IGHTHAM MAGAZINE



NOVEMBER 2026

PUBLISHED FOR THE COMMUNITY
BY ST PETER'S CHURCH

£1.00

Services in the Benefice in November 2026



	Ightham		Wrotham	
Sun 1st Nov	9am	Breakfast@Church	10:30am	Holy Communion with Healing Prayers
	6pm	Evensong	4pm	Memorial & Thanksgiving service
Sun 8th Nov *Remembrance Sunday*	10:30am	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial	10:30am	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial
Sun 15th Nov	10am	Service of the Word	10:30am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Evensong		
Sun 22nd Nov	10am	Holy Communion	9am	Breakfast@Church
			10:30am	Sung Matins
Sun 29th Nov	10am	United Benefice Holy Communion		*No services today*
	6pm	4-Parish Advent Carol Service		
Wednesday services				
4th November	10am	Morning Prayer		
11th November	10am	Holy Communion		
18th November	10am	Morning Prayer		
25th November	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

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IGHTHAM MAGAZINE

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Copy deadline for the Dec edition is 15th Nov

Penny for your thoughts...



As we hurtle towards December and the intensity of Christmas, it always seems a valued hiatus to have November as the month of Remembrance. Not only do we have Remembrance Sunday but we also have the poignancy of All Souls, that moment when we pause to remember those we have loved and lost. Nature so often seems in sympathy with these events, with the leaves having largely fallen (and the appropriate American term, the Fall); the early winter weather featuring classic mizzle or the wonderfully evocative Scottish smirr; and short days and long nights. Yet November is also a wonderfully celebratory month! The night sky is spangled with light on Bonfire Night, November 5th in memory of Guy Fawkes; Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights' is on 8th November; November 13th is World Kindness Day; November 22nd, St Cecilia's Day, the patron saint of music and musicians, and it's Thanksgiving month for Americans – a time to celebrate harvest and the Pilgrim Father's survival of their first winter. Above all, November 29th is Advent Sunday, marking the start of our waiting for the birth of Jesus. It's the exciting day when we light the first Advent Candle, a purple candle to remember the prophets who foretold the Messiah's coming. This is the candle of hope – and what more joyful description for this waiting and remembering month!

Penny Cracknell

CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Ightham at the Crossroads, a history, by Jean Stirk and David Williams
£20

Available from The George & Dragon and The Old House

MEDITATE

Lest We Forget

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of peace is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. 'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.' (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

REMEMBRANCE

This year the national service for Remembrance will be held on 8th November, and include the annual march past involving up to 10,000 veterans and eligible participants. It will be followed by formal two-minute silence on Wednesday, 11th November.

This year Remembrance marks several significant milestones:

- The 110th anniversary of the 1916 Battles of the Somme and Jutland, as well as the introduction of wartime conscription.
- The 70th anniversary since the Suez Crisis of 1956.
- The 25th anniversary since UK armed forces first entered Afghanistan, following the 2001 deployments.

PARISH NEWS

Following the meeting between the Benefice Joint Standing Committee and the Archdeacon yesterday evening, we are delighted to share the following announcement:

We are very pleased to share the news that we can now look forward to the induction and licensing of our new Rector, the Rev Stewart Gibbs.

This follows Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, the Bishop of Rochester, being delighted to confirm the successful completion of all the processes required for Stewart's licensing.
This is good news indeed and we look forward to sharing more detail in due course.
Please pray for Stewart as he prepares to move in the coming weeks."

There are various preparations required to get the Rectory ready to enable Stewart to move in; but the installation will take place before Christmas and we will share the confirmed date as soon as we can. Christmas will be a very busy time for Stewart to step into the role and we will be discussing with Stewart, and Michelle and John, our lay ministry team, how to cover it all.

Thank you once again to everyone who has helped keep things running smoothly throughout the interregnum. It has been a team effort and we look forward to continuing to work as a team with our new Rector to lead us.

