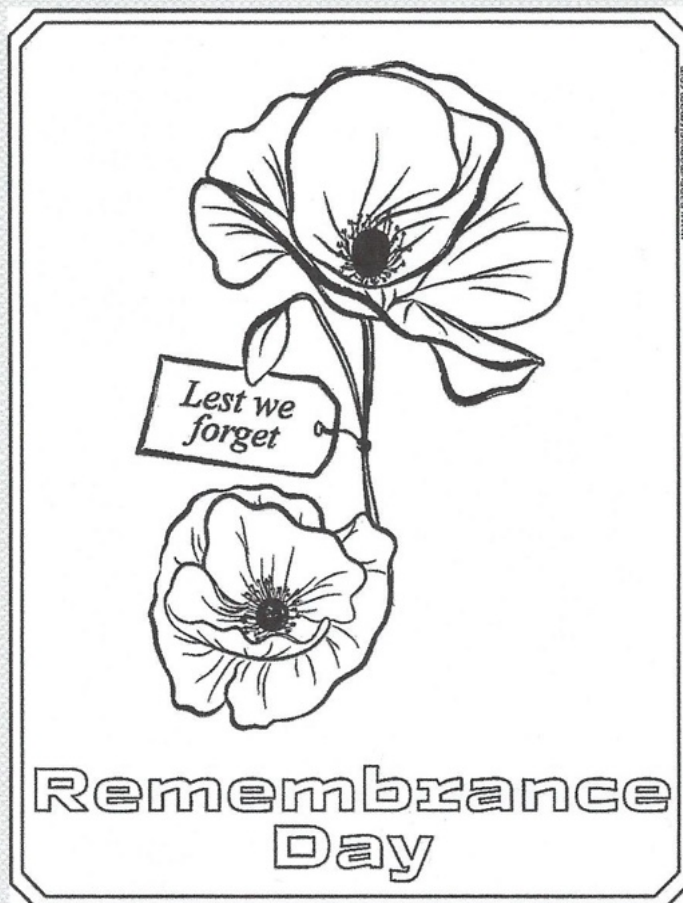


The
GABRIEL
UPCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

TWINNED WITH FERQUES-ELINGHEN, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE

November
2024

❁ MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER ❁



Remember, remember, the fifth of November
For all the RIGHT reasons

TAKE CARE!! STAY SAFE!!



TEAM GABRIEL



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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 December Issue is

MONDAY

18TH NOVEMBER

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*

FROM THE EDITOR >>>

Hello Dear Readers

As I sit to write this, it seems unlikely that we will manage distribution of the November issue but I remain hopeful that I can make an online copy available just to keep our regular readers up-to-date with current happenings in the village. I know this is particularly important as the Festive Season, with its many events, rapidly approaches.

As many of you will be aware, the absence of a distributed copy this month is due to the illness of William, who does our printing/collating and the consequent non-availability of the associated machinery. Our thoughts and best wishes go to William.

The team remain committed to the swift return to normal service and, with this in mind, **WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER THIS AREA OF PRODUCTION.** IT IS ONLY FAIR TO POINT OUT THAT THE JOB REQUIRES STORAGE OF THE MACHINERY IN A DRY DUST FREE SPACE, processing approx. 1100 copies per month and about 3 hours per month of one's time. If you think you can help and require more details, please contact me, details on page 2.

So, until next time ...

STAY SAFE, HAPPY + HEALTHY

All the very best from

Dave and The Gabriel Team



**DOG
FOULING
BAG IT and BIN IT !!**
or
**FACE THE PENALTY OF
A
£100
ON-THE-SPOT FINE !!**

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!!**

OBTUARY >>>

~ RAY PARKER ~

Our Dad, Ray Parker, sadly passed away on 22nd October.

Ray and his family lived in Upchurch for , where he started he started his Heating @ Plumbing business and where vans bearing his name can still be seen around the village today, for most of his life. Ray moved to Gloucestershire a few years ago. He will be loved and sadly missed always.

Mandy, Debbie and Steve

November 2024

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT >

Dear friends

It's good to gather with others of a like mind, relaxing together and sharing stories and ideas; not to mention eating good food prepared by others, and enjoying lovely surroundings! Rev Julian and I had just such an opportunity when we gathered with nearly a hundred clergy from around the diocese for a conference entitled *Together in Prayer*.

