

IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

JULY & AUGUST
2026

PUBLISHED FOR THE COMMUNITY
BY ST PETER'S CHURCH



Services in the Benefice in July & Aug 2026

Ightham

Wrotham

Sun 5th July	9am	Breakfast@Church	10:30am Holy Communion with Healing Prayers
	6pm	Evensong	
Sun 12th July	10am	Holy Communion	9am Breakfast Church 10:30am Service of the Word
Sun 19th July	10am	Service of the Word	10:30am Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong	
Sun 26th July	10am	Holy Communion	No Breakfast@ Church 10:30am Sung Matins
Sun 2nd Aug	9am	Breakfast@Church	10:30am Holy Communion with Healing Prayers
	6pm	Evensong	
Sun 9th Aug	10am	Holy Communion	No Breakfast@ Church 10:30am Service of the Word
Sun 16th Aug	10am	Service of the Word	10:30am Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong	
Sund 23rd Aug	10am	Holy Communion	No Breakfast@ Church 10:30am Matins
Sun 30th August		No services - please join us at St George's Wrotham	10:30am United Benefice Holy Communion followed by BBQ

Wednesday services

1st July	10am	Morning Prayer
8th July	10am	Holy Communion
15th July	10am	Morning Prayer
22nd July	10am	Holy Communion
29th July	10am	Morning Prayer
5th August	10am	Holy Communion
12th August	10am	Morning Prayer
19th August	10am	Holy Communion
26th August	10am	Morning Prayer



Penny for your thoughts...

The 'summer' edition sounds a little bit optimistic with the current weather patterns. Nonetheless, whatever the weather our 'bumper' edition will certainly live up to its name. Not only does it offer metaphorical 'sunshine' with so much uplifting information but it's definitely a very full edition, packed with cheering community news, reports, activities and general good cheer. As the double month Magazine (July/August) we always hope that it shows what a supportive, caring

and upbeat community we all live in. It's also a community which has historically been deeply rooted in the countryside. Urban sprawl has long taken its toll, yet Ightham still retains its glorious setting nestled on the edge of the North Downs surrounded by 'natural history' which as we all know, is so important for our general physical and mental well-being. So while the Magazine team take up their buckets and spades, we wish our readers a relaxing summer break – and enjoy a ramble, a family day out in the glorious gardens of our local heritage properties or just chilling at home with a good book. Happy holidays!

Penny Cracknell

CONTACTS

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

Registered Charity No. 1136162

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IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

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Copy deadline for the Sept edition is 15th August

MEDITATE

LOOKING ACROSS THE POND . . .

God and the Americans – 250 years on

In July 1776, there were roughly 2.5m Americans in the Thirteen Colonies.

Those who went to church worshipped in about 3,228 Christian congregations, made up of about 14 various denominations. These included: Anglicans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Dutch Reformed, Methodists, Quakers, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics.

Today, there are c. 342.5m Americans. Churchgoers worship in about 325,000 Christian congregations, choosing from a staggering 200 different denominations, plus thousands of independent congregations.

A recent survey from the Pew Research Centre found that today about 17% of Americans would like the government to declare Christianity the official religion of the USA. Yet 33% believe that churches and other places of worship should ‘keep out of political matters.’

The most popular view (43%) is that the government should “promote Christian moral values without making Christianity the official religion”. This is followed (38%) by the belief that the government should “neither establish an official religion nor promote Christian values”.

“In God We Trust” first appeared on US coins in 1864. In 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially made “In God We Trust” the US national motto as it remains today.

PARISH NEWS

Churchyard Working Party Saturday 11th July 10am - noon

Help make your churchyard a haven for both people and wildlife! Please bring your own tools. Coffee and biscuits provided. For info please contact:

Naomi Webster 07421 832919 / churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk. Thank you!

Rector update: at the time of going to print, the latest update from the

Archdeacon was that he was checking in weekly with Rev. Stewart Gibbs but had no further news. Any updates will be shared with everyone as soon as possible. Questions should be directed to Naomi, the churchwarden: churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk

Our thanks to everyone who is continuing to support our worship and keep things running smoothly across the benefice while we prayerfully wait.



