE INTO BLACK/GREY DURING PRINTING) AS THIS CAUSES PROBLEMS DURING THE REPRODUCTION PROCESS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Editor

OUR FUTURE AN UPDATE

~~~~~  
First, some (hopefully) encouraging news! We have at last gained access to the printing and collating machines and we are cautiously optimistic that normal production and door-to-door deliveries can resume with effect from the May issue.

That said, their new location is temporary and the associated production tasks are, for the time being, being covered by the remaining team members, all of which means the search for a volunteer, or volunteers, goes on. Specifically, the tasks to be covered entail:

- a) The monthly printing and collating of some 1100 copies which, I understand, takes about 3 hours or so.
- b) The accommodation of the associated machines. These are quite sizeable pieces of equipment and need to be kept in dry and clean conditions.

There are no transportation issues. The white masters are sent online by the editor, the paper is delivered as required and the finished copies can be collected.

So, if you think you can help, or know of anybody who might come to our aid, please contact the Editor :

- a) on 07710-443948 or
- b) on [upchurchgabriel@gmail.com](mailto:upchurchgabriel@gmail.com) or
- c) at 6 Bradshaw Close.

**THE SURVIVAL OF THE GABRIEL IS IN YOUR HANDS!!!**

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## NEWS FROM THE PEWS >>>

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT >>>

*Dear Friends*

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April we celebrate Easter Sunday, the high spot of the Church calendar. It's when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Arriving at Easter Sunday, we must first get through Good Friday, the day when Jesus was crucified.

St. Michael & All Angels' Church Hartlip has many interesting stained-glass windows. On opposing sides of the nave, you can find two triptychs. The north series show important scenes from the life of Jesus: his conception, baptism, and resurrection. On the south side, the series of windows show the crucifixion. The left-hand panel shows Mary, the mother of Jesus, with Mary Magdalene; and on the right are his disciples Peter and John. All are focussed on the dying Jesus. As onlookers, we are witnesses to this terrible event.

In the central section of the crucifixion triptych, the picture is divided horizontally into two parts. Above is a blue sky with a sun and a moon. Below that, is an apple tree bearing many apples, representing the temptation of Eve and the introduction of evil into the world. This crucifixion image may be demonstrating the evil within mankind has fastened Jesus, God amongst us, to the cross and killed him.

As an onlooker, we can choose to turn and walk away, or to turn and realise that the Way of Jesus, a way of living based on love and compassion, forgiveness, inclusion, peace, and generosity, is how we will find fulfilment in life. And we can choose to walk that path.

Walking that path of life, is what the resurrection section of the triptych on the north wall is all about. See? The apparently thin and dried up tree in the picture is flowering. Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

*Wishing you all a Happy Easter.*

*George Hulme, Lay Minister (Reader)*



## RAINBOW CAFE

St MARY'S CHURCH

**THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL ♦ 2.00 PM TO 4.30 PM**

Come and enjoy our delicious homemade cakes and savouries. Bring the kids to enjoy our amazing snack deal - 5 things for a £1 and a drink. They will also enjoy crafts and a story. Our income pays the school fees for 4 children in Uganda

**ALL ARE WELCOME! WE WILL BE THERE! PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!!!**

*Thank you for your support*

*The Rainbow Team*



### **RUBBISH**

*If no waste bin can be found,*

**PLEASE don't drop it on the ground**

## SERVICES >>>

### UPLIFT

*Join us as we celebrate Easter Sunday*

*Jesus has risen!! Hallelujah!!*

#### UPLIFT EASTER SERVICE

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April ~ 10.30 am ~ Upchurch Village Hall.**

**WE ARE A WARM, WELCOMING CHURCH WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME**

~~~~~

EASTER SERVICES IN ST MARY'S

Palm Sunday 13th April ~Morning Worship ~ 10.00 am
with distribution of palm crosses

~~~~~

**Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April ~Sung Communion ~ 8.00 pm**  
*with stripping of the altar*