Prayer is not some kind of specialist and exclusive work just for those who are in ministry. The reality is that prayer is – or should be – the fuel that gives life to our Christian faith, however we express that faith. It's communication with God, in both directions, and like any relationship it requires time and effort. It's not just a case of reeling off a shopping list of our requirements and waiting for God to get on and fulfil our every desire, nor is it prescriptive and something we get grades for!

On the Saturday evening we had a speaker familiar to many in The Six: Hugh Nelson, formerly our curate, and now Acting Bishop of Truro. Hugh openly admitted he sometimes struggles with prayer, but made it clear that's not a reason to give up! Rather, we need to be willing to wrestle. Sometimes, prayer is just about turning up, and can be as simple – or challenging perhaps – as sitting in silence before God.

We had a speaker, Gemma Simmonds, a sister from the Congregation of Jesus, who was inspiring, entertaining and challenging. Prayer, and the Christian life, said Sister Gemma, is not a performance-related activity; rather, we need to be willing to be open to God, laying aside any pretence we carry around. We don't need to be competent, or particularly holy, or clever, to be loved by God. It's far more important to be completely ourselves. We are so used to putting on a face in the world, to hide our emotions, to pretend we are more in control than we are, or better than we feel. There is absolutely no need for us to pretend with God; in fact, it's a waste of time! As Sister Gemma said, God sees beneath our mask and loves what he sees. Even if we hide it from ourselves!

Prayer is a time to lay aside pretence, to stop striving, to be open and vulnerable, to listen and learn as well as speak. It's such an amazing thing to do, it's sad we spend so little time doing it!

We don't have to be in a particular place, or sit or kneel in a particular way, or use special complicated language.; As Hugh said, we just need to show up and do it! Particular disciplines of time, or place, or structure can be helpful. We're all different. It's a question of finding out what works for each of us and then perhaps we can experience prayer as sunbathing, as former Archbishop Rowan Williams describes it. Perhaps not an image that would occur to most of us!

But prayer should be about getting closer to the one who loves us most, and tuning in to what God wants for each of us. May you find God's blessings in that relationship of openness and vulnerability.

Every blessing

Rev Amanda



CHURCH FUNDRAISING SALE ~

The next Sale in aid of the Church will be

SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

from 10.00 am to 11.30 am

RAINBOW CAFE
St MARY'S CHURCH
THURSDAY 14TH NOVEMBER ♦ 2.00 PM TO 4.30 PM

Please come along and enjoy our delicious homemade cakes and savouries. We are very short of people coming from 2.00 pm until the kids arrive at 3.20. The last few months we haven't reached our target to pay what we are committed to pay for school fees for our 4 Ugandan children and for providing snacks for the their Saturday club. These are the poorest of children and it's a real joy to provide them with education and with small snacks for their club. We would hate to have to stop.

Our homemade cakes are delicious and hot drinks are fair trade and very reasonable. And, with every delicious mouthful, you are helping us to stand by our commitment to educate these 4 children. There is a board in the church with their photos and names.

And, of course, our kids snack deal - 5 items and a drink for a £1 - makes your visit even more worthwhile. Kids will also enjoy being artistic with some crafts and there will be a story.

WE WILL STILL BE THERE! COME AND JOIN US!!!!

Bless you

The Rainbow Team

SURGERY UPDATE >>>

MAIDSTONE RD, RAINHAM & UPCHURCH SURGERIES >>>

MISSED APPOINTMENTS

In September 31 missed appointments were registered across the 2 practices. This falls in line with what has become a "normal" month.. This said, with available appointment times at a premium, there is no room for complacency so, remember, ...

