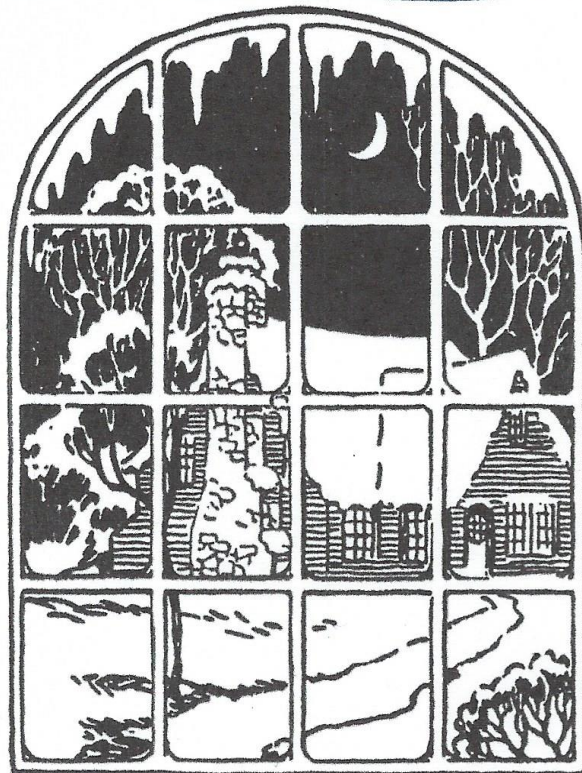


The
GABRIEL

UPCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

TWINNED WITH FERQUES-ELINGHEN, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE

December
2024
January
2025



SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

The Gabriel Team wishes all our loyal readers
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS &
A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2025

**FESTIVE
EDITION**





TEAM GABRIEL



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DAVE CANDY

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RAY LeBORGNE

WILLIAM LITTLE

*& all those who do the
door-to-door drops*

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 February Issue is

SATURDAY

18TH JANUARY

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, Editor

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*

◆ THE GABRIEL ◆

◆ THE FUTURE ◆

I am forsaking my usual editorial to update our readership on the current status of the magazine and our needs for now and the future

As I am sure you will have become aware, door-to-door deliveries of The Gabriel have been suspended for the last couple of months because of the non-availability of our printing/collating machinery.

You will also know that the production team is made up of entirely of volunteers and the (hopefully short-term) suspension is due to the unforeseen illness of the relevant team member.

Please be assured that I remain determined to resume normal service as soon as possible but, for this to happen, we need to recruit a new team member able to take on the printing and collating tasks.

This requires

- Storage of the machines in dry, warm and dust-free conditions
- About 3 to 4 hours per month carrying out the required work.
- NO delivery or collection responsibilities

I recognise that not everybody reads or has access to the online version of the magazine and would ask, therefore, that you "spread the word" among friends, colleagues, neighbours or fellow members of groups to which you may belong of our urgent need and, should you identify any bodt who may be interested, please ask them to contact me on 07710-443948 or upchurchgabriel@gmail.com.

I thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation.

I hope to have some encouraging news very soon

Dave Candy

Editor

REMEMBER !!

THIS IS YOUR MAGAZINE

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. I would respectfully remind you that, if you are an organiser, the Gabriel exists as an additional **FREE** means of publicity. Over 1000 copies are distributed each month so this should help swell numbers. However, I would advise that you contact me as early as possible, especially if your event is scheduled for the early days of the month. So ...

DON'T BE SHY. GET IN TOUCH!!

**THE WEATHER'S ON THE TURN !!!
KEEP WARM + TAKE CARE !!!**

NEWS FROM THE PEWS >>>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT >

Dear friends

WHAT IS GREATNESS?

Embedded in the slogan used by the US President-elect is the word *"great"*. Yet what do he & others around him mean by this? Is this for the many or the few?

We often now see the acronym GOAT (Greatest Of All Time) applied to the achievements of significant sportsmen in their different sports. So, in football there are debates about whether it is Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo, but what about Pele and Maradona? Who gets to decide? Not the players themselves. Yet the boxer Cassius Clay (before he became Muhammad Ali) famously stated *"I am the Greatest"* as part of putting down his opponent Sonny Liston before their fight, although he did go on make his point by winning the fight.

