

# IGHTHAM MAGAZINE



**APRIL 2026**

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

**£1.00**



## Services in the Benefice in April 2026

### Ightham

### Wrotham

Thurs 2nd April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	8pm	Holy Communion with stripping of the altar	7pm	Tenebrae Supper with Holy Communion
Fri 3rd April <i>Good Friday</i>	12pm	Hour at the Cross	10am	Good Friday service
			7.30pm	'The Crucifixion' by Stainer
Sun 5th April <i>Easter Day</i>	9am	Breakfast@Church followed by Easter Egg Hunt No Evensong	10:30am	Family Holy Communion
Sun 12th April	10am	Holy Communion	9am	Breakfast@Church
			10:30am	Service of the Word
Sun 19th April	10am	Service of the Word	10:30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong		
Sun 26th April	10am	Holy Communion	9am	Breakfast@Church
			10:30am	Sung Matins

### Wednesday services

1st April	10am	Holy Communion
8th April	10am	Morning Prayer
15th April	10am	Holy Communion
22nd April	10am	Morning Prayer
29th April	10am	Holy Communion

### Churchyard Working Party

There will be a churchyard working party on Saturday 11th April from 10am until noon. There is plenty to be done to help keep our churchyard as a haven for both people and wildlife and many hands make light work.

Please bring your own tools. Coffee and biscuits will be provided. For more information please contact Naomi Webster 07421 832919 or

[churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk).

**THANK YOU!**



## Penny for your thoughts...

The news is generally a bit gloomy to put it mildly, so let's play Pollyanna's 'The Glad' game. 'I'm glad' that we live in such a glorious village. Ightham is undoubtedly

scenic, historic, friendly and supportive so this is undoubtedly something to be glad about. 'I'm glad' that our village has so much on offer – an enterprising deli and café in The Hutch; a world famous historic house and garden in Ightham Mote; a lively offering of clubs for all ages including the WI, the Gardening Club and the Scouts; a fantastic village primary school and a highly competent and pro-active Parish Council with councillors who do so

much for our community. 'I'm (very glad' that we have a thriving parish church which is getting ready with eager anticipation to welcome their new incumbent Revd Stewart Gibbs, in June. 'I'm glad' that the history of our ancient village is being efficiently cared for in the Parish Archive, as the past does inform the present and shouldn't be forgotten. Above all, 'I'm glad' that our dedicated Ightham Magazine team (including the noble deliverers who contend with all manner of letter boxes!) continues to produce a hugely readable, informative and valued publication each month. Finally, 'I'm glad' that this month we can bring you the good news of Easter, the most important of Christian celebrations and one which reminds us that however miserable the news might seem, there is always hope on the horizon.

**Penny Cracknell**

CONTACTS

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

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**Copy deadline for the May edition is 15th April**

# MEDITATE

## A NEW ARCHBISHOP

Ahead of her 25 March installation at Canterbury Cathedral, Sarah Mullally and her husband Eamonn, will wend their way along the Beckett Camino, a 140 km six day pilgrimage. Here are some highlights of the new Archbishop's Presidential Address from the February 2026 General Synod.

### **The Archbishop of Canterbury's Presidential Address**

"I stand here among you by no means for the first time, but for the first time as the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a humbling privilege to be called to serve in this role. It brings with it huge weight of responsibility, at a time when people love to remind me that the church faces significant challenges.

"But when the wind and the waves are rocking the boat, I am reminded that what I need to do is to focus on Christ, who calms the waters and stills the wind. With your help and with God's grace, I pray that I am able to approach this ministry with calm, consistency and compassion – as we seek to be what the Church has for so long been: a stable presence in an unstable world.

"Do, please, continue to pray for me in the months and years to come, as I will always pray for you. I do not carry my new responsibilities alone. We serve God's church together, lay and ordained; uniquely reflecting God's image into one another, and remembering His prayer that we should be one in our love for God and of one another."

**Editor comment:** we offer our prayers, thoughts and hopes for our

new Archbishop of Canterbury and her challenging role.

### **What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?**

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18th – 25th April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade.

