



IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2025

**PUBLISHED FOR THE COMMUNITY
BY ST PETER'S CHURCH**

£1.00

Services in the Benefice in November 2025



Ightham

Wrotham

Sun 2 Nov	9am	Breakfast@Church	10:30am	Holy Communion with Healing Prayers
	6pm	Evensong		
Sun 9 Nov	10.30am	Remembrance Day	10:30am	Remembrance Day Service
<i>Remembrance Day</i>		<i>at the War Memorial</i>		<i>at the War Memorial</i>
Sun 16 Nov	10am	Service of the Word	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong		
Sun 23 Nov	10am	Holy Communion	9am	Breakfast @ Church
			10:30am	Sung Matins
Sun 30 Nov	10am	United Benefice Holy Communion		No services today

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS AT IGHTHAM

5th November	10am	Morning Prayer
12th November	10am	Holy Communion
19th November	10am	Morning Prayer
26th November	10am	Holy Communion

VILLAGE VOLUNTEERING

Churchyard Working Party

Everyone is warmly invited to the next Churchyard Tidy up on Saturday 8th November from 10am – 12pm. Bring your own tools and gardening gloves and we'll provide the tea and coffee for the break!

Parish Archive

Ightham Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to manage the archive in the lower Village Hall. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact the Parish Clerk: ighthamclerk@gmail.com

CALLING ALL SINGERS



Rehearsals for the Carol Service start on Thursday 13 November at 7.30pm at Wrotham. There will be 2 Carol Services again this year on 21 December at 4pm in Ightham and 6.30pm in Wrotham.

If you would like to join us to sing this year, please contact Carol Kennedy.

E: carol.a.kennedy@btinternet.com

In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.

Khalil Gibran



Penny for your thoughts...

November is a wonderfully rich month. It's both an Advent month, a month of waiting for an arrival; and a month of Remembrance.

So in one month, almost at our year's end, we're both looking forward and backwards, savouring the memories of the past whilst feeling anticipatory for the excitement of the future, and all that lies before us. What a weighty and responsible month! Never fear though, as this month's Magazine is full of pre-Christmas inspiration, of Church

services allowing time to pause and take breath, of gardening opportunities to help you be at one with nature, of exercise for relaxation and laughter. Above all, it's a packed Magazine reminding us that Ightham is a village which loves and nurtures neighbours as friends and embraces newcomers with warmth and open arms. Riches indeed, and all in a little local publication with a large heart and deep pockets of information. Definitely one worth supporting and subscribing to; an idea perhaps for a Christmas gift for a village friend or new neighbour? Happy reading . . .

Penny Cracknell

CONTACTS

The Benefice of Ightham and Wrotham **THE PARISH OF ST PETER'S, IGHTHAM**

Registered Charity No. 1136162

Rector:	Parish in vacancy	
Church Warden:	Naomi Webster	T: 07421 832919
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IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

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Copy deadline for the Dec edition is 15th Nov

IGHTHAM TENNIS CLUB

Keith Todd Wooden

Racquets Tournament

5/10/25 - Our third annual tournament run in memory of long-time member Keith Todd. This social and fun event showcases the Club at its best with many members playing in vintage whites to match their retro wooden racquets. Run in a round robin format with a different partner each round we had an appreciative crowd to cheer the players on.



Congratulations to Maria Gostyńska who emerged victorious, with a three-way tie for runner up position, Jon Dale, Oliver Cleverne and Mike Tate.



PLAXTOL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Exploring Kentish Castles

A true castle is a fortified residence occupied by a lord or a king. David Carder began his talk with three royal castles in Kent - Dover, Canterbury and Rochester. He then divided other castles into three periods Norman, early and late medieval. Dover Castle has been in use for 2000 years, first as an Iron Age fort with Roman and Saxon additions. Its medieval underground tunnel earthworks were still in use in World War II. Canterbury Castle is a splendid ruin undergoing restoration. Rochester Castle has the tallest keep at 125ft high and was the scene of a siege in 1215 when King John undermined the tower and reclaimed it from the Barons. Medieval warfare was not pleasant. Rotten carcasses would be fired into the castle by a type of catapult called a trebuchet.

Other castles and fortified manor houses were built by wealthy families who feared the French, such as Tonbridge and Allington. The original wooden keep at Tonbridge was replaced by a stone shell as the wood was vulnerable to fires. Of the many famous late medieval castles David Carder chose Cooling which has towers with arrow slits and round holes which are thought to be the earliest gun loops. Along the coast Henry VIII built Walmer and Deal as linked fortifications. Sandwich was built earlier by Edward I. Kent's abundance of castles matched the enthusiasm of the large audience.

Next meeting: 8pm, Tuesday 11 November in Plaxtol Memorial Hall with Jenny Watson-Bore on 'Pocohontas & Gravesend'.