Yet it seems that self-proclaimed *"greatness"* can be about expressing a sense of self-serving superiority, arrogance with power and authority over others, rather than *for* others. Sadly, this can lead to violent conflict and war, as either an individual or system seeks to impose their will on and lord it over others. Is that really what *"greatness"* is all about, the subjugation of others? We see this being played out currently in different parts of the world as certain leaders vie for power with people just trying to live their lives, but paying the price, with their lives, homes and communities being devastated.

So, back to the question of who decides who is great or the greatest?

Jesus said, *"whoever wants to become great, is to first serve others"* Mark 11.43-44 in response to the desire for assumed power and significance on the part of two of his disciples James & John. He told them, in no uncertain terms, how even he *"did not come to be served but to serve"*. Such thinking is challenging. It was then and remains so today. For our assumptions about greatness are turned on their head. It is not about power and might, but about humility and service.

On Remembrance Day we remembered those who gave their lives in service for a *"land fit for heroes"*. Surely the claim to greatness of any land or society is measured by how the least are looked after. For Jesus said *"whatever you do for the least, you did for me"* Matthew 25.40. What better way for us today to continue to honour the sacrifice of those who gave their lives in war, than in serving others especially the more vulnerable in our midst. For in so doing, it is Jesus we are serving.

Blessings

Julian

Rev Julian Staniforth ~ Rector of The Six

RAINBOW CAFE

St MARY'S CHURCH

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER ♦ 2.00 PM TO 4.30 PM

Our theme will be Christmas. - there will be Christmas crafts for the kids, mulled wine for the adults, home made mince pies, and we might even sing a carol or two. There will also be our delicious home made cakes and savouries. We are very short of people coming at 2pm before the kids arrive at 3.20pm. Come with friends and enjoy a chat and coffee while it's quiet. Our home made cakes are delicious, and hot drinks are fair trade and very reasonable. And with every delicious mouthful you are helping us stand by our commitment to educate 4 Ugandan children.

Rainbow will also be open happening on

THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY ♦ 2.00 PM TO 4.30 PM

Come and sample a little Joy on a grey January afternoon. We will be there with our delicious fayre and our amazing snack deal for the kids.

WE WILL STILL BE THERE ON BOTH DAYS! PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!!!

Thank you for your support

The Rainbow Team



CHURCH FUNDRAISING SALE ~

The next Sales in aid of the Church will be

from 10.00 am to 11.30 am on

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER &

SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY

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, or please contact:

Deborah Martin – 07368-461507 – enquiries@upvh.co.uk

FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER >>>

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

MONTHLY REPORT

1. PLANNING

- a) 24/503019/FULL Pear Tree House, Otterham Quay Lane, Upchurch ME8 8QW Demolition of 4 no agricultural buildings and erection on 1 no self build dwelling and car port with associated hard and soft landscaping.. UPC has no objections but asks for neighbours comments to be taken into consideration.
- b) 24/503340/REMLand off Otterham Quay Lane, Approval of reserved matters (Appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the erection of 74 dwellings with public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access point pursuant to 21/501839/OUT. UPC has concerns that the planned entrance is on a bend and could cause issues. UPC has concerns regarding footpaths, no footpath to the west joining the route to Station Road and no route through following the crossing into Homefield Drive to Station Road and Rainham. UPC believed from the public inquiry that there would be a route through.
- c) Cllr Rosewell reported that application 24/503428LDC will be added to next agenda.



2. PADDOCK & RECREATION GROUND

- a) Play area equipment project. Clerk confirmed that UPC had been successful in gaining Swale Prosperity Fund Grant to add to the National Lottery Grant. Three quotes received and reviewed for older children's play equipment and members RESOLVED to accept quote 1 from Playdale for Athens equipment. Clerk to confirm order with contractor subject to site visit to confirm all costings.
- b) Play area signage. Clerk reported all new signs ready for installation. Cllr Rosewell to report suitable positions for new signs.
- c) Entrance barriers. Deferred to November meeting to allow Cllr Sheppard to investigate options for repair. Noted.
- d) Equipment. Clerk reported cross trainer is fixed and working.
- e) Goal posts deferred to November meeting. Clerk to obtain quotes with options for consideration.
- f) New tree. Members RESOLVED to purchase quotation 185050 the largest tree. Clerk to arrange delivery and installation as soon as possible.

3. BURIAL GROUND & CHURCHYARD

- a) H&S checks were carried out on all memorials – Clerk reported 2 memorials need monitoring no family could be identified, inspections will be made every 6 months. Noted.

4. HIGHWAYS & STREET LIGHTING

- a) Bus stop. No updates.
- b) Traffic calming in Oak Lane. Members had received information from KCC. No further updates.

