



Cobham & Luddesdowne

September 2025 *News* £1

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Pastoral assistant- Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 0RR
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Church Safeguarding Officer - Hilary Savage - (01634) 723027

Church Office Phone no. (01474) 813495

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SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.

Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to editorialcln@gmail.com

Cover photograph *Adrian Whiteing* -Harvest time in Sole Street

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September
2025

29th Sept Enter all the angels, led by Michael

What is an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel - Gabriel - appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream - warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Have you heard about The Monday Club?

We are a small group of retired/semi retired people who meet up each Monday in the newly refurbished St Mary's Church Room.

We enjoy a range of activities that include guest speakers, board games, music, the occasional trip and a meal out every so often.

We meet every Monday From 2pm to 4pm needless to say tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided for your weekly subscription. (currently £3).

We do not meet on bank holidays or during the month of August.

Why not join us when we start up again on Monday 1st September? We are a friendly, sociable group who enjoy getting together.

If you would like further information please feel free to call either myself or Brian on the numbers below.

We look forward to meeting you all in September!

Gary: 01474 812590 Brian: 01474 814049.



1st Cobham Brownies
(Tuesday evenings during term time only at The Meadow Rooms, Cobham)

At Brownies, we welcome all girls from 7 to 10 years old for non-stop fun, learning and adventure. Brownies get to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors, and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.

Please email Wendy Ostridge (wendy.minister@googlemail.com) if you would like more information about 1st Cobham Brownies or register your interest through the Girlguiding website at www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus/ and selecting 1st Cobham Brownies.

We look forward to meeting new members.

Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride

Saturday, 13th September 2025 10.00.a.m. to 6.00.p.m,
St Marys Church Room Sole Street will be open
for participants and local visitors.

The 40th Ride and Stride day, organised for Kent Churches, will take place
on Saturday, 13th September 2025.

The St Mary's Church Room will be open to provide refreshments for
participants, who are riding or striding during that day

However, any local residents or visitors, who may have missed
the Celebration Weekend at the end of May, are welcome to call in and
view the hall, tea and biscuits will also be available for these visitors.

For further information please contact Ron Chamberlain Liaison Officer
for SMCR. 01474 814250

Happy Birthday - Kent Ride and Stride.

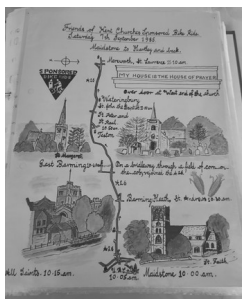
Thank you to Ron and Mary and Janet and all the volunteers who this year will
man our 3 churches for RIDE and STRIDE DAY on Saturday 13th September ,
your support on keeping our churches open from 10.00 until 6.00pm that day
means so much to all of us who visit you either cycling or walking . Last year
your sponsorship helped me raise almost £3,000 to share between our 3
churches which helped to raise the entire sponsorship for the whole of Kent
to £151,081. RIDE and STRIDE is one of the main sources of income and
grants for churches and here in Kent last year RIDE and STRIDE supported
Kent churches for grants of £176,500 to 37 churches and chapels.

RIDE and STRIDE is a National church charity with over 30 counties in Eng-
land taking part on the 2nd Saturday in September. Kent has much to celebrate
and celebration is certainly the optimum title for 2025 as Kent's RIDE and
STRIDE IS 40 YEARS OLD and during that time has raised over £4.2 million
pounds for Kent churches. I have taken part each year right from the begin-
ning in 1985 and have managed to extend my first route of just 30 churches
visited to a route with 90 churches in it and 70 visited. My route now covers
much of west Kent from Gravesend to Tunbridge Wells and back again. The
70 visited was a record in Kent, those were the exceptional years and now
due either to the age of the manual bicycle or the cyclist – I'm not sure which
– it is only 60 churches that can be visited before 6.00 pm. Apart from keep-
ing a record of churches visited, money raised and mileage covered I regret
not keeping a diary of each year's route and adventures. Not so Margaret
Tate, who lived in Yalding, for her the diary was an annual writing task after
each R&S day.