Web: plaxtollocalhistory.wordpress.com

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Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Isn't it interesting how the seasons change! Writing the letter for the Parish Magazine gives me a great observation point for the advance of the year. I am fortunate in that I can look out on our garden as I write, so the progression of colours is clearer, towards yellow and red, and then the loss of leaves. Whether the trees still have leaves in November, apart from the evergreens, will depend on the wind and how low temperatures have fallen.

From 30-degrees in August, and at best 16-17 degrees in October, November is likely to bring single figure temperatures which will feel distinctly chilly. We might still be picking the last of the apples and pears, but gardeners will be thinking more of the winter crops of cabbages, carrots and leeks, with climbing beans, courgettes and soft fruit a distant memory!

In years past, preserving food was an important way of providing for winters, which were often cold. Some of this tradition is continued in the jams and marmalades we prepare and fruit that is bottled or dried. The time for warming meat stews, fruit pies or crumbles with custard is getting closer!

It is also a time to remember and reflect on where our food comes from. Our farmers provide food for us in all weathers and fishermen go out to sea at enormous personal risk, throughout the year. Anyone who watches 'Saving Lives at Sea' will be aware of how quickly the weather can change endangering lives. Even experienced fishermen can have bad luck if they experience engine problems or very rough seas, requiring help from the wonderful volunteers of the RNLI.

Though we have passed Harvest, I would like to borrow some words from 'We plough the fields':

'All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above; Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.'



Where does all this bounty come from? I do believe that our Father God was and is the creator, not a chance coincidence of atoms that started a chain reaction through evolution.

In all our busyness, it can be hard to find time to pause and look and reflect. As autumn advances towards winter, it is good to look around and wonder, perhaps on a walk, before returning to a hopefully warm home.

Each season has its beauty, if we can pause and have eyes to see. Winter will give nature a time for rest before the promise of spring. Let's enjoy autumn while it's here and say 'Thank You Father God' for all that you have given us. Amen.

John Webster

October,

John Webster



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6: 8

IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

On Saturday 8th November we will have our monthly Men's Breakfast at the George and Dragon in Ightham, at 8.30 am. This continues our monthly visits which have taken place for over 15 years. We enjoy an excellent full English breakfast on the second Saturday of the month.

We will be very pleased if any newcomers would like to join us for some good conversation over a leisurely breakfast in lovely surroundings. If you would like to join us and / or would like to have a regular reminder, please can you let me, John Webster, know via email: jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com; or phone: 01732 884819.



ST PETER'S COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP

We offer a warm welcome, good company, delicious food and drink. Cash or cards accepted!

Toys are available for younger visitors to play with.

Two of our greatly valued helpers are stepping down and I would love to hear from anyone who would be happy to come and help once a month either by helping and baking, baking or helping.

Please contact Jenny Webster - jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com 01732 884819 07752463238



10.15am
to 11.45 am
every
Wednesday

Church
Centre

The charity for November is the **Foodbank** at the **Church of The Good Shepherd** in **Borough Green**.

People very kindly leave donations of food in the box at the back of the church but the Foodbank also needs funds to top up these donations. 50% of our takings are given to our nominated charity and 50% to St Peter's Church.

MORE IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

Interregnum Help

Any questions or offers of help during the vacancy, please contact Jane admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk or Naomi churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk For further information, please see the Benefice News elsewhere in the Magazine.

Welcome to Ightham Booklet

New to the village? Please contact the Parish Administrator for the latest edition of this useful booklet. E:

admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk



Ightham Magazine

Subscribe to the Ightham Magazine and keep up to date with local news and events; read the latest Parish Council deliberations; and find contacts for local trades. The annual subscription is £10, for 10 issues delivered free to your door. Payment can be made by standing order, cheque or cash. To subscribe, please contact E: magazine@ighthamchurch.org.uk

St Peter's Church Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

New to Ightham? New mum at home? New child carer?



**Thursday
10 - 11.30 am
(term time only)
in St Peter's
Church**

From napping newborns to toddlers on trikes, this friendly and welcoming group would love to see you! Come along to meet local Mums and carers over coffee/tea, and yummy home-baked cake.

Need to know more?

The Group's leader, Kirsty Mitchem, will be delighted to hear from you. T: 01732 885072.

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A NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

The announcement came on 2nd October.

“His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, Downing Street has announced.

The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597, Bishop Sarah will be the first woman to hold the office. She will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026.

Sarah Mullally has been the Bishop of London since 2018, the first woman appointed to that role, and before that was Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Prior to her ordination in 2001, she was the Government’s Chief Nursing Officer for England – the youngest person ever to be appointed to that role at the age of 37 – having previously specialised as a cancer nurse. Bishop Sarah has described nursing as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God”. . . .

Bishop Sarah said: “As I respond to the call of Christ to this new ministry, I do so in the same spirit of service to God and to others that has motivated me since I first came to faith as a teenager.

