



Next Editors: Jennifer Stuart-Smith and Adam Moore: huntonherald@outlook.com
All items for the next edition of the Herald to the Editors by 15th December

A Toast to Success: Hunton Village Club's Wine Tasting Evening was a sellout!

Hunton Village Club recently hosted a fun and friendly Wine Tasting Evening, and what a success it turned out to be! Members and guests enjoyed a great selection of affordable wines accompanied by a cute individual cheese board. The evening was not just about trying the wine; it also brought the village together in a warm and cosy atmosphere. From lively chatter about which bottle came out on top, to guessing about each wine's origin, the evening was a perfect blend of discovery and enjoyment.

Thank you to everyone who came as well as to Helen Bellman who made the event possible. Support like this helps ensure we keep the club alive. Cheers to many more fun nights ahead.

Kerry Larkin

Candlelit Christmas Eve Carol Service at 6pm

The Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service, at St Mary's, is a very special event that has grown and grown in popularity. To our joy, over 200 people came along to the service last year. Revd. David Jones will lead the service. Our Rector, Lorna Faulkner, will also be present. We will all share this wonderful community event together. There will be Bible readings that retell the story of the birth of Christ on that first Christmas, as well as many joyous carols and wonderful organ music. Following the service, there will be time to chat with friends while enjoying mulled wine and mince pies. Any contributions of minced pies to share would be very welcome but not obligatory!

Wendy and Iain Simmons

Floral Fun at Hunton Ladies Club!

Our recent flower arranging evening was a Blooming Success. Well done to the Hunton Ladies Club members who gathered for an evening of creativity, laughter, and of course a glass or two. With a little bit of instruction from Tricia and a lot of inspiration from the group, a fine display of Autumnal Centrepieces were made using waiting for it.... PUMPKINS.

Hunton Ladies Club is all about fun, friendship, and trying new things. On the last Wednesday of every month we host something different, whether it's crafts, speakers, or just a relaxed night out. It's the perfect way to unwind, make new friends, and enjoy a little "me time" with a fantastic and welcoming group of local ladies. Want to find out more? If you're looking for a friendly, welcoming place to learn something new, enjoy a drink or two and meet others 'just like you', please get in touch with Christine Summersgill on c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com



Kerry Larkin

Your Local Contacts:

School: Secretary/Head Teacher	820360	Maidstone Police	690690 or 101
Under 5's Pre-School:	820309	Village Hall Booking:	www.huntonvillagehall.co.uk
Pond and Tree Warden: Sam Andrews	huntontreewarden@gmail.com	Huntonwatch: huntonwatch@gmail.com	07907 019996
Rector: Revd. Lorna Faulkner*	747570	'Potholes' Hotline (KCC)	03000 418181
Hon Associate Rector: Revd. David Jones	741474	Hunton Ladies: Chris Summersgill	c.a.summersgill@btinternet.com
Churchwarden: Iain Simmons	820875	PCSO - none	
	Ishuntonchurchwarden@btinternet.com	Katie Lam MP	katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
Community Wardens Team	07811 271021	Village Club: Roger Lee: roger.c.lee@btinternet.com	820210
Hunton Bell Ringers: Lavinia Thompson	07885 763071	Reporting HGVs	huntontrafficroporting@gmail.com
Contact details for other village clubs and organisations are available at www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk			*not available on Fridays

Parish Council Contacts

Parish Clerk: Sharon Goodwin - 681238, huntonpc@googlegmail.com	Chairman: David Heaton - 820678, dhhuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Jonny Goddard - 820096, jonny@cheveneyfarm.co.uk	Cllr Tony Stanbridge - 820721, tshuntonpc@gmail.com
Cllr Annette Trought - 820448, annette@trought.com	Cllr Mike Summersgill - 820429, mshuntonpc@btinternet.com
Cllr Iain Simmons - 820875, ishuntonpc@btinternet.com	

Diary Dates

Post Christmas Walk / Lunch, Sat 28th Dec.