Continued on page 6

Cont'd from page 5

She began at the age of 47 in 1985 and managed a ride on her beloved bike called Claude for most of the 40 years, the last one in 2024 she was so very unwell and was pushed by friends in a wheelchair to make her final journey to churches in Rochester, however her R&S life of 39 journeys is captured in her quite beautiful diaries of which there are five files. The handwritten script and artistic drawings of churches and country side are amazing and there is a route map at each section. The Kent R&S committee have now included these diaries in their website which you can now view on the RIDE and STRIDE website found as part of the FKC (the friends of Kent churches) website. Enjoy. In the meantime please think about sponsoring me for one or all 3 of our churches, my sponsor form is on the table at the entrance to each of our churches, or contact me rosemary.dymond@btinternet.com or phone 07743713584.



Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.

We are a small friendly group that usually walks from The Cock Inn, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend DA13 0XB, at 11 am on Wednesdays. We walk at a gentle pace for some 90 minutes in beautiful countryside. Occasionally we lead weekend walks.

With four Socials a year in Luddesdown Village Hall and a twice yearly Newsletter, we would be delighted if you joined us for a walk or two. Becoming a member costs £7 per person a year.

Please contact Walks Co-ordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably by email janetferguson@hotmail.fr. Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517

FROM THE REGISTERS

Cobham Church

Baptism

Penelope Johanne BLACK was baptised on the 6th July 2025. The service was conducted by The Rev'd Canon Chris STONE.

We welcome Penelope into the Church Family.



Thursday Fellowship.

We meet a week earlier than usual in September, on Thursday 18th at 2.00.p.m. In the St John's Centre, Meopham. Our speaker will be Mrs Susan Simpkin who will demonstrate and explain Reflective Dance Movements from some different cultures.

Everyone is welcome and we share tea at the end.

1st South Street BBGA Company meets again on 12th September and every Friday evening during term time 6pm-7.30pm at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ (*next to Hope Hill*). Boys and girls aged 5-18 years are warmly invited to join us for games, craft, cooking, Bible stories and outdoor activities. The weekly subscription is £2.

Kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding are taught at the Boys Brigade Water Activities Centre in Tonbridge. Camping and outdoor activities take place at the Honey Hill Boys Brigade Campsite in Maidstone.

Please visit www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk for more information about Boys Brigade.

SONG TIME meets again on 8th September and every Monday morning during term time 9.45am-11am, for families with babies, toddlers and children under five. There is a varied selection of toys, including a slide, ball pool, construction toys, home corner, creative activities, musical instruments and singing. Family admission is £1.

The **FAMILY GAMES AFTERNOON** is on Saturday 20th September 2pm-4pm for all ages. There will be board games, pool, table tennis, craft activities and refreshments. Free admission.

SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday services all begin at 10.45am and finish about midday. The Harvest Festival Family Service is on Sunday 28th September. Please visit www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk or ring 01474 815039 or 01474 813379 for more information about activities for families at SOUTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

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September – Late summer progresses into autumn

September is generally a cooler month than August! While there's not as much to do in the ornamental garden at this time of the year, if you have a fruit or vegetable patch, you'll be busy reaping the rewards of harvest. It's also time to get out and start planting spring-flowering bulbs for next year and you can collect seeds for next summer's colour too. Make the most of the remaining warmth while you can!

RHS - Top 10 jobs this month

1. Divide herbaceous perennials
2. Pick autumn raspberries
3. Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals
4. Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them
5. Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway
6. Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible
7. Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering
8. Clean cold frames and greenhouses ready for use in the autumn
9. Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting
10. Plant spring flowering bulbs

Cobham Gardeners' Society Next Events Both at The Meadow Rooms Are- Saturday 13th September 2025 Autumn Show & Plant Sale from 2pm to 3.30pm.

Members will exhibit their home-grown flowers, vegetables, and preserves. Non-members are welcome free of charge to view the exhibits between 2pm and 3.30pm. Plants plus tea, coffee and homemade cake will be on sale.

Wednesday 8th October 2024 – 7pm expert speaker talk.

Monet The Painter & Gardener by Dr John Hughes

Monet was from a middle-class family, but his father was not in favour of him becoming an artist, so Monet did not have an easy life. John's talk explores how Monet's style of painting evolved and why Monet eventually ended up living in Giverny and how the garden, his love of gardening, were such an important part of his life & painting. John has visited Monet's Garden on two occasions Summer and Autumn plus has photos from the Spring, so will give a snapshot of this beautiful garden throughout the year. John is a well-respected judge both locally and within the Royal Horticultural Society. Entry to members free, non-members welcome and pay just £3.