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

FLU VACCINES

Appointments for influenza vaccine injections are now available. If you are eligible please contact the surgery to arrange yours

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 Bernsten, 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 Cllr Denny reported that grant funding has been requested and decisions on equipment will be deferred until grant funding confirmed.
- b) Inspection of equipment report received from Safeplay. Cllr Rosewell reported that we had 6 low and 5 medium priority reports on the equipment. The medium priority were links – Cllr Rosewell to investigate replacing these links. New signage Clerk reported she had requested quotes from suppliers. Report in September meeting.
- c) Paddock wall Cllr Denny reported the work completed. Noted.
- d) Barriers Cllr Denny reported that she met with KCC Steward and remedial work is required to the entrance to the Recreation Ground. Cllr Denny suggested an engineer / contractor should advise best course of action and provide quote.
- e) Goal posts – deferred to September with options to be presented to council.
- f) Car park maintenance – work due to start 24 July 2024. Users of the car park have been informed.
- g) Play area signage – quotes to be obtained.

3. BURIAL GROUND & CHURCHYARD

- a) Burial Ground maintenance – tree work completed.

4. HIGHWAYS & STREET LIGHTING

- a) Streetlight reported not working. Reported to contractor.

5. FOOTPATHS

- a) Cllr Denny reported the handrail installed.

6. ENVIRONMENT

- a) Weed maintenance – Church Farm Road and Wallbridge to be reviewed.

7. ALLOTMENTS

- a) Cllr Bodycomb reported that inspections had taken place and tenants not working plots to high enough standard would be written to and given 6 weeks notice of next inspection. Report at September meeting.

8. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

- a) Cllr Rosewell advised that the defib in Beckenham Park had been called upon but was now fully operational. The Circuit updated . Noted.

9. FINANCE REPORTING

- a) Financial review – bank statement and reconciliation were received signed by Cllr Lewin. Noted





- a) Payments received – Burial Ground various received £1300.00.
- b) Cheques for approval litter picker: £78.00. Noted.
- c) Schedule of payments for approval. All Payments agreed proposed by Cllr Boakes seconded by Cllr Lewin. Members resolved to approve the schedule of payments.

10. CLERK'S UPDATES

- a) Clerk reported no updates on the Exercise of Public rights. Noted.

11. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NEXT FULL COUNCIL MTG

- a) Beacon work to be updated.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Full Council: Thursday 7th November

Planning Committee and General Purposes Committee: Wednesday 20th November

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

LOCAL ROAD CLOSURES MEAN MORE TRAFFIC THROUGH UPCHURCH,

▶▶ **PLEASE TAKE CARE & STAY SAFE** ◀◀

THE VILLAGE BULLETIN BOARD ▶▶▶

UPCHURCH CHORAL SOCIETY ▶▶▶

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 30th November 2024 at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Upchurch.

.....

Vivaldi's *Gloria* ♦ Fauré's *Requiem*

Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*

Entrance £12, children free.

Do come and listen to your local choral society singing in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Church, under the baton of our new Conductor, Francesca Massey. Refreshments available at the interval.

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 during January, can be found at www.upara.club

UpARA EVENTS DIARY ~ NOVEMBER 2024		
Fri	1	VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am
Mon	4	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am KURLING ~ 2.00 pm
Tue.	5	COFFE MORNING ~ 9.30 am TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
Wed	6	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
Fri	8	SOFT TENNIS ~ 11.00 am MONTHLY MEETING ~ 2.00 pm~ <i>Royal British Legion</i> ANNUAL QUIZ ~ 7.00 pm
Mon	11	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
Tue	12	TEN PIN BOWLING ~ 10.00 am @ HOLLYWOOD BOWL
Wed	13	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
Thu	14	Kent ARA TEN BOWLING COMPETITION
Fri	15	VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am
Mon	18	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
Tue	19	BOULES ~ 1.00 pm ~UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GC [*]
Wed	20	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am LONCH CLUB ~ UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GC PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
Mon	25	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
Tue	26	COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
Wed	27	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
[*] BOULES reverted to 1.00 pm start		

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

HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL ►►►

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN 2025?

We would love you to consider HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL for your child

Please contact the school office on

01634-388416 or office@holywell.kent.sch.uk

to book a 30-minute tour with the Head Teacher, Mrs Murrell, on any of the following dates:

- Friday 15th November - 10.00 am to 2.30 pm

If you cannot make a daytime appointment or would like further information, please let us know your attendance on Wednesday 6th November at 5.30 pm for an information meeting.

These tours are "first come, first served". Booking is essential!