~~~~~

Good Friday 18th April ~Evening Worship ~ 7.00 pm

~~~~~

**Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April ~Sung Communion ~ 10.00 am**



## CHURCH FUNDRAISING SALE ~

*The Sale takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month*

*The next Sale in aid of the Church will be*

*from 10.00 am to 11.30 am on*

**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**



### UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

*Available for hire at competitive rates*

#### *Facilities include*

⊕ A spacious Main Hall with Stage ⊕ A Small Hall ⊕ A Committee Room ⊕

⊕ A large, well -equipped Kitchen ⊕

*An ideal venue for*

Weddings ⊕ Clubs ⊕ Private Parties ⊕ Meetings etc

*Availability can be viewed online at [upvh.co.uk](http://upvh.co.uk) , or please contact:*

*Deborah Martin – 07368-461507 – [enquiries@upvh.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@upvh.co.uk)*

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## FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER >>>

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### UPCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL ~



#### YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

##### Chairman

**Cllr Tyrone Ripley**

##### Vice Chairman

**Cllr Pam Denny**

##### Councillors

**Ernie Bernstein, Alan Horton, Gerry Lewin,  
John Bodycomb, Gary Rosewell, Neil Sheppard,  
Helen Boakes**

##### Clerk

**Mrs Nina Henley**

#### CONTACT THE CLERK

**Mrs Nina Henley,**

**Clerk and Proper Officer to Upchurch Parish Council**

**Tel: 07798 600696**

**Email: [clerk@upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

### ~ MONTHLY REPORT ~

#### 1. PLANNING

- a) 24/504654/LDCEX Beckenham Park, Otterham Quay lane, Upchurch Kent ME8 7XF Lawful Development Certificate (existing) Use of land as a caravan park for up to 75 caravans. UPC has no comments.
- b) 25/500304/FULL, 65 Chaffes Lane Upchurch Kent ME9 7BH. Erection of a two-storey rear extension with single storey front and side extensions. (Removal of existing outbuilding and conservatory). UPC has no objections.
- c) Reports from Cllr Rosewell.
  - i. He gave verbal report regarding amended details to planning 24/504410 it was noted that revisions to this application did not alter UPC original objections and these still stand.
  - ii. He reported that UPC had received notice from developers regarding potential application for 100 houses in Forge Lane. UPC do not meet with developers prior to applications being submitted and will discuss any applications when received in a public meeting of the Parish Council. It was reported that the developers may hold their own public meeting.





## **2. PADDOCH AND RECREATION GROUND**

- a) It was reported that the repair to grass lock swings was commencing week of 24 February. Noted.
- b) Recreation groundwork on entrance barriers. Members RESOLVED to remove this work from the schedule.
- c) Update on tap disconnection. It was reported that the tap has been disconnected. Noted.

## **3. BURIAL GROUND & CHURCHYARD**

- a) No updates

## **4. HIGHWAYS & STREET LIGHTING**

- a) Cllr Horton reported that the traffic calming in Oak Lane was completed and had been received favourably by residents. Cllr Horton reported following residents concerns junction of Holywell Lane / Forge Lane that this junction has been on the HIP previously and KCC have confirmed that following an engineer's assessment of the junction and sight lines, they have no plans to do further works on the junction

## **5. FOOTPATHS**

- a) Email received re ZR39 diversion. Noted.

## **6. ENVIRONMENT**

- a) No updates

## **7. ALLOTMENTS**

- a) Clerk reported tenancy agreements for 2025 will be send to tenants 31 March. Noted.

## **8. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS**

- a) Report received from Cllr Sheppard that all defibs working. Noted.

## **9. COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- a) VE Day May 2025 – (Cllr Lewin left the room) Members RESOLVED to grant request received from Upchurch Choral Society for £100 towards a VE Day concert at the church. Unanimous. (Cllr Lewin re-entered the room)
- b) Supporting community initiatives to combat loneliness and isolation. Members grant received from Cllr Palmer issued to Tea and Chat group. Noted.
- c) UPC Community Award – Members to review in March meeting. Noted.

## **10. FINANCE REPORTING**

- a) Financial review – bank statement and reconciliation were received signed by Cllr Lewin. Noted
- b) Payments received – Cheques for approval litter picker: £ 48.00 Noted.
- c) Schedule of payments for approval: All Payments agreed proposed by Cllr Lewin seconded by Cllr Horton. Members resolved to approve the schedule of payments
- d) Budget 2025/26. Precept request accepted by Swale; confirmation received. Noted.

## **11. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT MTG**

- a) VE Day.
- b) Asset Register review 2025.





**DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

*Full Council: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April [see below]*

*Planning Committee and General Purposes Committee: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April*

*Annual Meeting: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May*

*All meetings in Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm*

**ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND THERE IS A TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT, RAISE CONCERNS OR ASK QUESTIONS**

THE FULL MINUTES OF EACH MEETING ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 ♦ 7.30 pm**

**Upchurch Village Hall**

- *Meet your local councillors*
- *Hear from local groups*
- *Find out about local activities*
- *Presentation of UPC Community Award*

[www.upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**For info, please message [clerk@upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

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**SURGERY UPDATE >>>**

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**MAIDSTONE RD, RAINHAM & UPCHURCH SURGERIES >>>**

***MISSED APPOINTMENTS***

It was reported that, in the month of February, there were 27 missed (ie not pre-cancelled) appointments. This figure is fairly typical of previous monthly rates but still indicates the need for improvement. With available appointment times at a premium, ...,

**PLEASE, KEEP IT OR CANCEL IT WITH AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE!!!!**

***REGISTERED PATIENTS***

- Currently, 4008 patients are registered with the 2 practices

***PATIENTS' PARTICIPATION GROUP [PPG]***

The next PPG meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. If you have any issues to raise, please contact the Editor on [upchurchgabriel@gmail.com](mailto:upchurchgabriel@gmail.com)

***The surgery can be contacted on***

**01634-231423**

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THE VILLAGE BULLETIN BOARD >>>

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UPCHURCH CHORAL SOCIETY >>>

*... invites you to*

**Come and Sing Choral Classics**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025, 10.30am to 4pm**

**St Mary's Church, Horsham Lane, Upchurch ME9 7AL**

*Try singing 'I Was Glad' by Parry, 'Ave Verum' by Mozart and other beautiful choral classics led by accomplished Music Director Francesca Massey and accompanist Janet Stone.*

*Finish the day with a short concert open to the public.*

**Fees: £15 (includes music hire, tea, coffee) for day's singing,**

**£2 admission to concert at 3.30.**

*for further details and application form (advance booking required), please contact*

**Liz Walters 01634 61897 or email [kbl.walters@talk21.com](mailto:kbl.walters@talk21.com)**

*... and to ....*

**A CONCERT TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY**

**St Mary's Church ♦ Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May ♦ 7.30 pm**

*There will be a varied selection of music and words to honour the occasion ~ (with some audience participation).*

**Tickets £12 available on the door (cash or cheque only please)**

*or for more information or to reserve tickets, please contact:*



**BINGO GROUP >>>**

**Our Sessions are held in the back room of THE CROWN**

**Third Tuesday of each month ♦ 8.00pm to 10.00pm ♦ Upchurch Village Hall**

*a non-profit venture ♦ all proceeds distributed as prizes*

**£2 a book [12 Games] ♦ Entry £2 ♦ plus raffle**

*why not join us for an evening of fun*

**OUR NEXT SESSION IS ON TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

## HOLYWELL KIDS CLUB ►►►

**BREAKFAST CLUB:** From 7.15 am to Start of school

From 8.15 am to Start of school

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB:** From end of school to 6.00 pm

From end of school to 4.30 pm

**HOLIDAY CLUB:** Full day – 8.00 am to 6.00 pm £25.00.

Half-day – 8.00 am to 1.00 pm/1.00 pm to 6.00 pm ~ £15.00.

*To book, please e-mail [kclub@holywells.kent.sch.uk](mailto:kclub@holywells.kent.sch.uk) or call 07706-002060.*



## UPCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ►►►

Our March meeting was our AGM. Although technically "Business Meetings", they are never really too "businessy". The President's and Secretary's addresses are really a reminder of all the lovely things we have done over the previous year. We also elect our new Committee and President for the upcoming year.

Once the work was done, we enjoyed a supper of homemade soup and lovely fresh rolls. We were spoiled for choice!

Our next meeting, when Dr Nicholas Henderson will be returning to speak to us about "Great Mysteries and Conspiracy Theories" will be on

**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

WE MEET ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

ALL LADIES ARE VERY WELCOME AND WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

*See you there!*

*Lesley Everson*