IGHTHAM VILLAGE SUMMER FAIR



11TH JULY

1 – 4pm



IGHTHAM RECREATION GROUND

Stalls including

Beer tent
Bottle tombola
Barbecue
Ice cream van
Teddy tombola
Pimm's tent
Tea and cake
Plant stalls
Winterdale Cheese
Pure Wix candles
Wooden dolls

Entertainment

Bouncy slide
Wealden Vocals
Dog show
Ukulele band
Maypole dancing
Tug of war
Ightham Tennis Club
Marshmallow toasting
Glitter tattoos
Human fruit machine

More...

The Hutch Deli & Cafe –
sandwiches, cakes and
refreshments available

**Ightham & District Gardeners'
Club Summer Show** in Ightham
Village Hall from 3pm

The Ightham Club hosting the
"Party after the Picnic" from 4pm
– bar and live music open to all



*Walk down to the rec, bring a
picnic blanket and come and
have fun!*



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Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Dear Friends,

As we move into the early days of summer, there is much to celebrate in our parish communities of Ightham and Wrotham. This is a season marked both by growth and challenge: our gardens are flourishing, community events are gathering pace, and for many of our young people, exam season is well underway.

We hold in our thoughts and prayers all those sitting GCSEs, A Levels, and other assessments. This can be a time of pressure and uncertainty, but also one of hope and opportunity. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). May our young people find both resilience and peace in these words, and may they know that their worth is far greater than any result.

Our schools continue to be at the heart of village life. Teachers, staff, and families have worked tirelessly to support pupils not only academically, but emotionally and spiritually too. This shared effort reflects the strength of our community - a reminder that we walk alongside one another in both the busy and quiet seasons of life.

Summer also brings with it a wonderful array of community celebrations - fetes, concerts, and gatherings that

give us the chance to reconnect, to share stories, and to enjoy the simple pleasure of being together.

These moments echo the early Christian community described in Acts: "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" (Acts 2:46). In a world that can often feel hurried and divided, such acts of togetherness are deeply important.

As a parish, let us continue to support one another - especially those who may be feeling isolated or in need. A kind word, an invitation, or a shared cup of tea can make all the difference.

May this season be one of encouragement, celebration, and community spirit for us all.

With every blessing

Michelle Lawson



IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

On Saturday 11th July and 8th August 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.

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Centre

The charity for **July** is **Dandelion Time**, a nature-based charity that works with children and their wider family to overcome issues and difficulties. Helping them find opportunities for change and rebuilding relationships while creating happy memories along the way.

The charity for **August** is **Hearing Dogs for the Deaf**, a charity transforming the lives of deaf people and those with hearing loss.

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



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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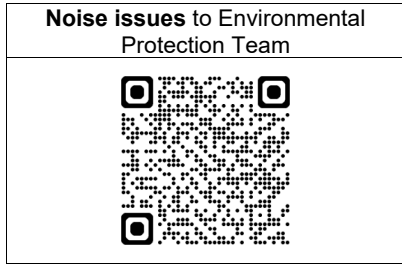
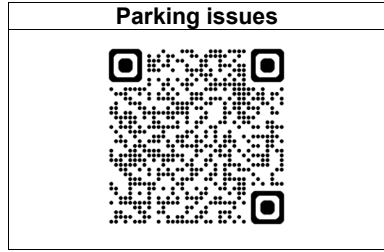
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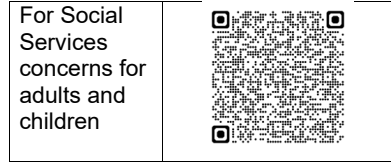
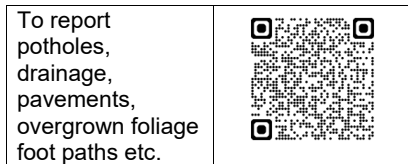
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**Where to report at TMBC
SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM**

Ightham Parish Council has subscribed to the Safer Neighbourhoods Team
<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/news/article/203/safer-neighbourhood-team-launched-in-tonbridge-and-malling->



Where to report at KCC



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It's summer – and here are things to do whatever the weather!

