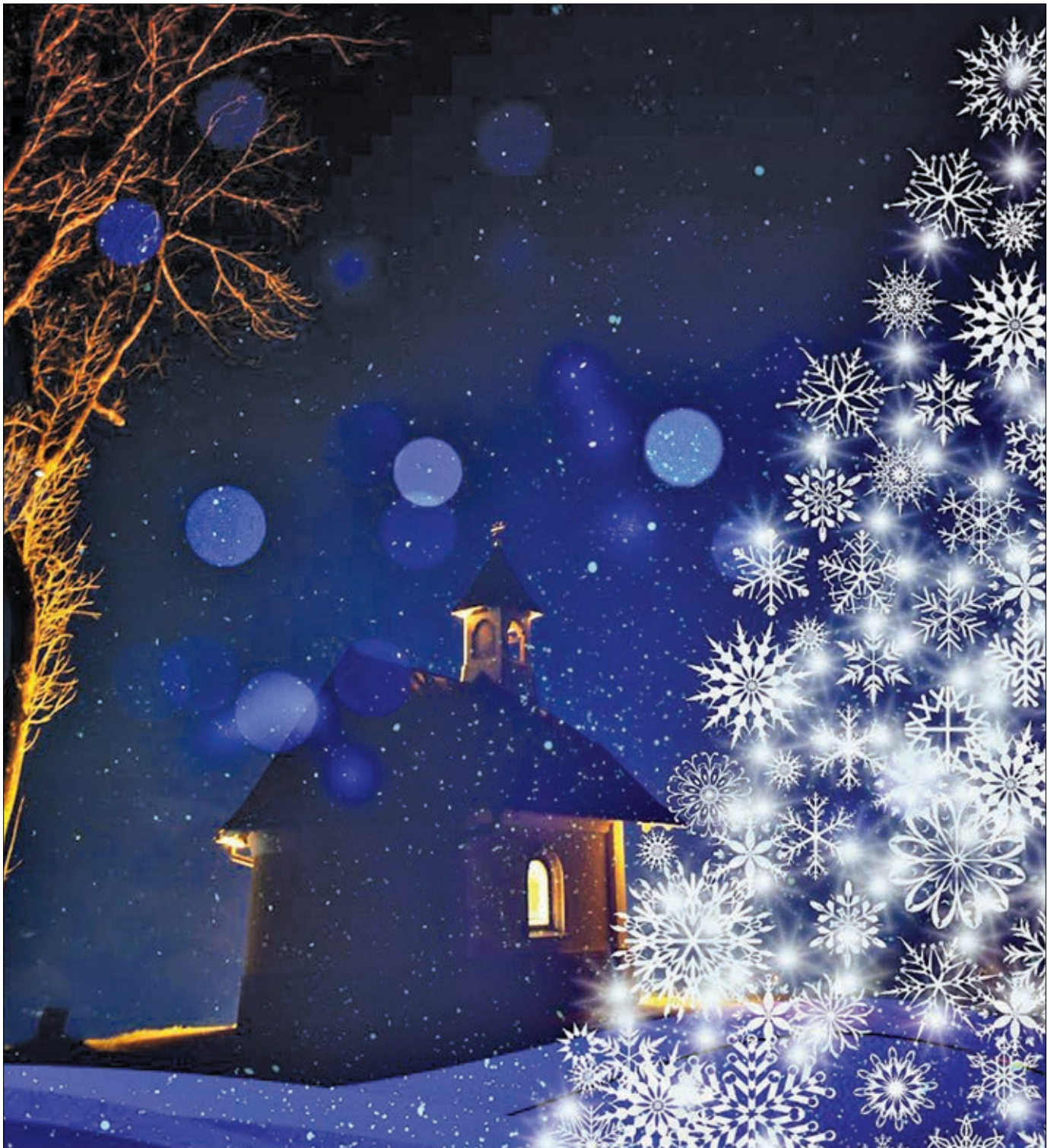


Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

24/25
DEC/JAN
ONLINE





Parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden

Team Rector	The Revd Canon Lindsay Hammond tentvic@gmail.com	01580 761591 07805 840493
Team Vicar	The Revd Jeanette Kennett `caulkhead7@talktalk.net	01233 758250 07888 998874
Assistant Curate	The Reverend Andrew Tapsell revandrewtapsell@gmail.com	07401 287873
Reader	Judy Vinson judyannvinson@gmail.com	01580 241504

St Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden

Churchwardens	Tim Cole timjamescole@hotmail.com	01580 241154
Hon. Secretary	VACANT	
Hon. Treasurer	William Barham	01580 240852
Sacristan	Elizabeth Marshall	01580 241529
Organist	Geoffrey Davison	01580 241685
Bellringers'		
Assoc. Captain	Linda Smith	01580 241783

St Peter, Newenden

Churchwardens	Frances Jones frances@peri.co.uk	01797 252563
	Hugh Edmonds hfedmonds@outlook.com	01797 252196
Hon Secretary	Vacant	
Hon. Treasurer	Jonathan Kempton jonstpeters@gmail.com	
Sacristan	Rhoda Smith	01580 292041
Organist	Frances Jones	01797 252563
Magazine Administration	Judy Vinson judyannvinson@gmail.com	01580 241504

Published by Rolvenden P.C.C.

Cover Image: Gerd Altmann from Pixabay



The Minister's desk December 2024

Rev Jeanette Kennett

One Christmas I asked my class to prepare some prayers for worship. One child wrote, very simply 'Dear God, everyone misses you.'

It is hard to know what that child was thinking. On the face of it, they are words that would seem more appropriate on a postcard to much loved grandparents or a message to a poorly relative in hospital. Perhaps it was simply an affectionate phrase that seemed right to 'send' to God. But maybe there was more to it than that? On reflection, as we look forward to Christmas, those words bear thinking about: 'Dear God, everyone misses you.'

The Christmas story is the story of the God who is missed. For centuries, the prophets had foretold the coming of the Saviour, but when he came, few seemed to notice! Many doors were closed against him! The failure to recognise the Christ when he comes is a theme that runs through the gospels. It is there in the stories of his infancy, his ministry, his suffering and death, and his resurrection. Everyone, or almost everyone, 'misses' God.

But the words have another way of being read. Everyone misses you: that is, everyone would love you to be here, everyone longs for you; there is in every human heart a deep yearning for God, a desire for the meaning and purpose and peace of mind that God alone can give.

And the message of Christmas is that God acted decisively to meet this human need for him. God has drawn near, God has made his home with us: 'the Word', says St. John, 'was made flesh and dwelt among us'. Our God, longed for down the ages, has come to us at last! And the message of Christmas, and of Christianity, is not of the rumour of some far distant God, but of God who has made himself one with us: in the person of his blessed Son, he has shared our birth, and our life, and our death; and in his resurrection he points us to the life which lies beyond this life and lifts us into the gracious presence of the Father.

'Dear God, everyone misses you.' 'Dear child', says God, 'but you have come home to me, and I have come home to you'. And that rather puts me in mind of one of my favourite hymn verses of all time – in my book, strictly for Christmas morning!

'Yea, Lord, we greet thee
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!'

With every blessing for the Christmas Season
Jeanette





St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas for December 2024 January 2025

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Dec 01	ADVENT NO FLOWERS	ADVENT NO FLOWERS
Dec 08	ADVENT NO FLOWERS	ADVENT NO FLOWERS
Dec 15	ADVENT NO FLOWERS	ADVENT NO FLOWERS
Dec 22	Christmas Flower Arrangers	Christmas Flower Arrangers
Dec 29	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers
Jan 05	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers
Jan 12	Sylvia K	TBA
Jan 19	Sylvia K	TBA
Jan 26	Ina Hemsley	TBA
Contact:	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary December: Richard Coleman

Brass Cleaning at St Mary January: Sylvia Kellett

St. Peter's Church: normally open between 10.00 and 4.00pm. If you need access outside of these times, please contact Frances Jones or Rosie Edmonds. Should arrangers be unable to do any slots please swap with someone else and let Rosie know.