5. FOOTPATHS

- a) Member of the Church reported the path by the west door gets muddy so they will be placing pea shingle there. Noted.

6. ENVIRONMENT

- a) Hedge trimming. Clerk reported this was scheduled in with contractor.
- b) Cllr Denny had previously reported residents leaving extra rubbish bags beside the public bins. Clerk reported that announcement was made on website / social media to highlight this and request residents refrain from doing this as they do not get collected. Noted.

7. ALLOTMENTS

- a) Allotments fees for 2025/26 to be considered by The Budget Working Group.

8. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

- a) No updates reported.

9. COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a) VE Day May 2025 – Cllr Rosewell reported that plans for this event will be reported at future meeting..
- b) Remembrance Day – Clerk reported that wreathes to be purchased. Poppy working party to be arranged for councillors to set up the lamp post poppies in





- a) the village weekend 26/27 October. Poppy Working Group Cllrs Ripley, Berntsen, Rosewell, Sheppard and Bodycomb. Noted.

11. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NEXT FULL MTG

- a) Beacon work to be updated.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Full Council: Thursday 5th December and 2nd January

Planning Committee and General Purposes Committee: Wednesday 18th December and Wednesday 15th January

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

THE VILLAGE BULLETIN BOARD >>>

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@holowell.kent.sch.uk or call 07706-002060.



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 SESSIONS ARE ON TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
and TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY**

UPCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ►►►

As the year draws to a close life with the WI continues at full speed. In November we held all our regular events, Kurling, Book Groups, Monthly lunch Club and our regular monthly meeting during which we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Dr Nicholas Henderson entitled "Whatever happened after Henry VIII ?" after which we had an opportunity to start our Christmas gift shopping with some lovely handmade items for sale on our "Trading Stall", from glassware to plush Gnomes!

Next month's meeting on ...

TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

... will be our Christmas Party. As you would expect from the WI there will be food, a lovely Buffet on this occasion with drinks and entertainment. This year John Hall will be singing for us while we eat (and possibly letting us "sing along" when we have eaten!)

Our next regular meeting will be on ...

TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

... and is our games evening, so the Beetle Drive will be back... and doubtless as stiffly competed as usual!

ALL LADIES ALWAYS WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND SEE WHAT WE GET UP TO.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from all at Upchurch WI!



UPCHURCH CHORAL SOCIETY ►►►

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Want to try something new in the New Year?

Upchurch Choral Society are always happy to welcome new members. We are a four-voice part choir and rehearse on Fridays in St Mary's Church, Upchurch. Rehearsals will resume on 7th February (time to be confirmed) for a concert on Sunday 11th May.

There are no auditions and you don't have to be able to read music.

If you're interested give me a call on 01634 361897,

Liz Walters, Secretary UCS



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2024 - UPCHURCH ►►►

The Remembrance Sunday service was led by Archdeacon the Venerable Andrew Sewell and took place in the church of St Mary the Virgin on November 9th. The Upchurch uniformed youth organisations paraded from Drakes Hut and formed a guard of honour along the entrance to the south door of the church. At the service, a very full church remembered all those who made the ultimate sacrifice in WWI and subsequent conflicts for this Nation. Many of those present wore their service medals or the service medals of their parents or grandparents. Eight wreaths were laid in turn in the Lady Chapel. The wreaths were on behalf of the Church, the Mayor of Swale, The Royal Navy Clearance Divers Association, Ferques [our twin village in France*], Upchurch Parish Council, Upchurch Scouts, Upchurch Guides and the Upchurch Brownies. The names of all those





on the Upchurch memorial tablets in the Lady Chapel who made the ultimate sacrifice in WWI and WWII were then read out in the order recorded. At 11.00 hours the bugler played the Last Post and the two minutes silence was observed followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

At the end of the service the choir led the congregation to the middle burial ground. Wooden Remembrance crosses were laid at each of the five War Grave Commission graves by present or past members of the Armed or Civilian services. Once the crosses were laid, all those present stood in silent Remembrance on what was a dull morning only brightened by the autumnal foliage. The Archdeacon concluded with prayers.

During Remembrance it was pleasing to see the village showing poppies on lamp posts, knitted poppies on the church railings and elsewhere. In the cemetery two tall crosses had been placed guarded by two silhouettes of "Tommys". My Royal British Legion thanks to those responsible for these displays.