~~~~~ *also* ~~~~~

Quiz Night

Friday 11th April ♦ 7.30 pm Upchurch Village Hall

Teams of 6 ♦ £6 per person to include buffet
(bring your own drinks)

****Quizmaster, Peter****

With 8-10 topics and a Joker

To reserve your table contact:

Wendy Pitts 01634 362253 or 07751-013298

marwen.pitts@btinternet.com

UPCHURCH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Are you green-fingered? ♦ Want to save money by growing your own veg?
Simply enjoy meeting people? ♦ Enjoy the outside and nature?
Need ideas & inspiration?

IF SO, NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

WE MEET ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT
97 CHAFFES LANE, UPCHURCH FROM 7.30 PM

*Our meetings include Gardening Talks ♦ Seed Swaps ♦ Flower Shows ♦
Competitions ♦ Sharing Growing Tips ♦ Plant Sales*

TALKS THIS YEAR INCLUDE

- Planning the Year Ahead
- The Work of Plant Heritage
- A Year at Doddington Place Gardens
- How garden designers lead us up the garden path
- A Gardener's Response to Climate Change

LOTS OF GREAT EVENTS

- BBQs,
- Day Trips,
- Evening Functions,
and for Juniors
Craft, Baking, Drawing &
Photography Competitions –
ALL ROUND FAMILY FUN

SPRING PLANT SALE

The Paddock, Oak Lane, Upchurch Village, ME9 7AJ

Saturday 26th April 2025 ♦ 9.00 am to 12.30 pm

A wide variety of plants available at GREAT prices, all locally sourced

Free Parking ♦ Homemade Cakes

Sponsored by Upchurch River Valley Golf Course

For more info email:

upchurchsociety@gmail.com

LINKTR.EE/UPCHURCHHORTICULTURALSOCIETY



UPCHURCH ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (UPARA) ►►►

UpARA is a friendly and welcoming group of retired and semi-retired people who place an emphasis on activity. We have a potential membership of 200 and we do welcome guests to all our activities, although the membership does get priority where tickets are required. Full details of our many activities can be found at www.upara.club





| UpARA EVENTS DIARY ~ APRIL 2025 | | |
|---------------------------------|----|--|
| Tue. | 1 | COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am
TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm |
| Wed | 2 | LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am
PILATES ~ CANCELLED |
| Fri | 4 | VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am |
| Mon | 7 | SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
KURLING ~ 2.00 pm |
| Tue | 8 | TEN PIN BOWLING ~ 10.00 am @ HOLLYWOOD BOWL |
| Wed | 9 | LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am
SOFT TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
PILATES ~ 2.30 pm |
| Fri | 11 | SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
MONTHLY MEETING - 2.00 pm
<i>Alan Haines ~ Baby Boomers' Nostalgia II</i> |
| Mon | 14 | SOFT TENNIS ~ CANCELLED |
| Tue | 15 | BOULES ~ 1.00 pm ~UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GC [*] |
| Wed | 16 | LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am
PILATES ~ 2.30 pm |
| Mon | 21 | SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am |
| Tue | 22 | COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am
TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm |
| Wed | 23 | LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am
PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
LUNCH CLUB @ URVGC - 12.30 pm |
| Fri | 25 | VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am |
| Mon | 28 | SOFT TENNIS ~ 11.00 am |
| Tue | 29 | FIRST AID COURSE ~ 9.00 am [ENROLLED MEMBERS ONLY] |
| Wed | 30 | LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am |
| Wed | 30 | PILATES ~ 2.30 pm |

UPCHURCH SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB ~

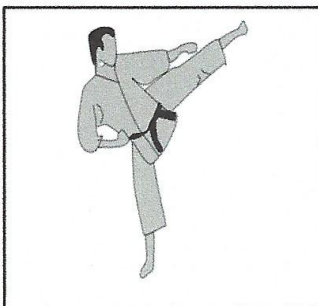
Teaching the Traditional Art of Shotokan Karate

Every Tuesday ♦ Holywell Primary School, ME9 7AE

Two Sessions - 6.00 pm to 6.45 pm and 6.45 pm to 7.30 pm

For children aged 6+ ♦ 1st Session Free!!!

- Fitness
- Discipline
- Fun
- Confidence
- Respect
- Self Defence
- Control



Free Parking
Qualified Instructors
1st Aid Trained
Fully Insured
DBS/CRB Checked
KSKC Established for over 40 years

For all enquiries, please contact

Ben Sawyer on Mobile: 07825-718677 Email: upchurchkarate@outlook.com

Website: www.kskc-karate.com

UPCHURCH PLAYERS ►►►

*Upchurch
Players*

OPEN AUDITIONS

CONTACT US FOR AN AUDITION PACK FOR EITHER SHOW

playersupchurchsecretary@gmail.com

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

A TOGA-LY HILARIOUS PLAY BY ADAM JAMES

AUDITION DATE

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL
3PM – 6PM
UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

SHOW DATES

5TH & 6TH SEPTEMBER
UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

AUDITIONEES MUST BE AGED 18+

**The
Wizard
of Oz**

Pantomime

LAUNCH NIGHT

FRIDAY 9TH MAY – 7.30PM

AUDITIONS

SATURDAY 17TH MAY

10AM – 1PM

SHOW WEEK: 29TH NOV– 7TH DEC

**JUNIOR AUDITIONEES MUST BE AGED 11+
AS OF 1ST SEPTEMBER , 2025**

A HELPING HAND >>>

RAISING MUCH-NEEDED FUNDS?

