

IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

The background of the cover is a photograph of a large, historic timber-framed house with a red-tiled roof, situated behind a green lawn and a body of water. The house has multiple chimneys and is surrounded by trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the sky and the house.

SEPTEMBER 2026
PUBLISHED FOR THE COMMUNITY
BY ST PETER'S CHURCH

£1.00



Services in the Benefice in September 2026

Ightham

Wrotham

Sun 6th Sept	9am	Breakfast@Church	10:30am Holy Communion with Healing Prayers	
	6pm	Evensong		
Sun 13th Sept	10am	Holy Communion	9am	Breakfast@Church
			10:30am	Service of the Word
Sun 20th Sept	10am	Service of the Word	10:30am Holy Communion	
	6pm	Evensong		
Sun 27th Sept	10am	Holy Communion	9am	Breakfast@Church
		(Or Benefice Service of the Word	10:30am	Sung Matins - TBC
		- dependent on clergy availability)		dependent on clergy availability

Wednesday services

2nd Sept	10am	Holy Communion
9th Sept	10am	Morning Prayer
16th Sept	10am	Holy Communion
23rd Sept	10am	Morning Prayer
30th Sept	10am	Holy Communion

CONTACTS

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

Registered Charity No. 1136162

Rector:	Parish in vacancy		
Church Warden:	Naomi Webster	T: 07421 832919	
	E: churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk		
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IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

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Copy deadline for the Sept edition is 15th Sept



Penny for your thoughts...

What a summer we've had! The reliable sunshine has been a blessing in many ways, but we send our prayers

and thoughts to those for whom the summer has been challenging – most especially farmers and emergency service personnel. The succession of heatwaves has also been a stark reminder of what climate change really means and what a responsibility we bear for looking after our Lord's creation. Stewardship, both in the biblical and practical sense, takes on a very real and urgent meaning. We all bear a responsibility for acting as guardians or caretakers of our world and our immediate environment. Regardless of whether we believe in a God-created world, nonetheless we are entrusted with key responsibilities for our lives, time, talents, money and our world both for our own

purposes but equally importantly for our families and our wider communities. This is perhaps another way of saying that 'serving' and 'giving back' have very serious meanings. On the joyful side, our September magazine includes some wonderful opportunities for this! Whether it's volunteering with the local Scout group, helping with post-service refreshments at church, completing the churchyard online survey, supporting the Macmillan coffee morning, giving a donation to a local Hospice, visiting our local heritage and garden attractions, encouraging young readers to turn the pages of a book and not just swipe across a screen, or simply smiling at a neighbour, the September Magazine provides information on how to achieve nearly all these things and of course, the proverbial . . . and much more! 'Enjoy' and a huge thanks to our readers and our Magazine subscribers and contributors. We love you all!

Penny Cracknell

“**What dreadful hot weather we have! It keeps me in a continual state of inelegance.**

September 17 1796: Jane Austen letter to her sister Cassandra

MEDITATE

September HOLY DAYS 29th Sept Enter all the angels, led by Michael

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

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

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

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel

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

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

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

Source: The Parish Pump

PARISH NEWS

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

The Benefice churchwardens met the Archdeacon again who confirmed he is still in regular contact with Reverend Stewart and hopes that we should be able to get an updated timeline this month, although unfortunately this will be too late for the September Magazine print deadline. As soon as there is any news it will be shared in the weekly news sheet.

Contact admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk if you're not yet receiving our weekly email and would like to stay up-to-date with news and events from St Peters.

ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD – a parish consultation Finding the balance on grooming and supporting nature

St Peter's Green Team are drafting a new churchyard maintenance plan and are interested to hear your thoughts to find the right balance between leaving areas wild to support local biodiversity and keeping the churchyard well-groomed and accessible.

We'd greatly value your time in taking a few minutes to share your thoughts using this link: <https://forms.gle/1EdTPxedFSLt6sTA8>

And if you are interested in joining the Green Team, please let Naomi, the churchwarden, know: churchwardens@ighthamchurch.org.uk

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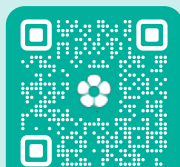


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Dear Friends and Parishioners,

As September arrives, we find ourselves standing at one of the year's natural thresholds. The changing seasons remind us that life itself is full of transitions. Some are welcome and anticipated; others arrive unexpectedly. For many people, this autumn brings mixed emotions. There is hope and excitement as new opportunities begin, but there may also be worries about health, family, finances, or the uncertain state of the world around us. News headlines often seem dominated by conflict, hardship and division.