**Upchurch Parish Council sends a wreath to Ferques for laying on Armistice Day when the French remember their war dead.*

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Honorary Alderman Gerry Lewin

UPCHURCH SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB ~

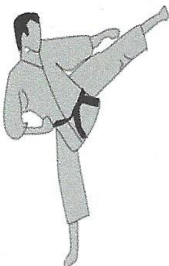
Teaching the Traditional Art of Shotokan Karate

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
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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

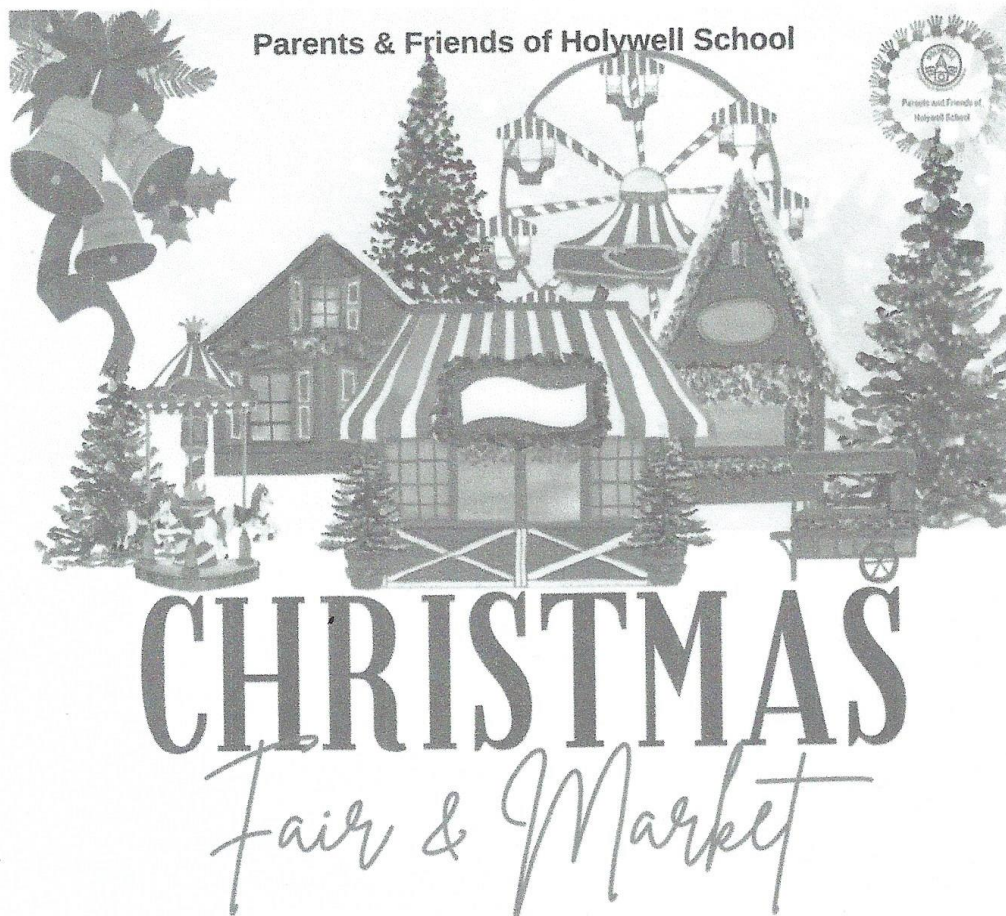
LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES MEAN MORE TRAFFIC THROUGH UPCHURCH,

▶▶ PLEASE TAKE CARE & STAY SAFE ◀◀

PARENTS & FRIENDS OF HOLYWELL SCHOOL ►►►

10/5/24, 3:23 PM

Christmas Fair 1st December.png



Join us for a day of merriment at our Christmas Fair and Market.
Experience the joy of the season with a delightful array of games,
treats, and entertainment for the whole family

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 11AM - 3PM

At Holywell Primary School, Forge Lane, Upchurch, ME9 7AE

Hot Festive Food - Bar - Games - Rides

Tombola - Raffle - Stalls

Enquiries - thowell@holywell.kent.sch.uk

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgzQXJQVpMSFmTssjZXphJBgcKdH?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

1/1

UPCHURCH PLAYERS ►►►

noda
By request by permission of the author

33RD PANTOMIME



THE SWORD IN THE STONE

A LEGEND LARGER THAN LIFE

5TH – 7TH DECEMBER
UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY MATINEE PERFORMANCE

