



# *The Escallop*

## *St James the Great, Staple*



Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year



*December 2025*

[theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com)

70p

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**Articles and notices for the January/February edition of The Escallop  
to the Editor by Monday 12 January 2026  
PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT DEADLINE**

### Disclaimer

The Editor reserves the right to cut, edit or refuse to publish any contributions and does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in published articles. Contributors are asked to confirm relevant information has been agreed when mentioning others.

All advertisements in the magazine are inserted in good faith, but the magazine committee accepts no responsibility for any statement made by the advertisers; nor endorses the products or services offered.

### Editor

January/February– Claire (Distribution – Bridget)

If you are interested in joining the Escallop editorial team, we would love to hear from you. Please email [theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com) or contact one of the existing editors.

Please note that the monthly editions of Escallop are also posted electronically on the staple-online website at [www.staple-online.com/escallop.html](http://www.staple-online.com/escallop.html).



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## Rector's Letter



### A Story of Hope, and a New Beginning for All

Christmas has a way of drawing us back to the heart of what is important. In the middle of a busy December, when we get surrounded by lists to finish, meals to prepare, and presents to wrap. We are invited to return once more to a stable in Bethlehem. We gather around a story we know so well, and yet every year it speaks to us in a fresh way.

The gospel of Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem at a time that felt anything but peaceful. There was no room at the inn, no comfort, no certainty of safety. And yet into that very ordinary, slightly chaotic scene, God stepped in with extraordinary grace. The birth of Jesus did not take place in a palace or at a place of great importance, but instead in the vulnerability, simplicity, and quietness of a stable. God chose to come close.

And perhaps this is the gift of Christmas every year for each of us. The reminder that God still comes to be with us in our ordinary moments, our messy lives, our worries about the future, our hopes and our fears. The birth of Christ is not simply a lovely story from long ago; it is the declaration that light continues to shine in the darkness. As we draw near to the turning of another year, we often begin to think about new beginnings, creating hopeful resolutions, long-delayed plans, and the chance for fresh starts. The New Year gives us a chance to take stock of where we are, and where we feel called to go next.

But Christmas reminds us that new beginnings are not achieved by our strength alone. They begin with God's gift of grace. Before we make any plans or promises for the year ahead, we begin by returning to the manger, to the God who meets us where we are, and who gently leads us into where we could be. So, as you read this, whether your year has been joyful, difficult, surprising, or a mixture of all three, hear again the good news:

*God is with us.  
In our homes.  
In our families.  
In our churches and communities.  
In every new beginning we long for and every step we are about to take.*

May the story of the Christ-child bring you comfort, encouragement, and a renewed sense of hope. And may the coming New Year be marked not only by resolutions, but by an opportunity to know God in a new and wonderful way.

From all of us here at Church, I wish you a peaceful Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

**Rev Andrew Brown**

### ST JAMES THE GREAT

Please do come and enjoy one of these special Christmas events in our ancient parish Church



#### CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**7.00 p.m. on Wednesday 17 December 2025**

Readings and carols to celebrate Christmas  
All welcome ~ to be followed by festive refreshments



#### CRIB SERVICE

**4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve**

This is an informal family service which retells the Christmas story with words and songs. Bring your friends and families, come and meet Goose, the donkey and stay to enjoy tea and cakes afterwards/



#### CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

**10 p.m. on Christmas Eve**

An opportunity to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and start the celebrations in peace and joy.

## Staple Events Calendar

Monday 1 December 2025	
Tuesday 2 December 2025	
Wednesday 3 December 2025	
Thursday 4 December 2025	Prayer service, 6.00pm – 97 Sandwich Road, Ash
Friday 5 December 2025	
Saturday 6 December 2025	
Sunday 7 December 2025	No Service in Church Staple Church Christmas Fayre – 11 am – 3 pm
Monday 8 December 2025	
Tuesday 9 December 2025	Church Cleaning – from 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Church coffee morning – The Dell, The Street – 10 am – 12 pm. Parish Council meeting, 7.30pm, Staple Village Hall
Thursday 11 December 2025	
Friday 12 December 2025	
Saturday 13 December 2025	
Sunday 14 December 2025	Christingle Family Breakfast – 10am – Staple Ch
Monday 15 December 2025	
Tuesday 16 December 2025	Carols at the Black Pig – 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 17 December 2025	Carols by Candlelight – Staple Church – 7 pm
Thursday 18 December 2025	Woodnesborough Gardeners Christmas Party
Friday 19 December 2025	
Saturday 20 December 2025	
Sunday 21 December 2025	Staple Church – 10 am – Holy Communion
Monday 22 December 2025	Christmas Quiz – 7.30 p.m. – The Black Pig
Tuesday 23 December 2025	
Wednesday 24 December 2025	Christmas Eve 4 pm - Crib Service – Staple Church 10 pm – Christmas Communion – Staple Church
Thursday 25 December 2025	Christmas Day
Friday 26 December 2025	Boxing Day
Saturday 27 December 2025	
Sunday 28 December 2025	No service in Staple – Benefice Service in Eastry
Monday 29 December 2025	
Tuesday 30 December 2025	
Wednesday 31 December 2025	New Year's Eve New Year's Eve party at the Black Pig
Thursday 1 January 2026	New Year's Day – Bank Holiday
Friday 2 January 2026	
Saturday 3 January 2026	
Sunday 4 January 2026	Staple Church – 10 am Holy Communion
Monday 5 January 2026	
Tuesday 6 January 2026	EWB Churchwardens' meeting – Eastry Church Hall
Wednesday 7 January 2026	
Thursday 8 January 2026	British Legion Post Christmas Dinner – 7.30 pm – Black Pig Sandwich Local History Society – 7pm – Sandwich Guildhall
Friday 9 January 2026	
Saturday 10 January 2026	
Sunday 11 January 2026	Staple Church – No Service
Monday 12 January 2026	Arts Society, Sandwich – 7 pm – Sandwich Guildhall
Tuesday 13 January 2026	
Wednesday 14 January 2026	
Thursday 15 January 2026	
Friday 16 January 2026	Lea Wood Working Party – 10 am



### Waste and Recycling Collections

To check your collection day, Christmas collection or to report a missed collection, please see <https://collections.dover.gov.uk/property>.





## Useful Contact Numbers



Eastry and Woodnesborough Benefice (incorporating the Church of St James the Great, Staple) Rector – Rev Andrew Brown 01304 611323 (or via a Churchwarden)

If you have any enquiries about baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact The Benefice Office, Church Hall, Church Street, Eastry CT13 0HH. The office is open from 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Contact 01304 611323 (with answerphone). Email [eastry.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:eastry.benefice@gmail.com).

Alternatively, please get in touch with one of the Churchwardens.

Church Wardens	Trevor Bartlett Vanessa Nedderman	07980 300084 07702 068488
Staple PCC	Sue Coulson – Secretary Pat Heathfield – Treasurer	01304 812340 01227 713396
Parent & Toddler Group	Heidi Stevenson	01304 812050
Staple Parish Council	Cllr Trevor Bartlett Chairman	07980 300084
Clerk to Parish Council	Lucy Denny	<a href="mailto:clerk@stapleparishcouncil.co.uk">clerk@stapleparishcouncil.co.uk</a>
Staple Pre School	Currently closed	<a href="mailto:trustees@staplepreschool.co.uk">trustees@staplepreschool.co.uk</a>
Staple Wildlife Friendly Village		<a href="http://www.staplewildlifefriendlyvillage.org">www.staplewildlifefriendlyvillage.org</a> <a href="mailto:contact.swfv@gmail.com">contact.swfv@gmail.com</a>
Staple Craft Group	Vanessa Nedderman	07702 068488
Footpaths Officer	Roger Loukes	07771 657732
Staple Village Hall	John Kirk – Chairman Clare Marsh – Bookings	07596 235852 07802 617197
District Councillors	Cllr Trevor Bartlett Cllr Martin Porter	07980 300084 07733 111334
KCC Councillor	Cllr Peter Evans	07599 412556
<a href="http://www.staple-online.com">www.staple-online.com</a>	John Kirk	07596 235852
Parish Magazine	<a href="mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com">theEscallop@gmail.com</a>	07702 068488
Neighbourhood Beat Officer	<a href="mailto:Jon.Bowler@kent.police.uk">Jon.Bowler@kent.police.uk</a>	
Dover District Council	<a href="http://www.dover.gov.uk">www.dover.gov.uk</a>	01304 821199 <a href="mailto:customerservices@dover.gov.uk">customerservices@dover.gov.uk</a>

## St James the Great, Staple: Services for December 2025

Everyone is very welcome at all services – please do come along and join us.

If you need further information, please contact Vanessa (07702068488) or Trevor (07980 300084).