The Gabriel is ALWAYS happy to publicise fundraising events and activities at NO CHARGE. As they say at Tesco's

"EVERY LITTLE HELPS !!1940

For further fundraising opportunities/events please see

THE VILLAGE BULLETIN BOARD

earlier in this issue

SWALE FOODBANK ~

TO RECEIVE YOUR WONDERFUL DONATIONS,

I WILL BE IN THE LAYBY OPPOSITE THE CHURCH, ONCE AGAIN ON

Wednesday 2nd APRIL between 10.30 am and 11.30 am.

I KNOW YOU WILL BE TOO!

Your generosity and kindness are overwhelming.

God bless you, Upchurch

Gill



THE CHURCH BELL TOWER RESTORATION FUND ~

Did you know that "Upchurch" means "Church on the Hill"?

St Mary's Church has been at the centre of our village for nearly 1000 years and has been an important part of our village life for centuries!

We now need your help to raise £50,000 for urgent repairs to the Bell Tower

PLEASE HELP US TO PRESERVE THIS ICONIC STRUCTURE?

Events will soon be advertised on Facebook, Upchurch Matters and Upchurch Village News sites as well as in local shops and, of course, in Gabriel. So, ...

WATCH THIS SPACE !!!

Meanwhile, please donate whatever you can afford at

justgiving.com/campaign/upchurchbelltower

or send a cheque to

**Upchurch Parochial Church Council c/o Elspeth Baecke.
4 Bedfont House, Holywell Lane, Upchurch, ME9 7HN**



RAISING MONEY FOR THE CHURCH ...

.... and Saving on your Home Insurance costs

We went to renew our home buildings and contents insurance this year and noted Ecclesiastical had won an award for best insurance product. Their quote beat our existing insurer by over £100. Once we had accepted the quote Ecclesiastical asked me to nominate a church for their "130" donation whereby every new insurance sale means a donation of £130 to the insured's chosen church. We of course chose St Mary's, Upchurch. They said the donation works as a credit to the church's insurance because most Anglican churches insure with Ecclesiastical. The Church Warden of St Mary's has confirmed that the church is indeed insured with Ecclesiastical and so it seems that all villagers paying for home buildings and contents insurance have this opportunity.

Madeleine Thomson"



ADOPT-A-GRAVE SCHEME ~

St Mary's Church in the middle of the village has two burial grounds, the Churchyard immediately around the building and the Burial Ground, adjacent to the Parish Council Burial Ground, behind the Village Hall.

Many local family names are to be recognised on the headstones and some of these continue to be looked after by family members.

However, as often happens, families move and there is no longer anyone left locally to tend these graves. This is where the Church's Adopt-a-Grave scheme can help. This involves tidying up and caring for a specific plot during the growing season. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact:

Elizabeth Shorthouse ~ 07776-186155



THE FRIENDS OF WISDOM HOSPICE ~

Charity No 284894 ♦ Website: www.fowh.org.uk

We are on hand to help and encourage you to raise as much money as you can. Did you know for instance? For every £100 raised it will help to provide 4 hours of specialist end-of-life care at the Hospice.

CONTACT EMMA DENGATE ON 01634-831163 OR emmadengate@fowh.org. FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE AND OTHER FOWH FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE [uk](http://www.fowh.org.uk)

HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

FROM THE POTTING SHED >>>

[With thanks to our Suffolk Horticultural Correspondent]

Spring is well under way and April is one of the busiest months in the gardening calendar. Hopefully you have made a good start to the garden in March with the early spring weather. I have concentrated on getting the vegetable patch ready and splitting logs left over from last year and already the pounds have started to fall off. Energetic gardening is a healthy pursuit with plenty of fresh air and sunshine but start gently as it is easy to prang yourself after the long winter months.

April is the prime month to get the lawn into shape. Hopefully the first cut got down in March and you just took the top off. In April, the blades can be lowered to cut the grass to a height between 2" and 3". Scarify the lawn to get the moss out and aerate with a garden fork. Lift the fork a little to ease compaction of the soil and improve drainage. Apply the first weed and feed of the year using a high nitrogen product, which will generate new green growth and start to clear the weeds. Leave for a couple of weeks and then reseed any bare patches. Use a seed mix which contains a creeping grass as this will spread to fill bare patches and is self-repairing if damaged. April is also a good time for laying turf and carrying out edge repairs.

The potting shed is a hive of activity at the moment. Seedlings should be well under way and can be pricked out and re-potted into 3" pots. On mild days place them outside to harden off but watch out for April frosts. Cold frames are very useful to prepare seedlings for planting in May. I always do my Climbing Beans in April because they are prone to rotting off if the weather turns cold and they are slow to germinate. Also make sure that the potting compost is only moist and not wet. Use plenty of compost when preparing the soil as it really is "black gold". Turn over the compost heap to get at the good stuff on the bottom which I like to put through the sieve to separate the well rotted material. Soil condition is so important and makes a great difference to yields and plant quality. Maincrop Potatoes can be planted out in April for harvest in October and as always I will be doing Picasso. Rocket is a good Early Potato for boiling, but Picasso is excellent for mash.

