



# Cobham & Luddesdowne News

July 2026

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## PARISH of COBHAM with LUDESLOWNE and DODE

**Priest-in-Charge** – The Rev'd Canon Alyson Davie

For all enquiries, including Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, please contact Alyson.

Phone no. 01474-812068 email:- [alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk](mailto:alyson@stjohnsmeopham.co.uk)  
(Rest Day: Friday)

**Pastoral assistant**- Janet Weaver, 36 Highview, Vigo Village, DA13 0RR  
01732 823936

**Church Safeguarding Officer** - Hilary Savage - 01634 723027

**Church Office** Phone no. 01474 813495

### **Church Officers of St. Mary Magdalene, Cobham**

<b>Lay Chair</b>	Hilary Savage	01634 723027
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Hilary Savage	
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Vacant	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Vacant	
<b>Deanery Synod</b>	Hilary Savage	01634 723027

### **Church Officers St Peter and St. Paul, Luddesdowne**

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### **Parochial Church Council Members**

#### **Cobham**

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Ron Chamberlain  
Lynn Ruddock

#### **Luddesdowne**

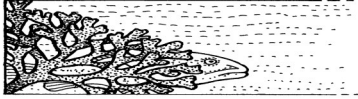
Diana Bampton  
Jill Beety  
Sue Campbell  
Janet Weaver

SUBMISSIONS Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne. - Please note new email address.

**Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month preceding publication to [cnewseditorial@gmail.com](mailto:cnewseditorial@gmail.com)**

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July  
2026

Many across the world are united in watching the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. However, football is more than just a game; it can illustrate some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: *'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'* (Philippians 3:13b,14).

*A prize to be won:* The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. Christians grasp to the prize of eternal life, God's gift to us of relationship with Jesus for now and eternity. However, there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and not dependent on how well we've done.

*Training to be undertaken:* If a team is going to win the World Cup, training is vital! Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say *no* to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our *godly muscles* we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, *'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'*

It has been 30 years since the song '3 Lions' first hit the air waves. Who can forget the hope and expectation we all felt in 1996 that finally our 30 years of hurt would be relieved! Well, we are now at 60 years of suffering, and my 1966 World Cup Willie badge is in the drawer ready for another outing. Let's hope the whole tournament brings much enjoyment to fans of the beautiful game.

Oh, alright then – Come on England – and Scotland of course!

Tina

## **25<sup>th</sup> July - is the Saints day of St Christopher, patron saint of Motorists**

The legend goes that St Christopher was a Canaanite who lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. He was a giant of a man, of fearsome appearance. At first, he decided to serve the devil, but when he discovered that the devil was afraid of Christ and His Cross, Christopher decided to serve Christ instead. A nearby hermit instructed Christopher in the Christian faith and assigned to him a place near a river: Christopher's job was to help travellers cross it safely.

All went well, and Christopher helped lots of people on their way until one day a child came along and asked to be carried across. Christopher put him on his back and set off, but was soon staggering under the astonishing weight of this child. The child then told him that He was in fact Jesus Christ, and that He carried the weight of the whole world. The Christ-child then told Christopher to plant his staff in the ground: the next day it bore flowers and dates – confirmation that the child was indeed who He claimed to be.

After some more time of helping travellers cross the river, Christopher went to the city of Lycia, where he preached the gospel with such success that the Roman emperor (Decius?) had him arrested and imprisoned – especially when Christopher refused to sacrifice to the gods. Two women sent into his cell to seduce him came out converted Christians instead. So, Christopher was beaten, shot with arrows and finally beheaded.

Christopher has been well-loved of the English down the centuries. Many wall-paintings of him have been placed on the north wall of churches, opposite the porch, so that he would be seen by all who entered. There was good reason for this: as patron saint of travellers, it was believed that anyone who saw an image of St Christopher would not die that day. As the ancient saying goes: 'Behold St Christopher and go thy way in safety'. A kind of daily insurance policy against death - this was so good that in due course St Christopher became the patron saint of motorists. There is even a church in the Javel area of Paris where Citroen cars are made, that is dedicated to St Christopher. In modern times, with the increase in air and motorway travel, Christopher has remained popular.