- New for 2026! **Lullingstone Castle's** Civil War Society living history weekend, 4/5 July. An event for all the family with daily different programmes.
- Fab family playfulness is on offer at **Ightham Mote**, 18 July – 31 August. Or discover the Mote's secrets at the Festival of Archaeology, 20 – 26 July. Both free with normal admission, 10 am – 5 pm.
- The world of knights, legends and medieval adventure will enchant at **Hever Castle**, 22 July – 31 August, with history, storytelling, action and adventure. Free with admission.
- It's open-air theatre season! The famed Changeling Theatre troupe play the glitz, glamour and scandal of Much Ado About Nothing, Saturday 11 July at **Riverhill Himalayan Gardens**; while **Great Comp Garden** hosts Illyria and the dashing Pirates of Penzance, Thursday 30 July. Both 7 pm.
- At **Chiddingstone Castle** you can dance to the beat of Stevie Wonder with mesmeric vocalist, Noel McCalla, award-winning saxophonist, Derek Nash and a band of top musicians! Sunday 16 August, 2 pm £25; children £6.
- Learn a new skill at **Hever's** one day Flower Sketching Course, 18 July. £70; or take the family to a pasta making workshop at **Bore Place**, 13 August, 10 am – 1230 pm, £55 adult/£10 child. Yum!
- You know it's summer with the **Great Comp** annual summer show on Saturday/Sunday 8/9 August with a vibrant programme of creativity, music, plants, and artisan craftsmanship.
- Just want to relax? Choose your summer reading at **Sevenoaks Bookshop**! If you need inspiration on what to buy, then expert help will be on hand.

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 -

SUMMER 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.



This summer enjoy the very best of our varied Kentish countryside, with its rich history and glorious landscape. Full details can be found on [Upcoming Walks](#) link or [Facebook page](#) or E: info@tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!



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The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, including three new members, two members on Zoom and a guest. The Plant Sale at our May meeting had been a great success and raised £108. A report from the National WI Annual meeting explained how the WI campaigns for both Action on Women's Homelessness and Accessible Public Toilets, had been voted on, and passed by over 90 %.

We also enjoyed a member's report about a walk she had arranged around the Hawkwood Estate near Petts Wood. A ranger explained about the aims of the National Trust work on the estate woodland and farmland. The walk also passed a Memorial to William Willett who was responsible for Daylight Saving Time.

After the usual reports and information about upcoming activities and events, the President introduced our speaker Susan Shaw talking about Top Tips for Flower Arranging and Using Flowers From Your Garden.

Susan, a floral demonstrator, showed us some pictures of her beautiful flower displays, including a design at Chelsea Flower Show which required 7000 stems. We were given lots of tips to help us get the best from our flower displays, including; only cut flowers from your garden at the start or end of the day, and only cut what you need in order to leave flowers and berries for wildlife. We

were given examples of some of the flowers which are commonly grown in gardens and suitable for flower arranging.

Bought flowers should be the best quality that you can afford and as fresh as possible. Susan explained that supermarket flowers are perfectly acceptable these days and we were given top tips for spotting the freshest flowers. Hygiene is critical to longevity of a plant display, always ensure all tools and containers are spotlessly clean. To extend the life of your display, top up the water and recut stem ends.

We all agreed it was both an informative and inspiring presentation and we're now eager to experiment with our own arrangements.

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

E: happyflowersgs@live.co.uk

No meeting in July - we will be going for a Pie and a Pint at the Kentish Rifleman.

August Meeting: Summer Garden Party

The Tennis year starts 1st April - join now!

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. . .And nothing 'gainst time's scythe
can make a defence

Elon Musk

Sat at dusk

And cried for the moon

Elon Musk

Rose at dusk

Baying at the moon

Said Elon Musk,

'I've plenty of tin

Yet more I'll win.'

'Blow the poor

The Stock Exchange floor

Is the place

I'll make my base

For the Moon Race.'

'World's first trillionaire -

I'm so debonaire

I could be a quadrillionaire!

.....

'Brother could you spare a dime
I'm cold, homeless, hungry all the time;
A crumb from the rich man's table
A tent, a shack - even a stable?
But you've no time for losers.'