God bless
Naomi and Trish
Churchwardens for Ightham and Wrotham



CALLING ALL SINGERS

Rehearsals for the Carol Service start on Thursday 19 November at 730pm at Wrotham. There will be 2 Carol Services again this year on 20 December at 4pm in Ightham and 630pm in Wrotham. If you would like to join us to sing this year, please contact Carol Kennedy.
E: carol.a.kennedy@btinternet.com

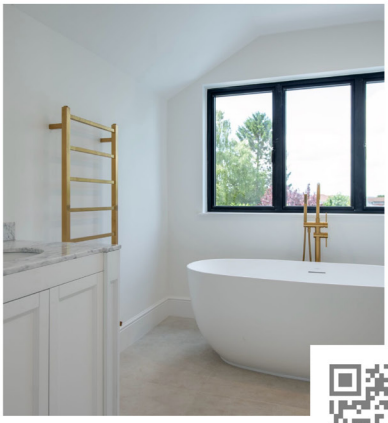


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Dear Friends and Parishioners,

As this is the final letter from the Lay Ministry team, before our New Rector Stewart Gibbs arrives in December, we have decided to write it together. As we come to the end of our long interregnum we find ourselves reflecting with gratitude on the journey we have shared together as the churches and communities of Ightham and Wrotham.
Periods of vacancy can bring challenges and uncertainties, yet they can also reveal the strength and faithfulness of a church family. During the past two years we have seen countless examples of people stepping forward to serve, support one another, lead worship, care for our buildings, and demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the life of our churches, often quietly and without recognition.

God's love has sustained us over the last two years. We are especially grateful to Chris Johnson, who has led many Ightham Communion services and we warmly remember Bryan Harris who took our services and helped with Ightham parish magazine. Bryan died in September, joining his wife, Maureen.

As we move through autumn, we can see the yellows and reds of autumn leaves, as nature prepares for a season of rest. It can feel like a time to slow down, after the excitement of summer holidays. It is also a season when we can remember other people, who are special to us.

November is traditionally a month of remembrance. We gather to remember those who have given their lives in service of others, and many of us will remember loved ones whom we have lost. In this season of reflection, we can take comfort in the words of Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25. These words remind us that, even in times of change and uncertainty, our hope is rooted not in circumstances but in the unchanging love and faithfulness of God.

Remembering God's faithfulness, we can look ahead, with excitement and anticipation. A new chapter in the life of our benefice is about to begin. Please continue to pray for Stewart as he prepares to move and to join us, and pray for our churches as we welcome him into our communities. May we all approach this new season with open hearts, a willingness to serve and encourage, with a desire to grow together in faith.

God has been at work among us throughout the vacancy, and we trust that He will continue to guide and bless our churches in the months and years ahead. It has been both a privilege and a joy to serve alongside you during this time. Thank you for your support, your prayers and your friendship.

With every blessing,

Michelle and John

IGHTHAM IGHTHAMS

On Saturday 14th November we will have our monthly Men's Breakfast at the George and Dragon in Ightham, at 8.30 am. This continues our monthly visits which have taken place for over 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 you place by contacting John Webster jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com.



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*The charity for **October** is **DAVSS** (Domestic Abuse Voulunteer Supprt Services), an award winning community based charity supporting any victims (aged 16 and above) of domestic abuse, who are living in West Kent.*

*A **HUGE** thank you to all who attended or helped at the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We raised an amazing £943.42.*

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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IGHTHAM TENNIS CLUB
Keith Todd Wooden Racquet Tournament at Ightham Tennis Club - 4th October

Every year we hold a tournament in memory of a dear friend and founder member of Ightham Tennis Club - Keith Todd. We think Keith would have enjoyed this very jolly affair - there was plenty of time for socialising in between the short sets and to enjoy the food and drink on offer. Players came dressed in traditional whites and were partnered with someone new each round. Play was in a 10-point tie-break format, with points accumulated along the way. Everyone brought some food or drink to share, the sun shone and we all had a great time!