*Read Shipbourne Farmers' Market article to find out which of their stallholders have won Dalemain Marmalade Awards!*

# PLAXTOL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## PLAXTOL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP MARCH MEETING 2026

### A house history of Ightham Mote

Frederick Forman, a Senior Collections & House Officer at Ightham Mote gave us a lively overview of the manor house and the people who lived there, the owners, their tenants and servants. Through his research of documents, wills and letters he built up the history of those who lived at Ightham Mote from 1340 to the present. The first owner who built the manor house in 1340 is unknown but a moat fed by a natural spring and a mill was in existence. Next we were introduced to Sir Thomas Cawne in 1360. He was a gallant medieval knight who had fought in the 100 Years' War with the Black Prince. His son inherited the manor and the family lived there for 40 years. The next owner Richard Haute came from the north of England in 1462. He filled the house with Tudor and Stuart courtiers and left his mark by adding Tudor embellishments that can be seen today. The Selby family lived at Ightham Mote for 250 years from 1595. Their name is connected with plots, spies and intrigues including the Gunpowder Plot and the turbulent Civil War. Sadly in Victorian times the manor house was not considered fashionable but at the end of this era when Sir Thomas Colyer Fergusson bought it there were 60 rooms and an estate of 500 acres. Sir Thomas was interested in its history and researched records and genealogy,

writing articles for *Archaeologia Cantiana*. Pieced together from the diary of Ella Thorpe, his cook during the 1st World War, were anecdotes of household life during the war. We saw that he had made a photographic collage of his family photographs with his servants and tenants. His son inherited and the family lived there for 40 years. Three local businessmen formed a consortium in 1951 and bought Ightham Mote two years before an American, Mr Robinson became the owner in 1953. It was his nephew who restored the house and offered it to the National Trust in 1985. This excellent talk on the long line of continuity, more than the architecture, has helped to bring the house history of Ightham Mote to life.

**V.Dusseck**

**Next meeting: 14 April, 8pm in the Memorial Hall with David Carder on the 'Development of Houses'.**

[plaxtollocalhistory.wordpress.com](http://plaxtollocalhistory.wordpress.com)



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# COMMUNITY EVENT

## IGHTHAM VILLAGE FAIR

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come and have fun!**

food &  
drink stalls

entertainment

community  
groups

local  
businesses

## EASTER GREETINGS FROM YOUR INCOMING RECTOR

As Easter approaches, I want to send warm greetings to everyone in Ightham. Although I have not yet arrived in the parish, I am already deeply grateful for the welcome that has reached me from St Peter's and from the wider village. It is a privilege to be preparing to serve both Ightham and Wrotham, two communities with rich histories, strong identities, and a deep sense of belonging.

Easter is a season of new beginnings. It speaks of God's life breaking through in unexpected places, of hope rising even when the world feels uncertain, and of renewal that touches both individuals and communities. As I prepare to join you, those themes feel especially real. A new ministry begins not with grand gestures but with simple encounters: conversations in the street, shared worship, learning the stories of a place, and slowly weaving together trust and companionship.

I look forward to discovering more of Ightham's life—its traditions, its people, its quiet strengths—and to walking with you in faith and service in the years ahead.

You are warmly invited to join the Easter celebrations at **St Peter's**, whether you are a regular worshipper, someone who comes occasionally, or someone who simply values the church as part of the village's story.

Easter is for everyone, and you will be very welcome.

I would also be delighted to meet many of you at my **Welcome Service at St George's, Wrotham, on Tuesday 2nd June at 7.30pm**, where the **Bishop of Rochester** will preside. It will be a joyful moment for both parishes as we begin this new chapter together.

May this Easter bring you peace, renewed hope, and the assurance that new beginnings—large and small—are always possible.

With every blessing,  
**Revd Stewart Gibbs**, Incoming Rector of Ightham and Wrotham



“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**1 Peter 1:3**

# IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto:jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com);

or phone: 01732 884819.

Please book your place by contacting John Webster

[jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com](mailto:jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com).



## ST PETER'S COMMUNITY COFFEE SHOP

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We look forward to you joining us.



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01732 884819 07752463238

10.15am  
to 11.45am  
every  
Wednesday

Church  
Centre

*The charity for April is **Babons Cancer Support** based in Tonbridge which exists to come alongside the cancer community of Tonbridge (and the surrounding area) whether you are patient, carer, family member, colleague or friend.*

# MORE IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

## 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](mailto: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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# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## **SEVENOAKS CHRONICLE: 26 February 2026 Village to get 20mph speed limit on four roads after consultation with public**

KENT County Council will go ahead with a proposal to implement a 20mph speed limit in four roads in Ightham.

A 24-day consultation was held during May and June last year. Members of the public were invited to give their views on the proposals for the beautiful village, which is near Sevenoaks but falls within Tonbridge and Malling District. The roads to have the 20mph speed limit are Cobs Close, Oldbury Close, Oldbury Lane and Spring Lane.

With each of these roads, the speed limit will be for their entire length. The council said the reason behind installing the restrictions in Ightham was three-fold: to keep pedestrians or those in traffic safe when they are using the road or any other road; to make it easier to use the route,

whether for pedestrians or road users; and to improve the area through which the road runs.

The order gives some context to the council's efforts to reduce speeding, saying there had been an "increasing demand" for the introduction of 20mph schemes. It says: "From April 1 2013 Kent County Council (KCC) became responsible for a number of public health functions. One of those was the health improvement for the population of Kent.