'Bewitched, bedazzled by constellations
afar I follow my star
First the moon
And then ... '

Dives and Lazarus met at the door
And who was the loser?*

Patricia Wright

* The story of Dives and Lazarus can be
found in S. Luke's Gospel, 16: 19 - 31

FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Since medieval times, Tonbridge has been a place where people came together to trade, exchange goods and manage their affairs. The town's position on the River Medway and its historic market made it a natural hub for local commerce.

Our village relies on Tonbridge being economically active, as our local town. The stronger the town, the more people are attracted to enjoy the countryside around it, where we choose to live.

Village banks are, sadly, a thing of the past. But banking facilities should remain in towns like Tonbridge. It is why I have campaigned so much for a Banking Hub in Tonbridge. It isn't just for the town, it is for us too.

You may have been to the Banking Hub at Tonbridge Castle, but that's only temporary. A new hub is on its way to Tonbridge High Street. This will be a place where we all can access the services we need, regardless of how we choose to manage our money.

The new Banking Hub will be in the former Wimpy building, on the corner of the High Street and the Pavilion Shopping Centre - next to Finch House. It should open later this summer after refurbishment work has finished.

For members of our community who find online banking confusing, this is a

much-needed addition to the town.

I'm looking forward to seeing it open and being well used by our community.

If you would like to read more about my work on this and other community issues, you can find further updates online, or you are always welcome to contact my office.



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 Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

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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 Mgebrishvili, 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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STARFISH MALAWI

It is with a grateful heart that we write to those at St Peter's Church, Ightham and Ightham Primary School who both support our work. As we grow and develop the projects that we believe God has called us to, we are constantly reminded of His provision of resources through those people who have caught the passion for our work among Malawi's rural communities.

During the UK teams' recent trip, they visited many of our projects and met with those children and families who are directly benefitting from Starfish Malawi's work.

Tristan Jones, our schools linking co-ordinator UK says, "Visiting Thugulu Primary School in Salima, Malawi, was a deeply grounding experience that brought the long distance link vividly to life. Spending time in classrooms and lessons, sharing stories, plus an opportunity to hold a live link between the two schools showed me just how much curiosity, joy, and ambition the pupils share, despite living thousands of miles apart.

I was struck by the staff and learners generosity of welcome and the strength of community woven into every part of school life. The trip reaffirmed how powerful these partnerships can be - not just for exchanging ideas, but for widening horizons and building friendships that enrich learning on both sides."

Our work is reaching out to thousands of children every week

through our school Bible Explorer classes, our early years education programme across five nurseries and through Cherish and Courage classes that help boys and girls learn to live their lives with Christian values. Our healthcare work is similarly busy as witnessed by the UK team when visiting Hope Clinic where around 3,000 people attend each month.

We could say more, but our aim is to show God's love in action to all those who are part of our projects, which make a real difference on a very individual basis.

For more information about our work, please visit www.starfishmalawi.com

Teddy Bear's Picnic & Churchyard Athletics



+ *"Have a go" sessions for grown-ups*

4pm Saturday 22nd August
St Peter's Church, Ightham



For kids

- Teddy bear zip wire
- Crafts
- Churchyard Athletics
- Picnic tea

For grown-ups

- Tea and cake
- Have a go sessions

Bring your favourite teddy or cuddly toy and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome!

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

SEHOLY TRINITY CHURCH, TWYDALL, GILLINGHAM

An update

The link between St Peter's and Holy Trinity Twydall is nearly 25 years old. We continue to support each other regularly in prayer and in sharing our means and talents. Ightham provides some financial help to 'Twydall' as part of our away giving as they are in a very deprived area and struggle to meet their running costs. During our period of interregnum, we have appreciated their Vicar, Reverend Mike Nelson and curate, Reverend Anna Drew leading several services for us.

In the autumn we welcomed their Parochial Church Council (PCC) to our Church Centre for an away day and the PCC's of both Ightham and Wrotham joined them for breakfast, fellowship and prayer before they began. They have now been blessed with major financial support for their parish from the Church of England. This will fund an experienced project manager, looking at how best to develop their Church buildings as a community resource.