“At every stage of that journey, through my nursing career and Christian ministry, I have learned to listen deeply – to people and to God’s gentle prompting – to seek to bring people together to find hope and healing.

“I want, very simply, to encourage the Church to continue to grow in confidence in the Gospel, to speak of the love that we find in Jesus Christ and for it to shape our actions.

“And I look forward to sharing this journey of faith with the millions of people serving God and their communities in parishes all over the country and across the global Anglican Communion.

“I know this is a huge responsibility but I approach it with a sense of peace and trust in God to carry me as He always has.”

The following day Bishop Sarah addressed a Canterbury Cathedral audience of school children from The Archbishop’s School, a CofE school in the Diocese of Canterbury, and guests from across the Church of England, Anglican Communion and the Diocese of Canterbury. This is an extract from her address.

“Today, as I respond to the Call of Christ in this new ministry, I remain rooted in my first calling: to follow Christ, to know him – and to make

him known to the world. . . .

“Washing feet has shaped my Christian vocation as a nurse, then a priest, then a bishop. In the apparent chaos which surrounds us, in the midst of such profound global uncertainty, the possibility of healing lies in acts of kindness and love.

“With humility and grace, we uphold and support those in need of our help. We do this to the best of our ability, in small ways and big, according to our own very particular gifts. That too is the service which I offer to the Church today.

“Given the many struggles of our Church and of societies here and around the world, I am often asked where I see hope. I have the privilege to see hope in communities, chaplaincies and churches in the Church of England and across the

wider Anglican Communion.

“In parishes across this nation, I see faithful clergy and congregations worshipping God and loving their neighbours. I see thousands of churches running food banks and homeless shelters. I see hospitals and prison chaplains caring for people and families in times of desperation. I see Church of England schools educating a million children across this country.

“I hear parishioners ringing bells and inviting people to pray. I hear the quiet hum of faith in every community, the gentle invitation to come and be with others, and the welcome extended to every person. In all of this, I see hope – because I see the person of Jesus Christ, reaching out to us all.”





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NOVEMBER – the pre-Christmas month!

- A Christmas Artisan fair will have Chiddingstone Place buzzing on Saturday 29 November, 10 am – 4 pm.
- Be brave with a murder mystery at Penshurst Place, an evening of Mayhem and Murder at St. Trinian's. 15 November 7.30 pm. £69 pp including a 3 course meal.
- It's Christmas in the Land of Oz at Hever Castle from 21 November onwards.
- Enjoy family Stir Up Sunday at Bore Place! 23 November, 10 am – noon. £65/£10 adults/children.
- Ssh! It's Christmas at Great Comp Garden's November & December events with wreaths and seasonal teas. Book now!
- 'Timeless Nights' is an atmospheric experience of NT Ightham Mote after dark. Late opening, with music and Christmas shopping. Selected November/December dates to 7 pm.
- Treat yourself to a novel Christmas fused glass workshop at Knole House, 21 & 24 November, suitable for 18+ yrs, £70.
- Save the date, Friday 21 November, 6 – 8.30 pm for Sevenoaks Bookshop annual late night Christmas Shopping event.

Check websites for full booking and ticket details.

All book worms should head to Borough Green and Sevenoaks Libraries where they'll find a cornucopia of literary delights, including children's activities! Check the Kent Library service website <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries> or call T: 03000 41 31 31 for opening hours and up to date information.



Ramblers - November 2025

Stroll or stride . . .

with our friendly group of Kent Ramblers, part of the national Ramblers walking organisation.

You don't have to be a Ramblers' member to sample a few walks to help you decide if you'd like to join. If you're new, we suggest contacting the walk leader beforehand to check their walk's suitability.

Whether you want a leisurely leg-stretch or a more demanding hike, November's walks can satisfy both exercise levels. Full details can be found on [Upcoming Walks](#) link or [Facebook page](#) or E: info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk



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IGHTHAM WI

We had a full Village Hall once again for our October meeting with a couple of new members, visitors and those on zoom. After going through last month's Minutes, with reports on the WI eleven activities and other matters, the President welcomed three gentlemen from The Sevenoaks CPR registered charity. They were part of a team of volunteers providing lifesaving CPR and defibrillator training, advice and maintenance. They brought various dummies and defibrillators for everyone to practice on after a very informative and expert demonstration. At the end of the session it was felt that we all had greater confidence and understanding in dealing with an emergency should the occasion arise. The importance of the whereabouts of defibrillators was also emphasised; Ightham has three in the village.

Key statistics were as follows:

80% of cardiac arrests happen within the home; there's a 30% chance of survival after CPR; a 70-80% chance of survival after CPR plus using a defibrillator. 1 in 10 survive after a cardiac arrest.