"In recent years the demand for the implementation of 20mph schemes had been increasing in response to both local and national campaigns, therefore KCC are intending to implement 20mph Public Health Schemes in Ightham, in Tonbridge and Malling."

The council's traffic orders site shows Oldbury Lane is 60mph, with Cobs Close leading off it. Spring Lane is also 60mph, with Oldbury Close leading off it.



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## HOPPING AROUND IN APRIL

- Celebrate Easter with **Lullingstone Castle's** fun Easter Egg Quiz, 2 – 6 April, 11am – 5pm. Aspiring plant hunters scour the garden and castle grounds for clues, meeting Easter characters enroute!
- Get creative with drop in Easter crafts at **Ightham Mote**, with Fabergé inspired card eggs and decorated Easter biscuits. 9 and 16 April 11am – 5 pm.
- Blue is the theme for **Riverhill Himalayan Garden's** Bluebell Festival and Craft Fair 22 April - 4 May. A host of blooms plus the delights of Artspring Gallery's craft sales will delight.
- Classic Cars are perfect for Dad at **Chiddingstone Castle's** National Drive It Day, Sunday 26 April in aid of the NSPCC Childline.
- Horticultural inspiration and foodie treats at the Old Dairy Tea Room are the blissful combo at **Great Comp Garden** annual Spring Fling Plant Fair, 19 April, 10am – 5pm.
- Be uplifted with a Birdsong Walk at **Bore Place**. Sunday 26 April. 8.30 – 10 am. Booking required.
- Choose your Easter holiday reading at **Sevenoaks Bookshop**, or book an author talk event from 'Talking Classics' with Mary Beard to 'Life in Bloom' with Graeme Corbett (including a floral demo).
- Get outdoors at **Emmetts Garden** with family Easter adventures, until 19 April. £3.50 + admission. No booking required.

**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 -

**April 2026**

**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.



Woodlands, vineyards and castles all feature in April's walks. Full details can be found on [Upcoming Walks](#) link or [Facebook page](#) or E: [info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk)

**We look forward to welcoming you!**



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# IGHTHAM WI

Despite a long list of apologies, the Village Hall was full of enthusiastic members, together with those attending on Zoom. The President reported on all the wonderful creative and numerous social groups run by Ightham WI together with the various activities organised by the Federation. The President then introduced the speaker for the evening, Michelle Ernout talking on Bumble, Honey and Solitary Bees.

Michelle started keeping bees 20 years ago. Unfortunately after an accident, she became temporarily housebound and became totally fascinated by bees and their environment. Michelle, a very knowledgeable and passionate speaker, explained that 135 million years ago when dinosaurs walked the earth the only insects would have been beetles, wasps, butterflies and dragonflies and pollination took place purely by wind. Over time bees evolved and to our amazement we were told there were over 280 species of social and solitary bees and 27 species of bumble bees. Michelle had excellent, detailed slides and we saw photos of a sweat bee (with five eyes), a blue banded bee from Australia and a leaf cutter bee. Apparently leaf cutter bees can determine whether to lay male or



female eggs depending on the size of the cells. We learnt that bees had different tongue lengths, could carry pollen in their pockets up to 50% of their body weight, and a honey bee queen could live for 5-6 years. It was evident that having thought we all knew about bees, how wrong we were!

**New members and visitors are always welcome. Any enquiries, please contact Helen Johnson, President, Ightham WI.**

**E:** [happyflowersgs@live.co.uk](mailto:happyflowersgs@live.co.uk)

*April meeting:*

**Eddie Prescott “The Airmen  
of RAF West Malling”.**

# The Tennis year starts 1<sup>st</sup> April - join now!

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*“When I joined ITC, I had almost no tennis experience and never imagined it would become such a passion. Through the free beginner sessions with Justin and a few private lessons with Jem, I quickly gained the confidence to join the club sessions and now play every week. Along the way, I’ve discovered not just a sport I love, but a fantastic community as well.” TL*

*“I really like the fabulous Tiger Turf court surface, the beautiful elevated position within parkland, the great standard of tennis, lots of organised groups and inter-club teams and all for £110 a year. PB*

*“I love being a member because I play tennis in lovely surroundings with friendly people. There are club sessions and fun tournaments and a yearly championship competition.” MD*

April 1st is the start of ITC’s new tennis year and the best time to join to get full value. Annual fees remain very competitive, with no extra charges for floodlights, ball machine or tournament entry. The all-weather TigerTurf court surface is cushioned and joint-friendly. We have a vibrant junior section, inter-club teams, coach-run group sessions and individual lessons, club sessions (including an improver club session for less confident players) and fun Cardio Tennis sessions which welcomes players of all standards.