Yet the Christian faith encourages us to look beyond uncertainty and recognise God's enduring presence. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." These familiar words remind us that change is not something to fear. Rather, it is woven into the fabric of God's creation. Just as the harvest follows the sowing of seed, God continues to work through each season of our lives, whether joyful or challenging.

September is also traditionally associated with harvest thanksgiving. This year we have seen the impact of the drought on our Farmers and our own realisation that we cannot and should not take for granted the gifts of creation and Harvest. Food still comes from the soil, rain remains essential, and countless people work behind the

scenes to ensure that what we need reaches our tables. Harvest gives us an opportunity to pause and give thanks, not only for material blessings, but also for the people, friendships, and communities that sustain us.



In our villages, we are fortunate to be surrounded by reminders of God's generosity. The beauty of the North Downs, the changing countryside, and the strong sense of community found in both Ightham and Wrotham are blessings not to be taken for granted. Perhaps this month we might each take a moment to notice these gifts anew and ask how we can share God's generosity with others, especially those who may feel isolated or in need.

Whatever September holds, we can take comfort in the promise that the God who has guided us through the summer remains with us through every season still to come.

With every blessing,

Michelle Lawson

IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

On Saturday 12th September 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 16 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.

Please book your place by contacting John Webster

jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com.



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We offer a warm welcome, good company, delicious food and drink.

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Toys are available for younger visitors to play with.

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Please contact Jenny Webster - jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com

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to 11.45am
every
Wednesday

Church
Centre

The charity for September 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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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>

Anti-Social Behaviour



Parking issues



Noise issues to Environmental Protection Team



Fly tipping & street waste issues



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September – the month to burst into action after a hot summer!



- Book your tickets for **Sevenoaks Literary Festival**, 25 September – 4 October. The 25th anniversary programme features Prue Leith, Alexandra Shulman, Gyles Brandreth and more.
- Get creative at **Great Comp Garden** with autumn workshops including glass, drawing and Scandi Christmas ornaments. Also discover the garden's famed salvias, 26–27 September, with expert advice on hand.
- Succulents and tacos combine at **Lullingstone's** 'Cactus at the Castle', 5–6 September, 11am–5pm, including a new Mexican Funday Sunday.
- Music@Malling comes to **Ightham Mote**, 20 & 22 September, with performances by Melvyn Tan and Ruby Hughes. From 26 September, discover Deborah Pritchard's Music Maps, exploring music through art.
- **Hever Castle** hosts its Autumn Craft & Design Fair, 10–13 September, showcasing contemporary British makers and artists. Free with admission.
- Create with Eden Valley Arts at **Riverhill Himalayan Gardens**, 16–27 September, with a selling exhibition and creative workshops.
- Enjoy a magical Harvest Moon Night Walk at **Bore Place**, 24 September, 6.30–8.30pm.

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 -

SEPTEMBER 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.



September's walks explore some favourite haunts, hopefully to be enjoyed in more seasonable temperatures! 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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IGHTHAM WI



Ightham WI have been busy over the summer. On 11th July we could be found manning (or should that be womaning) our Tea and Cake Stall at Ightham Fete. Held on Ightham Recreation Ground on a lovely sunny day, our members served drinks, delicious homemade cakes and savouries whilst proudly sporting our smart Ightham WI Aprons. It was lovely to see so many happy faces enjoying the event.

With no official meeting in July, many of us enjoyed catching up over A Pie and A pint at The Kentish Rifleman in Dunk's Green.

Our August meeting saw us dressed in our summer finest, enjoying a Summer Garden Party, held outside at St Peter's Church Centre. Although an official meeting, the business part, with details of upcoming activities and events, was kept short to allow more time for games, quizzes and chat over a glass of Prosecco and a picnic including strawberries and cream. Shirley Barton gave an interesting and insightful presentation about her role in Parkinson's UK Sevenoaks Branch. This self-funded group, run by volunteers trained by Parkinson's UK, offers people living with Parkinson's friendship and support along with

many activities including exercise classes, chair yoga, postural stability classes, indoor bowls, branch meetings, often with speakers, coffee mornings and more. For further information on Parkinson's UK Sevenoaks Branch, please contact treasurerpuksevenoaks@gmail.com.