The CPR team emphasised that the life-saving work they carry out is all voluntary. They're always looking for volunteers so please look at their website if interested.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Any enquiries, please contact Helen Johnson, President, Ightham WI.
E: happyflowers@live.co.uk

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

November meeting:

*Amanda Everest giving a demonstration on sour dough
(with samples to take home).*



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FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

All of us enjoy the quiet beauty of our countryside - the walks across the Downs/Weald, the still mornings, and the sense of calm that defines our corner of Kent. That's why the Government's decision to approve a second runway at Gatwick Airport will come as such a disappointment to so many of us.

I will continue to stand alongside the many local campaigners who have spent years working to defend our countryside and our communities. Growth in aviation should bring benefits to those who live nearby as well as to the industry itself - and at present, that balance has not been struck.

For us in Ightham, you might ask why this matters? The community I represent goes as far south as Penshurst and Hever. These villages, primarily between Tonbridge and Edenbridge, suffer greatly from noise and environmental issues caused by being directly under the flightpath. Much of this area is a designated National Landscape, recognised for its beauty and importance. If this were a motorway on the ground, it would never be approved.

The airport stands to see a major increase in passenger numbers, but there remains no commitment to reinstate the direct rail link from Kent to Gatwick - something I believe should be in place before any expansion is allowed to operate. I made this point clearly at the public inquiry, along with the need for stricter limits on night flights, stronger protections from aircraft noise, and firm



commitments to reduce the carbon impact of the airport. These are essential safeguards for those who live beneath the flight paths.

Despite my concern at the decision, I will continue to work to try and secure a direct rail link. The work to date shows this coming to Tonbridge, which is much easier to get to than Borough Green and Wrotham. This would help ease traffic on the M25 and M23 and allow us to get to the airport more sustainably.

My inbox is always open for you to get in touch on anything that may matter to you. My contact details are as follows:

Contact details:

E: tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
T: 01732 441563

Post: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent
TN9 1SP

Web: www.tomtugendhat.org
Social Media - @TomTugendhat

Best wishes

Tom

Tom Tugendhat MBE MP - Member of
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REPORTING COMMUNITY ISSUES

TMBC Refuse Collections: Click on the link below for all refuse questions: <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/bins-waste/check-waste-collection-updates>

Highway problems including potholes, drainage and overgrown roadside foliage: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

Community Police Contact:

Our local contacts are: Inspector Terry Newman;
Sgt Nick Atkinson; PC Dylan McElligott and Irina
Mgebrisvili, Community Liaison Officer - PSE.



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Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another . . . Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Psalm 91:2

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FRIENDS OF IGHTHAM SCHOOL

Last month the school celebrated harvest festival with a wonderful service for Key Stage 2 pupils at St Peter's Church and a very special assembly at school for Reception and Key Stage 1 children. We enjoyed remembering that we have so much to be grateful for, not only at harvest time but all year round. Thank you so much to everyone at St Peter's Church, at school and in the wider community who played a part and contributed to the services and to the donations for the food bank.

Friends of Ightham School were lucky enough to spend an evening at The Hutch Deli and Café on 24th September. Many members of the local community were warmly welcomed by the team at The Hutch. We enjoyed a drink and some wonderful canapes on the new terrace whilst hearing about the charity's future plans and learning about opportunities to get involved with the school from the new head teacher, Sue Earl. Some of us stayed for a delicious dinner cooked by Ross the new chef. Thank you so much to all at The Hutch Deli for such a lovely evening.



FRIENDS OF IGHTHAM SCHOOL

If you would like to know more about Friends of Ightham School, make a donation or see how you can get involved please do get in touch by contacting Mark Keenor on 07770 440343

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Clocks have now gone back and autumn moves towards the depths of winter. Appetites change too with the shortening days, as we all crave a little comfort. Slow-cooked casseroles, satisfyingly starchy creamy mash, rich flavoured roasts and warming puddings all fit the bill perfectly so wrap up and head out for a trip to the Market for inspiration.

Game is the meat of choice for cooks in November as the season is well under way for birds such as pheasant, partridge and wild duck. Venison and rabbit are also available. Our new pie-maker, Liz, has now added venison pies to her popular menu. Don't forget her Shipbourne Pasty is also always worth a try, whatever the season!

Root vegetables are at their tastiest now and perfect for mashes, gratins and soups – they improve with the cold and you will notice a marked difference in flavour compared to supermarket specimens. Look out for parsnips, Jerusalem artichokes, swede and turnips. Main crop potatoes are full of texture and flavour and the varieties available locally are worth exploring. Brassicas really come into their own this month too – kale, Spring greens and all kinds of cabbages are wonderful in stir-fries, soups, and hashes or just steamed with grated nutmeg and more butter! And red cabbage cooked with apple, spices and red wine is another seasonal treat to go with rich pork, or maybe a roasted wild duck.