**Contact us to enquire about a free introductory session and discover what a friendly club we are! More details in our advert and on our website. [ighthamtennis@gmail.com](mailto:ighthamtennis@gmail.com)**

## FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

April brings with it a sense of new possibility for our community. Trees and fields are coming into bloom, farmers sow their crops, the days grow longer, and preparations for local events and activities begin across our area to get ready for Easter.

The renewal of Spring is something we see reflected in our towns and villages too. In March, we welcomed the long-awaited expansion of Sainsbury's in the heart of Tonbridge - a significant milestone, first discussed four years ago. In Edenbridge, the 3G sports pitch campaign aims to invest in sport and leisure facilities at the centre of the community. In New Ash Green, conversations about reimagining the village centre remind us how important it is to listen to residents and shape a stronger future together.

These are just some of the projects I have been working on elsewhere. But in Ightham, I'm interested to hear your thoughts. What do you think needs improving in your parish? Many of the ideas that become reality across our community begin with local ideas and community actions. Residents know their area best, its strengths, its needs, and its potential. Real change often starts with a simple suggestion, a conversation, or a willingness to get involved.

If you have an idea, whether large or small, about how we could improve our community, I would love to hear from you. While I cannot promise every idea

can be delivered, I will always do my best to support where I can. Whether that means helping to raise awareness, connecting you with the right people, or guiding you through the next steps. You are welcome to contact me through my email below.



Thank you to all those who give their time, energy and imagination to our towns and villages. Our communities are stronger because of you. As we move into this new season, may the hope of Easter inspire us all to play our part in building places where others can flourish.

---

### Contact details:

E: [tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk)

T: 01732 441563

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

Web: [www.tomtugendhat.org](http://www.tomtugendhat.org)

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Best wishes

Tom

Tom Tugendhat MBE MP - Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

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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.



Call 101 if you need to contact the police for a non-emergency; 999 for an emergency or report issues with a simple online [form](#).



# Stephen P. Gay

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## COMMUNITY EVENT

You are invited by

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup>  
May 5.30pm



to attend a

Refreshments  
provided

Horticultural & Hanging Basket Demo



@ **Greenacres Garden Centre**

Borough Green Road, Ightham, TN15 9JA

Please contact Cedric, 07730 733 894 or Paula, 07753 408 755 to book your place

# NEWS FROM IGHTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



As spring unfolds, it has been wonderful to see our children enjoying the sunshine and embracing a term full of learning and fun with exciting curriculum enriching trips, events, and workshops.

Year 4 had a fantastic experience stepping back in time, with immersive role play, as they became Romans for the day with a visit from 'Those History People.'



Reception class enjoyed a delicious and inspiring trip to Pizza Express, which sparked their creativity for adapting the classic Gingerbread Man story into a new tale about a pizza.



Year 3 took an exciting trip to Chatham Dockyard, complementing their Science topic on forces, and memorably reinforcing their maths with practical, large-scale experiences of length and perimeter. The adventurous spirit continued with Year 5's Viking Day. Dressed as Vikings, history came to life with re-enactments as the children learned about Viking trades and skills.



We celebrated World Book Day with great enthusiasm. Children dressed as their favourite book characters, with activities and book discussions. We're thrilled to announce the launch of our new Book Swap



Shed, now brimming with a wonderful selection of books, thanks to our community's generosity. Spring also brought new life to our school with the arrival of duck eggs in Year 2. After careful nurturing, we are delighted that five healthy ducklings have hatched and are growing fast.



Our commitment to community engagement has been strong this term. Years 1 and 3 hosted community afternoons, inviting local guests to share stories and experiences, fostering connections between generations. Meanwhile, Year 4 lent a helping hand at Ightham Mote, assisting the gardening team by planting strawberry plants—a lovely way to learn about nature and give back to our local heritage.



We are eagerly anticipating our upcoming Easter Service at the church, followed by a fun-filled Easter Egg hunt for the whole school to celebrate the end of term.

Looking ahead, next term promises more opportunities for our children to learn, grow, and thrive.

**Sue Earl, Headteacher**  
**Ightham Primary School 01732 882405**

# FRIENDS OF IGHTHAM SCHOOL

**Friends of Ightham School (FOIS)** are an active support and fundraising group for Ightham Primary School.

We are always keen to hear from new 'friends' and grateful to everyone who is already involved. Get in touch by contacting Mark Keenor, Chair of Trustees, 07770 440343

## Thank God for the Easter Promise

"And on the third day,"  
the sun arose again with the son.  
Birds awoke with joy,  
in the stillness of early Morn'  
Jesus Christ was alive!  
He welcomed the joy of the dawn,  
with the marks of his experience -  
proving his innocence.