DOORS OPEN – 2.00PM

CURTAIN UP – 2.30PM

EVENING PERFORMANCES

DOORS OPEN – 7.00PM

CURTAIN UP – 7.30PM

FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN UNDER 4 YEARS OLD
BUT MUST BE SAT ON AN ADULT'S LAP

TICKETS ONLY £8.50



SCAN
TO BOOK

or contact Tim:

☎ 07767 325610

✉ boxofficeupchurch@gmail.com



FOR ACCESSIBLE SEATING EMAIL
boxofficeupchurch@gmail.com



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, including planned events, can be found at www.upara.club

EVENTS DIARY ~ DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025			
DEC	Fri	6	VILLAGE WALK -- 10.00 am
	Mon	9	SOFT TENNIS ~ 11.00 am
	Tue	10	TEN PIN BOWLING ~ 10.00 am @ HOLLYWOOD BOWL
	Wed	11	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
	Fri	13	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am MONTHLY MEETING ~ 2.00 pm David Allen ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS< MR DICKENS CHRISTMAS PARTY ~ 7.30 pm
	Mon	16	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
		17	XMAS COFFEE MORNING ~ 9.30 am BOULES ~ 1.00 pm ~UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GC [*]
	Wed	18	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am LUNCH CLUB XMAS LUNCH ~
	Fri	20	VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am
	Mon	23	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
	Mon	30	NEW YEAR HOLIDAY (to 2 nd January) ISLE OF WIGHT
JAN	Mon	6	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am KURLING ~ 2.00 pm
	Tue.	7	COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
	Wed	8	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am
	Fri	3	VILLAGE WALK -- 10.00 am
	Mon	13	SOFT TENNIS ~ 11.00 am
	Tue	14	TEN PIN BOWLING ~ 10.00 am @ HOLLYWOOD BOWL
	Wed	15	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
	Fri	10	MONTHLY MEETING ~ 2.00 pm Michael Grillo ~ TWO KINDS OF TEARDROPS
	Mon	20	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
	Tue	21	BOULES ~ 1.00 pm ~UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GC [*]
	Wed	22	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
	Fri	17	VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am
	Mon	27	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am





EVENTS DIARY ~ DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025 [contd]			
JAN	Mon	27	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
	Tue.	28	COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
	Wed	29	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
<i>PLEASE NOTE:</i> There are NO Art Classes during December Due to the Upchurch Panto, there are NO activities IN THE VILLAGE HALL during the first week of December			

LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES MEAN MORE TRAFFIC THROUGH UPCHURCH,
▶▶ PLEASE TAKE CARE & STAY SAFE ◀◀

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 ~

A big thank you, ...

... to everyone who comes along faithfully every month, bringing your generous gifts of food and hygiene items, which enables us to support the Swale Foodbank. Upchurch is such a faithful loving village. God bless your kindness.

I will be in the layby opposite the church on

Wednesday 4th December between 10.30 am and 11.30 am
and, for January, as the first Wednesday falls on New Year's Day,
Wednesday 8th January between 10.30 am and 11.30 am

I KNOW YOU WILL BE TOO!

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**



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



CAROL SINGING ►►►

Like last year, I am organising carol singing on behalf of the Foodbank.

We will be at the corner of Marston Close on

Tuesday 10th December at 6.30 pm for an hour.

Then we will be opposite the church on

Thursday 19th December 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm.

Followed by coffee and mince pies in the church. On the 19th we will be accompanied by a guest trumpeter. Do come and join us on one or both evenings so we can lift our voices and raise money for the Foodbank.

Thank you

Gill

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"

SURGERY UPDATE >>>

MAIDSTONE RD, RAINHAM & UPCHURCH SURGERIES >>>

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

In October, 52 missed appointments were registered across the 2 practices. This marks a disappointing rise over last month's figure and indicates the need for a great improvement. With available appointment times at a premium, ..., ...

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

FLU VACCINES

Ample stocks of the vaccine are still available. So, if you are eligible, please contact the surgery to arrange your

FROM THE POTTING SHED >>>

[With thanks to our Suffolk Horticultural Correspondent]

We are well into autumn now and the leaves are cascading off the trees. The local fields have been ploughed and planted with Wheat and Barley but very little else. I do know a local Farmer who has kindly invited us round for drinkies this weekend so I will ask him about crop rotation....parties in these rural areas are like that. The weather is remaining surprisingly mild with decent temperatures for the time of year, very little wind and generally quite dry, except for the very heavy dew each morning which takes a few hours to clear. This means that work in the garden has continued and as yet the armchair is getting little wear and tear.