When in 1969 the Holy See reduced his feast day, there was a sharp protest in several countries, led in Italy by a number of popular film stars. If you ever travel in a taxi on the Continent, look out for a little St Christopher hanging from the rear-view mirror beside the driver. Now you know why it is there!



## **Summer Show.**

Although the weather during the days and weeks leading up to our Show was variable to say the least, we went from a heatwave to horrendous winds and rain, our members still managed to produce great exhibits, and we had an excellent show. The sun shone and having viewed the show members and visitors were able to enjoy their homemade cake and tea outside whilst viewing the plants and honey on sale.

Our judge, Dr John Hughes, said “in a year that the society celebrates 125 years of existence it was great to see a show that befits its traditions”.

Our next show is our Autumn Show on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September; make a note in your diary it really is a great afternoon out.

If the show has inspired you to join us membership to Cobham Gardeners' Society is only £10 a year, which gives you free access to our talks plus discounts at local nurseries and on our trips. For more information or to join email [cobhams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhams@hotmail.co.uk)

## **July**

In the meantime, Summer is progressing! July is usually one of the hottest months of the year and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants well-watered, using grey water where possible, and hoe off weeds, which thrive in the sunshine.

### **Top 10 RHS jobs this month**

1. Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
2. Care for houseplant while on holiday
3. Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
4. Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering
5. Pick courgettes before they become marrows
6. Treat apple scab
7. Clear algae, blanket weed and debris from ponds, & keep them topped up
8. Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs
9. Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if not given a spring feed
10. Harvest apricots, peaches, and nectarines



Meetings & Shows at the Meadow Room in Dickensian Cobham, Kent  
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**Saturday 12th September 2026 - 2:00-3:30pm**  
**Cobham Gardeners' Society**

# **Autumn Show & Plant Sale**

**Gardening Tips \* Adult & Junior Show Categories**  
**Flowers, Vegetables, Preserves & Photographic**  
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Come and join us for a summer luncheon of assorted sandwiches, delicious cake and tea/coffee all for just £5 per person.

A warm welcome is awaiting you and we look forward to seeing you in St Mary's Church Room on Thursday 16th July, 12-2pm.



## **Local Funding Group '24**



**COFFEE MORNING**  
**ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOM**  
**2ND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH at 10.30am**

*Meet old Friends and make new Friends*

## **THE TUESDAY POP IN**

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

**Next pop-in 14th July**

**CONTACT: MARY PALMER—01474816788**



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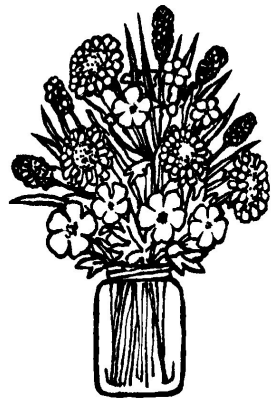


## **A Celebration for the Life of Margaret Anne HODGE**

Margaret was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1936 and died on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the age of 90 years old. The service took place at St Mary's Church, Broadwater, Worthing on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and was led by Revd George Butterworth. Margaret was then cremated, attended by a few family members.

Our condolences and prayers go to Margaret's children Tricia, Rachel, Andrew and Susan, and their families.

*(Margaret was the wife of The Revd Canon Michael HODGE who was Vicar of Cobham and Rector of Luddesdowne from 1967).*



## **Thursday Fellowship.**

We are delighted to be welcoming Jane Fisher, the daughter of one of our members, on 30<sup>th</sup> July. We meet at 2.00.p.m. In the St. John's Centre, Meopham.