He walked from his death bed's  
enclosure,  
with the spirit of a fulfilled Saviour.  
The pain of his body and mind  
are now a thought behind.  
Messiah; fulfilled, Crucified-healed.  
Now was the time to show that he was  
alive,  
so that Christians could believe in 'The  
Word'  
and thrive.

In Mary's case he was a 'Gardener,'  
not the risen Pardoner.  
Thomas needed to touch, and feel  
his nail marks and open side.  
With shock and surprise his Master had  
died,  
and was standing here again - so alive!  
Now Christians can believe in 'The  
Word '  
and thrive.

Mary and Thomas now full of elation,  
as Man's sins were set aside, so entry  
to God's Kingdom may not be denied.  
Thank God for his promise, Now love  
all  
with care.  
'Amen!' to the action and thought of  
Prayer.

Twelve Disciples were then set to  
prepare for their Ministry,  
to talk to everyone about God's son,  
The King of the Kingdom to come.  
Jesus then returned to Heaven above.  
Leaving his promise - the sign of his  
Love.

**Di Coleman 2025**

# SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET



Congratulations to Jane from **Winsford House Produce** who has won multiple awards at the Dalemian Marmalade Awards. Jane has been awarded Silver for her Lemon & Elderflower Marmalade, and bronze for both her Mojito Lime Marmalade and Seville Orange Marmalade.

Roughway Farm have their very popular **cobnut granola** back in stock. Their cobnuts won first place in the Kentish Cobnuts class at the 2025 National Fruit Show in November, with a perfect 20/20 score for taste. Congratulations!

We have also welcomed a new stallholder – **Park Farm Brasted**. Located near Westerham, their herd of Jersey cows produce delicious milk (available raw and pasteurised) and handcrafted ice-cream in a multitude of flavours.

The arrival of April sees spring really starting to get into gear as the longer days with more light stimulates growth. However, April is still part of the 'Hungry Gap' which comes with a rather restricted choice of fresh seasonal products.

Celebrate the Easter break, which this year falls early between Good Friday on 3rd April and Bank Holiday Monday on 6th April. As well as all you need for Easter lunch, Ridwan The Baker is bringing his delicious hot cross buns to the Market, Debra has her famous Simnel cakes and Beth has beautiful Easter cards produced from her original watercolour art.

So what else should you be buying and eating this April? Fish and seafood lovers will find sea bass, cod, halibut, cockles, mussels and scallops all at their finest now.

For meat eaters enjoy a wonderful joint of beef or pork for a family Sunday roast. For Game look out for guinea fowl, venison and rabbit.

Lettuces, spinach, watercress, cucumber and spring onions are starting to arrive, taking over from the brassicas such as cauliflower, purple sprouting broccoli, cabbages and kale. For those yearning for salads, try foraged wild garlic (the white flowers should still be in bud for the best flavour). Wrap the leaves around fish before baking, or shred the leaves and use in soups, pasta dishes, risottos or homemade pesto (see Cookery Corner).

Keep on cooking with rhubarb, which has now moved from the bright pink early forced variety into the darker and more sour outdoor version.

**To stay up to date with “what’s on” at the Market, request our weekly e-newsletter by visiting [www.shipbournefm.co.uk](http://www.shipbournefm.co.uk) or email [lindsay\\_miles@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsay_miles@btinternet.com)**

## COOKERY CORNER

### WILD GARLIC PESTO

*Incredibly versatile sauce to use with pasta, meats and fish. Can also be made with spinach or basil after the wild garlic season has ended.*

- 100g foraged wild garlic
- Juice of half a lemon
- 50g pine nuts, cashews or hazelnuts
- 75ml rapeseed oil
- 75g parmesan or pecorino
- 1/2 tsp salt



1. Throw everything except the olive oil into a food processor.
2. Blitz slowly, gradually adding the oil.
3. Keep in a sterilised jar or spoon into an ice cube tray to freeze.



Hi Kent are no longer supporting Borough Green Medical Practice's Patients with hearing aid aftercare (batteries, cleaning wires, tubes). If patients that were fitted at the Borough Green Medical Practice require batteries, domes, tubes or aftercare please ask them to email us at [kmicb.ent@nhs.net](mailto:kmicb.ent@nhs.net) or call us 01732 887210 (between 10am and 2pm). Patients can also purchase batteries through Amazon or a local pharmacy/ shop.

We would like to share the news that our Senior Partner, Dr Paul Unwin, will be retiring from the Practice on 31st March 2026. Dr Unwin has dedicated many years of committed service to our patients and community. Throughout his time with us, he has shown unwavering professionalism, compassion, and leadership. His hard work and

commitment have made a lasting impact on both patients and colleagues, and he will be greatly missed by us all.