Why not join Cobham Gardeners Society You can apply for membership at the show, talk or by email. It's only a modest £10 for the year – money you get back from free entry into all Gardeners' expert speaker talks and massive savings of up to 50% on quality plants at local garden centres. For further details email cobhams@hotmail.co.uk

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SOLE STREET WI

“An Adventure in Peru” was the subject of our July speaker Susan Shaw. She explained that she chose to visit “darkest Peru” for its natural history, in particular to see the flowers she used in flower arrangements growing in the wild and for bird watching, Peru being particularly abundant in wildlife. Arriving just 2 days after an earthquake, her experiences included climbing a kapok tree via a precarious spiral ladder, the indignity of being weighed before a small aircraft trip to a rainforest reserve, the return via canoe when landslides prevented the arrival of their bus and discovering a local delicacy was spit roast Guinea pig. She also exhibited several local craft pieces she had purchased as souvenirs.

Members experienced a more local venture at the end of July when we visited Cobham Hall and enjoyed a very engaging history tour with specialist guide Christoph Bull. Afterwards we were also treated to a delicious cream tea - with the largest fruit scones I have ever seen !



In August, when many members can be away on holiday, we hold an informal garden party. This year it is being held in Kathy's beautiful garden in Gold Street next to the paddock. What home-made delicacies and Prosecco will then flow

The next main meeting will take place on Tuesday 23rd September at 7.30pm in the St Mary's Church Room when Nigel Roberts will be telling us all about “The Magic of Conjuring”. Members are invited to bring items for our Harvest Hampers which are sorted as raffle prizes.

Weekly walks in the local countryside continue every Tuesday. At the next meeting of the craft group members will be mastering floral pine-craft. For information on this and all our activities please contact our President, Helen telephone 01474 812448

Molly Isaacs

Lewis Solomon

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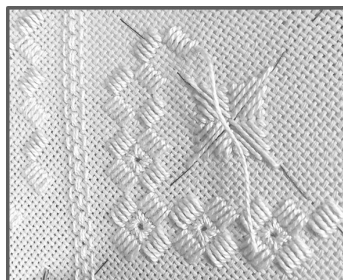
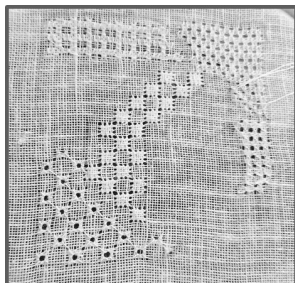
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North Kent Embroiderers



Hello Everyone,

Our last meeting was a combination of two workshops and a 'stitch and chat' session for those not taking part in the instruction.

Sue D was teaching participants how to do the extremely delicate technique of drawn thread work, while Veronica was showing others Hardanger embroidery. Drawn thread is a form of counted-thread embroidery based on removing threads from the warp and/or the weft of a piece of even-weave fabric. Decorative stitches are then used to embellish the cloth. Good eyesight is required! Traditionally it has been used on fine household linens and ecclesiastical robes etc.

Veronica demonstrated the Hardanger technique to a group earlier in the year and as the day was oversubscribed, this was a second session.

Hardanger is named after a Norwegian fjord and like drawn thread work is traditionally stitched in white thread on white fabric but in modern times brighter colours have been introduced to give more variety. Both groups were incredibly quiet as they had to concentrate hard on counting the threads of the evenweave fabrics!



Those not taking part had brought their own stitching to do. Linda was working on a piece of canvas work using a design from the Royal School of Needlework and I was preparing cut out pieces of fabric for a group of young magicians to make into waistcoats to wear when they are performing the tricks they have learnt at Magic Camp! As usual, coffee, tea and cake were available to help us concentrate.

If you would maybe like to start a new hobby and to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen

All photos with permission.