Mike Lehan, tournament organiser, ensured each round had matched pairings to provide competitive play - excellent job, Mike! The trophy, this year won by Louise Green, is a coveted wooden egg-cup along with a slab of Mike's homemade chocolate. Chocolate lollypop prizes awarded to runners up, best dressed, furthest travelled and to Alison who filled in at the last minute. Congratulations too to runner up Maria Dunbar who was pipped to the trophy by only 1 point and to Andy Green who came in third.

We're delighted to say that half-year memberships are now available - our flood-lit Tiger Turf court surface is playable all year round. See our website for details if you are interested in joining. We love to welcome new members.

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£60 for adults, see website for other options.

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November – the Christmas countdown month!

- Christmas has arrived at **Ightham Mote**! Experience the wonder of Christmas as the house is transformed with seasonal displays.
- Give a 'workshop experience' as a Christmas gift at **Great Comp Garden!**
- Enjoy some seasonal shopping at **Chiddingstone Castle's** Christmas Artisan Fair, 21 November.
- Step into the magic of Christmas at **Hever Castle** as the enchanting story of The Nutcracker comes to life. From 20 November.
- Go stargazing at **Bore Place** and learn about the constellations. 19 November, 7 – 8.30 pm.
- Celebrate internationally famous composer, John Rutter's 80th birthday at **Sevenoaks School**, Pamoja Hall. 30 November at 3 pm.
- Admire local artists' contemporary and traditional art work at Brushworks, **Sevenoaks Kaleidoscope Gallery** with Sevenoaks Art Club annual exhibition and sale, 11 – 21 November.

Check websites for full booking and ticket details.

All book worms should head to Borough Green and Sevenoaks Libraries where they'll find a cornucopia of literary delights, including children's activities! Check the Kent Library service website https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries or call

T: 03000 41 31 31 for opening hours and up to date information.

Ramblers -

NOVEMBER 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.

November's walks celebrate castles, valleys, kissing gates and woodlands – namely the very best of rural Kent! Full details can be found on Upcoming Walks link or Facebook page or E: info@tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!



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IGHTHAM WI

Our meeting in Ightham Village Hall on 13 October, began with our President's usual members' welcome. After the usual reports and information about upcoming activities and events, including a Cheese and Wine Evening at Lotties Loft in Seal, an evening meal at Kara, and Churchill's Colourful Christmas at Chartwell, the President introduced speaker Timothy Millet who gave a presentation entitled 'Tokens of Love, Loss and Disrespect'.

Timothy gave us an engaging and insightful talk about Convict Love Tokens,1787 - 1850. Called Leaden Hearts, they were made from soft coins which had been rubbed down and engraved by convicts with personal messages, pictures of the convict or his loved ones; sometimes they featured the story of the crime which had led to their conviction. The tokens were often given as loved one's reminders when convicts were shipped abroad, at first to the Americas and after 1787, to Australia. Now an Antique Dealer, Timothy first became interested in the tokens fifty years ago when he worked at Baldwin & Son, London coin dealers. Not knowing what to do with a 17 year old trainee, they set him to work sorting through boxes of these tokens which at the time, were considered worthless. He developed a strong interest in the stories behind these fascinating items and began researching Old Bailey Records for the trials associated with particular tokens. The trials illustrated the social history of poverty and injustice of the times, as well as some amusing stories of crimes which had gone badly wrong.

Timothy also traced descendants of some of the tokens' creators and travelled to Australia to return the tokens in person. There has been considerable interest in these tokens in Australia and his collection was eventually sold to the Canberra's National Museum. Timothy kindly took a few questions before being thanked. Members then enjoyed refreshments, socialising and browsing our Trading Stall.

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

Next meeting: 10 November 7.30pm at Ightham Village Hall. Speaker: Local artist Elaine Almond talking about her work.

IGHTHAM VILLAGE ROLL OF HONOUR

The annual Act of Remembrance at the village war memorial on Remembrance Sunday includes the reading of 92 names of men and women who were associated with the village and fell in conflict.