We were really impressed how in depth the tour was and how personable it was with the headteacher

The school tours were well done and organised. I really liked that we were able to see every classroom!

It is a friendly community school. Staff are all friendly and supportive. Excellent communication between parents and teachers!

We feel that our children are safe, well cared for and the standards of teaching are high!

UPCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ►►►

Well autumn is well and truly here, but as I write the WI continues at full swing. At October's meeting we learned the interesting but gruesome history of Deadman's Island. We also held our autumn quiz which was well attended and enjoyed by all. Towards the end of October, a visit to The Police Museum at Faversham has been organised.

At our November meeting we will be hearing from Dr Nicholas Henderson, over the past few years he has regaled us with the history of the wives of Henry VIII. This time he will be speaking about "Whatever happened after Henry VIII". ►►►►►



Our "Trading Stall" will have a Christmassy theme this month, a chance for members to pick up some early Christmas gifts as well as the usual time for chat and a cuppa.

Our next meeting is

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

AS USUAL ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR A VISIT, WE DON' T BITE AND YOU ARE WELCOME TO " TRY BEFORE YOU BUY"



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 19TH NOVEMBER

UPCHURCH SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB ~

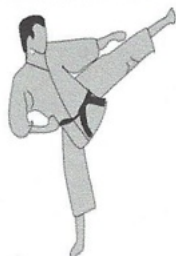
Teaching the Traditional Art of Shotokan Karate

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

TIME FOR A GIGGLE ▶▶▶

*A group of chess enthusiasts had checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out and asked them to leave. 'But why?' they asked
"Because if there's one thing I can't stand, it's chess nuts boasting in an open foyer"*

UPCHURCH PLAYERS ►►►

noda
Produced by noda

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:

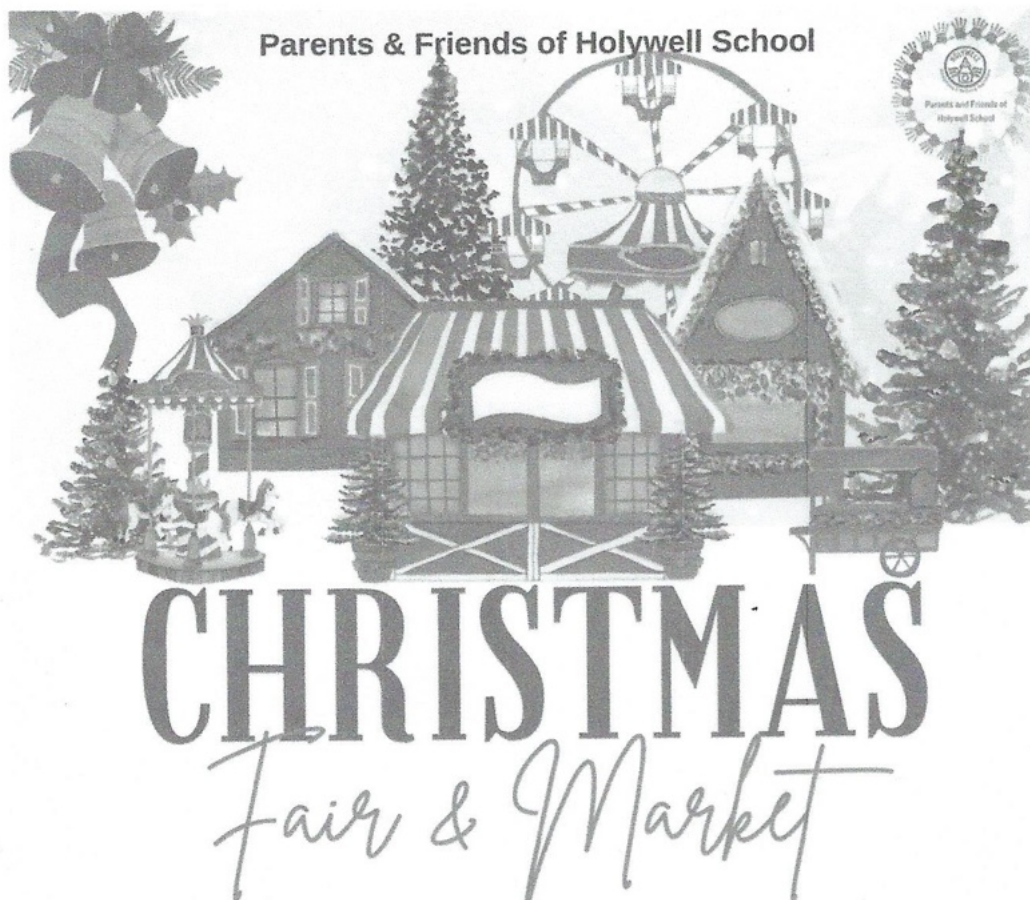
☎ 07767 325610

✉ boxofficeupchurch@gmail.com



FOR ACCESSIBLE SEATING EMAIL
boxofficeupchurch@gmail.com





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/FMfcgZXJQVpMSFfMtssjZXphJBgcKdH?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

1/1

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 came along in October, bringing your generous gifts of food and hygiene items which enables us to support the Swale Foodbank. Upchurch is such a faithful loving village. If you can start adding a few Christmas treats to your donations that would be amazing God bless your kindness.. Like last year I am hoping to organise some carol singing on behalf of the Foodbank dates to follow.

I will be in the layby opposite the church, once again on

Wednesday 6th November between 10.30 am and 11.30 am.

I KNOW YOU WILL BE TOO!