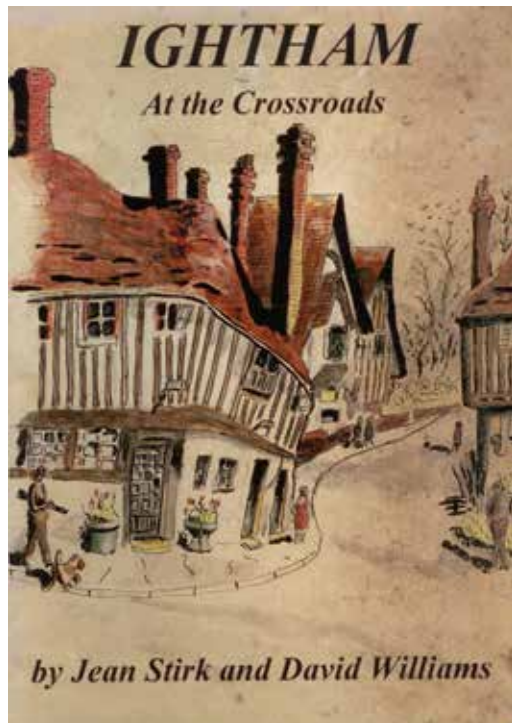
Our raffle raised over £150, with all profits being donated to Kent Association for the Blind. A fun time was had by all and we finished just as the light faded at 9pm.

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

E: happyflowersgs@live.co.uk

***Next meeting: 8th September
7.30pm at Ightham Village
Hall. Speaker: Sophie
Brigden on Navigating Toxic
Workplaces including bullying,
assault and mental health.
WARNING: this presentation
includes an assault.***

IGHTHAM'S HISTORY



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FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

We have enjoyed some wonderful summer weather over the past month, but the prolonged dry conditions have also brought serious challenges for communities across Tonbridge and the surrounding villages.

Low water levels in reservoirs have contributed to supply problems, with some residents experiencing shortages and in the worst cases, losing their water supply altogether. I know how disruptive and worrying this has been for affected households. During the outages, I spent weekends speaking with South East Water and SES Water, helping to organise bottled water stations and joining the fantastic teams distributing supplies to residents. I am enormously grateful to everyone who stepped up to help neighbours and vulnerable members of our community.

There is no quick fix. I have been in constant contact with South East Water Chief Executive John Halsall, including meeting him in Parliament and recently at Beech Reservoir in Mereworth, to press for action. We need greater resilience in our water network so that periods of hot, dry weather do not cause the disruption we have experienced this summer.

This also highlights a much wider issue. Our local infrastructure is already struggling to cope. Asking communities to accommodate significant new housing without first ensuring we have the water, roads, schools and health services to support it is simply unsustainable. That is

why I continue to oppose the Government's housing targets and campaign to Halt the Houses which you can become a part of at www.haltthehouses.com.



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.



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IGHTHAM FAIR – a community celebration

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Ightham Village Fair in July; those who volunteered, those who ran stalls and those who came along to support. It was lovely to see so many people from the community coming together to enjoy the sunshine and catch up with old friends and neighbours.

We would like to say a particular thank you to Ightham WI, Ightham Primary School and PSA, St Peter's Church, Ightham Tennis Club, Ightham Scouts, Parkinson's UK, West Kent Autism Parents' Support Society, the Village Archive, Friends of Ightham Primary School and all the local businesses who ran their wonderful stalls that kept us fed, watered and entertained.

A special thank you to the Maypole Dancers, Wealden Vocals and The West Malling Ukelele Band who danced, sang and played their way so brilliantly through the afternoon.

Thanks, too, to Ightham Parish Council who provided the toilets, the large marquee, bouncy castles and advertising, Kathy Wright who kindly judged the Dog Show, Anthony Edwards who brought along his vintage tractor, the Rotary Club for the marquees they provided and the Borough Green Fire Station crew for putting in a very special guest appearance.