It will also fund a Pioneer leader to engage and work within the local

community. The Pioneer leader, Jenny, started work in April and she has already set up several initiatives for children, both on Sundays and in school holidays. The number of families regularly attending church has already increased. Jenny is conducting a survey within the wider community to see what the community thinks would be beneficial and that the church can provide.

Twydall continue to serve free hot meals on a Wednesday to people who are struggling with paying for food; between 40 and 50 meals are served each week.

The whole congregation are very aware of God's creation and the church is working towards their Gold Eco award. Members of the congregation hold a litter pick once a month within the local area, often collecting 10 -12 sacks of rubbish.

It is always a pleasure to worship with them as their faith shines through and we look forward to continuing our link for many years to come.

John and Jenny Webster

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET



The Summer months are the time to pay a visit to the Market. Not only is it full of locally grown fruit, vegetables and other produce at their peak but where else can you shop with views overlooking the Greensand Ridge on one side and Shipbourne Common on the other?

Eating in Summer is all about keeping it simple as the glorious harvest of fresh locally produced ingredients reaches a peak that will run until September.

From Watts Farms don't miss fresh peas, radishes, beetroot, spring onions, spinach, and of course, new potatoes. Don't forget beans (both French and runner), courgettes and all kinds of salad leaves, great bunches of fresh herbs and wonderful fresh Kent strawberries and blackberries.

Raspberries are at their best now. Tom's delicious raspberries from Roughway Farm are usually freshly picked early in the morning of the Market and you will be hard pressed to find a tastier berry. And don't miss out on cherries as the season is now in full swing (Kentish cherries are justifiably world famous). This is the time for jam-makers and you don't have to make huge amounts – just a few jars are incredibly satisfying to produce in your home kitchen, taste marvellous and make wonderful gifts (see easy jam recipe below). Alternatively, see Jane at Winsford House Produce who makes jars of delicious award-winning jams, chutneys and preserves all year round.

We are firmly into BBQ season (as the recent unpredictable mix of sunshine and torrential rain will tell you!) and Keiron has

all the meat you need for the coals. All meat is locally sourced from Penshurst farms and his wild boar and venison sausages are a BBQ must-have if you are looking for something just that little bit different to the humble banger.

For seafood fans, midsummer is a great time to enjoy crab – all you need to make a feast is to serve dressed crab with simply buttered new potatoes and good mayonnaise, homemade if possible. Serve with a chilled glass of one of the excellent English white wines such as the Yotes Court On the Nod Bacchus, available at the St Giles' Cooperative Stall. Please pre-order crab from Will's Plaice to guarantee availability at the Market.

To stay up to date with “what’s on” at the Market, request our weekly e-newsletter by visiting www.shipbournefm.co.uk or email lindsay_miles@btinternet.com

COOKERY CORNER

VERY EASY RASPBERRY JAM

This very easy raspberry jam is super fruity (about 80% fruit) and quick to make. Using jam sugar, which has a little natural pectin and citric acid added to it, gives a good set without overcooking the raspberries. If you follow the timings in the recipe you shouldn't need to check for setting point.

Prepare: over 2 hours / Cook: 10-30 mins / Makes: 6 x 200ml/7fl oz jars

Ingredients

- 1kg/2lb 4oz raspberries
- 650g/1lb 7oz jam sugar
- few drops of olive oil (if needed)

Method

1. Put the raspberries in a large heavy-based pan or preserving pan. Sprinkle in the sugar, a third at a time, gently shaking the pan so the sugar is well distributed. Cover and leave for a couple of hours or overnight to draw out the juices.

2. Lightly stir the mixture with a wooden spoon or spatula to break up any sugar clumps. Place the pan over a medium heat and bring to a steady boil, then boil for 5–6 minutes for a soft set jam, or 7–8 minutes for a firmer set.
3. Remove from the heat and gently stir (in one direction only) to disperse any foam, adding a drop or two of oil if it doesn't disperse easily.
4. Tip the jam into a wide-necked jug with a good pouring lip, then fill the warm sterilised jars to the brim and immediately seal with screw-top lids. Invert each jar for 30 seconds or so, then turn the right way up and leave to cool.
5. Store in a cool, dark, dry place for up to a year. Once opened keep in the fridge and use within 4 weeks.