Details of services in other benefice churches can be found at [www.ewbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ewbchurches.org.uk)

**Thursday 4 December**

**STAPLE**

6.00 p.m. Prayer Service



**Sunday 7 December**

**STAPLE**

Woodnesborough

**Second Sunday of Advent**

No Service

10.00 a.m. Family Service



**Sunday 14 December**

**STAPLE**

Eastry

**Third Sunday of Advent**

10.00 a.m. Christingle Family Breakfast

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion



**Wednesday 17 December**

**STAPLE**

7.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

**Sunday 21 December**

**STAPLE**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion



**Wednesday 24 December**

**STAPLE**

**STAPLE**

**Christmas Eve**

4.00 p.m. Crib Service

10.00 p.m. Christmas Communion

**Wednesday 25 December**

**STAPLE**

Eastry

Northbourne

Woodnesborough

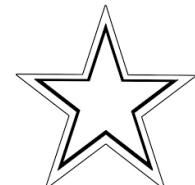
**Christmas Day**

No Service

10.00 a.m. Christmas Communion

10.00 a.m. Christmas Communion

10.00 a.m. Christmas Communion



**Sunday 29 December**

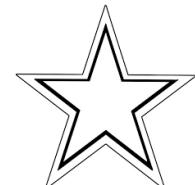
**STAPLE**

Eastry

**First Sunday of Christmas**

No Service

10.00 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion



**Sunday 4 January**

**STAPLE**

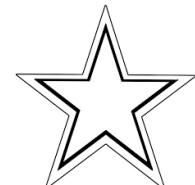
Woodnesborough

**Epiphany**

10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion

10.00 a.m. Family Service



**Sunday 11 January**

**STAPLE**

**Epiphany 2**

No Service

Date	Sidesman	Music	Readers	Prayers	Server	Coffee	Verger		
7 Dec			No Service in Staple – Christmas Fayre						
14 Dec	Rae	Rhyd	Pat	Don	n/a	Trevor & Team	Sue		
17 Dec	Rachel	Paul	Various	Rector	n/a	Sue, Pip, Pat	Vanessa		
21 Dec	Roger	Paul	Denis, Zoe	Rae	Don	Zoe & Vanessa	Andy		
24 Dec (4 pm)	Frances	Vanessa (CD)	Children	Children	n/a	Neddermans	Trevor		
24 Dec (10 pm)	Vanessa	Pat (CD)	Pat. Kate	Vanessa	Trevor	n/a	Vanessa		
29 Dec			No Service in Staple						
4 Jan	Ursula	Paul	Andy, Shelley	Tessa?	Don	Kate & Zoe			
11 Jan			No Service in Staple						



### Flower Rota

December Christmas 4 & 11 January	ADVENT – GREENERY ONLY All Arrangers Vanessa and Sue
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### Private Prayer in the Church

The Church building is open every day for private prayer from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

### ZOOM SERVICES

The benefice will continue to meet virtually at 10 each Sunday morning using Zoom. You can join a service by following the link on the benefice website at [www.ewbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ewbchurches.org.uk).

## Round and about in Staple and Shatterling

*Do you have a story to share? We would love to hear from you - new neighbours, new arrivals, get well wishes - please send details to [theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com)*

Here we are in the twelfth month of the year! There is something undeniably magical about this month – with Christmas fast approaching. For many of us, it truly is the most wonderful time of the year. It's a season that sparkles with joy, generosity and togetherness, yet beneath the glittering surface, Christmas can often carry a quiet weight of reflection. In between juggling the endless to-do lists, there is also the urge to revisit some of year's triumphs and trials.



For us here in Staple the church fundraising team are organising the traditional Christmas Fayre on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and there are the usual Christmas services to be held in the church - we do hope to see you at some of these and all details can be found in this edition.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents who have given us articles this year including details of new arrivals, new neighbours and get-well messages to be included in The Escallop. We always like to hear from you so please keep us updated and we can include your messages in future editions. We would also like to thank our two editors, Claire and Vanessa and all those who deliver the Escallop each month – Anne-Marie, Bridget, Debby and Chris, Frances, Helen, Justin, Mike, Rowena, Shelley, Sue and Trevor, – we really appreciate you giving up your time to help keep everyone in touch.

We would like to give a very warm welcome to James and Graeme who have moved from Deal into Lambourne House, Barnsole Road. We hope that you have unpacked all the boxes and wish you much happiness in your new home.

Many Congratulations to Tom and Danielle Ripley from Ripley's Garden Centre who on 10<sup>th</sup> November welcomed into the world their beautiful baby daughter, Hallie Ripley, who weighed 6lb 9oz.

Older residents in Staple may remember Pat Coleman who was clerk to Staple Parish Council for many years and latterly to Stourmouth Parish Council. Pat made some good and loyal friends along the way. Sadly Pat lost her battle with cancer on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and passed away with Mike her husband and family by her side. She also was the manager at Wingham Country Market, where she organised everything and enjoyed delivering fruit and vegetables to local pubs and restaurants where she always had a catch up and chat. Her funeral will take place on Monday 8th December at 1.00pm at Barham Crematorium.

Woodnesborough Gardeners Club will be holding their Christmas Party on Thursday 18th December in Woodnesborough Community Hall.

### Church Notices

The organist's heater in the Church has disappeared. If anyone has borrowed it – please could you return it as soon as possible – our organists cannot play if they are not kept warm. If anyone knows anything about its disappearance, please could you let Vanessa or Trevor know.

### Help needed

After the Christmas Fayre, the Church is usually in a bit of a mess with crumbs and glitter everywhere!

To tidy it up and clean it ready for our Christmas services, we will be holding a working party on Tuesday 9 December from 5.30 p.m. Please do come along and help if you have an hour to spare!

Thank you

### Hunt the Donkey!



This is Goose who is a beloved Staple resident. He will be making a special appearance at the Crib Service in the Church at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Please do come along and meet him. There are 15 little donkeys hidden in this edition of the Escallop (including the one here) – see if you can find them all!



## Staple Coffee Mornings

There was no formal coffee morning in November but a few regulars met at the Rose Garden Café to catch up. The Christmas coffee morning will be held from 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. on Wednesday 10 December at The Dell, The Street, CT3 1LN, home of Peter and Michelle Beer. Instead of the usual bring and buy, there will be a raffle. All welcome.



## Staple Church Fundraising

A very successful Barn Dance was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November when the Hog's Back Band entertained a large crowd of people at Staple Village Hall. The caller for the event was the very talented Malcom Gaynor who soon got everyone up dancing. There was a lively atmosphere with plenty of toe tapping and do-si-do moments enjoyed by all that attended. Special thanks go to David Searle who was the main organiser of the event who persuaded the band he is part of to come back again to Staple.



Thanks also go to Zoe Workman for organising the raffle, Graham and Kathy for giving everyone a very warm welcome and to the team in the kitchen, Hazel, Annette, Andy and Trevor. Once we had taken out the expenses, we are delighted to inform you that the event made a profit of £457.85. Many thanks to everyone who made that possible.



The Church fundraising committee would like to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to those who have supported the fundraising events that we have put on over the year, with donations of raffle prizes and especially to the businesses in our area and to all the residents who have supported them by coming along. The events would not have been so successful without you.

The last event of the year will be the traditional **CHRISTMAS FAYRE** which will be held in the Church. Please come and join us on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 11.00 until 3.00pm. The Fayre looks like it's going to be packed with stalls and sideshows as we have the most craft stalls we have ever had.

If you are planning on arriving at the start, there will be plenty of homemade cakes on offer. For those looking for an early lunch there will be a lovely selection of homemade rolls with plenty of delicious fillings including turkey and cranberry. This year we will be offering homemade vegetable soup with crusty bread and of course mulled wine (for a donation). There will of course be plenty of tea and coffee served throughout the day and if you are planning on arriving during the afternoon there will be more homemade cakes, mince pies and cup-cakes for you to enjoy. We would be very grateful if you have time to make a cake, biscuits or buns for the stall - you can give these to Michelle Beer or bring them up on the day.

We will of course have the traditional **Grand Draw** with lots of prizes. Tickets are already on sale at £1 for a ticket or £5 for a book - please contact any church member if you would like to buy. The ticket printing has once again been sponsored by WINGHAM ANIMAL PARK. First prize this year will be a £100 in cash which I am sure will come in very handy as Christmas approaches. Second prize will be a Luxury Christmas Hamper kindly donated by Horizonscan Limited and Third Prize is a restaurant voucher for The Jackdaw Inn, Denton.



As well as the Grand Draw there will also be a **Children's raffle** this is being run by Penny Tester and Sharon Powell and all the money raised on this stall will go to The Children's Society. Donations of children's prizes would be gratefully received.