From April, all of Dr Unwin's patients will be transferred to our new partners joining the Practice — Dr Fiona Humphreys and Dr Louise Roberts. We are delighted and excited to welcome them to the team and are confident they will continue to provide the high standard of care our patients deserve.

While Dr Unwin is retiring from his role as Senior Partner, you may still see him around the Practice as he will be continuing to run some ENT clinics.

Please join us in thanking Dr Unwin for his many years of dedication and in wishing him a very happy and well-deserved retirement. We wish him all the very best for this next chapter.

## **BRAIN MATTERS... berries matter**



A blustery start to spring and a mixture of rain and sunshine gives us hope of warmer drier days ahead. As we move into April and kick off with Easter we can start to get our diets in summer gear. So why are humble berries so good for our brains?

Well berries are rich in antioxidants which are part of the polyphenols family which branches into anthocyanins and flavonoids. These are crucially linked to improvements in both cognitive function and memory. The anthocyanins in blueberries help to restore a neuron suffering from neuronal death - when a neuron or cell is experiencing oxidative stress this antioxidant is able to reverse the damage - pretty nifty! The only problem is we have a special blood brain barrier- a protective casing to keep harmful bacteria out but unfortunately it makes it hard for the good stuff to cross over too. This is why a daily dose of berries is recommended so that we can build up enough of the antioxidants to cross and make an impact!

The impact is worth the trouble. Studies show antioxidants can slow down natural cognitive decline and help to protect cells from ageing and damage; neuroprotective agents benefit neurodegenerative diseases. Berries help to lower blood pressure, give us more fibre and can help protect against diabetes and some cancers.

The best thing about berries is that the antioxidants are really strong. Add some berries fresh, cooked or frozen (and neither process will destroy their benefits), and enjoy their health advantages. Make a smoothie, add to porridge or overnight oats, try making a compote, add to yoghurt or simply put them straight up in a bowl for snacking. Enjoy these little jewels of nature. In the spirit of Easter you could even make your own dark chocolate (no sugar but a dash of maple syrup and some coconut oil with either cocoa powder or 80-100% dark chocolate) with some freeze-dried berries for a healthier brain friendly take on the holiday indulgences.

***Chantal Montebello-Ealey***

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# IGHTHAM PARISH COUNCIL



**Chairman:** Cllr Rodney Willingham

**Vice Chairman:** Cllr Michael Holden

**Parish Clerk:** Mrs Sarah Huseyin  
T: 01732 886402  
[ighthamclerk@gmail.com](mailto: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 February 2026

(Full Minutes can be found at [www.ightham.org](http://www.ightham.org) or by emailing the Clerk)

**Highways & PROW Matters: HIP update** – Oldbury Lane 20mph –signage has now been installed.

**Reduction of speed limits around Ightham Common:** Survey - The Clerk circulated the survey to go to residents and consultees. We have recently received 2 emails regarding traffic concerns at Ivy Hatch; these were passed to our Highways Officer who was able to provide some telematic data on current speeds. Data showed that traffic around Ivy Hatch has a strong compliance with the speed limit. Kent Highways can now gather data from GPS and sensors incorporated inside vehicles. The data is averaged over 12 months and is used by DfT and provides

a realistic picture of compliance and safety. The Clerk said that the blanket 30mph would help address the speeding issues. Regarding parking issues at the Plough, The Clerk will request a line refresh around the junctions. It was noted that residents in Ivy Hatch were not in favour of double yellow lines. **Mirrors Back Lane:** Cllr Willingham to chase the posts and ask James Hayward to install them. The Clerk will check the status of the A25 MegaFlectas and removal of the triangle on Back Lane. The Clerk has reported drainage issues outside Spicklewood. Cllr Emmett reported that one of the residents had cleared drainage at the Landway on Common Road. The Clerk reported that Canham were using the Recreation Ground layby to move soil between trucks and had spoken to them - they said it was due to restricted access in Seal.

### MATTERS ARISING

**Recreation Ground:** Gritting of car park during icy weather – Cllr Willingham to speak to James Hayward about a hopper. It was noted that it may not be possible to grit the car park in time for the start of school drop off if there is an unexpected weather event and under these circumstances the car park

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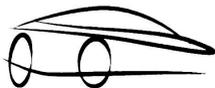
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Tel 01732 884589 Email [info@planetplants.co.uk](mailto:info@planetplants.co.uk)

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should be closed. The school have confirmed that they would organise drop off in the event of a car park closure.