Stallholder Shopping List:

KEEPING BUSY!

Ightham Mote Volunteer Coffee Morning | Monday 6 July | 11am-12.30pm

Are you interested in volunteering at Ightham Mote? Join us at a volunteer coffee morning to find out more. Discover what opportunities are currently available and talk to current volunteers to see what Ightham Mote volunteering really means.

Our highly valued volunteers bring Ightham Mote to life. They help to maintain and prepare the site for visitors, share stories and engage with visitors to help them get the most out of their day. Everyone is welcome, please let us know if you need any additional support.

Free event but booking required as spaces are limited.

BRAIN MATTERS... screens matter



The discussion on the dangers of excessive screen time focused last month on younger children. This month we look at the wider impact.

Children are not the only ones who fall foul of the perils of screens. Blue light exposure and doom scrolling all impact sleep, focus and attention and emotional wellbeing. There's a growing volume of ADHD diagnoses (a neurological disorder) among children, teens and now adults. The rise can in part be attributed to over use of social media, fast paced games and screens which give a constant dopamine hit and a resultant inability to focus in a slower paced real world. We have to remember we have analog brains; we learn by seeing, doing and experiencing in actual reality not virtual reality. It's why we retain more information when we physically write it down. Schools in Europe are already disposing of screens having noticed a drop in literacy since their introduction.

The sad part is we are creating these problems are self-induced. Screens and games have markedly changed over the years. Now they're fast paced, change scenes quickly, even featuring overly stimulating music. Online games used to make you problem solve without help, and an obvious end. Now 'cheat codes'

lure you onwards, making you hooked. Social media is the same with targeted adverts, tracking and algorithms designed to keep you engaged.

Young brains (and increasingly 'mature brains') are not wired to cope with these scenarios, and don't know when to stop. So when brains have to focus and learn the analog way they can't, because brains and pathways have been primed for quick hits. Screens are ultimately making all generations struggle with social interactions, emotional stability and resilience. Human interaction is vital, and a better understanding of how we make choices impacts the capacity and capabilities of future generations.

So if your only take away is to make a single change on your own or your children's screen exposure, then that's a great first step. Congratulations, monitor the benefit and good luck on making future changes.

Chantal Montebello-Ealey

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Vice Chairman: Cllr Michael Holden

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sarah Huseyin
T: 01732 886402

clerk@ighthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillors: Cllr Steve Burgham
Cllr John Benfield
Cllr David Emmett
Cllr Stephanie Gunson
Cllr David Hall
Cllr Tamsin Hogarth
Cllr Kirsty Mitchem

AN EXTRACT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES May 2026

(Full Minutes can be found at www.ighthamparishcouncil.gov.uk, or by emailing the Clerk)

AGM – APPOINTMENTS AND ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Election of Chairman - Cllr Willingham was proposed by Cllr Emmett and seconded by Cllr Hogarth

Election of Vice Chairman - Cllr Holden was proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Mitchem

Election of Working Groups and Representatives:

Playground & Recreation Ground - Cllr Gunson

Highways - Cllr Mitchem, Cllr Emmett and Cllr Hall

Footpaths - Cllr Burgham

Ightham Tennis Club/Football Club/

Cricket Club - Cllr Mitchem

Scouts

Representative - Cllr Willingham and Cllr Gunson

Village Hall Representative - Cllr Holden, Cllr Benfield

Ightham Primary School Representative - Cllr Hogarth

St Peter's Church - Cllr Mitchem

National Trust, Ightham Mote - Cllr Emmett

PPP/KALC - Ad hoc

Financial Oversight - Cllr Holden

PUBLIC Sohrab Peerbaccus (Chair) and Angela Gomez from the Tonbridge and Malling Independent Advisory Group (IAG) made an introduction.

The IAG was set up 3 months ago and is a group of community volunteers who work alongside Kent Police to support and improve policing services across the county.