Colder waters make for high quality fish and seafood, and as the temperature drops the range available just gets

better. At the luxury end of the scale Dover sole, turbot and halibut are rightly considered the very finest eating. Lower cost alternatives are also at their best. Brill is a firm white flesh full of clean flavour that only needs simple cooking. Or opt for healthy mackerel, full of valuable Omega 3 fish oils.

Bramleys are perfect for using in mincemeat and Christmas pudding so buy them ready for stir up Sunday at the end of the month. The eating varieties can be used in tarts and cakes or covered in chocolate or caramel for a bonfire night treat!

***To find out more about
Shipbourne Farmers' Market
and to sign up for the weekly
e-Newsletter, visit [www.
shipbournefm.co.uk](http://www.shipbournefm.co.uk)***

COOKERY CORNER

BONFIRE NIGHT BAKED POTATOES

Serves 4 / Preparation: 15 minutes /

Cooking: 1hr 30mins

Ingredients

- 4 medium baking potatoes
- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 25g butter
- 1 large onion finely sliced
- 6 slices smoked streaky bacon, chopped
- 2 tbsp double cream
- 200g mixed good melting cheese e.g. reblochon, raclette or gruyere
- Chopped parsley

Method

1. Heat oven to 200 C / 180 C fan / gas mark 6.
2. Prick potatoes all over with a fork, then rub with half the oil, some sea salt and black pepper.
3. Arrange on a baking tray and bake in the oven for 1hr 15 mins, until their skins are crisp and they are completely tender when prodded.

4. Meanwhile heat the remaining oil and half the butter in a frying pan. Add the onion and gently cook for 15-20 mins until softened and golden. Remove from the pan and set aside, add the chopped bacon and fry until just crisp. Remove using a slotted spoon and place on kitchen paper.
5. Halve each potato lengthways, then scoop out most of the potato into a bowl, leaving a potato skin shell with a thin layer of potato. In the bowl, crush the potato with the remaining butter and the double cream. Season with salt and pepper. Fold through the onion, bacon, three quarters of the cheeses and half the parsley. Spoon back into the potato shells and top with the remaining cheese. Transfer to the baking tray and return to the oven for 10-15 minutes, until melting and golden.
6. Sprinkle with the rest of the parsley and serve with a crisp salad.

Taken from bbcgoodfood.com



BRAIN MATTERS...

closeness matters...

Autumn blew in with a bang and the mild weather has let winter gently creep up. The colours are glorious and the weather invites cosy comforts. As it gets colder we can start to look forward to winter festivities. The weather invites closeness.

In children and babies we understand the importance of secure attachment whereby a caregiver is the solid base for the child to feel secure and safe by the responsiveness they receive. As a baby this ensures they have their hierarchy of needs met when they cry; as a toddler it means being easily comforted when they need emotional regulation while exploring the world around them. Both involves responding to their respective needs and being helped to navigate their feelings. A child that can walk well but asks to be picked up and carried is not being lazy; they are signalling they need closeness for regulation. The same is true of infants who cry out in the night. The notion of self-soothing does not naturally occur until much later in development. When an infant 'self soothes' as a baby they're newly dysregulated as they have just learnt you won't come if they cry. Neuropsychological research shows that the first two years of life are the prime time for creating secure attachment



and emotional regulation that impacts adulthood, and the likelihood of developing disorders such as anxiety. Research indicates that touch, holding and closeness all help to regulate a child's system by lowering cortisol and strengthening their sense of security. Most children only achieve theory of mind between the ages of 4-5. It's a major step, so it's not surprising

that whilst learning to identify their big feelings, gain impulse control and start learning a form of self control and regulation, children rely on us to help them navigate it.

Closeness is important for teens and adults too - it just looks different. In teens they have spikes in hormones and brain development. They crave independence but still need the security of boundaries, safe space support and understanding. In adults never underestimate the importance of a hug, a 'check-in chat' or little acts of kindness. They all add up to help lower cortisol and strengthen bonds. Giving time for closeness, bonding and kindness helps to regulate our loved ones. It has a knock on effect to improve our serotonin and dopamine, all of which help maintain a healthy brain.

This winter cuddle up, embrace closeness in all its different forms and remember to take care of yourself too.

Chantal Montebello-Ealey

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Parish Clerk: Mrs Sarah Huseyin
T: 01732 886402
ighthamclerk@gmail.com

Councillors: Cllr Steve Burgham
Cllr Carol Clark
Cllr David Emmett
Cllr Stephanie Gunson
Cllr David Hall
Cllr Tamsin Hogarth
Cllr Kirsty Mitchem

AN EXTRACT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES Tuesday 16 Sept 2025

(Full Minutes can be found at www.ightham.org or by emailing the Clerk)

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR & BOROUGH COUNCILLOR:

County Cllr Rayner reported that the Reform Party are due to approve a mission statement about reforming Kent 2025 - 2028, at a meeting on 17th September. There have been some significant senior management changes at KCC; the contract for the Chief Executive will come to an end in November. The Chief Financial Officer and Director, plus several senior technical officers, have also given notice.