❖ From the Registers ❖

Funeral

1st November – Mark Bilick – at St Peter's



The Mag Team wish all our readers
a joyful Christmas and a hope filled New Year
Glyn, Trevor and Judy





The Church of England

IN TENTERDEN, ROTHER AND OXNEY SERVICES
IN CHURCH AND ONLINE DURING DECEMBER

Sunday 1st December First Sunday of Advent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

6pm Benefice Advent Carol Service (Tenterden) *Live streamed and online thereafter*

St Mary's Rolvenden

Holy Communion

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer

Saturday 7th December 9:00am at Newenden

Women of the Nativity: *Abigail's Story*, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

No 11am St Mary's Rolvenden

3:00pm St Mary's Rolvenden

Christingle Service

Saturday 14th December 9:00am

Appledore Women of the Nativity: *Mary's Story*, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent

No 9:30 am St Peter's Newenden

11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Matins

4pm St Peter's Newenden

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Saturday 21st December 9am at Rolvenden

Women of the Nativity: *Shiprah's Story*, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am St Peter's Newenden

Celtic Morning Prayer

No 11am St Mary's Rolvenden

6pm St Mary's Rolvenden

Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

10pm St Peter's Newenden

The Eucharist of Christmas Night

For Christmas Eve afternoon event
in St Mary's Rolvenden see page x

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Eucharist of Christmas Morning

Saturday 28th December 9am at Smallhythe

Women of the Nativity: *Rachael's Story*, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 29th December The First Sunday of Christmas & New Year's Eve

No services in Newenden or Rolvenden today

10am at Tenterden – Benefice Eucharist

From Christmas Day to Sunday 5th January, Beginning the Day with God and Ending the Day with God
will be replaced by a single daily act of online worship Follow the Star: Calm and Bright.

There will not be a midweek Holy Communion in St Michael's Church on 18th or 25th December, nor in Tenterden
Church on 26th December or 2nd January.



The Church of England

IN TENTERDEN, ROTHER AND OXNEY SERVICES
IN CHURCH AND ONLINE DURING JANUARY

Saturday 4th January 9am at Stone

Women of the Nativity: Elizabeth's Story, *followed by an optional breakfast*

Sunday 5th January Epiphany of our Lord

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

8am St Mary's Rolvenden
Holy Communion
11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

Saturday 11th January 9am at St Michael's

Women of the Nativity: Mariamne's Story, *followed by an optional breakfast*

Sunday 12th January The Baptism of Christ

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist for Plough Sunday

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist for Plough Sunday

Sunday 19th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany, Plough Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist for Plough Sunday

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Plough Sunday Service

6pm Benefice Choral Evensong (Appledore)

Sunday 26th January The Conversion of St Paul

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

6pm Ecumenical Evensong St Michael's

*Tenterden Church will be closed after Sunday 5th January through to the end of July.
Services will be held in Tenterden Church Hall.*

And during the week:

Beginning the Day with God

A ten-minute reflective service, *online only from Monday to Saturday.*

Ending the Day with God

A ten-minute reflective service, *online only from Monday to Saturday.*

Holy Communion

Will be celebrated at St Michael's every Wednesday, the service will begin at 10am, and last about twenty-five minutes. Details of the Thursday Communion in Tenterden in January are not yet available.

These services will not appear online.

To access our daily online worship visit:

YouTube St Mildred's, Tenterden

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBAbfTcsSiiq4HALM0GRdWg>

Online services:

can also be accessed through the daily bulletin, **Connect Up!**

To receive Connect Up!:

Please visit our website: www.tentroxchurches.co.uk

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Get Ready for the Christmas Tractor Run and an Update on Our Auction of Promises

In support of Rolvenden Primary School's Community Fundraising, our next community event, the Christmas Tractor Run, is coming up soon, and we are excited to celebrate this Christmas event with you! Organised by Eddie and Rosie Tompsett, this festive evening will see decorated tractors light up the village as they make their way from the Layne to the High Street. We hope you will join us for a drink at the Ewe and Lamb before the parade, followed by a children's grotto, light-up toys, and a festive BBQ at The Star.