The IAG supports policing by:

- Acting as a link between the police and local communities
- Sharing community feedback with the police and partner agencies
- Providing advice and support during critical incidents where required
- Offering input on policy and

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practices, particularly those impacting diverse communities

- Giving insight into how policing activities may be perceived, for example in relation to stop and search
- Providing personal perspectives informed by members lived experiences and community connections
- Advising on cultural and community-specific considerations
- Offering post-incident feedback, recognising that impacts may vary across different communities

The Tonbridge and Malling IAG is currently in its early stages of development and is looking to engage younger members of the community ie 18-25 years olds. They have asked us to share details with the community and are aiming to have an initial meeting in June/July.

They recommended My Community Voice app and the Kent Police website to check when the police hold their surgeries.

REPORTS FROM HARRY RAYNER, COUNTY

COUNCILLOR: Regarding footpath MRI64 Ightham - Melanie McNair from the PROW and Access Services advised that the matter is currently with the Planning Inspectorate and it will determine in due course whether or not the diversion is approved having regard to all the submissions

received. The details are available online at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/mr614-ightham-div>. The Clerk emailed Cllr

Rayner about the (unauthorised) removal of wild bluebells and KCC Officers have contacted Natural Environment and the Coast Team about who this should be reported to and are awaiting advice.

Cllr Rayner reported significant cost over-runs in the budget, particularly in adult services, and KCC will be looking to make significant savings in the order of £80-£100m. Cllr Emmett asked about the situation with children's bus passes and Cllr Rayner reported that there has been a claim last week where a parent won a case to secure a bus pass for their SEN child.

Cllr Rayner reported that the LGR results would be announced in mid-July.

HIGHWAYS & PROW MATTERS:

HIP update – Reduction of speed limits around Ightham Common to 30mph – The Clerk reported that the comments from questionnaires had been sent to Kent Highways and they have asked whether we would like to proceed. KCC have looked at the comments, and nothing stood out as having potential for causing an issue at the formal consultation/Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) stage. There



was one comment relating to planning applications and developments and KCC wanted to make us aware of the impact of a speed reduction namely: access onto roads with a 30mph speed limit only requires visibility splays of 43m in each direction from the proposed new access point; however if there is no posted speed limit, then developers have to achieve visibility splays based on the maximum 60mph standard which requires splays of 216m in each direction from the proposed access point. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to KCC to ask what the cost of the scheme would be before progressing it further.

TRO Old Lane - Deposit Document for Amendment 4 Restriction vehicles except for access – Cllr Emmett reported that KCC had done an excellent job of resurfacing and clearing Old Lane and we should thank them. It was noted that the installation of bollards in the middle section was imperative to stop the lane being used as a rat run, the Clerk will pass this back to KCC and ask for a cost estimate. Review and proposals for Back Lane junction – We have received detailed proposals about the removal of the verge at Back Lane to improve visibility. The plans must also include improved safety at the bus stops on either side and the Clerk has asked whether we could include the replacement of the bus shelter

at the same time. The cost estimate is £31k which was considerably more than anticipated and the Clerk was asked to go back to KCC and find out how the scheme will be funded. Mega flectas on the A25/Common Road – The Clerk has contacted Velocity and they will come back to us with a proposal. Letter to the cabinet minister to ask what their policy is regarding signs and diversions and what measures are in place to prevent misleading road users – The Clerk was asked to draft a letter. Antique Road signs – the Clerk was asked to get a quote for repainting the antique signs.

Matters to report: overgrown hedges on Redwell Lane/Ismays Road junction. The Clerk will forward the hedges letter to Councillors to distribute. Pothole outside Little Knoll, pothole outside Yew Tree Cottage, Redwell. The parking situation at the Plough was raised; parking on the junction is a police matter and should be reported as such. The Clerk will ask the ASB Team to monitor it. It is understood that the neighbours of The Plough are not in favour of installing double yellow lines.

MATTERS ARISING

Recreation Ground: Southern Water drain – nothing to report. Car park repairs: completed.



Village Hall: Update – Cllr Holden has received the report and has sent a brief note to the Clerk but will do a full report review to circulate. The next report will be a full structural survey; Cllr Benfield estimated that we would probably need to spend a further £10-£15k on surveys. The Village Hall AGM is on 21st May and Cllr Benfield will attend.