A big thank you to you all,
Kirsty, Paula and Helena



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

NEWS FROM IGHTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome back for the new term! Here are some intriguing historical snippets about the school's original founding.

Did you know that . . .

- In 1815 an Ightham Vestry meeting resolved that 'a school be instituted in this parish . . .'
- Weekly charges were 1d or 2d if writing were included
- The first master's salary was £60 per year
- The school originally was located on the south side of Borough Green Road, now Old School Cottages. It moved to its current site in 1852 on land which cost £20, and £15 to convey

- The first summer in the new school was extremely hot, and a neighbour at Oldbury Hall, William Morgan, allowed a quantity of drinking water for the school

So not everything has changed in the past 100+ years!

Extracts from: Ightham at the Crossroads by Jean Stirk and David Williams. Please see the advertisement for the newly published re-issue of this popular local history book.



“Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

Matthew 7:7

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET



Fish and seafood are also plentiful. Try mackerel, grey mullet and sea bass.

Wash down with a glass of the finest cold local wines from Gordon on the Co-operative Stall.

This summer's continuous warm weather has been wonderful in many ways but the drought conditions have caused lower yields and tinder box conditions resulting in crop fires, making this year's harvest very challenging for our farmers. We have also been trialing "warm weather" opening hours (8.30 - 10.30am) to beat the heat for customers and stallholders.

In September the shorter days signal the changing season. Tomatoes, courgettes, sweetcorn, peas, cauliflowers, runner beans, cabbages and onions are all plentiful. Winter squashes and pumpkins are starting to arrive and come in an amazing array of shapes and sizes, all with different flavours and textures – try in soups, curries, gratins and risottos. It's also the season for local cobnuts and walnuts to use in cereals, salads, cakes and breads.

Raspberries and strawberries are still available but soft tree fruits are at their best and juiciest now so don't miss plums, damsons and greengages. They are wonderful for eating and using in preserves, ice creams and pies. You'll also find early apple varieties so you have both soft and hard fruit all this month.

Venison is the current game of choice. It's the perfect free-range meat – minimum food miles, low in cholesterol and full of useful vitamins. It's lean and tender and is best cooked for a short time either fried or grilled. Serve a venison steak flash fried with a thyme and mustard butter or marinade in olive oil, lemon, garlic and chilli and cook on a griddle. For lighter meat, try guinea fowl. Cook in the same way as a small chicken roast, wrapped in streaky bacon, and enjoy the flavour which is richer than chicken and subtly gamey.

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

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This simple tomato salsa is a great accompaniment to grilled fish and meat, fajitas or a simple dip with crisps and is a great way to use up a glut of home-grown tomatoes.

Ingredients

- 6 ripe tomatoes
- 1 big bunch of fresh coriander
- 1 onion
- 2 fresh jalapeño or green chillies
- 1 large clove of garlic
- 1-2 limes
- extra virgin olive oil

Method

1. Finely chop the tomatoes and coriander (stalks and all) and place in a large bowl.
2. Peel and finely chop the onion, deseed and finely chop the chillies, then scrape into the bowl. Peel and finely grate in the garlic.
3. Squeeze in the juice from 1 lime, add 2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil and mix well. Season to taste with sea salt, black pepper and more lime juice, if needed.
4. Serve straightaway or cover and set aside for a few hours to let all those flavours develop.

Jars of local salsa from Kentish Oils & Condiments can also be purchased at the Co-operatives Stall, together with an assortment of rapeseed oils.

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BRAIN MATTERS...

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What a gloriously hot summer we've enjoyed, blue skies and warmth and already the trees are turning into the golden hues of autumn. As the weather hopefully starts to turn milder and the nights draw in, it's the time to ignite a passion for reading.