Jane will be speaking about her work with, Anti-Natal Results and Choices. In her role she supports parents through anti-natal screening and advises clinical staff when dealing with complications or the loss of a baby. Jane is very experienced and is calling her talk, 'Testing Times.' You are all welcome to come and share Tea after the Talk.

## **MONDAY CLUB—Sole Street**

The Monday Club meets every week at St Mary's Church Room, Manor Road, Sole Street, Cobham from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. It is a small club for the retired and semi-retired. We have a very varied programme of Speakers, Choirs etc with Social Afternoons – tea, biscuits games etc. We also arrange outings to places of interest and afternoon teas. New Members are made very welcome.

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## **Sole Street WI**

We held our AGM on 26th May, which coincided with one of the hottest days of the month. Despite the warm weather, it was a well-attended and productive meeting. We were delighted to welcome June Woodham from Cobham & Luddesdown WI, who kindly acted as teller for the evening.

Members received the Secretary's Report, a financial update, and the President's Annual Report, which reflected on what has been another busy and successful year for Sole Street WI. The reports highlighted the wide range of activities enjoyed by members and the important role that our membership plays in making our WI such a vibrant and supportive group.

Our President and committee members remain unchanged, with the exception of Pam, who has retired from the committee after 16 years of dedicated service. Although Pam is stepping down from her committee role, we are pleased that she will remain a member. We thank her sincerely for her hard work & commitment.

During the refreshment break, members enjoyed a celebratory selection of cheese and biscuits, delicious cupcakes, and a glass of Prosecco. These treats were greatly appreciated, and we extend our thanks to the members who generously provided them. 🏠🍰🍷🥂



This year's resolutions were *Accessible Public Toilet Facilities* to promote dignity, health and social inclusion and *Action on Women's Homelessness*. Prior to voting, members completed quizzes on both topics, helping to raise awareness of the issues and encourage discussion. Following thoughtful consideration, members voted in favour of both resolutions. Our decision will be communicated to our delegate, Jenny Brooker (Cobham WI), who will represent us at the National AGM.

Our craft sessions continue to be popular, and we have recently completed a beautiful piece of bunting for use at future events. The bunting features the initials of our members alongside the Sole Street WI name and is a wonderful representation of our group. Although it was a very warm evening, the AGM was a great success, with members contributing enthusiastically and suggesting several exciting ideas for future events and activities. For further information about our meetings, walking group, or craft sessions, please



email: [solestreet@wkwfwi.org.uk](mailto:solestreet@wkwfwi.org.uk)

Jayne Holden

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## Dates for your Diary

### The dates for the Cobham Parish Council meetings are:

Tuesday 7th July Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 8th September St Mary's Church Room at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 6th October Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 3rd November St Mary's Church Room at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 1st December Meadow Rooms at 7.30pm



### The dates for the Luddesdown Parish Council meetings are:

Monday 20th July Luddesdown Village Hall  
Monday 21st September Luddesdown Village Hall  
Monday 16th November Luddesdown Village Hall  
All meetings start at 7.30pm

## **Have you noticed the seagulls lately?**

Or rather – the lack of them?

A recent survey published by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), found that the total number of gulls wintering in the UK has fallen from 3.9 million to just under 2.5 million over the past two decades.

It is thought that the reason for the decline of gulls is due to improvements in waste management, both on our streets and in landfill. Avian flu, agricultural practices and climate change may have also played a part.

The survey targeted the black-headed gull, common gull, lesser black-headed gull, herring gull, and black-backed gulls. It found all species, apart from herring gulls, had declined.

The great black-backed gull, the UK's largest, saw a 66 per cent drop in numbers wintering in the UK. Black-headed gulls declined by almost half. Common gull numbers fell by 26 per cent, and those of lesser black-backed gulls dropped by 47 per cent.

Emma Caulfield, a BTO research ecologist and survey co-ordinator, said: "These figures are pretty alarming. Despite these smart and adaptable birds figuring out how to live alongside us, the ever-changing world appears to be moving too fast for them to keep up."