We have so much going on this year and especially for the children. New to the Fayre this year will be a **Teddy Tombola** with over 100 prizes including not only teddy bears but other soft toys - it's only a £1 a go and even better there is going to be a prize for everyone, so no one will feel disappointed. We are also going to include a **children's craft table** with lots of exciting things to make which will be located in the vestry where you can also find a lucky dip and guess who else will be in there ? Yes - **Father Christmas** will be seated in his grotto.



We have invited the community team from **Dover District Council** who be there to answer any of your questions on council matters and will have plenty of goodies to be given away to the children. Clare Beggs will be running a quiz for children and she will be found near the entrance to the church.

Kate and helpers will be running the usual **Christmas Tombola** and there is still time to let Kate have any prizes that you would be willing to donate. Near the tombola there will be a Treasure Hunt organised by Rae Martin who will have a map that will show 'Santaland' and you will have to guess where Santa has hidden his sack!

There will also be a **Fruit and Vegetable stall** so please support this and get your local grown produce that has kindly been donated by Trevor and Steve Bradley local farmers from Preston, AC Hulme and sons local grown fruit farmers and APS group local tomato growers from Ash. The traditional spout stalks will be on sale and yes if you buy them at the Fayre they will still be absolutely fine if you keep them outside to use for your Christmas lunch,

We are pleased that **Preston Forstal Marsh** will be attending this year again with their delicious Apple Juice - everything they do is by hand, from picking and home pressing to bottling and pasteurising their juice.

We will also have a **gift stall** which is being run by Mary and Denis. They would welcome absolutely anything that is in good condition or new this can range from toiletries to gift packs, jewellery or Christmas gifts etc, If you have any items suitable please let Trevor know and he will arrange collection.

Trevor will be running his version of '**The Wheel**' when ten people will take their luck at choosing a number between 1 to 10 then the wheel will spin and the dial will land on one of the numbers and the lucky winner will receive a tub of chocolates of their choice.



Last year Kathy came along with her '**Buzz Wire Game**' and we are delighted that she is joining us again, so please try your skill you will just need a steady hand with eye coordination! It's that simple (or maybe not). Roger has been very busy baking in his kitchen and has made a delicious (so I am told) Christmas cake. You will all have an opportunity to win this masterpiece by guessing what time it went in or maybe out of the oven - all to be revealed on the day.

We are delighted that the Staple Pipe Dreamers will once again be entertaining us at 1.00pm on the day. They have been playing together for over ten years and have attended the Fayre many times so welcome back ladies.

This year we have a great selection of craft stalls joining us – one of which will be run by '**Staple Crafters**' who have been extremely busy over the past few months making some wonderful craft items to tempt you, These will include homemade Christmas crackers, tree decorations, Christas bunting and gift bags.

Also joining us and in no particular order there will be :-

**Olga Taylor** - her stall will include classic bead and wire work with the use of upcycled materials, including colourful aluminium coffee pods, sea glass from local beaches and plastic bottles. From miniature to larger items, light to wear and rather fun.

**Petals and Flowers** will be run by Tracy Hadley-Lawrence who has been running her business for the past twenty years selling plants, bulbs, ornaments plus wreaths for Christmas and now sells candles and gifts for indoors and outdoors.

From Wingham Roy Brooks and his daughter whose stall is '**Coastal Crafts Ahoy**' which is items made from driftwood, shells, recycled jewellery.

We are delighted to welcome back **Lynda Logan** who has not been able to attend for the past few years, you may well remember her with her stall at the Country Fayre you will find her amongst her gifts of bags, tea cosies and boxes.

From Goodnestone we will have **Craig Illman** who is a craftsman making **Saxon Sticks**.

Returning again this year will be **Marion Fox** who makes and sells a wide range of craft items which make lovely Christmas presents.

**The Dogg Shop** who you will have found at the Dog Show have also asked to join us so you will be able to get your favourite dog a special Christmas gift. They are a family run independent lifestyle store for your dog who offer a selection of products from natural treats to dog toys, leads, collars, harnesses and hygiene related brands, all chosen for style, comfort, enrichment and where possible, ethically sourced and based in the UK.

**Wendy and Angela** will running their stall with homemade cards and wood turning gifts.



Bev Murton and her stall '**Bespoke Knitted Designs**' will have a wide range of hand knitted toys and Christmas decorations.

And local teenager **Amy Connelly** will be selling beautiful light-up gin bottles filled with warm fairy lights, perfect for adding cosy sparkle to any space. A unique, eye catching gift for everyone!



We are looking forward to seeing you all at this year's Christmas Fayre, as you can see from the above article we will be having a packed church with stalls and sideshows so please do come along and join us for this Christmassy event.

I would also like to personally thank the fantastic team that we have on our fundraising committee, they have worked really hard and have put on some amazing events - your support and efforts and enthusiasm have been greatly appreciated.

We are yet to decide what events we will be organising for 2026 as we are going to take a couple of months break and will have our next meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at The Dell to decide. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas.

However, one event that we are very excited to announce is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026 we will hosting a ABBA Tribute Band - '**ABBA Chique**' in the village hall, please put the date in your diary and further details will be provided in due course.

### Christingle 2025



Why not come and bring your family to Staple Church at 10 a.m. on **Sunday 14 December 25** to make and decorate a Christingle.

Our craft session will be followed by a short service and breakfast (including bacon rolls!). There will be a collection in aid of the Children's Society

*The Children's Society first introduced Christingle to the Church of England in 1968. Churches celebrate Christingle in different ways but the spirit remains the same. We learn what each element of the Christingle represents for Christians and celebrate Jesus coming into the world to be our light and saviour.*



# Carols under the Tree at The Black Pig

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm

**Bring your musical instruments, voices, family and friends for this annual village treat.**

If you'd like to play in the band for the Carols email [drburridge@gmail.com](mailto:drburridge@gmail.com)

#### Other Events at the Black Pig This Christmas

Monday 22nd December at 7:30pm - Christmas Quiz

Wednesday 31st December 7pm-1am - New Year's Eve Party

For more details please contact the pub



## Ripley's Garden Centre



Hi - I'm Malcolm from Ripley's Garden Centre here in Staple, and on behalf of all of us, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. Whether you visit for your gardening essentials or to relax in our café, we're truly grateful to be part of the community.

We're thrilled to announce that we're holding our Craft Market on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> November! A magical weekend packed with festive charm. Expect real donkeys, a traditional carousel and a sweet-treats van for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, wood-fired pizza and drinks, and even a Braai-style BBQ. It's set to be a wonderful celebration the whole family can enjoy.

Christmas truly begins at Ripley's. As our cut and pot-grown Christmas trees arrive in the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November. Every tree comes with free same-day delivery on purchases before 2pm, making it easier than ever to bring the festivities home. You'll also find a gorgeous selection of decorations, lights, and handmade real holly wreaths to help you deck your halls in style.

While we're busily preparing the garden centre for a bright and blooming spring, our café team has been crafting something special too! A fabulous Christmas menu and a beautifully indulgent festive afternoon tea, perfect for a seasonal treat.

We're also holding a charity event in support of bone cancer trust! Our staff will rack up the miles dressed as elves to raise money for this great cause! We're also holding a raffle with some amazing prizes! See in the cafe for details!

We look forward to welcoming you in for a magical start to the festive season.

From all of us at Ripley's thank you for supporting your local garden centre and we can't wait to celebrate with you.

Many thanks,  
Team Ripley's

[info@ripleysstaple.co.uk](mailto:info@ripleysstaple.co.uk)  
[www.ripleysstaple.co.uk](http://www.ripleysstaple.co.uk)

Lower Rd  
Staple  
CT31LH  
01304 813267



CHRISTMAS MARKET WEEKEND

29th - 30th November

Local Artists, Crafters & Creators

Feed & pet the donkeys

Stalls available £5 per day - ask at the tills for further details

RIPLEY'S  
Garden Centre

## Our Local Panto Star

Did you know that Staple (well Shatterling) has its very own panto star? The Escallop caught up with Paddy Holden as he settled into the annual panto run at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury. This year's panto is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs starring Sarah Hadland (*Miranda, The Job Lot*).

Paddy is the son of Marlowe Theatre Legend, Phil Holden and attended Canterbury College where he studied Creative Media Production on which he received the highest grade possible - a A++. After performing alongside his father for many years, Paddy has decided he still wants to continue his acting career. This will be Paddy's 10<sup>th</sup> pantomime season, and he has now been acting for over 15 years. His first appearance as Loopy in Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs was when he was only 10 years old. Paddy's first professional appearance was in the 2011 movie 'Your Highness' which co-starred James Franco and Natalie Portman. Paddy has also appeared as the main role in Kit (2025), the upcoming hit short film from Oscar winning Slick Films. After performing in many theatre shows across the country. Paddy has finally returned to his hometown to perform this year as one of the Magnificent Seven.