They were commemorated in the following places:

- **Village War memorial in The Square**

Ightham is very proud to have two holders of the Victoria Cross on the village war memorial; the average is one VC for every 15 villages.
William Sutton (baptised and buried at the church) was awarded his VC in 1857 at the Siege of Dehli. Thomas Riversdale Collyer-Fergusson lived at Ightham Mote and was awarded his VC for his actions on 31st July 1917. Tragically he was shot by a sniper later that day and died of his wounds. He is buried in Belgium.
The final name on the war memorial is John Morley killed in Malaya in 1952. He was an RAF pilot accidentally killed while flying aged 20. His family still attend the Act of Remembrance each year and lay a wreath.

- **The church**

The church has two brass memorials on the wall near the font, one for each World War, together with nearby plaques commemorating our two holders of the VC. There is a window on the opposite wall commemorating Patrick Baring (of Ightham Court) killed in WW2.
The east window in the church was one of eight windows blown out during the war. Its replacement was erected by 'the people of Ightham to the Glory of God and in grateful memory of the men and women of the parish who gave their lives for King and Country during the two World Wars 1914-18: 1939-1945'.
There are seven Commonwealth War graves in the churchyard. Two from WW1 and five from WW2. Seven further casualties from WW1 are commemorated on the graves of relatives.

- **Ightham School Hall**

There is a brass memorial to former pupils killed in WW1.

- **Ivy Hatch Mission Church**

Now a house, its memorial to men from Ivy Hatch killed in both World Wars is in the Cuxton Chapel, The Museum of Kent Life, Maidstone.

- **Squire's Room at Ightham Mote**

There is a WW1 memorial for men from Ivy Hatch.

- **The Wesleyan Chapel, Chapel Row**

Now a house, and the memorial was for men associated with the chapel killed in both wars. The whereabouts of this memorial is not known but there is a picture of it in the book 'Ightham at the Crossroads' by Jean Stirk and David Williams.

- **Stone cairn opposite the church**

This commemorates an RAF pilot, Malcolm Revenscroft, whose plane crashed in Ightham during WW2.

Fifty-four men, for whom we have details, were killed in WW1; four were in the navy and the rest in the army,

sixteen of whom had joined the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment.

Twenty-six people, for whom we have details, were killed in WW2; four were in the navy, eleven were in the army of whom four were in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment, seven were in the RAF and two were civilians (mother and daughter) killed when a bomb fell on a house in Spring Lane.

It is noticeable that the spelling and details of names vary between memorials and that some names are also on other local war memorials. Several families lost more than one member.

There is a file in the church, near the war memorials, containing all the details that we have been able to find on those we commemorate but there are several names whom we have been unable to identify. If you have further information on any of these please contact Jenny Webster.
jnhjk.webster@btinternet.com



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FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

November is a moment for us all to remember. For me, those I served with who didn't come home. For others, those who went before, who stood and fought so that we could be free. We gather at our memorials, in our churches and beside the names of those who connect our homes and hearts to their courage.

I think of those I served alongside, those we lost, and the families whose lives were changed forever. For those who served in uniform, in Iraq, Afghanistan or the many other operations our forces have been involved in, the memory isn't two minutes but a whole lifetime.

For all that we have lost, we should remember what we have won. Our freedom was won by those who fought in the First and Second World Wars. Our safety has been guarded by those who have stood against evil around the world: German and Italian fascism, Soviet communism and, today, Islamist extremism. We must never forget the cost of freedom. Today, facing Russian imperialism, our Ukrainian friends are paying it every day.

Remembrance is also a responsibility. It's the debt we owe to veterans, those serving today and the families who support them. Remembrance is more than memory; it's action.

For me, it is also about making sure we honour those who went before by taking our turn on duty, stepping up to protect our nation and our homes just as they did. Funding our defence properly today is part of that act of remembrance.



This is our watch. It is our duty to pursue peace, freedom and a chance to build a better future for people at home and around the world.