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## **BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley**

In May, with hard work, Cobham hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Kent Churches. With due diligence and the annual “Ride and Stride” this organisation uses the funds raised to make grants to churches to help with the maintenance of their buildings.

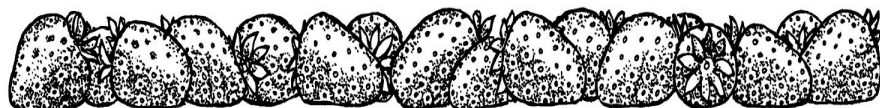
However, this parishioner absconded for a long planned ringing day mainly in Kentish churches. Firstly, to Leigh, outside Tonbridge, with its lovely big green. The church was restored in 1861 and its 6 bells date from 1871.

At Hever the church, by the castle gates, has a splendid shingled spire and the churchyard azaleas were vibrant. In the church respects were paid to the 1538 stone tomb of Thomas Bullen, father of Anne Boleyn and grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I. Next it was a climb up the ancient wooden ladder for a ring on the 6 bells dating from 1703. Just before opening time at Noon a queue had formed outside the “King Henry VIII” pub.

Cowden is only just in Kent and also in the Sussex Diocese of Chichester. Both its tower and spire are shingled and vast 1320 oak beams inside continue to hold up the tower. The earliest of the 6 bells is dated 1410. Wood and iron still serve down the centuries.

Speldhurst was en fete with the Primary School fete. The old church was struck by lightning and burnt down. The 1871 rebuild has the glory of Morris & Co. windows with Burne-Jones designs. Here was our only 8 bell ring of the day. Then we just strayed over the border into Sussex to Frant. The church has an attractive stencilled barrel-vaulted nave ceiling and a memorial marble pulpit and reading-desk. The six 1633–1777 bells were rehung and retuned by Whitechapels in 1981.

The Church of England has the great challenge to fill this incomparable inheritance of parish churches with congregations. Community use, goodwill, various bodies, and generosity must be encouraged to care for these glorious treasures. Thank you Friends of Kent Churches. As long as the buildings remain and volunteers come up the towers then the bells will ring out.



## Sunday Afternoon Club

3.00pm on some Sunday Afternoons in the  
St John's Centre Meopham: Songs and Stories,  
Prayers and Games, Activities and Food!  
For Children up to age 12 and their adults.  
For further info visit [stjohnsmeopham.co.uk](http://stjohnsmeopham.co.uk)



## Meopham Library Writing Group

**Meopham Library Writing Group** meets again on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 at 10am.**

If you are interested in writing you are very welcome to join us. Each month there is a different writing theme such as "Fiction", which can be used as a starting point for a short story, poem or an article. Creative writing is a very enjoyable activity which can also be used to record special family memories as well as being helpful for anyone facing difficult times. Future meetings will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please ring **01474 813379** for more information.

## 1<sup>st</sup> South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company

The **1<sup>st</sup> South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meets every Friday evening 6pm-7.30pm for boys and girls aged 5-18 years, at South Street Baptist Church, Wrotham Road, Meopham, DA13 0QJ (*next to Hope Hill*). New members are very welcome to join us for craft, games and Bible stories. Please ring **01474 815039** or **01474 813379** for more information or visit [www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk) and [www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk](http://www.BOYS-BRIGADE.org.uk)

**SONG TIME** meets every Monday 9.45am-11am during term time for babies and toddlers. There is a slide and lots of different toys, craft activities, musical instruments and singing. **South Street Baptist Church** services all begin at 10.45am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

# **Cobham Choir**

*presents*

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## **St John's Meopham with St Mildred's Nurstead Church Services July 2026**