The spring bulbs are giving a great show, Snowdrops are finishing off but still green and perfect for dividing. Collect the seed pods and plant about 1" deep and more will come up. Daffodils are flourishing but will fade in April. Let the top growth die away naturally as it helps to maintain the vigour of the bulb. Tulips will follow but tend to be vulnerable to rain and easily battered. Primroses can also be divided to increase numbers. There are a lot of summer bulbs on sale at the moment which can be planted now, which provides an extra option for the borders. For me, the borders are still about clearance, getting all the rubbish out of the ground, removing stones and improving the soil which is quite impoverished around the cottage. The good news is that the level of the vegetable patch has been increasing steadily which will provide some well conditioned soil for the borders.

Spring is such a vibrant time of year and full of optimism for the year ahead. I am hoping that this is the year when we really start to get on top of the garden. It had been neglected for

▶▶▶▶▶



many years and was in a derelict condition. The plot sits between two rather smart Closes with expensive detached properties and was a blot on the landscape to the dismay of the local residents. It's certainly no longer a blot but maybe a slight blemish. The plan is to turn this into a very pretty cottage and garden and this is the beginning of year three. The lifestyle is excellent but there is no time for swinging in a hammock. The week still seems to be five working days and a weekend...which means I enjoy Friday evening in the usual way!!

HAPPY GARDENING!!

Sean Barry

***A STEP BACK IN TIME* ▶▶▶**

THE STREET IN THE EARLY 1960S ▶▶▶

During the early 1960s The Street looked like it appeared at the close of the 19th century. The Co-op building, The Crown pub, the Infant's School, the Upchurch Stores and most of the houses which still exist were already in place. The only buildings not present at the beginning of the decade were those of The Poles housing estate.

At the Oak Lane end of The Street the Co-op building had a smaller interior than today and the counter faced customers as they entered. Charles Mileham, a short man with black hair and black rimmed glasses managed it.

The present-day barber's shop opposite the Co-op served as the village post office run by Cliff and Fay Wanstall. A red post box and a stamp machine were located in front of the building. Cliff Wanstall's sister Rhoda lived in the flat above the post office with her husband and a big bull mastiff dog called Max.

To the left of the post office Derek and Herbert Wildish occupied Myrtle Cottage while Alf, Emma and Jessie Castle lived next door in Vine Cottage.

Adjacent to Vine Cottage is the Infant's School where Miss Yates, later known as Mrs Titmus, served as headmistress and Mrs Thomas worked as the other teacher. Emily and Nora Glover worked as dinner ladies.

To the left of the Infant's School are Newbery Cottages, Acorn Cottage and Norman House. Some of the residents included Alice Ball, Fred, Hilda and Bernard Clemons, Ellen Boast, Win and Cyril Wraight and Newman and Elsie Glover.

Next to the cottages and opposite the church is a big White House that served as the Upchurch Stores run by James and Bessie Huggins. A red public telephone box was located to the right of the shop. A narrow pavement stretched around the corner into Forge Lane.

Anvil House was located on the opposite side of Forge Lane. On The Street side of this W H Hales butcher's shop managed by Dick Hales and assisted by Barry Madden faced The Crown pub.

An old 18th century building adjoined the butcher's shop where newsagent Fred Clemons had his newspaper sorting office.

Albert and Kitty Stewart managed The Crown pub. More basic than today, the pub had three





areas, a public bar on the left and a saloon bar on the right with a small area between known as the Bottle and Jug. The main entrance was located at the front of the building and the toilets were outside in the car park.

A unique little wooden house existed to the right of the pub but it was demolished and replaced by Wendy Hair Fashions salon. Next to this is the building known recently as Terrys fruit and veg shop. A succession of people occupied the shop which served as a general store and then as an antique shop during the 1960s. The Macdonald family owned the shop during the early 1960s. The adjoining Haslemere Cottages included residents Frances Wraight, Peter and Shirley Bailey and Betsy and John Seamer.

Laying further back to the right, Suffield Cottages were occupied by farm workers Alex and Celia Hayward and Albert and Daisy Clemons. An orchard existed to the right until the construction of The Poles in about 1963.