Check out www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk/events-list for the latest events. If you would like to add an event, email huntonpc@gmail.com



Hunton



www.huntonparishcouncil.org.uk



@HuntonVillage

Pastoral Letter

'Someday, I would like to go home. The exact location of this place, I don't know, but someday I would like to go.'

I read these words by a writer called Henry Rollins the other day and it made me stop and think about what 'home' really means.

A house can be a home. But a home is so much more than the place where we sleep at night, or eat our meals. It's the place we live. The place where we can be ourselves.

For me, there are some people who are home too, because when I am with them I breathe out; let my guard down; I can rest in their presence - I know I am safe.

But we are all too aware that life doesn't stand still: we lose loved ones; relationships move on; circumstances press in. And the safe feeling of home can feel a long way away from us.

One of the Bible verses we so often hear read at Christmas services is from John's Gospel. Chapter 1, verse 14.

'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...'

The Message version of the Bible says he 'moved into the neighbourhood...'

This image of God becoming human and coming to make his home with us.. wow, well it blows me away every time I hear it.

Christmas often means we're having visitors, or doing some *visiting*. But at Christmas we celebrate far more than a special guest: Jesus wasn't just visiting. He wasn't popping by, hoping to catch us at our best, then leaving when the edges begin to fray (or when Auntie Beryl has had one too many Snowballs...)

He was moving in... coming to live alongside us in all our humanity - in our joy, our work, our play, our tears and laughter, our mess and mistakes: All our everyday glory. He made his home with us, so that we could discover the home our hearts can find in him.

Whatever your circumstances at this time - be they challenging or cheerful - may each of you be blessed by the warm, familiar presence of God in your hearts and your homes this Christmas.

With love and blessings to you all, Lorna

Parish Council

A couple of items of interest were discussed at the PC meeting on Monday night (18th November).

The terms of reference for the Hunton Safer Streets and Lanes Group were adopted by the council. This group will tie together all the various ideas for desired improvements to the roads around Hunton, along with public meetings to gain further comments from parishioners. Councillor Simmons is heading this group, so look out for future open sessions.

The other main item for discussion was the MBC Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Show People Development Plan consultation document. The preferred approaches contained in this will have an impact on Hunton, so the PC will be holding a further meeting to formulate a response to it. As it is a public consultation parishioners may wish to make comments themselves. Information can be found at <https://localplan.maidstone.gov.uk/home/gypsy-traveller-development-plan-document>

All comments need to be made by 5:00pm on the 12th December.

David Heaton, Chairman Hunton PC

Fluffed lines, men in wigs, singing mushrooms and dodgy Italian accents!

A fun evening was had by all - oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was - when the cast of 2023 finally got together in the Village Club for a screening of last year's panto "Once upon a time".

As actors (and I use this term very loosely!) we never actually see the whole performance, as we are either on stage, or waiting behind the scenes for our next "big entrance" so it was with much anticipation, and no little trepidation, that we settled down to watch. Yes there was the occasional missed cue, the odd forgotten line, one or two dodgy dance moves but that's what makes the Hunton Panto so special for the participants and the audience!

Thank you to Sam and Sharon for arranging it, and to the Club for hosting. The evening was a great success, and a reminder not only of how much hard work goes into the Panto, but also of what lovely friendships have been forged over the years.

The big question - yet unanswered - what's next for Hunton's thespians???

Astrid Andrews

Carols at the Club

Come and start off Christmas week with carols and minced pies at the Village Club. Join us for a festive evening of fun and seasonal cheer. All welcome! Monday 23rd December 7pm Hunton Village Club

Roger & Lesley Lee

Whyman Family Originating from Hunton?

David Whyman contacted the Herald as he understands his family may have originated from Hunton or the surrounding area. Several gravestones at St. Mary's church bear the names of direct relatives, including Michael and Richard who lived during the late 19th century.

David would be very happy to learn of any of his family's relatives who still live in this area. If anyone knows of any of his relatives, please make contact with him on davewhyman@hotmail.com

David was born in 1946 and currently lives in Copthorne, West Sussex. He has 3 sons, Tim 49, Chris 46 and Oliver 43. Any information would be gladly received, many thanks.