As always, I'm here to serve you. If you have a concern, suggestion or question, my contact details are as follows:

Contact details:
E: tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
T: 01732 441563
Post: 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1SP
Web: www.tomtugendhat.org
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Best wishes
Tom
Tom Tugendhat MBE MP - Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling

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REPORTING COMMUNITY ISSUES

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

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

Community Police Contact:

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

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NEWS FROM IGHTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have enjoyed two wonderful Harvest services this month. The children delivered the Harvest message with real confidence and it was a joy to see them showcase their talents. Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us; your presence made both occasions very special.

A particular thank you to St Peter's Church for hosting the Key Stage 2 service and for playing such an important part in our celebrations. I am also very grateful to all the staff who worked on the preparations, and especially to Mrs Black for her tremendous hard work and energy in producing both services. The generous donations of produce created a lovely display in the hall and have all been donated to Pilsdon at Malling Community to support local families.

Over the last term we reviewed our school values with children, parents and governors so they reflect what matters most to our community. I am delighted to share our final values which together form **SHINE**:

S — Success
H — Honesty
I — Independence
N — Neighbourly
E — Equality

We believe these **SHINE** values capture the shared beliefs and ambitions of our pupils, families, staff and the wider village community. Over the coming weeks and term we will be embedding them across school life so children understand what each value looks like in practice, including in lessons, at playtime and when representing the school.

October is Black History Month and we have marked this with assemblies and a workshop that introduced pupils to important figures and stories from Black history. The children also enjoyed taking part in gospel singing as part of the workshop, which was a lively and moving way to explore music, heritage and community.

We are really proud of all the children; they consistently show confidence and kindness which is a lovely reminder of why our school sits at the heart of the village.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sue Earl, Headteacher



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

REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

The red RBL poppy raises funds to support veterans from the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces and their families at times of need. The red poppy is inclusive of all people and communities. It unites us in remembering all those from the British and Commonwealth Armed Forces who have served and sacrificed; and do so today, to defend democracy and freedom. The red poppy is the universal symbol of Remembrance. It represents hope for a peaceful future.

For more than a century it has been worn, collected in wreaths, its petals dropped, and represented in countless ways as a mark of respect and Remembrance. To wear one is a personal choice and is greatly appreciated by the Royal British Legion.

In Flanders Fields

The story of how the poppy became the flower of Remembrance begins in the mud and horror of First World War battlefields. In France and Belgium, land was repeatedly fought over and blasted by millions of artillery shells.



Poppy seeds, brought to the surface by the violent churning of the earth, began to sprout in the light. Soon, millions of bright poppies covered the ruined landscape.

The sight was witnessed by the troops. They picked them as keepsakes or enclosed in letters sent home. A Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McRae, was moved by the sight of the flowers. He had just lost a friend and colleague on the battlefront: inspired, in May 1915 he composed the poem which we know today as 'In Flanders Fields'.

It was first published in Punch magazine in December 1915 and quickly became one of the most popular poems of its age.

Source: The Royal British Legion: britishlegion.org.uk/

SHIPBOURNE FARMERS' MARKET

At the time of writing we have just heard the news that two of our stallholders won GOLD at the 2026 Taste of Kent Awards. Liz Reid Bakes won gold for her smoked ham, leek and cheddar cheese quiche in the Kent Savoury Bakery Product of the Year category and Carla and Robin from Winterdale Cheese won gold for their Winterdale Shaw in the Kent Cheese of the Year category. Congratulations!

Clocks went back in October and autumn moves towards the depths of winter and with the shortening days, we all crave a little comfort food. Slow-cooked casseroles, satisfyingly starchy creamy mashes, rich flavoured roasts and warming puds all fit the bill perfectly so wrap up and head out for a trip to the Market for inspiration.

Game is the meat of choice for cooks in November as the season is well under way for birds such as pheasant, partridge and wild duck; venison and rabbit are also available.