A Marlowe Theatre and Evolution Productions co-production

### **SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS**

#### ***Paddy you are starring in this year's panto at The Marlowe Theatre as one of the seven dwarfs in Snow White, what is like playing along side Sarah Hadland the villain?***

"Sarah is an absolutely amazing person to be working with. She is so kind and very talented. She doesn't let the celebrity achievement get in the way of her lifestyle. She treats everybody with respect no matter who they are."

#### ***Sounds like it's going to be great fun, I understand it's completely sold out up until Christmas - that's a lot of performances, do you find it tiring?***

"The only time I find tiring is during the tech rehearsals. That's a lot of standing and waiting to be told where to go and stand etc. apart from that I don't get that tired. Maybe except on a three-show day."

#### ***Apart from Sarah do you know many of the other cast members?***

"I met Phil Gallagher (Mister Maker) on my first panto when I was 10. He didn't recognise me at first but he clocked who I was straight away. I've worked with a few of the Seven before as well so it's nice to see some familiar faces."

#### ***What is your favourite scene in the Panto?***

"My favourite scene is the finale dance. The dance itself is to Robbie Williams famous song Let Me Entertain You."

#### ***What was your first job and what other roles have you played?***

"My first pantomime I performed in was when I was 10 and it was in St Albans. A long time ago that was. So far I have played 5 different roles within the 7 dwarfs. Would love to one day do a different Pantomime such as Aladdin or Cinderella and play an average height role with my stature."

#### ***What are some of your biggest achievements and how did you accomplish them?***

"My biggest achievement to date has to be the lead role in an upcoming Short film called Kit. It is produced by Oscar winning Slick Films and I play a teenaged who has been sidelined in life by his mother who is ashamed of her son's condition. Very moving film."

#### ***What are your favourite hobbies?***

"My favourite hobbies are watching the football and formula one as well as a nice long walk with My Chiweenie (Chihuahua/Dachshund) Poppy"

#### ***Who are the most influential people in your life?***

"My Mom and Dad and my Grandparents mean a lot to me. If it wasn't for them and their support I wouldn't be where I am today."

*As told to the Escallop's roving reporter, Trevor Bartlett*

**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs runs at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury from 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 [marlowetheatre.com](http://marlowetheatre.com)**

## Staple Country Fayre



It's hard to imagine that just five months ago we were all enjoying the sunshine and the warmth of long summer days, and the Staple Country Fayre!

As with all previous Country Fayres, this one was a resounding success. The event (as always) was also a financial success, and enabled the Fayre Committee to meet in full all of the donation requests:

Staple Church, Staple Woodland Trust, Staple Parent & Toddler Group, The Summerfield Turtle Dove Project, The Staple Wildlife Friendly Village Group, and Staple Village Hall.



As with all fayres, some stalls and attractions made less than they did the previous year, and some made more. Examples of the latter include the ever-popular Pimm's Bar and the equally popular Refreshment Hall.

The searing heat resulted in a scaled-down presentation by the Beachbuddies Group. (i.e. from two arena appearances to one). But the Fayre's house band, The Southern Cruisers made up the missing time by extending their set.

The Committee has learned through years of experience what does and doesn't work / who is reliable (and who isn't) / which attractions and facilities are worth retaining/repeating;

This is why we once again called on the services of Neil McCollum to plan and manage our parking/traffic management.

We kept our entrance fees un-changed. We provided free, nearby parking (incl. disabled parking). We used the same excellent personnel at the entry pay-points.



But we also made some changes/ tried new things: We improved the toilet facilities. We added a Hoopla Stall. We had a new Ground Crew (and they were magnificent!) - Ash RFC. We had a new MC (Mike Davis-Marks). We had help from a new source: Ripleys (who manned the Coconut Stall).

A combination of several tweaks to the format, the retention of old favourites; and the inclusion of new attractions and personnel all helped to keep the event fresh and to once again make it a resounding success.

Over the years, as people have left the village this has resulted in the loss of several 'committee stalls', such as Play Your Cards Right, Bash a Rat, Spin The Wheel etc. The Fayre Committee would love to have more attractions run by local people. If you'd like to run an attraction; or even just help running an existing attraction, then please contact me. (John Kirk - [john.kirkpa@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.kirkpa@btopenworld.com))



## Remembering Roy

*In the last edition of the Escallop, we noted the passing of Roy Richards, long term resident of Staple and remembers by many in our community. His daughter, Angela, provided this overview of his life,*



Roy was born at The Black Pig on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1940. As a child he lived in Sholden with his parents Albert and May and older sister Gwen. When Roy was 6, the family moved to the Black Pig after the death of Roy's maternal grandfather and Roy went to Staple School where he was in various school plays including Dick Whittington, where he played Dick. Roy was also a choir boy at Staple Church,

When he was 11, Roy went to Sandwich County Modern Secondary School. Outside school he helped his parents about the pub, in the shop and worked with local farmers. He also has a paper delivery round. He left school at 16.

Once Roy had passed his driving test, he drove for his father's taxi firm and helped out at J Dilnot Smith undertakers as a driver for many years. He also drove lorries to market for Bob Knight of Mill Cottage. Working for Bob, he met Janet who was staying with her Aunt Lil, Bob Knight's wife and in 1964 they married in Maidenhead. The young couple made their home at East View in Mill Road.

After his marriage, Roy continued working for Knights and helping other locals out and took on the village paper round. Roy and Janet's son, Andrew, was born in March 1965 and their daughter, Angela, a year later. Roy was a sidesman at the church and was involved with the Escallop for many years - even printing the Escallop on a duplicator was a family affair.



Roy's parents retired from the Black Pig after nearly 25 years and in the late 1970s Roy started working for Leo Wessel at Layham Nurseries in Summerfield. He continued to work at Layhams even after moving to Ash in 1986. Roy was a member of Staple British Legion and was Standard bearer for 18 years.

Roy would give anyone his time and knowledge and even after he retired 20 years ago, he continued to help people either taking them shopping or doing their gardening. He always had a story to tell. No-one had a bad word to say about him - apart from maybe talking too much!

Roy wasn't very well for his last few years, and this stopped him getting out and about as much as he would have liked. However, he did enjoy the cricket and darts on the television. Roy sadly died in October, and his funeral was held in mid-November. Our thoughts are with Andrew and Angela and all Roy's wider family and friends.



### Sandwich Local History Society

Thursday, 8th January 2026

AGM and 'Open Forum' -short presentations by members

6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. in Sandwich Guildhall  
Members Free. Non-members £5

## Your Village Church needs your help!

As readers of the Escallop will know, we have been running a campaign to increase the regular giving to the Church to ensure that it stays financially solvent, continues to offer services open to everyone and remains part of our village community and life. Thank you to everyone who has responded and signed up to help. We don't have a final total yet – it takes time to get full details from the Parish Giving Scheme – but a number of people have been very generous and we are very grateful to everyone who has been prepared to help. We hope to be able to provide a full report in the January/February edition of the Escallop. Obviously we still really welcome any donations so the details of how to help are given below:

## How can you help?

If you do not give regularly at the moment, you can join the Parish Giving Scheme. This is a secure and simple way of giving to Staple Church on a regular monthly or quarterly basis. It works by making a direct debit from your bank account and using the system you can add gift aid (which the scheme claims on our behalf) and you can opt to increase your giving automatically each year so that you don't have to think about it. Even very small monthly donations can make a huge difference to a Church.

If you can't manage to give regularly but would like to make a one-off donation, you can also do this through the Parish Giving Scheme using a debit or credit card or Apple or Google pay. You can also pop into Staple Church and use the card donation machine which will shortly be installed there.

There are three ways you can set up a regular gift with the Parish Giving Scheme.

- Online – visit [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) or scan the QR code
- By phone – 0333 002 1271 (Monday to Friday – 9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.)
- By post – ask a member of the PCC for a paper application form or find one at the back of the Church.



You can also support Staple Church through the Dover District Lottery  
<https://www.doverlotto.com/>

## The Escallop

You may not be a regular subscriber to the Escallop and may be wondering why it has dropped through your letterbox. The magazine is a village newsletter produced by the Church for the village, edited and distributed by volunteers. It aims to keep everyone in touch with what is going on and there are 11 editions a year, with the December edition delivered to all houses.

## Escallop Subscriptions 2026

The Escallop is funded through subscriptions, donations and advertising – our aim is for the magazine to pay for itself – any small surplus is donated to Church funds. Subscriptions for 2026 will remain at £7.00 per year. These will be due in early January. Your distributor will call to collect your money during January or will drop an envelope into you. If you know who they are, please do drop the money through their door to save them coming to you. If you do not receive the Escallop at the moment and would like to, please email [TheEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:TheEscallop@gmail.com) and we will arrange for someone to deliver to you.