David Whyman

An Unwelcome Anniversary

After 50 years of marriage a Golden Wedding is celebrated but sadly the 50th Anniversary of the tower roof of our Grade 1 listed church is proving a less happy occasion.

A casual passer-by may not notice that the tower roof is covered with cedar shingles and you would have to look carefully to see that over the last 50 or so years woodpeckers have been pecking a lot of wood! There are holes, some a couple of inches in diameter, in the flat surfaces and the ridge tiles have been seriously degraded in places. This allows damp to penetrate and risks rotting the underlying structure whilst also providing encouragement to all manner of wood eating beetles which in turn provide more reason for the woodpeckers to attack the roof covering which then lets in more water an unhappy circle of life.

We have not been helped by one further piece of bad news. Deathwatch and other wood boring beetles have recently been found to be active in four areas inside the church. Treatment is scheduled to be carried out before the Christmas Market so I hope that will be one issue we can resolve before Christmas!

For the tower, having taken appropriate advice, we have instructed a local architect to manage what we expect to be at least a £100,000 project. You may ask how we, with a congregation of about 20, can possibly expect to meet this cost? It is a question we will be struggling to address over the coming months but we hope a solution can be found.

St Mary's has some money put by for future repairs and emergencies (thanks to a few legacies and regular fundraising events); the Friends of St Mary's have also been fund raising for many years now and, together, we can raise about half of the projected total cost. This helps us in seeking further support from the many bodies willing to help maintain old churches. We hope this will prove fruitful.

The depressing thought is that, as cedar shingles last for about 50 years, in or about 2074 someone from Hunton will be going through the same unhappy exercise – we wish them every success!

James Forster

St.Mary's Hunton Primary School



Since our successful SIAMS inspection we have been eager to celebrate and thought it appropriate that this year our annual Vision and Values Day was held away from school. We are attempting to fund the trip through fundraising and donations through the year and have so far raised £350. We are extremely grateful to those of you who have donated so far. The School Council with the Head Boy and Head Girl are planning numerous fund-raising events. The cake sale and stationery sale have, together with some children kindly donating some of their pocket money; made a positive start towards the £2200.

The awe and wonder the children showed on our Vision and Values Day at Howletts Animal Park was a true delight to see. What a memorable and fantastic day the whole school had. It was so special being together and seeing the Year 6 take so much care of their Reception buddies. Bannerman Class were especially delighted to see a real tiger after reading 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. In relation to our school vision, being

courageous and stepping outside of our comfort zone, many of us saw and did things we had never done before including walking through the lemurs' enclosure. Phew! The lemurs did not jump on us.

The children were so grateful and constantly said 'thank you' during and after the day. We could not have had our special trip without the work that went into all the organising from staff and volunteers. Thank you so much especially the volunteers who joined us.



Post-Christmas Walk and Lunch - Saturday 28th December

Feeling suitably stuffed from Christmas snacking and in need of fresh air? Why not shake off the Christmas holiday haze and join us at Hunton Village Club on Saturday, 28th December, for a morning of countryside wandering and a laid-back lunch with friends!

We'll meet at the Club at 11 am to set off on a circular walk that's about an hour and a half long. Feel free to bring the whole family, any well-behaved dogs, and even that slightly eccentric uncle – all are welcome! Let's stretch those legs, enjoy the countryside we live in, and work up an appetite together. After we return, the bar will be open (cheers to that!), and a generous buffet lunch will be ready. Lunch is just £10 for Club members, £12.50 for non-members, and a fiver for children. What a perfect post-Christmas treat!

So we can plan ahead, please email Lesley by the end of Boxing Day if you'd like to take part. Please also state if you have any food allergies or particularly quirky dislikes, so our volunteer team can do their best to meet your needs.

Contact: lesley.a.lee@btinternet.com Put on your boots, bring your Christmas stories, and enjoy the comfort of our local club.