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

Colder waters make for high-quality fish and seafood, and as the temperature drops the range available just gets better. At the luxury end Dover sole, turbot and halibut are rightly considered the very finest eating. Lower cost alternatives are also at their best. Brill is a firm white flesh full of clean flavour that only needs simple cooking. Or opt for healthy mackerel, full of valuable Omega 3 fish oils.

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

For those of you not partaking in "Stir-up Sunday", be sure to speak to Debra who has opened her order books for her delicious Christmas cakes and puds.

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

BONFIRE NIGHT BAKED POTATOES

SERVES 4 / PREPARATION: 15 MINUTES / COOKING: 1HR 30MINS

Ingredients

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

Method

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



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

Taken from bbcgoodfood.com

BRAIN MATTERS...
outdoors matters ...



The full force of late autumn is in progress and as we head ever further towards winter's embrace now is the time to enjoy the final seasonal leaf falls and the very English mizzle or Scottish smirr.

Usually we focus on spending time outdoors in spring, summer and early autumn but as the weather gets cooler we should still be embracing the great outdoors. Our mind and body still need a dose of natural light - vitamin D and our cardiovascular system needs the exercise which is too easy to neglect come the winter months.

Walking amongst the leaves and bracken also gives our minds a welcome reset from daily stresses and forces our bodies to focus on the sights and sounds that surround us. Being out and about helps to lower cortisol (or 'stress hormone') whilst calming our brain activity. Add in a healthy dose of exercise and we're improving our cardiovascular system and relaxing our nervous system. All this helps to lower blood pressure and improve our working memory and cognitive function. A 'win win' situation!

You could take a step further and do some aerobic exercise outdoors to increase the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), a protein that supports new neuron growth. The blood flow increase from the exercise allows for this to be utilised. This gives us an extra endorphins and serotonin boost which in turn makes us feel good. A further double bonus!

Whilst it is lovely to be cosy inside, take a moment to consider and indulge in those glorious late autumnal walks, often with just a hint of wintry fizz, or a spot of much needed exercise for a holistic benefit not just to our brain but our whole body too. Life is full of stresses and this is an easy way to help reduce them as we approach the shorter days of winter.

Chantal Montebello-Ealey

Sunday 15th November 11am – noon
St Peter's Church Centre

A selection of Fairtrade goods including Christmas Cards, Food (including tea, coffee, biscuits and chocolatey Christmas treats) and Unique gifts (handmade and often made from recycled materials) will be on sale.

Fairtrade Advent calendars are available but need to be pre-ordered by 1st November.
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clerk@ighthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Cllr David Emmett
Cllr Stephanie Gunson
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AN EXTRACT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

22nd September 2026

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

REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR - Cllr Rayner reported that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) had been suspended whilst the Government considers its legalities. LGR has been paused in all areas apart from Surrey; all preparations and changes have been halted including the Kent Pension Fund. TMBC elections will take place as originally planned, in May 2027.

Cllr Rayner announced that there is some grant funding available from the DfT for bus stop refurbishment; the deadline is 30 October 2026.

Following a burst water main in Ightham and Plaxtol and the ongoing issues of water supply, Cllr Rayner is attending the inaugural Kent Water Resilience Partnership in October where he will raise the ongoing water shortages that West Kent has suffered in recent months. Cllr Rayner will press for a more reliable water supply for Kent residents, especially in the light of the Government's housing demands.

Sewerage issues have meant that there have been a number of A25 road closures.

Cllr Emmett reported that he is currently receiving a daily alert about a new water leak; recently there have been leaks near the church, on Fen Pond Road and on Ismays Road. Cllr Rayner shared his concerns and added that the breakdown in supply is caused by pumping capacity.

HIGHWAYS & PROW MATTERS: HIP update - Request for double yellow lines on junctions: The Clerk emailed The Plough to ask whether they would object to double yellow lines on the junctions of Ismays Road and High Cross Road; we have received a comprehensive reply to say that they would object as it would have an adverse effect on their business. On this basis, we will not pursue this any further. The Clerk will chase up the speed reduction

PUBLIC OPEN DAYS

Join us at Planet Plants, your local wholesale nursery specialising in ornamental shrubs and trees, on dedicated public open days this year.