There will be some significant changes to the household waste, recycling and waste disposal arrangements in early 2026 when current contracts come to an end. Currently the black bin waste

goes to Allington where rubbish is burned; this is very expensive. Cllr Emmett reported that some residents have recently had notices on their green bins rejecting cardboard. Cllr Rayner said that there is pressure to ensure that recycling lines are as clean as possible due to the cost of rejected loads.

On Local Government Reorganisation, 2 proposals put forward by KPMG are being costed; they are for 3-tier and 4-tier Unitaries. Reform would prefer a single Unitary. A 4-tier Unitary would be made up of East Kent, North Kent, West Kent and Mid-Kent; there are some different options for borders. The cost of devolving to 3 or 4-tiers is estimated to be around £100m and would be covered by Council Tax. Current debt is £2.3bn; the debt free councils will end up picking up the tab for those that are unsustainable. It is estimated that 70% of homes in West Kent will have a significant increase in council tax.

On Thursday 18th September, Reform are putting together a time limited motion on Climate Change to rescind the declaration of a climate emergency. The Liberal Democrats are also putting forward a motion to encourage residents to ensure that vaccinations are up to date and

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support DPH and MMRV; this is due to the increase in disease due to low vaccine take up in urban areas. Reg 18B Local Plan is due at the end of October 2025.

MATTERS ARISING

Highways & PROW Matters: HIP update – The Clerk reported that the double yellow lines had been installed at Dark Hill. Ightham Common 30mph reduction - The Clerk reported that it was likely that there would be NO 30mph roundels and minimal repeaters on the roads around Ightham Common. Back Lane isn't due to be included in the speed reduction, but this may change at the design stage if the engineer determines that Back Lane should be included to avoid leaving a short section of derestricted road. Oldbury Lane 20mph - We are awaiting confirmation from a resident that we can use their verge for a 20mph sign on Oldbury Lane. Old Lane - We are awaiting a response from KCC. The Clerk reported that the Old Lane sign had been knocked down and there was a lot of mud on the lane; Highways have agreed to clear it and the sign has been reported. Mirror on Back Lane junction – It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase mirrors and then we can decide where they are positioned. Clerk to get approval from the landowner. Back Lane bus stop – update – This has now been cleaned, and the Clerk has requested KCC to remove the timetable. Cllr Holden also offered to see whether he could do it.

Miscellaneous: A227 Closures at Wrotham and Borough Green 18-26th October (half term). Clerk to ask James Hayward to



cut the hedges at Leathercote Corner. Tree down on Common Road junction with A25; Clerk to ask James to remove it from the pavement. Report: bollards at Common Road blocking sight lines, tree down on footpath by Haul Road, weeds on A25.

Allotments: Cllr Emmett reported that he had cleared a fallen tree and that the grass had been cut.

Recreation Ground: Playground repairs – The Clerk is awaiting a quote from Wicksteed. Surfacing quotes – The Clerk has asked Wicksteed to quote and will contact other contractors recommended by other Clerks. Ightham Sign – The planning application has been sent to TMBC and is awaiting approval. Cllr Emmett has replaced the gate latch saving us £700.

Village Hall: Update. A quote to remove moss from the steps, back wall and windows for £150 was approved. The contractor will also include cleaning the village sign. The Village Hall rebuild committee are meeting on 30th September to discuss the next project steps. Cllr Holden suggested that each member should visit another Hall and Fordcombe, Ide Hill, East Peckham, West Peckham, Chiddingstone and Paddock Wood

THE WEST KENT AUTISM PARENT SUPPORT SOCIETY



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With Claudia Goodman

Special Needs Teacher, ex SENCO and parent of son with ASD

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For further details/to register interest:

Claudia 07773 599543

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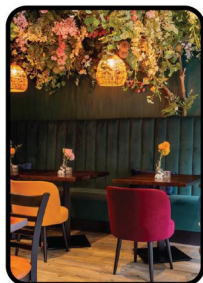
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were suggested. Cllr Holden reported that he had contacted 2 surveyors and is awaiting a response. Cllr Holden suggested inviting a local architect to give a view; agreed.

Flooding: Busty Stream – clearing vegetation. Clerk to ask James Hayward.

Oldbury Annexe: New lease – The draft lease is with Pioneer Academy, and we are awaiting their comments. The annexe which will remain vacant until the lease is signed.

Archive: We are still looking for a replacement archivist.

TMBC ASB Enforcement Team: We have made a request for the ASB Team to monitor parking on Oldbury Lane at school pick up.

St Peter's Church: Update - Meeting arrangements to be made to discuss churchyard maintenance. We have received a request for continued

support of £1,000 towards the Parish Magazine printing costs and an additional £400 to cover design costs.

The Clerk was asked to email the Treasurer to ask to see the last 3 years' accounts for the Magazine before considering the request.