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TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Forthcoming TWO Women events

16th October -The Bon Jovi Experience

6th November - Fleetwood Bac

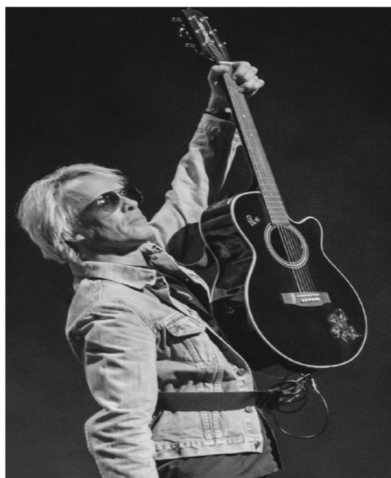
27th November - Totally Blondie



TWO WOMEN EVENTS

Present:

The BON JOVI EXPERIENCE



Thursday 16th October 2025

St Mary Magdalene Church COBHAM KENT

Doors open at 7pm for 7:30 start

Advance Tickets £25 on www.twowomenevents.com

Fully Licensed Bar; free public car park nearby

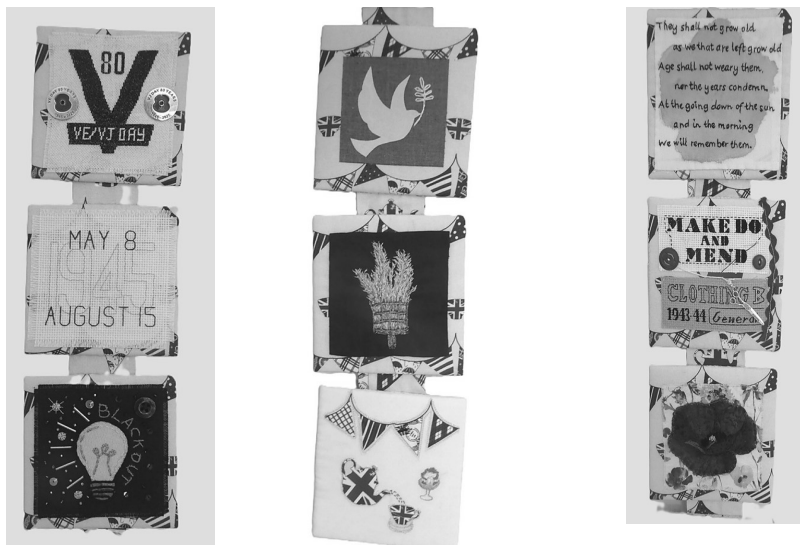
Contact: info@twowomenevents.com

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North Kent Embroiderers

Some of our ladies have been busy stitching new sections to add a VE/VJ panel to our banner. Although we don't have a meeting during August, we thought you would like to see them.

If you would maybe like to start a new hobby and to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> or email us at: info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734 Happy stitching, Karen



Meopham Library Writing Group will meet again on **Thursday 4th September 2025 at 10am**. This month's writing theme is "LOST", which can be used as a starting point for a poem, short story or an article and there is also a writing challenge. Anyone who is interested in writing, either as a beginner or a more experienced writer, is warmly invited to join our small, friendly group. New members are always very welcome. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity, which can be used to record special memories for the family and can also help people who are facing difficult times. Future meetings will be on 2nd October., 6th November and 4th December.

Please ring **01474 813379** for more information.

BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley

Weddings and bells go together like a horse and carriage or strawberries and cream. Church weddings are less frequent these days but ringers will always ensure the bells are rung if that is the bride's wish.

Usually we ring after the wedding service so we climb up the tower stairs to the ringing room while the wedding service is taking place below. At the end of the service when the bride and groom process down the aisle we get a signal and start to ring as the newly married couple leave the church. Husband and wife are greeted outside by the happy sound of bells at the start of their married life together.

Finishing ringing, one person per rope per bell, we come twirling down the tower stairs and out into the churchyard. Looking across we might see the numerous photographs being taken of the bride and groom by their excited guests specially dressed in honour of the great day. Meanwhile us casually dressed ringers wander away having made our especial contribution to a joyous day. Full-circle bell ringing with its particular traditional sound is the work of people and not of technology nor even of AI.

At Wimbledon this year the line judges, in their smart uniforms, were sadly missing replaced by, not infallible, technology. At least the players are still required to wear white.

The Reverend John Thorneycroft Hartley, the Victorian vicar of Burneston in North Yorkshire, unfortunately not an ancestor but there are many Hartleys in Yorkshire, would have worn whites when he won Wimbledon in 1879 and 1880 and was runner-up in 1881. He is the only vicar ever to have won Wimbledon.