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Antique Road signs – these have now been removed and we are awaiting a quote.

Kent County Council (Public Footpath (MR614 (Part) Ightham): Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2024 has now been approved. This is for a section of the footpath off Oldbury Lane.

Potholes: opposite The Cottage, Redwell Lane; Ismays Road, near the junction of Common Road.

MATTERS ARISING

Recreation Ground: Southern Water drain – nothing to report. Memorial tree for Geoff Turner - a Crepe Myrtle tree and plaque have been installed in memory of Geoff Turner. Geoff was a highly respected plantsman who founded Coblands Nursery on Ismays Road in 1963. Quote for repairs to the bike racks and fence - £800 - agreed. The racks were damaged by a car; the Clerk will check our insurance policy to see whether it would be worth making a claim. Request for bark mulch around new trees as some damage has occurred to the stumps by strimmers – this has now been done. Following a bin fire, TMBC will replace the vandalised bin on the layby outside the Recreation Ground. Lights on the pathway to the Tennis Club – We have been approached by the Tennis Club to ask whether their electrician can quote for the work; agreed. Cllrs Holden and Mitchem said that if we were looking to replace the lights, the ones at Tonbridge School and Ightham Mote would be more suitable.

Village Hall: Update – Trust Deed – Cllr Holden, The Clerk and Paula Price met last week to discuss the Trust Deed for the Village Hall. We have found several papers but not the original Trust Deed so have decided to set up a meeting with Warners to discuss a replacement. It was suggested that we speak to Mark Brenta as he knows the building's history. Cllrs Holden and Benfield met to discuss the options for the Hall; they have contacted a Structural Engineer to carry out a survey to see whether the building is sound and to look at the drains. One of the firms have declined and they are waiting to hear back from another. Theis + Khan have sent some further recommendations. WiFi has now been installed at the Hall. It was reported that there is a wasp's nest by the front door.

Oldbury Annexe: Quote £295 + VAT for an asbestos report. Cllr Holden suggested half term, the Clerk to arrange a date.

Noticeboards: Installed. Clerk took wine and flowers to thank the owner of the Harrow for installing the

noticeboard.

Litter Collection: We have received an update from Simon Collard, in charge of waste at TMBC. On the schedule, the bypass should be cleared every 12 weeks and Fen Pond Road every 6 weeks. He also gave an update on the new Government guidelines requiring road closures for works on high speed roads. It was suggested that we report litter on an ad hoc basis and it was noted that the roads don't currently seem too bad.

Skips: New smoke alarm & gate – nothing to report.

ASB Team: Request to monitor ongoing parking issues on Oldbury Lane - The ASB Team have been to Oldbury Lane to monitor parking/ speeding at school drop off /pick up. They are trying to encourage people to park in the Recreation Ground but found that some parents were uncooperative and suggested contacting the school to send out a reminder. The Clerk said that KCC run a scheme to deal with school parking issues and will get details. There is little else that the Parish Council can do as we have no remit over highways and parking. We have also reported a couple of nuisance e-scooters riding around the lanes; Cllr Emmett said that they hadn't been seen recently.

PLANNING

TMBC Draft Local Plan: Reg 19 Consultation Friday 11th September 2026 to 11:59pm on Sunday 25th October 2026

TMBC Public Meetings: There are a number of public meetings, including an online meeting, that have been set up with Matt Boughton in September and early October. The Clerk will put details on the website and on noticeboards. There are no allocations for Ightham, therefore it was decided that we wouldn't hold a separate public meeting.

We received 7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS and raised 1 objection in part. There is 1 Planning appeal and TMBC approved 10 applications.