PLANNING

4 planning applications were received and we raised 1 objection. TMBC approved 4 applications.

AOB

Cllr Clark reported that there was a water leak on Rectory Lane – Clerk to report. It was noted that the leaks on A227 and The Street have already been reported.

The Clerk reported that she had donated our old defibrillator to The Plough.



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This is just a reminder that Borough Green and Wrotham u3a monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2 pm in Borough Green Village Hall, with tea, coffee, and biscuits. Parking/disabled access available.

Our speaker on Monday 10th November is Jennie Randall, with her talk 'Not Forgotten - The Crooked Billett'. 80 years ago this year London faced a new and terrifying threat from a completely new weapon, the V2. Find out what happened when a V2 rocket destroyed the Crooked Billett (now a Harvester) in Southborough Lane, Bromley in November 1944 and how those killed

and injured are now commemorated on a blue plaque. It's not just a story of history; it's about what one person can do with a great deal of perseverance. (A very apt talk given Remembrance Day is on the 11th).

u3a
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We look forward to welcoming existing and new members, and guests (£5). Parking is free for Village Hall users, so please remember to register your car in the Village Hall lobby when you arrive. For further information, or to join your local u3a, please contact: info@bgwu3a.org.uk or visit our website <https://bgw.u3asite.uk>



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Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NT
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THINKING OF GUY FAWKES – a cause for thanksgiving

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Guy Fawkes Night used to be more popular, and many homes had bonfire parties and made 'Guys'. Until the 19th century the law even said that you had to go to church on that day for a special service, and no doubt the day ended with bonfires and celebrations.

The Observance of 5th November Act 1605 was also known as the Thanksgiving Act, as it was a response to the deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot. It required church ministers to hold a special service of thanksgiving annually on 5th November, during which the act was to be read out in church. The act required that all "Ministers in every Cathedral and Parish Church... shall always upon the fifth Day of November have a service which all persons had to "diligently and faithfully" attend.

The introduction to the act described the "inhuman, barbarous and cruel" terrorist plot to murder the king and his government, which was prevented by the miraculous and timely discovery. The legislation said the country should always be thankful

and have a "joyful day of deliverance". The law was repealed in 1859 by the Anniversary Days Observance Act.

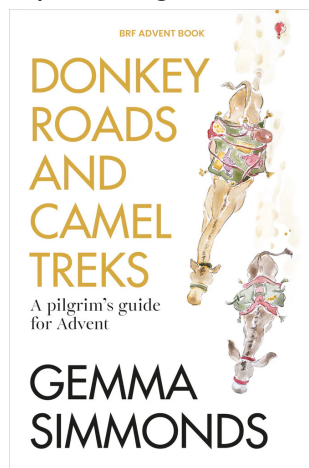
Thankfully we live in a somewhat more tolerant yet increasingly fragile era, but sadly are we less grateful for our blessings? How often do we have thanksgiving services in church? Now, more than ever, we need to pray for our nation and show our gratitude for the many blessings God has given us and our nation.

Source: The Parish Pump

PREPARING FOR ADVENT

Donkey Roads and Camel Treks: A pilgrim's guide for Advent – BRF Advent Book 2025 By Gemma Simmonds, BRF, £9.99

The lectionary readings for Advent speak of making a straight path towards God, but many of us find our own route decidedly winding. Biblical characters in the story of the incarnation are called to set out on the road to discipleship using any means of carriage they can. This book offers user-friendly encouragement (with the occasional spur onwards) to explore what helps and what hinders us in this journey.





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MEDITATE

A Poppy Prayer

Look at your poppy. Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers: give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war, remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends, and all the good things they did for their home and their country.

Then look at the red petals: red reminds us of danger and harm. Ask God to be close to those who are still facing danger each day, to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.

Place your whole hand over the poppy: poppies are also fragile and need to be handled gently. God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad. Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.

Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy: ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world. AMEN

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A Facebook response to a new Archbishop of Canterbury

'Twas the night before the announcement, and all through the land,
Not a cleric was certain what fate was at hand.
The mitres were tilted, the incense burned low,
In hopes that the Synod knew which way to go.

The curates were nestled all snug in their stalls,
While visions of purple danced round in St Paul's.
And Dean in his cope, and Mrs Dean in her cap,
Had just settled down for a long Anglican nap.

When out on the green there arose such a clatter,
The vergers all gasped, "What on earth is the matter?"
Away to the press room they flew like a flash,
Spilling their tea in a most un-English splash.

The cameras were clicking, the headlines all blared,
"The choice has been made—Sarah Mullally's declared!"
A bishop, a nurse, with a penchant for flair,
The Archbishop of Canterbury—yes, she's there.
Now some cried, "Ecstatic! At last, something new!"
While others turned pale, muttering, "What will we do?"