Ho Ho Ho and a Fa La La

Kerry Larkin

Hunton Village Club Opening Hours

Wednesdays 8 – 11pm; Fridays 6.30 – 10.30pm; Sundays 8 – 10.30pm

Hunton Harvest Supper

On Saturday 19th October, many residents of Hunton and other friends joined us in the village hall for the annual harvest supper. A delicious meal of shepherd's pie and Dutch apple cake, followed by cheese and biscuits, all prepared by Friends of St Marys and supporters, was enjoyed! The bar ran all evening and many participated in the tombola and "guess the weight of the pumpkin". Huge thanks to all those who came out to support us; all proceeds of the evening are going towards the Friends of St Mary's funds to support the fabric and maintenance of our beautiful local church.

Friends of St Mary's will be running the barbeque and bar at the forthcoming Christmas Market on Saturday 23rd November; we hope to have seen all of you there!

Kate Banks

Hunton Club News & Diary Dates

There was a very good turnout for the November Walk and Lunch. 35 people and several dogs, left the Club at 11am for a walk to Yalding and back. The Club then hosted a lunch for over 40 people consisting of a choice of soups, salads and cold meat, cheeses and lots of sweets and cakes – all at £10 for Club members. Money was raised towards further repairs to the Club and general running expenses. We are holding a similar event on Saturday 28th December which is covered by a separate article. Other dates for your diary are the Club's AGM on 29th November, a 'Just for Fun' Quiz night on Saturday 7th December at 7.30 for 8pm start. The Club (subject to volunteer availability) will be open for Christmas Eve from 8pm and on Boxing Day lunchtime from noon to 2pm. The Club will not be open on Wednesday 25th Christmas day.

Roger & Lesley Lee

United Benefice December Christmas Services	
Coxheath	Linton
Sunday 1 st 4.30pm: Christmas Tree light switch on	Saturday 21 st 3pm: Messy Christingle
Sunday 15 th 4pm: Carols by Candlelight	Saturday 21 st 4.15pm: Carols & Christingles
Monday 23 rd 6pm – 7.30pm: Lights of Love	Christmas Day 10.30am: Family Service & Communion
Christmas Eve 4.30pm: Children's Service	West Farleigh
Christmas Eve 11.15pm: Holy Communion	Sunday 15 th 6pm: Carol Service
East Farleigh	Christmas Eve 10.30am: Holy Communion
Saturday 7 th 4pm: Carols around the tree	Hunton
Christmas Eve 4pm: Christingle	Christmas Eve 6pm: Carol Service

Remembrance Sunday Service

This is one of those days of the year when the church enjoys a good congregation and I am delighted to say it happened again with about 60 people gathered to honour those who risked and gave so much for the benefit of future generations.

The church looked wonderful with some beautiful flower arrangements accentuated by spotlights (thank you Wendy, Sue and Andrea), the personalised silhouettes (thank you Alice), a beautiful churchyard (thank you the working party) and a thought-provoking service conducted by our very own Rev David Jones. We are very fortunate.

We should all be familiar with the words of the Kohima Epitaph that we hear every year but I stumbled across words with a similar sentiment in a note book belonging to my Great Grandfather, in which he recorded words that brought him some comfort after the death of his oldest son in WW1. I think they are worth remembering at this time of year in particular:

*"Sons of this place, let this of you be said,
That you who live are worthy of your dead.
These gave their lives that you who live may reap
A richer harvest ere you fall asleep."*

We should all be thankful for the lives we have the opportunity to live now and make every day a blessing for ourselves and those we hold dear.

James Forster

Benefice Service Rota – December 2024					
Church	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Coxheath	10:30 am Communion LF & DJ				10.30 Holy Communion DJ
East Farleigh				10:30 am Holy Communion CD & LF	
West Farleigh		10:30 Holy Communion DJ & CD			
Hunton			10:30 am Holy Communion LF & BP		
Linton					
LF, Lorna Faulkner. DJ, David Jones. CD, Clinton Davis. BP, Becky Parham. SE, Sue Elliot.					
Midweek Services					
Coxheath - Every Thursday; Holy Communion, 10:00 am;			Linton - Holy Communion last Wednesday of each month, 12.00 followed by soup		

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