### **Sunday 5th July**

9.45am All Age Worship at St John's

*10.30am Holy Communion Luddesdowne*

11.30am Holy Communion at St Mildred's

### **Sunday 12th July**

*10.30am Holy Communion Cobham*

11.30am Mattins Joint service with St John's at St Mildred's

### **Sunday 19th July**

9.45am Songs of Praise at St John's

*10.30am Holy Communion Luddesdowne*

11.15am Churches Prayer Meeting at St John's Centre

### **Sunday 26th July**

9.45am Morning Worship and Baptism at St John's

*10.30am Patronal Festival Holy Communion Cobham*

11.30am Family Service at St Mildred's

**Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street**  
**Church Services during July 2026**



**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham**

**Midweek services in Sole Street**

**St Mary's Church Room, Informal Morning Prayer**

**9:30am 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July**



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## Miscellaneous observations on life...



Alcohol does not make people able to do things better. It makes them less ashamed of doing them badly. - *Anon*

You may get to the very top of the ladder, and then find it has not been leaning against the right wall. - *A Raine*

Anger is a wind which blows out the lamp of the mind. - *Anon*

Nothing handicaps you so much in golf as honesty. - *Anon*

Never look back unless you want to go that way. - *Anon*

A real friend will not visit you in prosperity unless he is invited, but when you are in adversity he will call without invitation. - *Anon*

If you would like to know the value of money, go and try to borrow some. – *Benjamin Franklin*

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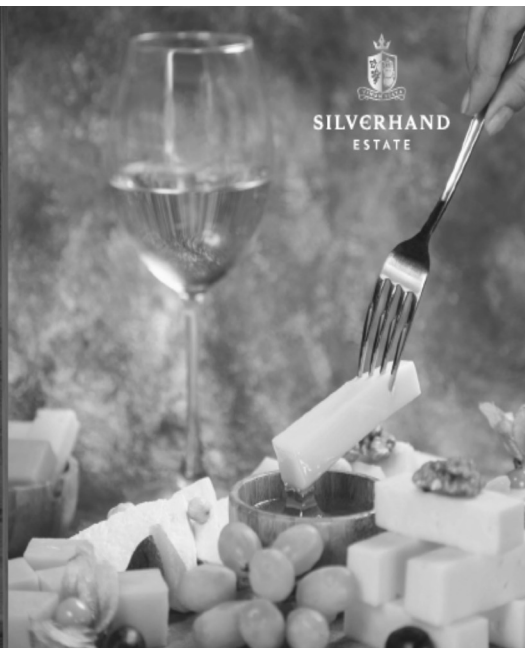
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I have just returned from the top of the world, well almost the top of the world where what I experienced defies description!

I went on a seven-day expedition cruise via Oslo and Longyearbyen, to Svalbard which is 800 miles from the North Pole. The scenery is breathtaking, black, white with a touch of blue. The black and white represent the mountains and snow, the blue the sky and sea!



The mountains are so majestic, so craggy and rocky, so very black. At times you can't see where the snow ends and the sky begins; their cragginess seems to be suspended in space! The sea is so many shades of blue, far more than on a paint chart! There are no trees, just the smallest of rockery plants like purple saxifrage cling to the rocky surfaces, fighting for survival and there's only six types of plant that grow there. The area is classed as tundra!

The silence is awesome, silence you never experience here! The air is so very clear, the clouds vary from dark, dark grey to snow white.

There was 24 hours of daylight so no Northern Lights, although they still happen even during the hours of daylight, but you can't see them!

The ice cap? It stretched from where we met it, 690 miles from the North Pole and over 80 degrees latitude, to the North Pole and beyond. 'Small' lumps of ice, floating on the Arctic Ocean, lumped together, all different shapes and sizes, different shades of white and blue. A sight that caused an optical illusion in my brain!

There used to be hunters hunting seals, arctic foxes and polar bears but all that has ceased and the animals are protected, so well protected that the polar bear numbers haven't declined since protection came into force.