Some clutched at their prayer books, bewildered and glum,
While others sang "Alleluia! Progress has come!"
The vicars debated with sherry in hand,
The ordinands blogged what they could not withstand,

And Twitter exploded with glee and dismay—
A thoroughly Anglican kind of display.
Yet Sarah just smiled, with a bishop's calm cheer,
"Fear not, for the Spirit has brought us all here.

Through laughter and grumbling, we'll muddle somehow—
The Church is still Christ's, whatever the row."
So bishops may grumble, and laity weep,
But Canterbury's crozier she's now sworn to keep.

And I heard her exclaim, as she took up her role,
"God bless this dear Church... though it does test my soul!"
Unattributed 2025

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Are you organising a
children's party? A talk?
A disco? A yoga class? A
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If so, why not think of using the
IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL?

Hire charges are highly
competitive, and the space is
perfect for all kind of gatherings.
There is also ample and well-lit
parking.

For further information contact
Jenny Elliot
E: ighthamvillagehall@gmail.com

IGHTHAM & DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

Held At Ightham Village Hall

May we introduce our club to you?



We're a local Gardening club, who meet once a month (other than January/December) in the evening at Ightham Village Hall.

Our talks are 'all things gardening'. Come along and meet us if gardening is a passion, a recent hobby, or if your garden shrubs and flowers need a little expert advice! If new to the area, we'd love to introduce you to fellow local gardeners.

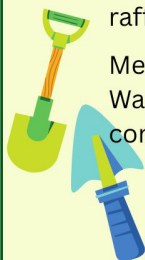
Our club is friendly and sociable, with a wide age span and offers a warm welcome to all. We have wonderfully informative monthly speakers to entertain and inspire us. Post talk Q & As are sweetened by tea and home-made cake!

Annual highlights are bountiful seasonal shows with varied classes of fruit, vegetables & flowers plus domestic and floral classes. There's definitely something for everyone!

We'd welcome a visit from you, so join us for a sociable evening out whilst taking home ideas and tips, even a winning raffle prize.

Membership is £15 per year; visitors are always welcome. Watch out for our monthly Magazine ads to see what's on or contact us for more information.

Club Secretary: 07799 002129



DIRECTORY

St Peter's Church

Rector	Parish in Vacancy	
Church Warden	Naomi Webster	T: 07421 832919.
	E: churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk	
Parish Office (Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri 9am-1pm)	Administrator	T: 07940 547310
	E: admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk	
Licensed Lay Minister	John Webster	T: 884819
Lay Readers	Michelle Lawson	T: 01634 240598
	Bryan Harris (honorary)	T: 07733 228048
Hon. Treas/Gift Aid Sec.	Max Robinson	T: 885966
Safeguarding Officer	Finley Lawson	T: 01634 240598
PCC Secretary	Sarah Reid	
	E: pccsecretary@ighthamchurch.org.uk	
Church Flowers	Judy Debenham	T: 882640
St Peter's Choir & Music	Carol Kennedy	T: 884764
Bell Ringing	Judith Robinson	T: 0788 0507066
Coffee Shop	Jenny Webster	T: 884819
Men's Breakfast	John Webster	T: 884819
Oasis	Bridget Kelsey	M: 07789 692967
	E: oasis@ighthamchurch.org.uk	
Parent & Toddlers	Kirsty Mitcham	T: 885072
Prayer Group	John Webster	T: 884819

Ightham Magazine

Editorial	Penny Cracknell	T: 07811 066253
Advertising	E: stpetersadverts@btinternet.com	
Subscriptions/Distribution	E: magazine@ighthamchurch.org.uk	

Community Groups & Events

Autism Parents Support Soc.	Claudia Goodman	T: 07773 599543
Ightham Club	Mark Brenta	T: 882104
Ightham Gardeners' Club	Pippa Coulthard	T: 883041.
	Dee Samways	T: 07799 002 129
Ightham School	Sue Earl, Headteacher	T: 882405
Ightham Village Hall	E: ighthamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Ightham Scouts-		
Explorers & Scouts	James Reid	T: 789400
Cubs	E: ighthamcubs@gmail.com	
Beavers	E: ighthambeavers@gmail.com	
Ightham WI	Helen Johnson	
	E: ightham@wkwfw.org	
PCSO	PC Dylan McElligott	T: 101 (non emergencies)

Sports

Badminton Club	Nick Dennis	T: 882078
Cricket Club	Geoff Preston	T: 01474 812594
	Tom Bentall	T: 07712 566772
Football Club	Martyn Reardon	T: 07725 896 886
Tennis Club	Max Robinson	T: 885966



A prayer for World peace

O God of the nations,
as we look to that day when you will gather people
from north and south, east and west,
into the unity of your peaceable Kingdom,
guide with your just and gentle wisdom all who take
counsel
for the nations of the world,
that all your people may spend their days in security,
freedom, and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Source: church of england