Now the reading I'm referring to is fiction. Why fiction you may ask? Well a huge meta analysis of 114 studies indicated that fiction reading helps to keep our emotional intelligence fine-tuned. As many of you may be aware when we're between the ages of 3 - 5 we achieve theory of mind. This is the ability to see another's point of view and appreciate different feelings from ourselves, essentially modelling other people's behaviours. This is not just a one-off achievement. We need to continue practicing this skill and fiction is an excellent way to keep these skills fresh. The reason for this is because in a book, we not only immerse ourselves in another's mind and perspective, but our default mode network allows our brain to experience those read experiences as if our body and brain were actually doing the task or feeling the emotion. The default mode network is a cluster of regions involved in social reasoning, self-reflection and imagining other people's mental states. Together this helps to



develop our empathy and ability to notice subtle changes in body language and be more receptive to the emotions of others. In short, it creates the network we use to navigate real social interactions. Conversely, we use our real-world network for fiction understanding too, so think of reading as two-way emotional brain training!

Fiction allows us to be in multiple different mind states whereas non-fiction is usually just a single fact-based perspective and thus not as emotionally diverse.

Now we know why we feel that it in a really good fiction book, we're 'actually there', living the plot and 'feeling' the characters. Our brains will be running simulations as the fiction holds us in multiple different mind states, allowing us to track and infer what isn't obvious. Essentially encouraging reading from a young age has a life enhancing purpose as it not only helps with comprehension and literacy skills but also contributes to young readers' knowledge of other people's feelings and experiences.

As we forge ahead into the winter months and are buffeted by life's challenges, we could all use a little more empathy and understanding. I don't think anyone would begrudge a good reason to curl up with a good book and work on our empathy skills.

Chantal Montebello-Ealey

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AN EXTRACT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES May 2026

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

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Cllr Rayner reported that the Government recently announced that Kent will be divided into 4 unitaries (option 4B) and a new West Kent unitary would be formed to include Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. This will take effect in April 2028 and the elections for a shadow authority will be held on 6th May 2027; the shadow authority will prepare for the transfer to the new unitaries in 2028.

Cllr Rayner said that he has some member's grant funding available for each of his parishes; the money can be used towards capital projects and

applications must be made by November 2026.

Cllr Rayner has circulated details of the new Community Safety Arrangements and some information about software for Village Hall bookings.

Cllr Rayner reported that there had been some complaints about flooding at Copt Hall Road/Common Road junction but this has been investigated and the complaint was not upheld.

Cllr Mitchem asked Cllr Rayner about plans to extend Wrotham Quarry. Cllr Rayner said that was not within his division, being in Trosley which falls within Malling North.

Cllr Rayner said that the Local Plan is going ahead and TMBC are expecting Reg 19 to be announced in September. There is still no solution from the Government on the lack of fresh water. SE Water have confirmed that they can only supply water to 6,000 homes that already have planning permission. No new planning consent is been given without consulting SE Water as there will be no expansion of the water supply until 2032. Cllrs commented that they could not see how the Local Plan could go ahead without a water supply.

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HIGHWAYS & PROW MATTERS:

HIP update – Reduction of speed limits to 30mph around Ightham Common. We are awaiting costings. Old Lane: Request for bollards and signage. Kent Highways have said again that bollards are not possible at this location and that we should await “Access Only” signage installation and see what effect this has. Back Lane: KCC confirmed active travel funding for the project and the Clerk was asked to write to them to say that we would like to go ahead. Plough: Request for double yellow lines on junctions – KCC have asked us to speak to The Plough to see what their views are and to suggest alternative parking arrangements. It was suggested that we spoke to immediate neighbours to canvas their views before pursuing this further. It was also noted that the hedge by the Plough was overgrown; this has already been reported. Antique Road signs: repainting – awaiting quote; the Clerk met the painter who said that the sign at Ivy Hatch was cracked, so he will also include pricing for repairs.

PROW/3359407: The exchange period has now ended and a site inspection is due by the Inspector w/c 3rd August; there will be no opportunity to make an approach or comment.

Miscellaneous: The Clerk reported that the Mega Flectas at Common Road/A25 were being reviewed by Kent Highways after a recent crash

at the junction, the second one since April 2026. Tree blocking the path along A25 – now cleared. Overgrown vegetation on A25 – reported.



MATTERS ARISING

Recreation Ground: Southern Water drain – nothing to report.

Village Hall: Update - nothing to report.

Oldbury Annexe: The Clerk will arrange an asbestos report over the summer holidays and will speak to the Chair of Governors about access arrangements.