So why did I go on such a trip? It was the third time I've been there and each time I am amazed. Amazed at the beauty of God's creation, it is a place that draws you back time and time again. It is a place that could disappear in years to come because of climate change, but meanwhile the words of 'O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, Consider all the worlds thy hands have made' come to mind.

I know of no words to describe adequately what I saw, heard, experienced, except to say that I saw God's creation in all its glory.

Plus, I saw a polar bear, wandering along the beach, seemingly without a care in the world! Another gift from God.

Veronica

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## North Kent Embroiderers



Our last meeting was the AGM with a chance to show other members what we had been working on recently.

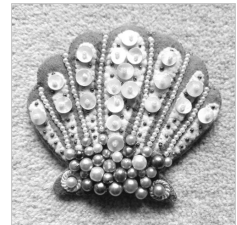
Many of the 'Show and Tell' pieces were also going to be exhibits in the Gravesham Fringe Festival. This will probably be over by the time you read this but I hope many of you will have been able to visit the St. George's Arts Centre in Gravesend to see not only our work but also that of other local people. Everyone is so excited for this year's event as last year there was no funding from The Arts Council so the event couldn't go ahead. After much hard work by local people the bid was submitted for this year and to our great delight it was successful. The festival provides such a valuable platform for local artists of all sorts.



You can see here just a few pieces that we have put forward for display. The one top left shows a pretty example of ribbon work which involves the threading of delicate silk ribbon through lin-

en fabric to give the lovely 3D effect that you can see here. Below left is a stunning silk covered lidded box with a beaded tassel and an appliquéd butterfly.

The final piece shown here below right is an example of beadwork using beads and sequins to adorn this encrusted shell.



If you or someone you know would maybe like to start a new hobby and to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website: <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/>

or email us at: [info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk) or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen



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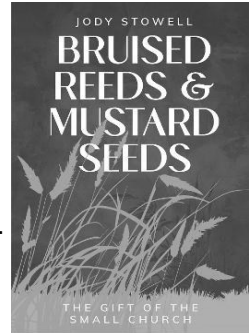
Unfortunately, I am unable to bring you a report from the Cobham and Luddesdowne WI this month. All the more news to catch up on next time!

### BOOK REVIEWS

#### **Bruised Reeds and Mustard Seeds - The Gift of the Small Church**

**By Jody Stowell, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

At a time when churches across denominations face a steady decline in attendance, smaller congregations often find themselves overshadowed by the push for growth and numbers. While larger 'Resource Churches' are praised for their expansion, the true value of the smaller church is frequently overlooked. But what if there's a unique gift in these smaller communities?

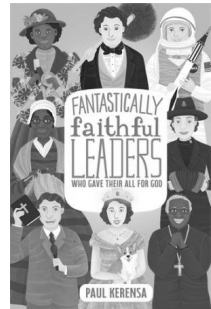


Jody Stowell invites you to explore how, in the race for growth, we may be missing the deep significance and essential role of smaller congregations. As anxiety about survival and financial security spreads throughout the church, local churches and their leaders bear the burden. Yet within these smaller churches lies a richness, resilience and spiritual depth that is often lost in the noise. This is a call to rediscover the profound worth of smaller congregations and recognise their vital place in the future of faith communities.

#### **Fantastically Faithful Leaders Who Gave Their All for God By Paul Kerensa, SPCK, £8.99**

Here is a page-turning biography series for children 7 and up, to meet Christians whose courage and leadership changed the world.

Award-winning comedy writer and author Paul Kerensa brings to life eight extraordinary people from history who answered God's call to lead - and changed the world in the process.