Online payments for subs can be made direct to the PCC bank account:

## Parochial Church Council of Staple

Sort Code 60-18-34 Account Number 97211524.

Please use the reference “Escallop Subs”

To help us to track online payments, please could you email the [TheEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:TheEscallop@gmail.com) to confirm that you have paid this way, including your name and address? This is really important as we do not currently have online banking and it takes a while for the information about payments to reach us. Thank you very much.

If you would like to advertise in the Escallop please use the same email. Payments for advertisements for 2026 are due in January and can be paid direct to the bank account. If you know of anyone who would like to advertise in the Escallop, please do put them in touch with us.



(Photo – Andrew Edginton)

After purchasing the Staple Turtle Dove Summer Field in 2016 we were lucky enough to observe up to 7 or 8 of these beautiful birds each year for several years. Turtle Doves are very susceptible to disturbance and unfortunately since 2022 there has been considerable disturbance. During this time numbers have dropped and this year we had just one pair.

This year there has been a noted decline in numbers locally, according to our wonderful RSPB contact, Nicole, who has supported us unstintingly from the outset. We regularly saw 2 birds, though sadly we did not see a juvenile this year, possibly due to the awful storms in June.

On a more positive note, the hedges and trees including Oak, Hawthorn, Rowan and Wild Cherry, Elder, Holly, Blackberry and Wild Clematis, “old man’s beard” are thriving and are making a Turtle Dove friendly tangled mess!

We are very grateful for the generous donation from the Staple Country Fayre Committee which will be used to repair the door of the hide and reline the pond which has suffered many tears and punctures from visiting birds and animals with large claws this year!

The Tingey's, joint owners of the project, have moved to Mull. Tim Powell is now helping and if there is anyone else in the village who would like to help with general maintenance of the plot please do get in touch.

[drburridge@gmail.com](mailto:drburridge@gmail.com)



### Staple Crafters

Staple Crafters met for the first time this Autumn in October and learnt how to make fabric gift bags. Thanks to Rachael for her very clear instruction and to Katie for a lovely cake. The next meeting will be on Saturday 29 November from 3.00p.m. until 5.00 p.m. when we will be making items for our stall at the Christmas Fayre. There will be no meeting in December but we will reconvene in January (date to be finalised).

A small group of us met in mid November to makes some crackers to be sold at the Fayre. We made over 60 crackers in a couple of hours and they will be available to buy on our stall. Do come and visit us there.



Staple Crafters are a group of local people interested in crafts of all kinds, who about once a month to eat cake, drink tea and share our crafting aspirations and skills. We are a very informal group – if you are an experienced crafter or a beginner who just wants to learn more, please do come along. Sessions are held in Staple Village Hall on a Saturday afternoon and there is a small cost per session. If you would like to know more, please email [vanessanedderman@googlemail.com](mailto:vanessanedderman@googlemail.com) or text 07702 068488



## Staple Recreation Ground

It has long been the ambition of the Staple Village Hall & Recreation Ground Management Committee (VHC) to install a fence around the play equipment.

The layout of the equipment means that any fencing would need to be over 90 metres long. But the cost of supplying and fitting powder-coated metal fencing would be in the tens of thousands of pounds! And even installing a wooden version would cost more than the Village Hall Committee has in its account.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Cllr Roger Loukes came across a very useful form of funding in the form of a grant. And he instantly passed on the relevant information to the Village Hall Committee.



But there were a few drawbacks. Firstly, the cut-off date was literally a week or so away. Secondly, the proposed project would need to be finished by the end of December. And thirdly, there was a strict upper limit on the amount that could be requested.

A hurriedly convened Village Hall Committee meeting resulted in a unanimous vote to apply for the grant, and to use that grant to install a perimeter fence around the play equipment. Thankfully, the Village Hall Committee has an ultra-efficient and very persuasive Secretary. (Michaela Shaw-Sales). The relevant paperwork was quickly sent off; and equally quickly the committee were informed that they had been awarded a **100% grant towards the cost of the fence**.

While awaiting a response about the grant, the Village Hall sought quotations from several contractors. These varied from horrendously expensive, affordable but not suitable; and a true 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' style quotation: Just right!

The quotation exactly matches the committee's requirements. The contractors (JT Contracting Services Ltd) are a well-known, local firm with an excellent reputation; and with several examples of their work around Staple.

So it's a massive thanks to Cllr Roger Loukes, Michaela Shaw-Sales; and of course, to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (for the grant).

Incidentally, the proposed project comprises:

- A wooden round top palisade fencing 1.2 m high.
- The material used will be prepared treated timber (which limits the risk of splinters to children).
- The posts will be mortise jointed (rather than nailed on rails).
- The fence will have four corners and one heavy framed 1.2m wide gate (to allow for wheelchairs/disabled access).
- All posts will be concreted in by a minimum depth of 600 mm.



Staple Village Hall & Recreation Ground Management Committee





*Meeting at the Black Pig, Barnsole Road, Staple on the second Thursday of each month. We welcome new members. You do not have to have served in the Armed Forces to become a member, only have the aims and objects of The Legion at heart: Comradeship, Welfare, Representation and Remembrance. Want to join? Ring 0800 307 7773 or join online at: [www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/membership). Please contact the Secretary, for more details by email at: [TRBLStaplesec@btinternet.com](mailto:TRBLStaplesec@btinternet.com) or just turn up for a meeting – watch The Escallop for special events. Do have a look at our website on: <https://rblstaple.wix.com/rblstaple> where there is much of interest, including Lost Sons of Staple profiles and the story and pictures of the construction of the Remembrance Garden.*

November, season of Remembrance and our most poignant time of the year is now behind us and with much accomplished. The Service of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday followed its familiar and much-loved pattern led by Padre Michael with his usual skill at hitting just the right note. We remember our own losses alongside Staple's Lost Sons, among us in the congregation – "There, but not there." The 2 Minute Silence of our youths seemed to last forever, now it seems not nearly long enough. At the close of the service, wreaths were laid by Staple Royal British Legion, the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Banner Club and Staple Parents and Toddlers group at the War Memorial beside the crosses in the sad little 'Field of Remembrance.' Mission accomplished, we gathered for a cheerful and excellent lunch in the Black Pig's beautifully restored dining room.

Since the making of the Garden of Remembrance to the Lost Sons of Staple in 2014 it has been our custom to gather there at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of Armistice Day to hold a short service and to observe The Silence. Even on busy working days a goodly crowd of villagers attend this special little plot in the heart of our village. Some years ago, a group of cyclists from Thanet happened to pass by and stopped to pay respect. Since then, they have appeared every Armistice Day and we are touched and delighted to see them along with so many of our friends and neighbours.

Poppy Appeal Collection Boxes were situated in businesses and sites around the village for those wishing to wear a Poppy and donate to this worthy cause so dear to the nation's heart. The Black Pig, ever generous to Staple Branch RBL, contributed the proceeds of their Quiz to the bar-top collection box and a member held a quiz with neighbours to add to his collection box. In her first year as Staple's Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) Sharon is thrilled that, with much still to be registered, we have already exceeded last year's collection and we thank all who contributed so generously to this worthy cause.



Christmas is a busy and joyful time for many, including the Black Pig, and we elected some years ago to forego a meeting and a Christmas Dinner in December. Our next gathering will be our **Post Christmas Dinner on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Friends and supporters are most welcome to join us so look our for menu choices in your late-December inboxes.

Wishing all our Branch Members and our many Friends and Supporters a

***Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.***

## Staple Banner Club

Around 50 years ago Staple Branch of the Royal British Legion was in need of a new Standard. Then, as now, Branches were not allowed to spend 'Legion' money, being charitable money, on a Standard and a sympathetic member came up with the idea of the Banner Club to raise the money to pay for it. Initially, and for many years thereafter, it worked in a similar manner to the Millennium Club. Participants paid a set sum per month and a



monthly draw was held for cash prizes. Older villagers will remember this well as it was a huge success. After the new Standard was bought the Banner Club continued and profits were donated to various good causes. Eventually the monthly draw fell by the wayside but the club continued with a reduced membership, to raise funds. It receives a number of donations for specific purposes such as memorial benches. The 'There But Not There' figures in the church on Remembrance Sunday, for instance, were funded through the Banner Club by a donation for that purpose.

Because of its initial purpose, the Banner Club has always been sympathetic to the Royal British Legion and to Staple Branch and, since 2014 and the National Centenary commemorations of WW1 it has helped with the successful production of 'The Lost Sons of Staple' in the village hall and with the furnishings and maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance and continues to do so. It continues to donate to local 'good causes' and recent recipients include the Kent Air Ambulance, a number of local Lifeboat Stations, Demelza House, the RBL locally, the LSOS Garden of Remembrance, Pilgrims Hospice, Staple PCC for the Church Restoration Fund, to RBL County HQ and to the Poppy Appeal.