I am amazed at how healthy the lawn is looking and the fact that it will need another cut. I randomly sprinkled seed over it last September and it has germinated well filling a lot of the bald patches. I have started using a lawn weed killer instead of a weed and feed liquid to concentrate more effort on the weeds. A lawn only needs fertilising 3 times a year, but this lawn needs a weed killer more often. It is quite incredible how a rough bit of ground can be transformed with some thought and effort

▶▶▶▶▶



The Garlic and Broad Beans for next year have been planted out in well prepared beds. Trenches were dug to a depth of about 12" when the yellow clay starts (I would go deeper if I could). Then half filled with sieved compost from the heap, the spoil was passed through the sieve to fill the trench and mixed with a spade. The remainder was raked around to level the plot. This gives the soil an excellent tilth to allow roots to spread and using a 3/8" sieve allows enough grit to pass through to give drainage. The bed is finished off with a diluted liquid 7-7-7 general fertiliser. I simply cannot get my head around the idea of "no dig" gardening. As a boy I used to read my Father's books by the legendary Percy Thrower who was so adamant about the importance of well prepared seed beds. Maybe I am a horticultural dinosaur but I will stick to the old way!

The mild, dry weather has allowed bonus time to work on clearing the weeds which is both back-breaking and satisfying. I have simply started at the top left hand corner of the property plot and followed the borders around the back garden. The Duchess has set about the front and is making great progress. The good thing about autumn weeding is that you know the weeds will not return until next spring. The plan is to plant up the cleared borders with some decent perennials next year. However, there is some wonderful autumn colour in one border provided by a lovely Charm Chrysanthemum called "Suki". This was given to us by another horticultural legend called Mick Johnson when we lived in Upchurch. It has deep red petals with bright yellow eyes and is giving a great display at the moment. I will divide it up in the spring and give some away to others in the village. It is a great memorial to Mick who I remember fondly, mainly because he made so much fun of me!!

December is the time to order your seeds for next year and I will go to a little shop across the river in "Injun" territory, also known as Norfolk and will switch to Kings Seeds. The biggest drawback this year has been seed germination and the "old boys" are telling me that Kings are better. I am probably looking for gold at the end of the rainbow but will give it a go. I will then sit down and draw up my planting plans for next year with a nice cup of tea...yes...tea. Don't you just love doctors! Oh and Merry Christmas.

HAPPY GARDENING!!

Sean Barry

A STEP BACKIN TIME ▶▶▶

SCANDAL IN THE VILLAGE ▶▶▶

Way back in 1928 Upchurch residents had much to gossip about. A court case at Sittingbourne revealed the sordid details of a village relationship. Maurice Nelson, a Marine Engineer, had married his wife, Ruth, in 1917 and their son Reginald was born in 1918.

It transpired that everything was well with them until Maurice's job took him off to Nigeria in 1928. Behind his back, while he was away, 19-year-old Albert Packer from Otterham Quay moved into his house to cohabit with his wife, Ruth.

On his return, Maurice was obviously displeased but continued to live in his house, having nothing to do with Ruth. Giving evidence against Packer, he stated in Court that he did all the cooking and washing for the child and had no further use for his wife.

He had her allowed her £20.00 monthly while he was away and she had frittered away



all the £400.00, living with Packer while Maurice was in Nigeria. She now had the pleasure of having the house sold from under her.

All this came to light when Ruth applied for a Maintenance Order against Albert Packer. The Judge ordered that Albert Packer must pay 10 shillings a week for the child's upkeep. The relationship must have had an unhappy ending because, in 1929, Albert applied for the order to be revoked as Ruth was now living at Chelmsford, Essex. However, the Judge stated that the child was still Albert's responsibility and the order must stand.

Roger Harris.

KIDS' CHRISTMAS CORNER >>>

WORD SEARCH

CHRISTMAS



ANGEL
BOW
CANDY CANE
CAROLS
CHRISTMAS

COOKIES
EGG NOG
ELVES
GINGERBREAD
HOLLY

LIGHTS
MERRY
ORNAMENT
PRESENTS
REINDEER

SANTA
SLEIGH
STAR
STOCKING
TREE

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 Forge Lane, Upchurch	01634-388416
Swale Borough Council:	Swale Hse, East St, S'bourne	01795-424341
Borough Councillors	Chris & Richard Palmer 24 Station Road, Newington, ME9 7JS	07702-674721
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 enquiries@upvh.co.uk	07368-461507
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 your 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!!!*