Southern Water drain: no update.  
Tree work: scheduled for Easter holidays. Park repairs: awaiting date.  
Car park repairs: we have received 2 quotes for repairs and drainage. One contractor has quoted for another layer of shingle. It was agreed that we should allow for this in next year's budget but should proceed with drainage and potholes now.  
The drainage quote from M&S Paving was approved and the Clerk will ask for a cost to refill the potholes. We have received a request to put a path around the Recreation Ground perimeter. The Clerk was asked to respond to say that we had previously considered it and it was too expensive and that it wasn't safe to have a path running through the playing field.

**Village Hall:** Feedback from survey in January 2026 & agree next steps – We have received a 62 page surveyor's report (circulated) which outlines a list of tasks that are recommended immediately. Cllr Holden will get quotes to have both structural engineer and asbestos reports and a drainage survey; the surveyor recommended a list of contractors. Once quotes are received we can agree via email; once reports are received we can organise another Village Hall Committee meeting to decide the next steps. The Clerk has contacted Warners to locate

the original trust deed which sets out the responsibilities of the Trustees as the Village Hall Committee have

asked who is responsible for what. We have received renewal quote for the Village Hall insurance and this was agreed. The value of the rebuild is noted as £1.4m which is in line with what we have been quoted.

**Oldbury Annexe:** Update – Warners have confirmed that the lease has been signed. We are awaiting payment of the annual rent which we understand is in hand.

**Scout Pavilion:** Patio repairs have been carried out at a cost of £380 – it was agreed that we would pay 50% of this.

**Tennis Club:** Request from Tennis Club to remove sycamores – awaiting site meeting. We have been notified that there will be a 24 hour sponsored tennis match on Tuesday 16 June at 6:30pm through to Wednesday 17 June at 6:30pm for Crohn's & Colitis UK. It was agreed that we would donate £100 and will ask the Tennis Club to notify their neighbours.

**Village Fete/Community Picnic July 2026:** Arrangements and confirmation of expenditure/budget – Cllr Mitchem has had a meeting to start making arrangements. Cllr Emmett confirmed the marquees; it was also confirmed that the Parish Council would contribute £1,600 towards items such



as portaloos, generators and a band.

**Casual Vacancy: Deadline 28 February 2026.** Interviewing candidates – we have received 2 applications, one has been interviewed already and the Clerk was asked to set up a meeting with the other applicant.

### PLANNING

3 applications were received and no objections raised.

TMBC approved 2 applications.

### AOB

Cllr Emmett reported that Kings Hill were applying for Town status.

Cllr Holden reported that he had seen signage for horses' stables and suggested that we request one for Back Lane and Ismays Road.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm



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King's Men**

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Photo: Martin Bond  
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Closed Sundays & Bank Holidays**



## **Borough Green and Wrotham u3a**

The next Borough Green and Wrotham u3a monthly meeting will be held on Monday 20 April at 2 pm in Borough Green Village Hall. Regular members will notice that this is the third Monday in the month! This is a one-off change, for unavoidable organisational reasons, and regular service will be resumed from May onwards, with meetings on the usual second Monday in each month.

At our meeting on Monday 20 April we are delighted to welcome back Fred Lamont who will give a fascinating talk on the history of Thomas Cook. We look forward to

Fred's talk and to our usual chats over tea, coffee and biscuits.



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](mailto:info@bgwu3a.org.uk) or visit our website <https://bgw.u3asite.uk>



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## SEVENOAKS SHAKESPEARE - Summer 2026

Sevenoaks Shakespeare are presenting not one, but two major productions this year!

Returning to the Archbishop's Palace, Otford we're fusing the old with the new, the modern with the vintage, to present Shrewed! Using live music, songs, and classic '40s village fair action, we have created an immersive piece of event theatre presenting a new adaptation of Shakespeare's classic gender politics play, The Taming of the Shrew. With a cast of seven and an eight-piece band, this fast and funny production questions how women and misogyny are handled today, through the lens of the past, whilst keeping to an adapted version of the Shakespearean text.

Join us between the 21 and 24 May in the grounds of the Archbishop's Palace, Otford for some Blitz Spirit and all the fun of the fair. The future is female, and it's here this May!

Also this summer, we'll return to Underriver for our take on a Venetian masquerade. Tackling Shakespeare's play about race relations, we're very glad to be back in the gardens of The White Rock Inn for an intimate look at politics and villainy in our production of Othello. Rehearsals get underway soon; performance dates will be 25 - 28 June and 2 - 5 July.

Check our social media or visit our website ([www.sevenoaksshakespeare.co.uk](http://www.sevenoaksshakespeare.co.uk))

for further updates and to book your tickets soon.