The terraced cottages opposite The Poles which had existed since the 1880s included Doctor Longford's surgery and residents Queenie and Valerie Sifleet, Ray and Beryl Sifleet, Charles and Joan Sifleet, Stan and Lilly Frost, John, Kathleen and Ernie Singyard, Louis and Nellie McKerns, Philip and Edna Kemp, Elizabeth Harrell, Len and Nellie Harvey, Jim and Emma Smitherman, Arthur and Minnie Bareham, Ivy Wicks, Ernie and Freda MaDden, Edward Robinson, Frank and Gladys Charlton and John and Doris Hamilton.

Changes have taken place during the past sixty years and there are many more parked cars than previously, but much of The Street remains unchanged.

David Wood.

IMPORTANT APRIL DATES ▶▶▶

Tuesday 1st April is APRIL FOOL'S DAY

CELEBRATED ALL OVER THE WORLD AS A MORNING OF JOKES AND TRICKS. FROM NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, WEBSITES AND TV STATIONS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN, ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE JOIN IN THE FUN. BUT DON'T PLAY A TRICK AFTER NOON - OR YOU ARE THE FOOL!



Wednesday 23rd April is ST GEORGE'S DAY

THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ENGLAND'S PATRON SAINT IS NOT A NATIONAL HOLIDAY IN ENGLAND, HOWEVER IT IS CELEBRATED BY FLYING THE ENGLISH FLAG AND BY TAKING PART IN TRADITIONAL ENGLISH ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MORRIS DANCING.

FEEL LIKE JOINING IN? >>>

*** VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS ***

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cricket Club | | Carolyn Sutton | 01634-378341 |
| Choral Society | | Sue Rossiter | 01634-234780 |
| Colts FC: | Secretary | Richard Divers | 07905-507338 |
| | Under 8s | Darren Wakefield | 07958-117063 |
| | Under 9s | Steve Hall | 07596-113663 |
| | Under 11s | Paul Garrett | 07917-410569 |
| | Under 12s | Darren Wakefield | 07958-117063 |
| | Under 13s | Richard Turner | 07903-094076 |
| Handbell Ringers | | Peter Boakes | 01634-230805 |
| Horticultural Society | | Tracy Wells | .upchurchsociety@gmail.com |
| Players | | Kay Wright | playersupchurchsecretary@gmail.com |
| Scouts/Guides: | | | |
| | Group Scout Leader | Julia Richardson | 07712-043621 |
| | Scouts | Julia Richardson | 07712-043621 |
| | Cubs | Darren Hatcher | 07917-003374 |
| | Beavers | Sarah Fowle | 07518-363652 |
| | Guides/Brownies | Tracey Snellings | 07926-006153 |
| Short Mat Bowls Club | | Malcolm Groves | 01634-388425 |
| Surgery PPG | | Ray Kemsley | 07713-165229 |
| Upchurch Active Retirement Assoc | | John Wishart | 07971-511956 |
| Village Hall Chair | | David Steward | upchurchvillagehall@yahoo.com |
| Women's Institute | | Wendy Pitts | 01634-362253 |

IN AN EMERGENCY ...

DEFIBRILLATORS are now available in accessible boxes situated adjacent to

- ❖ **THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY., Oak Lane**
- ❖ **SNAFFLES, Oak Lane**
- ❖ **UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**
- ❖ **BECKENHAM PARK – attached to the wall of the larger garage in 2nd car park**

NEED HELP? >>>

*** USEFUL CONTACTS ***

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Holywell School | Headteacher: Mrs M Murrell | 01634-388416 |
| | Forge Lane, Upchurch | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Swale Borough Council: | Swale Hse, East St, S'bourne | 01795-424341 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Borough Councillors | Chris & Richard Palmer | 07702-674721 |
| | 24 Station Road, | |
| | Newington, ME9 7JS | |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| County Councillor: | Mike Baldock | |
| | mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk | |

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Parish Council Clerk: | Mrs Nina Henley | 07798-600696 |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Vicar: | Rev Julian Staniforth | 01795-227329 |
|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Village Hall Booking | Deborah Martin | 07368-461507 |
| | enquiries@upvh.co.uk | |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer | PC13369 Jez Chittim | |
| | 13369@Kent.police.uk | |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Samaritans | 0845-909090 or 01634-842222 | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| Kent Wildlife Trust Rescue Service [Lorraine] | 07824-893399 | |
|--|---------------------|--|

**IN ORDER TO KEEP THESE
IMPORTANT PAGES AS UP-TO-
DATE AS POSSIBLE, PLEASE
REPORT ANY CHANGES TO THE
EDITOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Thank you for you cooperation

KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN & TIDY

*If no waste bin can be found,
Don't throw your litter on the ground.
Be it tin or card or Styrofoam,
Pick it up and TAKE IT HOME!!!*