Staple Branch, as part of the British Legion registered charity, is not allowed to make donations to other charities but in a spirit of reciprocal assistance, members help the Banner Club in its fund-raising by running raffles and doing odd jobs around the village. If you would like more information or are interested in assisting the Banner Club in any way, please contact either the Secretary on 01304 812348 Or the Treasurer on 01304 812030. Either will be happy to help.



## Lea Wood

### **Staple village community woodland**

*(Entrances in Bates Close and behind the Bus Stop, opposite St James' Place)*

From its beginnings in 1994 at the instigation of Kent Rural Community Council and the enthusiastic support, both practical and financial, of a great many villagers, Staple Community Woodland was born. In the more than 30 years since then, it has matured into a tranquil and beautiful wood, a lovely place to wander, walk the dog, sit and contemplate, have a picnic, give the children space to run around, listen to the birds and to take in nature. It's your wood so please use it!

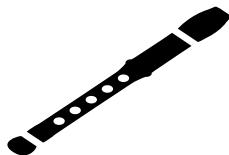


A good deal of maintenance is required, of course, to keep the wood in good order – paths to keep clear, undergrowth, particularly brambles and nettles, to control to keep them from stifling young trees, wild flowers and other more delicate growth, felling overcrowding or unsafe trees and all the multitude tasks required to keep the wood in good health and a welcome habitat for wildlife. Most of the volunteers are now a bit 'long in the tooth' and would welcome, with open arms, anyone who would like to spend a couple of hours of satisfying work in this beautiful space. Work parties are usually on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from around 10 to 12. Fun, exercise – and a cup of tea! Just come along, with any tools you are happy to use, at any time you are free – with no commitment to regular attendance. You would be made most welcome.

Spring is our most taxing time with the explosion of growth requiring attention on the paths and central areas and a narrow window of time to do it all in with nesting birds to consider. We hope to encourage a large number of willing helpers to a work party on a Saturday in Spring. Bacon Rolls and tea will be the reward! You can work to the aroma of frying bacon drifting through the wood as encouragement! Look out for notices of the date around the village and in the Escallop nearer the time.

The first work party of the year will be on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 10am. Interested, or any questions contact Chris, Secretary on 01304 812348 - [macsterba@btinternet.com](mailto:macsterba@btinternet.com) or Peter, Treasurer on 01304 812030 - [ph.beer@talktalk.net](mailto:ph.beer@talktalk.net).

## Pipe-Dreamers



The Pipe Dreamers are a friendly group of recorder players who meet on Tuesday afternoons for a fun session of music-making, tea and chatter. We have recently welcomed a new Staple resident into the group, bring our numbers up to 8 regulars.

We can cater for all abilities and play a wide range of music. We are pleased to have been invited once again to play at the Christmas Fayre in Staple Church.

If you're interested in joining us do get in touch. [bridget.burridge@gmail.com](mailto:bridget.burridge@gmail.com)



## Footpath Report – November 2025

Paths are generally very muddy at the moment and some need to be cut back to allow them to be used. Particularly, paths on the Fitzwalter estate need attention.

A new orchard is being constructed on Hulme Farms towards Shatterling behind the Church. This is now a mud bath and difficult to negotiate. Hopefully the footpaths will be reinstated before not too long as required by law.

At our last Parish Council Meeting it was brought to our attention that some of our paths and highways are being obstructed by overhanging vegetation from adjacent properties. It is pleasing to note that a number of properties with overhanging vegetation have been cut back and the Council thanks residents for this work. Sometimes the vegetation can cause a problem for drivers or walkers to the point where they cannot see clearly oncoming traffic. It is in everyone's interest that our highways are safely maintained. The Council will contact local landowners and residents whose vegetation is reducing road width and vegetation is damaging cars. Buckland Lane and Staple Road have been specifically mentioned.

Initially we are asking that you carry out this work as soon as possible and if it is not completed within a reasonable time scale our local council may come along do it and charge you for the work.

A copy of Kent County Council's guide is again shown below: -

### Private vegetation

We have an obligation to ensure private property owners cut back any hedges, vegetation or shrubs that encroach onto the highway. We require private property owners to:

- cut back any vegetation from streetlights to allow the full beam of light to shine onto the ground
- ensure the full width of the footpath is available for use by pedestrians
- ensure the full width of the cycle route is available for use by cyclists
- provide a minimum of 2.4 metres (8ft) of clearance above the footpath or cycle route
- provide a minimum of 5.2 metres (17ft) of clearance above the carriageway which continues 50cm past the edge of the
- carriageway to allow for growth.

If you receive a letter from us asking you to trim back your vegetation, you do not need to contact us to let us know you have done it. We will check the progress of the work next time we are in the area.



## Wingham Mobile Services

Post Office - every Tuesday and Thursday in the Miles room at the village hall. 9.00-11.00 am.  
This service provides all the usual Post Offices services and sales.

The Refillable Van - every 3rd Saturday of the month, 10-10.30am in the Anchor forecourt. Take your own containers, stock up and help reduce landfill and plastic pollution.

## Eco Church

Staple Parochial Church Council has recently voted to work towards Eco Church status. This is a programme run by A Rocha UK, a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment

The Eco Church programme equips churches of all denominations in England and Wales to care for creation. It provides a framework to support individual churches and their leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth, through the Eco Church survey. The survey covers five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings and energy
- Land and nature
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle



The survey is used to guide churches and help them assess their progress towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award

Staple PCC are committed to protecting the environment and with all the work undertaken in the Churchyard by Alan Cooke and volunteers from Staple's Wildlife Friendly Village group, we are in a good place in the land and nature category. We have some work to do in the other areas but hope to apply for a Bronze award early in the new year.

If you are interested in the environment and would like to join a small group working on the survey and our application, please do get in touch with Vanessa or Trevor or a PCC member.



## Christmas Jokes

It is the season of the bad cracker joke so here are a few to try out on your friends and neighbours!

Q. Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas? A. Santa Jaws	Q. How does King Wenceslas like his pizzas? A. Deep and crisp and even
Q. What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A. Claus-trophobia	Q. What did one eye say to the other? A. Between you and me something smells
Q. What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert? A. Lost!	Q. What's white and goes up? A. A confused snowflake
Q. Which dog always wins the race? A. The one with the comfortable lead	Q. Why do birds fly south in winter? A. Because its too far to walk
Q. What do you get when you cross a snowman and a shark? A. Frostbite!	Q. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back? A. A stick!
Q. What did the fish say when he swam into a wall? A. Dam!	Q. What do monkeys sing at Christmas? A. Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells..
Q. What lays at the bottom of the sea and shakes? A. A nervous wreck!	Q. What never eats Christmas dinner? A. The turkey, it's stuffed!



## Staple Parent & Toddler Group



***Please come and join us***

*We have lots of fun activities for Babies, Toddlers, parents, families and carers to enjoy together*

*Wednesdays 1.15pm- 2.45pm*

*Cost £1.50 per family  
that includes drinks and a snack*

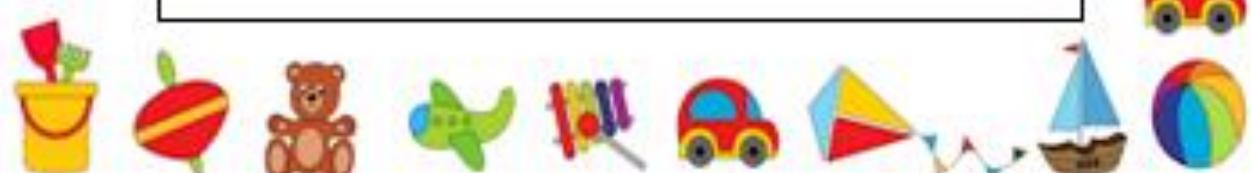
*At*

*Staple Village Hall, Mill Road, Staple CT3 1LB*

*You can find us on Facebook*

*or*

*Contact Heidi on 07793869331*





### Speedwatch

Since the last report we have held three Speedwatch sessions. Due to inclement weather we had to cancel several planned sessions. We logged sixteen speeders. All were valid vehicles which equates to 100% logging accuracy. 4 were first offenders, 1 speeder was recorded for second time of speeding. Another exceeded the limit by 90% and will be visited by a Police Officer. Yet another has been logged for a second time of speeding and one is under Police investigation. 9 were sent the standard letter as we are now using the radar gun for both way traffic. The maximum speed recorded was 47 mph.

### SID

The SID is deployed along Durlock Road.

There have been some complaints to the Parish Council about parking at night. The following article lays out the rules around parking.