*Whether used as a family read-aloud, for independent reading, a classroom resource, or a Sunday school supplement, this book gives children real-life role models who show what ordinary people can achieve when they trust an extraordinary God.*

**Luddesdown & District Rights of Way Group.**

We are a small friendly group that usually walks from The Cock Inn, Henley Street, Luddesdown, Gravesend DA13 0XB, at 11am on Wednesdays. We walk at a gentle pace for some 90 minutes in beautiful countryside. Occasionally we lead weekend walks. With four Socials a year in Luddesdown Village Hall and a twice yearly Newsletter, we would be delighted if you joined us for a walk or two. Becoming a member costs £7 per person a year. Please contact Walks Co-ordinator Janet Ferguson, preferably at [janetferguson@hotmail.fr](mailto:janetferguson@hotmail.fr) . Ian Sheridan, Acting Chairman, 07951 927 517

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*Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1866, so that date this year marks 160 years since her birth. Born into the restrictive middle-class Victorian society, her world was one of rules and limits, but she had the courage to shake off those limits and her legacy to us of the unspoilt beauty of the lake district and her vivid imaginings of what the animals there got up to are almost timeless:*

## **Miss Potter**

A rabbit in a coat of blue,  
A hedgehog laundress, a badger, too;  
A kitten – now, his name was ‘Tom’  
Whose clothes were off much more than on!  
Jemima was a ‘puddle duck’  
Who thought a fox would bring her luck  
Till Kep, the farmer’s collie dog  
Saw through the fox’s scheming fog!

Although she dwelt in London’s dusts  
Brought up with can’ts and don’ts and musts;  
Her eyes just twinkled with the light  
Of scenes beyond the smoky night!  
Miss Potter saw the trees and woods  
Which turned her ‘couldn’ts’ into ‘coulds’.  
And she could – with ink and paint  
Show us a world both rich and quaint.

So many summers since her birth  
Her vivid creatures bring us mirth!  
Her rabbits bring us timeless joy,  
Her ducks that fox nor time destroy,  
She brings us from the city’s smells  
To brooks that weave through soaring fells!  
So many summers since her birth –  
Yet still she brings such joy to Earth!

*By Nigel Beeton*



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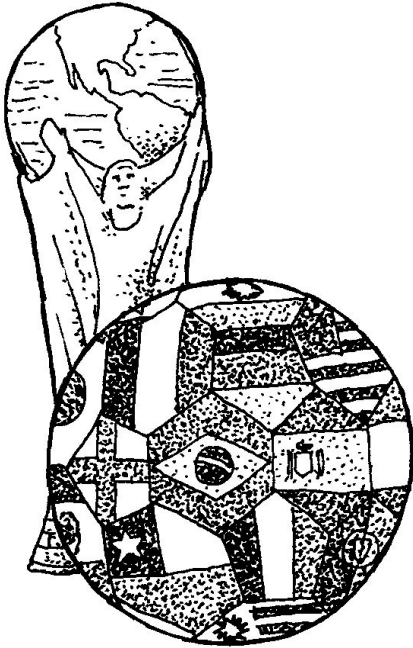


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The United States of America is 250 years old this year can you colour in their original flag?

Hello me again! I hope you are enjoying the Summer so far!

Now I don't know about you, but I have a feeling, from the amount of shouting and groaning going on in front of our TV that there is some kind of football tournament going on.

A very long time ago, when the tournament was held in London, the original world cup was stolen. There was much concern and fear that the cup would be lost forever, but a doggie called Pickles saved the day when he sniffed out the missing trophy from beneath a bush, allowing it to be presented by HM The Queen to the victorious England team of 1966!



I, of course, have my own skill set when it comes to soccer, which mostly involves a lot of chewing until the ball bursts, great fun! The other day I was presented with my own world cup and guess what — it squeeeeks!

Love and Licks - Paddy

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It was 250 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress. The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson, and was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. It runs for only 1,320 words. The Declaration included the phrase: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

July Fourth Declaration Independence Second Continental Congress  
 Washington Draft Thomas Jefferson Benjamin Franklin John Adams  
 Truths Created Equal Creator Inalienable Rights Life Liberty Pursuit  
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