• Date: Saturday, 21st December • Time: From 5:30 PM

For more information, please contact Rosie - 07826 364356

We would like to thank everyone involved in the recent Auction of Promises. Although the December Parish Magazine had gone to press before the auction, the contribution of promises and participation from the community was outstanding, and we are incredibly grateful. A special thank you goes to Steve Bryant - Groundscare & General Services Ltd for his invaluable role in making this event possible, with fantastic support from Miranda Bryant and Kerry Drinkwater. We could not have done it without their dedication and hard work. We will provide a full update on the funds raised in the February issue. We would also like to thank John Gibbons Educational Trust Trustees for their contribution towards our school fund.

Thank you all for your continued support, and we hope to see you at the Christmas Tractor Run! Merry Christmas to you all!

Sue Morgan & Frances Clifford Chair & Vice Chair of Governors



Memories from Childhood



I spent much of the day with my younger daughter yesterday. Her baby is less than a month old and my daughter has now returned to work as a freelance musician. It was the grandparents' pleasure and responsibility to look after the precious little bundle while her mother was playing. In our conversation we touched on some of the differences between the 1950s and today.

One immediate difference is that my mother didn't go out to work. She had quite enough to do, looking after my father, me and my two older brothers. I think I can picture myself being put out in the garden, in my pram, for about an hour in all weathers, with a net to prevent a cat smothering

me. If I cried, I'd soon get over it and would enjoy watching the clouds scurrying across the sky, and then doze off.

Washing the clothes was a very arduous task for my mother, even with a twin tub washing machine. It was such hard work to transfer the wet clothes from the grey washing water into the spinner. Then everything had to be lifted out, still heavy and dripping wet, to be dried on the outside washing line, weather permitting. It took forever!

In the early 1950s rationing was still in place. Feeding the family was a challenge but much of the weekly shopping came to the door. The greengrocer came with a horse drawn cart. He rang the bell at the tradesmen's side door and my mother went out to choose her fruit and vegetables. The milkman delivered daily. The butcher and the baker both had delivery vans and they came once or twice a week. As a small boy I always enjoyed the repartee with our tradesmen and as I had a full head of blonde curls, they all would say "Morning curly."

My mother had a basket on the front of her bicycle and I was sometimes put in this for expeditions into town. On other occasions she pushed me in a huge perambulator. She regularly met friends for morning coffee in a long-closed cafe, which had a high glass skylight. Lying in my pram I was fascinated by the changing light above me, while in the background there was the continuous clink of coffee cups and endless chatter. Women wore very different clothes in those days, and I was always intrigued by the fur stoles, in particular the one which ended with a dead fox's head. Hats were often worn and many sported colourful feathers. It was unthinkable to wear trousers!

I know it was hard for my mother to run the household, but she always had time for her friends. Although money was tight, we never went without and holidays were always spent with my mother's sisters, in their beautiful homes in Surrey and Lincolnshire.



Money is tight for my daughter and her husband, but they are a very happy family unit, with their gorgeous little daughter. They wouldn't dream of putting their daughter outside in a pram for an hour, unattended, but they still find time to meet friends for coffee and a chat. I hope my little granddaughter will have precious memories of hearing the background clatter of cups and conversation, but won't be horrified by a dead fox's head.

Anthony Dawson

Good News for Newenden's Children



The playground on Lossenham Lane has been there for as long as most people can remember. It was established in 1953 to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. According to Rhoda Smith it was run by a committee who raised funds and sorted out the maintenance as required. It was very much a community

affair. In 2003 a 20-year lease was given by the Selmes Trust to the Parish Council which included an annual ground rent of £50.