The newspaper article, passed to me by fellow collegian Peter Harvey, tells the story of this priest who in 1879 was surprised to win his Wimbledon quarter-final. Then he had to rush back to his Yorkshire parish to take the Sunday services when he also visited a dying parishioner. Still in the tournament, the next morning he rode to Thirsk, caught the train to London, changed into his tennis clothes in the horse-drawn cab to Wimbledon and went on to win the championship. Victorian vicars were remarkable.

St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead

Church Services September 2025



Wednesday 3rd September 10am Holy Communion at St John's

Sunday 7th September 9.45am Morning Worship & Baptism at St John's
 11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's

Wednesday 10th Sept 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 14th Sept 9.45am Holy Communion at St John's
 11.30am Mattins at St Mildred's
 3pm Sunday Afternoon Club –
 all families welcome

Wednesday 17th Sept 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 21st Sept 9.45am Morning Worship & Baptism at St John's
 11.15am Churches Prayer Meeting at St John's
 Centre

Wednesday 24th Sept 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Sunday 28th Sept 10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving at St John's
 Meopham for all four parishes

Wednesday 1st October 10am Holy Communion at St John's Centre

Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street
Church Services during September 2025



Sunday 7th September

10:30am Holy Communion (BCP) Cobham

Sunday 14th September

10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne

Sunday 21st September

10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham

Sunday 28th September

10:30am Harvest Thanksgiving at St John's
Meopham for all four parishes

Midweek services in Sole Street

St Mary's Church Room, Informal Morning Prayer

9:30am 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th September



Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent
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Saturday 13th September 2025 - 2:00-3:30pm
Cobham Gardeners' Society

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LUDDESDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

7.30pm Monday 15th September

7.30pm Monday 17th November

All meetings will be taking place at Luddesdown Village Hall.

<http://www.luddesdown-pc.gov.uk/community/luddesdown-parish-council/>

COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2025

All meetings will start at 7.30pm

- 9th September 2025 - St Mary's Church Room
- 7th October 2025 - Meadow Room
- 4th November 2025 - St Mary's Church Room
- 2nd December 2025 – Budget Meeting - Meadow Room
-

<http://www.cobham-kent-pc.gov.uk/>



<https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/>

Cobham Hall – open to the public for the last time in 2025

On: Sunday 19th October 2025

One of the guides will be Christoph Bull

Opens from 2pm-tours at intervals until 4pm

Ideal opportunity to follow up the 6th October talk at The Reliance-come and see the most important local family abode in Gravesham.

Entrance fee: £6-concessions £5. Cream tea with Cobham Hall scones and cakes available at extra cost in the Gilt Hall.

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DATES FOR 2025

11th September

9th October

13th November

11th December

2026

8th January

THE TUESDAY **POP-IN**

Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon; all are welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and coffee.

Next pop-in Tues 9th September

CONTACT: MARY PALMER—01474816788



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September is the 200th anniversary of the first ever passenger-carrying railway, between Stockton and Darlington.

1825 - 200 years of the train

The engine, all clanky and smoky
The passengers standing in trucks
A journey both shaky and choky
But a new age of travel was struck.



The railways spread out like spiders
Till covering all of our Isles
In general delighting their riders
Who normally got there with smiles.



So many long years of reaching
Our goals with whistles and toots
Till along came a daft man called 'Beeching'
Who cut it all back to its roots.

Today it's the roads that are choking
Car drivers are hooting – in vain.
Doc Beeching might think I am joking
But they're building new railways again!



By Nigel Beeton

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Miscellaneous observations on life

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. - *Anita Koddick*

Don't give up on yourself. God doesn't. Even Moses was once a basket case. – *Anon*

If you want to forget all your other troubles, wear too tight shoes. - *Anon*

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon. - *Susan Ertz*

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind. - *Dr Seuss*

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. - *Foe Ancis*

Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. - *Lionel Kauffman*

Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again. - *FP Jones*



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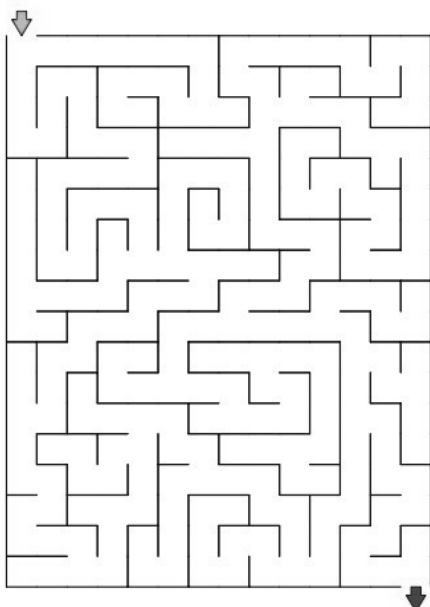


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make their way
to the cream
tea like the
Sole Street WI
ladies?