#### **The nighttime parking rule that carries £2,500 fine if you park the wrong way**

Parking incorrectly at night could cost drivers up to £2,500 and with the nights drawing in the chances of landing a fine are increasing. According to Rule 248 of the Highway Code you MUST NOT park on a road at night facing against the direction of the traffic flow unless in a recognised parking space.

"Parking on the wrong side of the road at night without working headlights can lead to heavy fines," said Ben Pitcher, car expert and owner of [DPF Experts](#). "Parking against the direction of traffic without displaying lights makes your vehicle less visible to oncoming traffic, posing a serious safety risk.

"This is a direct violation of Rule 248 of the Highway Code and can result in you paying £1,000. But if you are taken to court, the penalties can increase to £2,500. Parking facing the wrong direction can be very dangerous to yourself and others, especially at night.

#### **Tips on avoiding the parking fine:**

- **Park in the correct direction:** While parking on the street, always make sure your car is facing the flow of traffic. This will make your vehicle more visible to oncoming traffic, especially at night.
- **Use lights when necessary:** Make sure to use your parking lights to make your vehicle more visible, especially if there are no street lights or you are parking in a dimly lit area.
- **Choose safe parking locations:** Where possible, park your vehicle in a car park or driveway to avoid any risks associated with street parking, choosing a well-lit spot with good visibility. Do not park close to a corner or bend.
- **Double-check how you are parked:** Ensure your vehicle is properly parked within the lines and not obstructing any paths or entrances. Improper parking can lead to other fines or even towing in some cases.



### **Parking free from three for Christmas light events in Dover, Deal and Sandwich**

Dover District Council is to offer free parking in DDC car parks from 3pm for Christmas lights event days in Deal on Saturday 22 November, in Sandwich on Saturday 29 November, and in Dover on Saturday 6 December 2025.



## The Arts Society Sandwich

### Discover, Connect, and Be Inspired: Join The Arts Society Sandwich

At The Arts Society Sandwich, we believe art is for everyone — no expertise required, just curiosity and an open mind.

#### Inspiring Lectures in the Heart of Sandwich

We meet at The Guildhall on the first Monday of each month. Enjoy a glass of wine from 6:30pm before our 7pm talk, delivered by expert speakers who bring art and culture vividly to life.

#### Coming Early 2026:

12 January 2026 – **Balenciaga, Dior and Fath: Haute Couture's Holy Trinity** with Scott Schiavone

2 February 2026 – **The British Crown Jewels: Every Stone Tells a Story** with Laurie Wickwire

2 March 2026 – **Greek Vase Painting** with Stephen Kershaw

#### More Than Lectures — A Year of Cultural Adventures

We also support art in schools and local heritage projects, while members enjoy a rich programme of special events and volunteering.

**Highlights for 2026** include a summer supper with entertainment, a trip to Stanley Spencer's Cookham, a conservation project at Goodnestone Park Mansion, a garden party, and our first-ever Arts Society quiz night.

#### Join Us — and Make Art Part of Your Life

Now's the perfect time to join for just £50 a year — and enjoy art, friendship, and discovery right here in Sandwich.

Visit [www.sandwichdfa.org.uk](http://www.sandwichdfa.org.uk) or contact Membership Secretary Howard Evans at [membership.artssocsandwich@gmail.com](mailto:membership.artssocsandwich@gmail.com).

Not ready to join? Come as a guest for £7 — everyone's welcome



## Staple Parish Council

**Staple Parish Council - Staple Village Hall**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm**

### Draft Minutes

85/25	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Bartlett. All other councillors were present: Councillor Martin (Vice Chairperson) and Councillors Ewart, Kirk, Davis-Marks, Loukes and Rogers-Hudson. Cllr Martin Porter – Dover District Councillor. Cllr Peters Evans – Kent County Councillor. 4 members of the public and the Clerk.
86/25	<b>Minutes</b> The Vice-Chairperson welcomed and thanked councillors for attending and the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate. Proposed: Cllr Kirk. Seconded: Cllr Loukes All agreed

87/25	<b>Matters Arising</b> None.
88/25	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Cllr Kirk declared an interest in the request for £1000 from Village Hall Committee

**Meeting adjourned for Public Session. (Max 15 mins)**

A resident raised issues regarding overgrown hedges in the Parish. Actions Cllr Davis-Marks to contact Glenn and Cllr Loukes to contact Hulme Farm.

A resident raised Durlock Road is not suitable for heavy good vehicles due to repeated incidents including a 2-lorry accident and suggested 7.5 tonne weight restriction. Cllr Martin invited Cllr Evans (KCC) to comment who noted drainage issues in the Parish and suggested correct signage needs to be provided by KCC. Clerk to email Cllr Evans (KCC). Cllr Loukes suggestion to place on HIP which can be updated every 6 months and reviewed by Lezanne César (East Region Highways KCC) to include 7.5 tonne weight restriction and no HGVs signage.

Two residents presented drawings that will be submitted for planning permission at the end of the week. Cllr Davis-Marks inspect site earlier in the year and noted a supportive comment can be given. Residents spoken to care facility at The Hollies and neighbour next to The Hollies who are both in full support.

89/25	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance and Correspondence Report circulated in meeting and reconciliation statement has been circulated to Councillors</li> <li>• Cllr Loukes made contact with Parish Council Software company about the cheque not cashed but they say it was paid in on 28th April 2025. Cllr Loukes cannot find this cleared cheque in our accounts so it remains uncleared.</li> <li>• DDC Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant application grant has been approved (Wooden Shed Grant) 11/11/25 at 2122 hrs. Faculty required (planning permission) from Canterbury Diocese Authority. It is recommended that the shed in flat pack form is ordered immediately to be stored in the Churchyard until the faculty arrives (or we are directed otherwise). The outlay at this time would be £2320 and we would receive back from the Grant £1933 on submission of invoice. Cllr Loukes to ensure guaranteed delivery by supplier by end of the year.</li> <li>• VAT reclaim procedures to be investigated and to determine if retrospective reclaims are possible by Clerk</li> <li>• Approval of Deborah O'Brien as Internal auditor – unanimous agreement on decision Vice Chairperson signed letter to be returned to parish council to pay £160</li> <li>• Approval of £37.40 for ink and paper for Cllr Roger Loukes Proposed: Cllr Martin and Seconded: Cllr Kirk</li> <li>• Approval of a donation of £50 to RBL Poppy Day Appeal. Cheque raised for wreath £75. Total to be paid to Royal British Legion (Staple Branch) £125. Proposed: Cllr Martin and Seconded: Cllr Kirk</li> <li>• Invoices for Harmer and Sons total £2,095.20. An invoice has been received. Proposed: Cllr Loukes and seconded by Cllr Martin. Contractor was praised for accommodating event schedules and providing quality service. Discussion raised the option to seek competitive quotes in future to ensure value.</li> <li>• Application received from Village Hall for £1000 annual grant. Proposed: Cllr Davis-Marks and Seconded: Cllr Ewart.</li> <li>• Cllr Loukes shared cheques and invoices to be signed.</li> <li>• Cllr Loukes circulated 2026/7 Budget</li> <li>• Update on Barclays issues remain frustrating. The council agree unanimously to explore moving account to Unity Trust Bank ~ noted charge of £6 a month. Clerk to obtain transfer requirements and paperwork from Unity to initiate the move.</li> <li>• Cllr Kirk noted formal thank you to Cllr Loukes and Cllr Martin shared deepest thanks for support acting as Clerk and ongoing finance support.</li> </ul>
90/25	<p><b>To receive the Clerk's report and correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Clerk appointed as Lucy Denny</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deborah O'Brien approved as Internal Auditor</li> <li>• Cllr Martin to lead on Internal Audit Action Plan progress</li> </ul>
91/25	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Councillor – Cllr Martin Porter report received. Signs to be installed along A257, continues to advocate for average speed cameras but acknowledge ongoing challenges with funding.</li> <li>• County Councillor – Cllr Peter Evans, newly appointed Kent County Councillor outlined the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation plans. Kent County Council decision making on the reorganisation will conclude by the end of the month before Government review. Cllr Martin thanked Cllr Evans for his attendance, who confirmed he would aim to attend 1 in 3 Staple Parish Council Meetings and it was agreed if Cllr Evans was unable to attend a Parish Council Meeting a written report would be provided and his colleague Cllr Bridget Porter would attend.</li> <li>• Village Hall and Recreation Grounds – Cllr Kirk informed the council that the Village Hall has secured a grant for £9,300 for secure fence to be installed around play area.</li> <li>• Highways (SID, Speedwatch, footpaths) – Speedwatch session logged 9 speeders out of 52 vehicles some exceeding 40 mph on narrow roads used by pedestrians and horses, highlighting ongoing speeding risk. Cllr Loukes to retrieve SID along Durlock Road to present findings at next meeting.</li> <li>• Footpaths – Maintenance of footpaths remains challenging due to farming activity the footpaths along the Hulme estate and orchards should be reinstated after agricultural activities. Cllr Loukes will keep an eye on the situation.</li> <li>• Planning - <u>Planning applications</u>: There are 3 new applications. No objections. 1 application approved It has been noted regarding car port that has been built on a property in Durlock road and the parish council is unaware of any planning application. Cllr Davis-Marks to investigate further.</li> <li>• Kent Police – No report Beat Policeman on sick leave – apologies received from Beat Sergeant in charge.</li> <li>• </li> </ul>
92/25	<p><b>Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus stop, Shatterling– Cllr Kirk informed contractor will book in work depending on availability.</li> <li>• Signs re-paint. - Cllr Bartlett to report on inspection of the road signs and see how many need re-painting.</li> <li>• Overgrown hedges. Concerns were raised regarding the hedges on both sides of Staple Road Cllr Davis-Marks to contact Glenn and Cllr Loukes to contact Hulme Farms who will be approached and requested to cut back their hedges for the sake of road safety.</li> </ul>
93/25	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Davis-Marks noted plans are underway for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Staple Branch of Royal British Legion in September 2026 with potential involvement of the National President.</li> <li>• <b>The council noted that the December meeting will conclude with mince pies and mulled wine kindly provided by The Black Pig</b></li> </ul> <p>Meeting closed 21:08pm</p>
94/25	<p><b>Date of next SPC meeting</b></p> <p>The next SPC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.30p.m.</p>