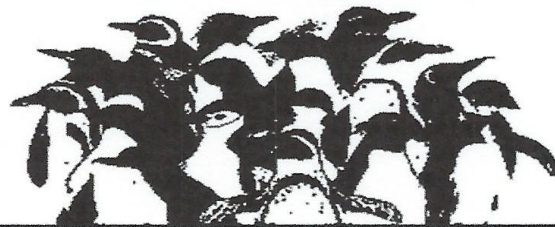
KIDS CORNER >>>

~ FRIDAY 25th APRIL ~
PENGUIN DAY

AWARENESS DAY TO HIGHLIGHT THE DANGERS THAT PENGUIN'S HABITATS FACE, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER OF PENGUIN SPECIES WHICH ARE ENDANGERED.



PENGUINS



CAMOUFLAGE
CHICK
COLONY
DIVING
EMPEROR
ENDANGERED
FEATHERS
FLIGHTLESS
FLIPPERS
GENTOO
GLACIER
HABITAT
HUDDLE
INCUBATE
KRILL
MACARONI
MADAGASCAR
MAJESTIC
MIGRATION
MOLTING
PREENING
SWIMMER
TOBOGGANING
TUXEDO
UNDERWATER
WADDLE
WATERPROOF

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| F | M | D | E | L | D | D | U | H | E | E | C | I | T | S | E | J | A | M |
| K | E | F | U | I | R | E | D | W | K | I | T | G | C | O | I | G | F | L |
| S | H | L | H | N | F | A | X | I | E | C | S | M | A | Y | N | X | O | V |
| U | G | C | A | M | D | E | C | U | F | A | E | P | J | I | O | A | O | S |
| E | F | E | A | T | H | E | R | S | T | L | N | L | T | U | R | I | R | S |
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| U | E | I | X | I | M | N | M | D | N | I | E | G | A | C | R | P | A | G |
| O | C | W | M | I | M | I | D | F | T | I | T | R | R | M | V | S | W | I |
| M | F | O | H | X | I | Y | G | A | W | K | N | L | O | U | P | G | U | L |
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| G | N | I | N | A | G | G | O | B | O | T | Y | V | N | D | L | K | F | S |

From the Emperor's regal stride to the Little Blue's swift swim, penguins captivate with their adaptability and charm in the coldest climates on Earth.

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PENGUIN PUNS

Q: How do penguins make a tough decision? A: They flipper coin!!

Q: Why do you rarely see penguins in the UK? A: Because they're scared of Wales!!

Q: What does a magician penguin say? A: Pick a cod, any cod...

THREE TOWNS THEATRE COMPANY ►►►

THREE TOWNS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS....

MURDER ON THE AIRWAVES

A 1940s Murder Mystery

Written by Samantha Grace

£15.00

Per Person

Fun, Laughs,
Music
and...MURDER

Saturday 12th April 2025 - Gillingham URC ME7 4PU - 2pm & 7.30pm
Saturday 26th April 2025 - Upchurch Village Hall ME9 7EU - 2pm & 7.30pm

To Book: Email: threetownscommittee@gmail.com
or call/text: 07720953383



KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

Wild Animal
Rescue Service



**If you find an injured wild bird or wild animal,
help is at hand on 07824 893399 (LORRAINE)
This is a local, entirely voluntary service.**

THE OAST COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Oast Community Centre, next to Rainham Railway Station, has various-sized rooms for hire at reasonable prices for groups and functions

For viewing and further details, please contact as follows:

Tel: 07717-624342 ♦ e-mail: enquiries@oastcentre.org

Visit: www.oastvcentre.org ♦ Facebook: @The Oast Rainham

<< To all local businesses – big or small >>

**WHY NOT INTRODUCE YOUR PRODUCT OR SERVICE TO A THOUSAND LOCAL
HOUSEHOLDS EACH MONTH BY ADVERTISING IN THE GABRIEL?
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE ♦ CHEAP RATES**

<< Contact the Editor for details >>

REMEMBER !!

This is YOUR magazine
so don't hide your light under a bushel

Contributions, in the form of artwork for the cover, articles of interest (historical, culinary, horticultural etc), readers' letters or suggestions for new features are always welcome. I cannot guarantee to use all that I get but I will do my best to accommodate everyone and everything. So ...

DON'T BE SHY ☺ GET IN TOUCH !!!

DON'T FORGET, KIDS !!

I would LOVE to receive your drawings (black & white, portrait please) for possible use on the front cover (or elsewhere) and there's a £10 token for any that I use !! Your favourite jokes too are always welcome

Editor