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United Benefice of Ightham & Wrotham

## Holy Week Services

### St Peter's Ightham

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Maundy Thursday  
8pm Holy Communion Service  
followed by stripping of the altar

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday  
12noon 'Hour at the Cross'

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April - EASTER DAY  
9am Breakfast@Church  
followed by Easter Egg Hunt

### St George's Wrotham

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Maundy Thursday  
7 for 7:30pm Tenebrae Supper  
with Holy Communion

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday  
10am Good Friday service  
7:30pm 'The Crucifixion' by Stainer

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April - EASTER DAY  
10:30am Family Holy Communion

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Friday evenings  
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All sections are open to both boys and girls and operate an admission policy, please contact us as early as possible to have your child put on the expression of interest list, as all sections are always very popular.

For any questions about Ightham Scouts generally, volunteering your time to support us or for a young person wishing to join one of our sections please email [enquiries@ighthamscouts.org](mailto:enquiries@ighthamscouts.org)



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## \* Good with words or design?

We're looking for help with the Parish Magazine - writing articles, editing or graphic design, there are a variety of ways to be involved.

## \* Digital skills?

You could help run powerpoint slides, press play for music during the services, help with the website and social media.

**If you could be a hero and help, email Naomi on churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk**



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## FROM THE ARCHIVE – a ‘WI scrap book’ history of Ightham

Ightham has a fascinating Parish Archive co-created by David Williams and Jean Stirk. Amongst the archive is a 200 page ‘scrap book’ of the history of the village created by the WI and from which David and Jean drew much for their book, ‘Ightham at the Crossroads’. The Magazine is running a series of ‘scrap book’ extracts, creatively scanned and reproduced by Ian Gordon, which will provide an

intriguing, and often amusing, insight into our village’s past.

Here’s our second extract, pages 138 and 145 with some fascinating WI history. – with grateful thanks to Ian Gordon, David Williams and Jean Stirk and of course Ightham WI.

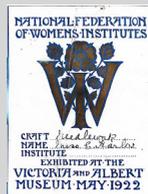
138

Women’s Institute



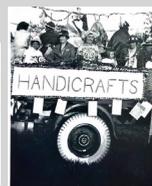
The Ightham Women’s Institute Banner measures 21 x 29 inches. It was worked under the direction, of M<sup>rs</sup>. Newberry, designed and embroidered by members, of the W.I. employing laid oriental, satin stitch, back stitching and French knots. The idea was inaugurated by M<sup>rs</sup>. Best, hops sketched by M<sup>rs</sup>. Brindley, nuts and roses by Miss Mollie Evans-Gordon, lettering sketched, by M<sup>rs</sup>. Best, Miss Caine, M<sup>rs</sup>. Durling, M<sup>rs</sup>. W. Durling Jun., Miss Evans-Gordon, the Misses Murphy, and Miss Vennell also helped with embroidery. Backing, cords and tassels provided and stitched, by M<sup>rs</sup>. Newberry, M<sup>rs</sup>. W. S. Durling gave the pole.

140



HANDICRAFT early became the main activity of the Institute, thanks largely to the enthusiasm and excellent teaching of M<sup>rs</sup>. Newberry, who held classes at Oldbury Place. It was at these classes that the Institute Banner was worked.

In 1922 an embroidered cushion worked by M<sup>rs</sup>. Stood was exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In 1923 the bedspread made by several members at M<sup>rs</sup>. Newberry’s classes won an award of merit and was exhibited at the Walker’s Galleries in London and again at the West Kent Federation Exhibition. In 1935 the silver cup was won at the Jubilee celebrations with the vehicle representing the activities of the W.I. Handicraft, Drama, and Produce Guild. After the war, in 1946, when exhibitions started once more, seven stars were awarded for embroidery, patchwork and rug making, the one for patchwork being won by M<sup>rs</sup>. Addy then aged 90.



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# DIRECTORY

## St Peter's Church

Rector	Parish in Vacancy	
Church Warden	Naomi Webster	T: 07421 832919. E: <a href="mailto:churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk">churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk</a>
Parish Office (Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri 9am-1pm)	Administrator	T: 07940 547310 E: <a href="mailto:admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk">admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk</a>
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: <a href="mailto:pccsecretary@ighthamchurch.org.uk">pccsecretary@ighthamchurch.org.uk</a>
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: <a href="mailto:oasis@ighthamchurch.org.uk">oasis@ighthamchurch.org.uk</a>
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Prayer Group	John Webster	T: 884819

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## 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: <a href="mailto:ighthamvillagehall@gmail.com">ighthamvillagehall@gmail.com</a>	
Ightham Scouts Group	E: <a href="mailto:enquiries@ighthamscouts.org">enquiries@ighthamscouts.org</a>	
Beavers, Cubs, Explorers & Scouts		
Ightham WI	Helen Johnson	
	E: <a href="mailto:happyflowersgs@live.co.uk">happyflowersgs@live.co.uk</a>	
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
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