**Stop Press on Ash Surgery** - A new GP, Dr Kirallas Ibrahim has just started work at Ash Surgery. Previously a Paediatric Specialist at William Harvey and now trained as a GP Specialist, Dr Ibrahim has a special interest in ENT and will be working Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the surgery.

# Ash Surgery Newsletter

No.12 Autumn 2025



## Update

Kofo MacGregor-Gauthier, who is the Business Manager at the Practice, brings us up-to-date in each quarterly newsletter. In this edition she has three essential messages: Covid and Flu clinics, on-line consultation requests and a note about new staff members - together with a little reminder.

### Covid and Flu Vaccines

We have had our first drive of Covid and Flu clinics this October and, by the middle of the month, had vaccinated 50 percent of patients who are eligible. We are due to have more clinics in the near future. If you have not been able to make the scheduled Covid and Flu clinic, please call our reception team to make an appointment. To receive the flu vaccine, you must be aged 65 or over and if under 65 have a medical condition that requires you to be vaccinated. For Covid, you must be aged 75 years or older - or you could be younger if you have an immunosuppressed condition. If you're unsure you can call our reception team on 01304 812227 and ask if you are eligible.

You may, in the past, have used the e-consult system of requesting a consultation on-line. This has now been replaced by an on-line program called 'Anima'.

### Anima (On-line consultation requests)

We have begun to use Anima as our online consultation which can be found on the surgery website by clicking on "Contact us online" on the homepage. There, you will find a link to the online consultation as well as a link to a video aid which advises on how to complete the Anima consultation.

### Reminder

Please note that requests booked through the NHS app are for triage only and are not actual appointments - so please do NOT come to the Surgery. Once you have been triaged, by the duty doctor, our receptionists will call you to book an appointment at a time that is convenient for you.

### New Staff

We have new staff starting in October who will be helping with our secretarial and admin. tasks. We welcome Paula Shepherd who be involved with admin. and coding and Michelle Kendall whose job will revolve round medical secretarial duties.

Kofo MacGregor-Gauthier

### Satisfaction Survey

The Practice is always looking for ways to improve the service and we look for the help of patients in doing this. It would be very much appreciated if you could scan the QR Code on the right to access a short survey providing the Surgery with feedback.

See over the page for the results of the September survey.



## Satisfaction Survey September results

In response to the question: 'How likely are you to recommend our GP practice to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment' the Surgery received the following responses:

Very good	67
Good	17
Neither good nor poor	3
Poor	2
Very poor	1
Don't know	3

We thank all those who responded. The written comments will be discussed at our next Patient Participation Group meeting.

## Stress

A great deal is written and discussed about stress and the adverse effects it can have on our minds and bodies. A recent comprehensive article in a national newspaper went into minute detail on the subject. Unfortunately our limited space means that we can't adequately report to you the article's findings. However, a short resume of Fast Facts was included in the article - and here they are:

Stress, depression or anxiety disorders accounted for 16.4 million days lost through work-related ill health in 2023-24.

A study shows that poor mental health in the workplace cost the UK economy £102bn in 2023. Globally, £2.1trn was lost due to employees mental health problems.

It would be nice to be able to offer simple solutions to the problem but, unfortunately, this is not easy.

Happily, though, the recognition in recent years that mental ill-health is not something to be ashamed of is transforming attitudes. What goes askew in our heads can be capable of treatment and appropriate courses of action - not necessarily in the same way - but in a similar way to malfunctions in our other bodily organs.

Though it appears to be simplistic, the article points out the eternal truism that: 'Exercise, a good diet and sleep are crucial for overcoming stress.

## Named Accountable GP

In UK healthcare, when a patient has a nominated doctor - more formally called a Named Accountable GP - it means that a specific general practitioner is assigned to oversee their care. This is a requirement for all registered patients in England under NHS guidelines.

Here's what this actually means in practice.

### Role of the Named GP

**Oversight, not exclusivity:** The Named GP is responsible for the overall coordination of your care, but you are still free to see any GP or nurse at the practice.

**Continuity and reassurance:** This gives patients a sense of continuity, knowing that there's one doctor who's officially accountable for their care.

**Care coordination:** The Named GP works with other health and social care professionals to ensure that your care is well integrated and meets your needs.

**Health checks:** The Named GP ensures that eligible patients have access to routine health checks as outlined in NHS contracts.

### What the GP doesn't do

They're not on call 24/7 for you.

They don't have to personally handle every appointment or issue.

Their working hours and responsibilities don't change because of this designation.

### Practice Responsibilities

Every patient must be assigned a Named GP within 20 days of registration.

Practices must inform patients of their Named GP and make reasonable efforts to accommodate preferences if a patient requests a specific doctor.

### Overall

It's more about structured accountability than limiting your choices. If you're wondering who your nominated doctor is, the Practice will be able to tell you - and update it if needed.

When you've read the Newsletter, please pass it on to friends or neighbours - and ask them to do the same!

## Staple Village Hall

As a Staple Resident you are of course aware of the well-maintained, clean and spacious Village Hall. And you'll know that it's cheap to hire / has ample parking / has a large, well-stocked kitchen / and has a huge recreation area, right outside the door.



### **BUT, do your friends, colleagues, workmates and relatives know about it?**

Please let absolutely everyone know about this great facility; and tell them how reasonable the hire rates are / tell them about the facilities, the location, the parking etc. Thankfully, the post-Covid low level of bookings has now passed; and things are pretty much back to normal. A very pro-active Booking Officer and making good use of social media have helped enormously. The lack of a Pre-School income (plus the Pre-School itself) are both greatly missed. We no longer have a Staple Youth Club, a Staple Pre-School, a Staple Short Mat Bowls Club etc. So our long-term booking income is pretty low.



Last year, we were fortunate to have received a grant from the Staple Country Fayre, which was used to offset the cost of regulatory checks and inspections.

Our contingency fund is still at a reasonable level. But it could do with topping up. And this can only be achieved by

## **INCREASING USE OF THE VILLAGE HALL.**

And that's where you can help: Please use Facebook, Instagram etc to spread the word.

Do you or your friends, workmates and relatives want a venue for a christening party? Do their children need a place for a Birthday Party? Do they want a venue for a Jumble Sale? Are they looking for a place to hold Keep-Fit sessions? Do they need a place for Band Practice?

Details you can pass on to your friends / potential hirers of the Hall:

### **BOOKING:**

To book the Hall, please contact the Booking Officer **Clare Marsh – 07802 617197**

Teynham, Ringlemere Lane, Woodnesborough, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0PZ

Online booking enquiries / printable booking forms / further info:

[enquiries@staplevillagehall.com](mailto:enquiries@staplevillagehall.com)

### **HIRE RATES:**

Morning and afternoon session: £45 (Staple Residents) £52 (Non-Residents)

Evening session: £55 (Staple Residents) £65 (Non-Residents)

All Day Bookings: £135 (Staple Residents) £160 (Non-Residents)

Committee Room (any session, as long as the hall is not previously booked): £10

**The main hall:** Clean, spacious, well-lit and well maintained. Brand new audio equipment, with microphone (and Iphone lead).

Standing capacity for up to 128 people / Seating & tables for up to 106 people.

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