Oldbury Annexe: Update - Nothing to report. The Clerk to confirm receipt of rent with the bank. Asbestos report to be arranged.

Village Fete/Community Picnic July 2026: Cllr Mitchem gave an update on arrangements. Cllr Mitchem met with the Parish Clerk, Cllr Gunson and Paula Price to discuss the risk assessment and this will be circulated. Attendees will include St Peter's Church, the Scouts and Ightham School. Coldbreath are providing burgers and there will be an ice cream van, inflatables, a choir, a band, maypole dancing and 5-6 commercial stalls. The gate to the Recreation Ground will be closed at 10am as access to the car park will be reserved for stall holders and disabled

badge holders only. Cllr Willingham has ordered 3 portable toilets and the pavilion will be opened for first aid and disabled toilets. We are still waiting to hear from a few community organisations.

Noticeboards: The Clerk has contacted the company who provided our previous noticeboards for a quote for replacement boards at The Harrow and Coach Road/Stone Street Road triangle.

Litter Collection: The Clerk was asked to contact Robert Styles to thank TMBC for cleaning A25 and to ask what the schedule is for litter collection and verge clearing in Ightham going forward.

Skips: We have been contacted by Skips about the alarms at Skips and the annex. The Clerk will review this with Cllr Gunson.

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS were received and we raised no objections. TMBC approved 6 applications and refused 1.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm



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Borough Green and Wrotham u3a

The next meeting of Borough Green & Wrotham u3a will be held on Monday 13th July at 2 pm in Borough Green Village Hall.

We have already enjoyed two excellent talks by Peter Griffiths and those who have heard him will know what an entertaining speaker he is. We now welcome him back to talk about The History of Champagne. Sorry, we won't be sampling on this occasion, but we will as always offer tea, coffee and biscuits.

u3a
learn, laugh, live

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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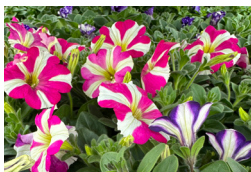
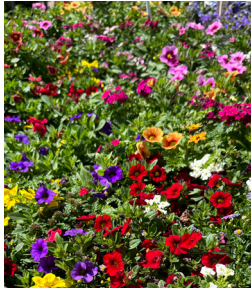


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FROM THE 1955 WI SCRAPBOOK PAGE 68

Health

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32 Badgers
1,208 hedgehogs
40 foxes
27 polecats
29 stoats
11 chymes (or Krines) = weasels
13,509 Sparrows and Sparrows' eggs
and a few moles.

Hygiene in the XVII and XVIII centuries!

~

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4.10.1795. Paid Morgan for carrying the poor people to Wrotham pest house. 1.0

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2. William Jones. 1627 from Stone Acre.
3. George Petley 1705, issuing out of Fenne Farm.
4. Elizabeth James 1720 (out of Yew Tree Cottage also left provision for teaching children to read and for devotional books for them.

Elizabeth Selby in 1845 left a capital sum to be applied for the benefit of the poor at the discretion of the Rector.

The HenryPayrse Bequest or The George and Dragon Charity

A mounting block or jossing block once stood near the Inn stables. A parish officer stood on this block to dispense the charity. Hence the money was called "jossing block money" and the Friday before Mid-Lent Sunday was known by the villagers as "jossing block day".

The Charity Commissioners took over these Charities putting them to more practical uses.

Old Age Pensions Act

1.1.1909. First to receive the pension were Jack Skinner and his wife who had brought up 21 children with having no relief from the parish.

2nd A widower who had brought up his 14 children also without parish relief.

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

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TUESDAY, 25th AUGUST

Information: Pippa Coulthard 01732 883041
Dee Samways 077 9900 2129
IghthamDGC@hotmail.com



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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 Group	E: enquiries@ighthamscouts.org	
Beavers, Cubs, Explorers & Scouts		
Ightham WI	Helen Johnson	
	E: happyflowersgs@live.co.uk	
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



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01732 781134



Photo: Martin Bond
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