I have been making the most of the sunny summer weather with visits to the seaside, the river, the parks and some big castles and my walks around the parish.

I expect you have been enjoying the school holidays with your special human beans, but as the summer fades and you have to prepare for the autumn term you might be feeling a little bit sad. Don't! - as the autumn is great, you get to be back with all your school friends, there will be Harvest festivals, Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night not to mention all the new things you'll learn at school. So chin up and put your best paw forward!! Love and licks Paddy



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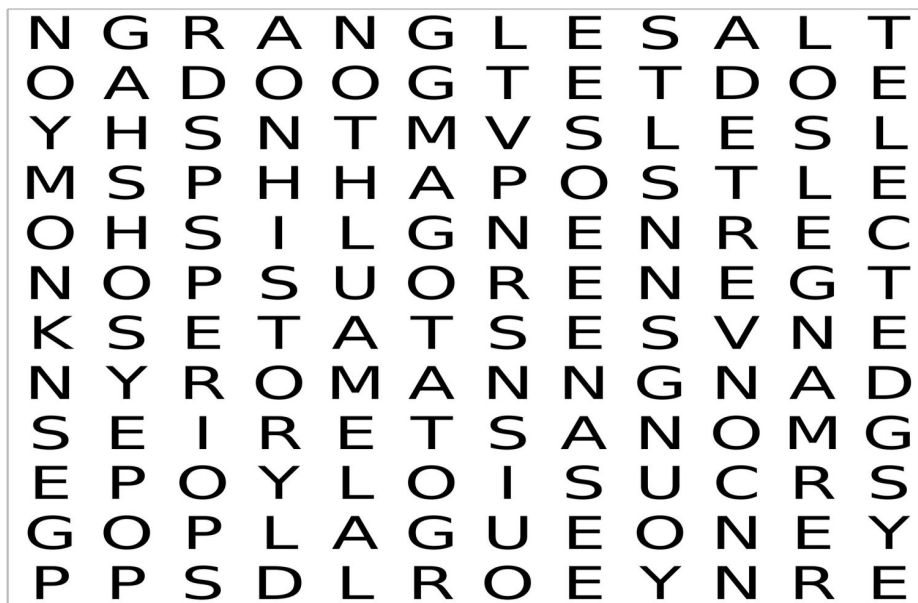
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½ page	£105	£56	£18	W:135 H:90
Full page	£195	£100	£34	W:135 H:185

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On 3rd September, the Church remembers St Gregory the Great (540 – 604AD), one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. He is well worth remembering, because he also changed the course of history in the British Isles. The son of a very rich Roman senator, Gregory converted as a young man, and then sold his vast estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome. He gave generously to the poor and became a monk.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, “They are Angles.” Moved with compassion for these despised men, he replied, “They are not Angles, but angels!” He planned to go to England to evangelize the Angles, but plague broke out in Italy about 590, and during this time he was elected Pope. But Gregory did not forget the Angles. In 596 He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

Gregory History Son Roman Senator Converted Young Estates
 Monasteries Generous Poor Monk English Slaves Angels
 Angles Plague Pope Apostle elected

Families, Faith and Fun

Sunday Afternoon Club in the St John's Centre:

Stories, music, crafts and
games for children aged 3 – 12
and their adults. 3.00pm.

For further information contact
Jill on 01474 813632 or Jan on
01732 823753



September 14

October 12

November 9 (4.00pm)

Family-Friendly Services in St John's Church

Harvest Thanksgiving

September 28 10.30am

Together with friends from Nurstead,
Cobham and Luddesdown, thanking and
blessing farmers near and far.

Christingle service

December 14 3.00pm

Light in the darkness to support The
Children's Society

Christmas Crib Service

December 24 4.00pm

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