Village Fete /Community Picnic July 2026: The Parish Council passed on thanks to Cllr Mitchem for organising the village fete which was very well supported and a great success. Cllr Mitchem passed on thanks to all the helpers. Cllr Mitchem confirmed that the expenses totalled £1,700. It was agreed that we would donate £100 each to The Rotary Club and Heart of Kent Hospice for their contributions to the event.

Noticeboards: Sign off on payment (below). The Clerk will arrange delivery of the boards. Cllr Emmett said that he would contact the owner of the Harrow to organise the installation of the noticeboard on their external wall. The Clerk will ask James Hayward to install the noticeboard at the Coach Road /Stone Street Road junction.

Litter Collection: Update from Adam Mortimer – We have been sent a schedule of litter collections throughout the village but without specific dates.

Skips: New smoke alarm/damaged gate – The Clerk will follow up on the alarm with Sue Chesson. It was also reported that the gate was broken at the bottom of the steps at Skips/Oldbury Lane entrance. The caretaker has now removed the gate. The Clerk will get quotes for a replacement.

Allotments: Renewal of tenancy agreement at Silverdown – New owners have moved into Silverdown

and have expressed an interest in taking on the allotment garden which is not suitable to be advertised due to only being accessed via Silverdown or the Paddock. The Clerk prepared the new tenancy agreement which was duly signed by Cllr Willingham. The Clerk will send it to the tenants to sign.

PLANNING: 5 applications were received and we objected to 1. TMBC approved 4 applications and refused 1.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.



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ST PETER – a personal perspective

For me one of the most endearing Biblical characters is St Peter, the fisherman who became ‘the rock’ on which Christ chose to build His church.

By trade, Peter and his brother Andrew, were fisherman but that’s where the similarity ended as the two men seem to have been very different characters. Andrew gets very little mention in the New Testament but what little we are told suggests a much calmer, more thoughtful personality. It was Andrew who first met Jesus, and who brought his rather ebullient brother to hear the new preacher. When Andrew made that introduction, his main mission in life may well have been accomplished. A seemingly unimportant, unspectacular event can have unimaginable and incalculable consequences. So who exactly was this man called Simon, whom Christ renamed Peter, meaning ‘rock’?

We know Peter must have been physically strong man as a fisherman on the unpredictable inland Sea of Galilee, where terrible gales were known to spring up without much warning. Fishermen here needed to be tough. Morally and spiritually it was a different story. Peter was inclined to be impetuous, likely to speak first and think afterwards, to do things that he regretted, to commit faux pas; to ‘put his foot in it’, to lose his temper

and act rashly.

Sailors are not noted for the delicacy of their language and the Bible tells us that

Peter had a fine line in swearing. Nonetheless, for all his bluster, he was a coward. No one in their right mind would ever have put Peter in charge of anything, let alone singling him out as one to be entrusted with the establishing of a world religion. Yet this most unlikely of men became both a saint and a martyr.

What was there in this man that could possibly have caused Jesus to single him out? As well as seeing Peter’s great list of faults, Christ also saw he was a man of great sensibilities and of passionate feelings. Becoming a disciple, Peter was simply responding to something for which he had always yearned – the power to realise the best rather than the worst in his makeup. Oh he was still Peter and he was still inclined to make colossal errors; knowing better and contradicting Jesus earned him the stinging rebuke, ‘Get thee behind me Satan’. Peter and his mouth again you see – speaking without thought, yet only a short time before he had become the first among the disciples to recognise Jesus as the Christ, God’s long-promised Messiah. This seems to have been a pattern for



Peter's relationship with Jesus during His three-year ministry on earth, alternately pleasing with his answers or earning a rebuke.

Jesus three-year ministry can be seen as a kind of apprenticeship for Peter, learning both from His teaching and example. One of his greatest lessons was to understand his own nature. Like King Lear in Shakespeare's play, Peter could be said to have ever but 'slenderly known himself.' He was the one who at the end of the 'Last Supper' confidently boasted that he alone would never disown his allegiance to Jesus! The outcome was a sad fulfilment of Jesus' assertion that before the cock crew, Peter would betray Him three times. The story of that betrayal is vividly recorded in every one of the four Gospels. Poor Peter – he was never going to be allowed to forget his greatest error. Perversely, and perhaps to Peter's delight, it was also the great turning point becoming a kind of victory. After that betrayal lily-livered Peter

became the man he had always longed to be – the man Christ knew he could become.