Conservation Area Extension request: we have had a request to support an increase in the extent of the Conservation Area in Rectory Lane. Councillors did not object to this as long as the neighbours concerned are supportive as it will impact planning permissions. It was suggested that the Clerk invite the resident to the next meeting along with any neighbours who would like to comment. A question was also raised about a Neighbourhood Plan. It is something that has previously been discussed, however concerns were raised about the time it would take to draft and how effective it would be.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Borough Green and Wrotham u3a

The perfect time to join Borough Green & Wrotham u3a is at our November meeting, to be held on Monday 9th November at 2 pm in Borough Green Village Hall. Our u3a subscription year runs from 1st November – 31st October, so do join up in November for a whole year of monthly meetings, and access to a great range of activities and outings.
The title of our talk on 9th November is Kent Clerical Errors. We look to the clergy as exemplars of Christian behaviour, but historically this has not always been the case. Our speaker Ed Adams will guide us through stories of Kentish clerical misbehaviour and priestly peccadilloes from the Victorian and Edwardian eras, with a talk that promises to be amusing, shocking, and thought-provoking.

u3a
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We look forward to welcoming existing and new members (free), and guests (£5). Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be served. Parking is free for Village Hall users, so please remember to register your car in the 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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PLAXTOL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Dalisons and The Grange

Our speaker Gordon Wright researched the Dalison family whose pedigree it is thought, goes back to the Norman Conquest. The first Sir Maximillian Dalison was knighted by the Black Prince at Poitiers in the 14th century. The family had estates in Lincolnshire and came to Kent in the 16th century and it was here in Kent that our Plaxtol Maximillian was born in 1634. Behind the elegant Queen Anne exterior of The Grange is a much older house with many stories to tell of this prominent family. The Grange remained in the Dalison family until 1967, an occupation of 330 years. Gordon Wright's research was made more confusing as there were five Maximillians in the family tree. In 1671 our Maximillian married Frances Stanley of Plaxtol, the daughter of Thomas Stanley, a brewing family. A plaque in Plaxtol Church commemorates the last four surviving male heirs, sons of William Dalison; the Rev Thomas being the last male heir who died in 1801. Maximillian Dudley Digges Hammond inherited the estate through his grandmother and in 1819 changed his name to Dalison. According to the 1871 census he had nine children with his wife Matilda. His son called Bo inherited the Grange aged 21 but never married. Maximillian's son, another Maximillian, of the Scots Guards, married Grace and went to fight in the Sudan where he was shot in 1885. It is such a sad story that his wife Grace read about his death in the newspaper. She had kept a lock of his hair that our speaker found still preserved in the archives in an envelope. This young man is commemorated in the stained glass window in Plaxtol Church. The Dalison Memorial in the churchyard was designed by a young architect Edwin Lutyens whom Grace chose. He also altered The Grange, incorporating the cottages next door. The whole project cost £8,000 that would be £600,000 today. The church window was blown out during bombing in WW2 and replaced. Bo's sister Joan, married William Keown-Boyd who was a professional soldier and diplomat who inherited The Grange from his uncle. He spent time in the USA and it was his son Alexander who inherited The Grange and £80,000 at the age of six. The Grange was finally sold in 1967. Gordon has to be congratulated on his mastery of a complex family history.

V.Dussek.

Next talk in the Memorial Hall: Tuesday 10th November, 8pm with Frederick Forman, Senior Collector & House Officer at Ightham Mote talking on The House History of Old Soar. Our House History Exhibition will be on Saturday 5th December, 10 - 3pm so THERE WILL BE NO TALK ON TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER.

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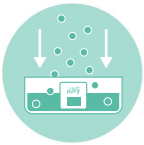
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Club Secretary: 07799 002129



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(Mon/Tue/Thur/Fri 9am-1pm)	E: admin@ighthamchurch.org.uk	
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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

National Trust



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Christmas at Ightham Mote

Saturday 21 November to Sunday 3 January (closed 24 and 25 December) | open 10am-4pm | normal admission applies

Experience the wonder of Christmas at Ightham Mote as the house is transformed with seasonal displays and decorations.

nationaltrust.org.uk/ighthammote