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

UPCHURCH CHRISTMAS MARKET

24th November ♦ 12 noon to 4.00 pm

Upchurch Village Hall

~~~~~

*20 stalls including:*

JEWELLERY, CANDLES, CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND DECORATIONS. CRYSTALS, BOOKS,  
*to name but a few.*

---

Hot food wagon [*Butler 's Butties*] ♦ Refreshments  
Tombola [for children & adults] ♦ Face Painting ♦ Raffle

---

*Raffle Prizes include*

- Family entrance to Wildwood
- Family entrance to Kent Life
- £25 - Voucher The Rose & Crown
- Meal for 2 at The Crown
- £20 Voucher - The Three Tuns
- £25 cash, Ginny ' s Gem Trees
- Cuddly Toy Horse - Tyrone Ripley
- Afternoon Tea for 4, Bridgewood Manor
- Afternoon Tea for 2, The Barnyard
- 2 x Pantomime Tickets for 2< Jack & the Beanstalk

*all raffle proceeds to*

**THE MEDWAY STREET ANGELS**

*who help the homeless and needy*

## THE FRIENDS OF WISDOM HOSPICE ~

Charity No 284894 ♦ Website: [www.fowh.org.uk](http://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](mailto:emmadengate@fowh.org). FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE AND OTHER FOWH FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIE, PLEASE [uk](http://www.fowh.org.uk)

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



## 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"*

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## FROM THE POTTING SHED ▶▶▶

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*[With thanks to our Suffolk Horticultural Correspondent]*

The autumn has definitely arrived and November is round the corner. October has been a wet month but nothing like last year that saw floods in one of the driest counties in the country. Interspersed with the rain there have been plenty of sunny days with temperatures in the 20s which has allowed work to continue outside, albeit with plenty of mud getting trodden into the house. No matter how careful you are with boots and the dog, clumps of dried mud get everywhere...but that's life in the countryside! The Sugar Beet crop is being gathered earlier than last year. Not sure if this is normal or whether last October was so wet it did not start until November. Either way, the fields are being cleared although not all are being ploughed. The dog loves the vast open spaces because she can see the deer in the distance. There was a time when she would take off after them but has learnt that they cannot be caught.

The lawn has been aerated, scattered with seed and has greened up with the rain and the final weed and feed. It just needs its last cut and then left alone. I am experiencing a love/hate relationship with this lawn as right now it looks lush and green whereas a month ago I was ready to give up on it. I will exchange more of the lawn for vegetable patch as growing vegetables is becoming a passion. However, a patch of good lawn looks lovely in a garden and worth the effort.

The vegetable patch is being cleared and dug over for autumn. Beds are being prepared for the Garlic and Broad Beans, although I am being warned that mice are a problem with Broad Beans. Spring grown Broad Beans are started in pots and planted out when they are about 6" high so mice are not a menace only the deer. Apparently other gardeners place steel mesh over the ground with a couple of spare beans in mice traps! I think they are still having fun with the new boy! The Tomatoes got blighted before the green ones ripened so have been cleared out, bagged up and put out with the general rubbish. What did ripen is chopped up and in the freezer for cooking. The Moneymaker produced a huge crop of Tomatoes but I doubt if even a quarter of it ripened before the blight struck. The Duchess on the other hand has taken virtually all of her Gardeners Delight Cherry Tomatoes which we have been eating like sweets all through the summer. The Climbing Beans are still showing a flush of flower but not sure if they will set. I will give them another week and then finally clear the patch, dig it all over and leave the winter vegetables in the ground.

The rest of the garden will get a final tidy up, although the weeds in the borders will carry over to next year as this constantly seems to be the job too far. On good days it is possible to work on the borders from the paths, but most of this winter will be spent organising the garage and the workshop as the outdoor work starts to lose its appeal. The one job that is important between now and the winter, is raking up leaves. If left, they get wet and start to rot and can cause disease in lawns and borders. Rake them up and spread them on the compost for next year.

It's time to sit down and meditate on the year gone by and draw up the plans for next year. I think this will involve a change of seed supplier, more effort on clearing the weeds and a new self-designed potting shed for both vegetables and perennial plants. I hope you are all enjoying your

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gardens and like me, enjoy the more dormant times. Don't forget to keep it fun and a little of what you fancy does you good.

## HAPPY GARDENING!!

*Sean Barry*

### KIDS' CORNER >>>



#### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November is Dr WHO DAY

Also known as TARDIS day, this is the anniversary of the first ever transmission of Doctor Who. Wear a bow-tie, a long knitted scarf or put celery on your lapel. Or just eat some jelly babies.

#### Doctor Who

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

TIMELORD  
EXTERMINATE  
WHOVIAN  
TARDIS  
DR WHO  
SILENCE  
ADVENTURE  
BOW TIES  
THE DOCTOR  
THE MASTER  
CAPTAIN JACK  
DALEKS  
COMPANIONS  
ROSE  
RORY  
SPACE  
POLICE BOX  
FEZ  
MARTHA  
CLARA

#### THE MOST FAMOUS DR WHO JOKE EVER

*Knock knock. - Who's there? - Doctor. - Doctor Who? -  
Oh, I see you know that one!*

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**NEED HELP? >>>**

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**\* USEFUL CONTACTS \***

|                                                      |                                     |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Holywell School</b>                               | <b>Headteacher: Mrs M Murrell</b>   | <b>01634-388416</b> |
|                                                      | <b>Forge Lane, Upchurch</b>         |                     |
| <b>Swale Borough Council:</b>                        | <b>Swale Hse, East St, S'bourne</b> | <b>01795-424341</b> |
| <b>Borough Councillors</b>                           | <b>Chris &amp; Richard Palmer</b>   | <b>07702-674721</b> |
|                                                      | <b>24 Station Road,</b>             |                     |
|                                                      | <b>Newington, ME9 7JS</b>           |                     |
| <b>County Councillor:</b>                            | <b>Mike Baldock</b>                 |                     |
|                                                      | <b>mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk</b>     |                     |
| <b>Parish Council Clerk:</b>                         | <b>Mrs Nina Henley</b>              | <b>07798-600696</b> |
| <b>Vicar:</b>                                        | <b>Rev Julian Staniforth</b>        | <b>01795-227329</b> |
| <b>Village Hall Booking</b>                          | <b>Deborah Martin</b>               | <b>07368-461507</b> |
|                                                      | <b>enquiries@upvh.co.uk</b>         |                     |
| <b>Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer</b>             | <b>PC13369 Jez Chittim</b>          |                     |
|                                                      | <b>13369@Kent.police.uk</b>         |                     |
| <b>Samaritans</b>                                    | <b>0845-909090 or 01634-842222</b>  |                     |
| <b>Kent Wildlife Trust Rescue Service [Lorraine]</b> |                                     | <b>07824-893399</b> |

**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!!!*



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**FEEL LIKE JOINING IN? >>>**

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**\* VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS \***

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

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> car park**