I think the reason I have always been drawn to Peter is that he is such a flawed character with whom it's easy to identify because he is so very human in his imperfection. Peter was also possessed of great virtues, a courage and daring in responding to Christ's call to leave his fishing nets and to become a fisher of men. The Christian never knows what he might be letting himself in for. For Peter it meant treading the path of martyrdom. It also gained him the respect due a man who, to quote from Arthur Miller's 'A View from the Bridge', 'allowed himself to be wholly known'. I like Peter for his faults, for his weaknesses, his strength, his courage and his greatness. Above all I love him for the hope he inspires in me.

Patricia Wright



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1st IGHTHAM SCOUT GROUP – a busy year's round up

As we pause for summer, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about our busy year. We follow the school year and recommence this month with another packed programme of activities.

We offer 3 sections: Beavers (6 - 8 yrs), Cubs (8 – 10 yrs) and our Scouts (10 - 14 yrs) to both boys and girls. On leaving Scouts there's an opportunity to join Quintain Explorer Unit (14 – 18 yrs and run jointly with Borough Green and Platt). Everyone at the Scout Group is a volunteer and we also rely on parents supporting the sessions to ensure the young people can enjoy the adventurous activities to the full while remaining safe. As a group we enjoy outdoor camping and indoor sleepovers, both regularly offered to all sections. You might also have seen us participating in both Remembrance and St George's Day parades.

We have leaders trained to teach archery, fencing, air rifle shooting, water activities and tomahawk throwing so we regularly offer these activities, adjusted to be age appropriate to our members.

Beavers have enjoyed a busy year achieving a multitude of badges: Time on the Water, Gardening, Camp Crafts, Communications, First Aid, Hikes, Experiments, Health and Fitness, Safety, International, Chief Scout's Bronze Award and many other challenges in and out of the HQ including a trip to Borough Green Fire station.

Cubs have enjoyed the fish and chip walk, campfire, cooking pizzas, crafts, circus skills evening, night hikes and various trips including Chatham Ski Centre. Their badges were equally impressive including the World Challenge Badge, Pioneering, Naturalist, Chief Scout's Silver Award and

many others.

Unsurprisingly Scouts have been stunningly adventurous with circus skills, orienteering, barter 'n buy, making a scary Halloween video, climbing, 3D printing design, cooking, building coke-can racing cars and the Christmas piñata party. Their badges included the prestigious Chief Scout's Gold Award. Every summer Scouts have a week's camp and every 4 years this extends to 10 days in Jersey. 2026 saw the 9th Jersey camp with climbing, high ropes, coasteering, blo-karting, and visits to Jersey Zoo and Elizabeth Castle.

Looking ahead, our aim is to inspire this new generation of Scouts by embedding our core values: Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation. To support this growth, our primary focus for the coming year will be leadership and volunteer recruitment.

The sections are nearly always full, and we have excellent retention rates. However, we keep an expression of interest list for young people wishing to join us in line with our admission policy. Adult volunteers are warmly welcomed, with a variety of roles available. Anyone can volunteer as much or as little of their time as suits them and it's not required to have a child involved in our Scout Group. It's a fun and friendly way to volunteer. If anyone is interested in adding their child to our list or interested in finding out more about volunteering, please email enquiries@ighthamscouts.org

Finally, I would like to thank all the Scout leaders, Young Leaders, parents and young people for their support in making the past year so enjoyable and rewarding for everyone involved.

Penny McCulloch – Group Lead Volunteer

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Ightham Magazine

Editorial	Penny Cracknell	T: 07811 066253
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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: ighthamvillagehall@gmail.com	
Ightham Scouts Group	E: enquiries@ighthamscouts.org	
Beavers, Cubs, Explorers & Scouts		
Ightham WI	Helen Johnson	
	E: happyflowergs@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

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

**Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer
care better for everyone, whoever and
wherever they are**

Place: St Peter's Church Centre, TN15 9JD

Date: Wednesday 23rd September

Time: 10 am - noon



RAFFLE.

BRING & BUY

on the theme of Autumn Colours & Flavours.



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20383

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