In 2023 two things happened. The lease was due for renewal and the play equipment was found to be in need of some serious attention. Volunteers worked with the Parish Council on the play equipment but much of the good work was undone by an act of wanton vandalism. The upshot was that in mid-summer 23, the playground failed the annual inspection by ROSPA and had to be closed.

This was when the PC discovered the world of Playground design and the money it was going to cost to give the children of Newenden an exciting and safe playground.

There followed a summer of solid fund raising which included generous donations from individuals, Tavia Gethin's highly successful Open Garden at Lossenham Manor with a vintage car concours and Nibbles' monthly lucky number. There was some determined applying for grants by Nicola Holland which resulted in three grants from the Lottery, a member's grant from Cllr Walder and a community grant from ABC. Incredibly the village raised £45000.



A new lease was agreed with the Selmes Trust with no increase in the annual ground rent. Different designers were consulted, competitive tenders obtained, and a contract awarded.

Last month a volunteer working party cleared the site of all the old equipment and the hedge was brought down to an acceptable lower level. At the Parish Council meeting in November, Dave Wheeler acknowledge the extent of the work undertaken by Dennis Rose in research and liaison with the potential contractors. His contribution had been crucial to the successful conclusion of this project.

Dave also offered thanks for the various contributions of others on Facebook saying:

'Thanks to everyone that came and helped take down and clear the playground in readiness for the new one to be fitted in a few weeks.

From conception to finish it will have taken only 18 months.

This includes raising all the money (£45,000), negotiating a new lease and engaging a firm to complete the work. All within budget as well.

With the correct organisation and the help of skilled people from all walks of life it shows that we can accomplish social projects in Newenden.'

And the magnificent conclusion to this story: the work is scheduled to start w/c 2nd December with the expectation it will be finished by the 20th, so in time for Christmas!

Greetings



I'm Australian but my father's side of the family is pure Kent and my mother is from Bristol so as a child here in the mid 1970's Christmas began as traditionally English. Although over time Mum's hot roast turkey with gravy became a cold roast turkey with cranberry sauce and the roast potatoes and sprouts became an array of interesting salads. We eat Christmas lunch

outside on the deck behind my parents' house overlooking their bush garden with tall trees and noisy colourful birds in the bright, hot summer sun huddling under a sunshade.

Afterwards it's back inside to the air conditioning before what's left of the "Christmas pudding inspired" ice cream Mum made melts completely. We aren't a family for prawns on the barbie, or cricket on the beach, although a lot of Aussies are. We are still sufficiently English that we happily eat too much then sit in the living room watching the Christmas tree lights and chatting as if it was cold outside. From childhood holidays in England I remember properly old churches from the Middle Ages and the cold. Part of me still thinks it should be snowing on the 25th.

Mowenna Landers



Update from Rolvenden Parish Council

The annual inspection of the playgrounds recently took place, and we have obtained quotes for a number of remedial works and we aim to get these works completed before the end of the year. The rather 'drunk' bin at Rolvenden Layne has been reported to ABC and they have agreed to straighten it up!

As funds allow, we will continue to refresh any street furniture that belong to the Parish Council. The gateways on Tenterden Road were recently refurbished and we are grateful to Tompsetts for carrying out the works. We have requested that all the village signs are cleaned which is an ongoing process.



Potholes around the village remain an issue and do report these online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>.

We welcomed Richard Batten, Acting Inspector CSU, to our last meeting. He was keen to reassure us that Rolvenden is a safe place to live. We are delighted to see a great Police presence in the village and we remain grateful to Sian Reeves and her team for all they do with Neighbourhood Watch. We are also grateful to The Star who have offered to continue to host the Warm Hub initiative.

You may be aware that all Parish Councillors are Trustees of the Thorburn Land Trust. This is a separate body to the Parish Council. A meeting was held in October to discuss the future of the land and we hope to share some thoughts on this in the New Year.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council.

Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk,

mail: rolvendenclerk@gmail.com Tel: 07900 693572



*The Parish Council would like to wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*





NEWENDEN ART EXHIBITION

Wednesday 4th December, 7pm
THE WHITE HART, NEWENDEN



Over Summer 2024, 3 local artists were commissioned to create works about Newenden. Join us on Wednesday 4th December at The White Hart for mulled wine, mince pies and music to celebrate Newenden and its talented residents:

- Jillian Eldridge — Oil on Canvas
- Elizabeth Norris — Photography
- Anthony Dawson — Folk tunes

Prints (signed by the artists) and other items will be available to purchase.

WILLIKIN OF THE WEALD TUNE: TRAD. WORDS A.W. DAWSON

WE ARE THE MEN OF AN-DREDE'S WEALD, WE LIVE BY OUR WITS WE
NE-VER YIELD, WE LOVE OUR KING, WE SERVE HIM TRUE, WE
HATE THE FRENCH AND WE KILL THEM TOO. WE'RE FROM TENTERDEN, FROM
BELLEN-DEN FROM NEWENDEN AND ROLVEN-DEN

Sponsored by Lossenham Farm
All proceeds will go towards Newenden Village Hall



Weather and Nature Notes

The end of October was pleasantly mild and some sunny afternoons were t-shirt weather, but with the year further advanced than it felt, as the warming sun dipped jumpers or jackets were soon put back on. November started mild and dry although the sun was in short supply. Without frosts, tender plants continue to bloom, my trough of Salvias have been flowering non-stop since May and the rains have reinvigorated them. The wet weather made the news a few times often focussing on farmers' troubles with harvesting. On a few of my days off I have helped a little with some of the potato harvesting at a farm on the Romney Marsh. It is normally finished by or during October, however this year after a productive start September then produced 210mm of rain and October another 140mm, making it a very protracted harvest with frequent breaks waiting on enough dry days to allow the machinery to get back on the fields. As I write in mid-November there is still some crop in the ground, they will wait and see if any prolonged dry spell will enable the remainder to be harvested. I am sure they will be thankful though that their problems are not as bad as in parts of Spain, which have seen huge rainfall causing devastating flooding with casualties.

The mild and moist weather has been good for fungi, the large lawn at Maytham had plenty appearing in it, the more you look the more you see, from tiny slender club fungus that look at first glance like yellow blades of grass, to many other different coloured toadstools from the very small to a few horse mushrooms of mammoth, dinner plate proportions. It is no wonder writers of fairy stories over the years have been inspired by their brief magical appearances in their varied often colourful forms, especially on dewy atmospheric mornings. I saw on the Television that they are wanting fungi to be



recognised in their own class like flora and fauna are, as they are neither of those. They can then be given the same protection rights as they are an incredibly important part of the ecosystem, this in turn will benefit other species.

During a walk a different bird cry alerted me to look round, flying fast to escape a pair of Jackdaws were three Ring-necked Parakeets. They landed in a tree close by, the Jackdaws sat next to them in a bid to intimidate these unwelcome little green aliens, which worked, they flew off with their pursuers behind making sure they were leaving their territory. I did think I heard one call briefly the other day, but traffic noise made me unsure. These exotic looking birds are native to the foothills of the Himalayas so can survive our Winters, there are thousands in and around London and beyond, which obviously suits their needs. I am surprised they have not yet colonised here, but I suppose it is only a matter of time before they do settle around here and argue over nesting holes with more Jackdaws.

The mild dull conditions this year mean the leaves on many trees seem slower to change colour, and remain on the trees longer, with global warming this could become a trend. In the garden I am taking advantage of the favourable weather whilst it lasts to move some plants while there is still some warmth and moisture in the ground. Autumn is a good time to assess the garden when the plants are full grown as you can see what growing space various plants take up. Garden jobs over the coming weeks such as pruning roses and fruit trees etc and cutting back herbaceous plants will keep me well occupied, the shortest day will pass, and the new growing season will be near with no doubt some new seeds, bulbs or plants to try next year.

Hazel Beaney





Goings on in Rolvenden Churchyard

The churchyard is a place that is many different things to different people. For those who mourn it is a place of remembering and solace. For walkers it is the place you go through to get to somewhere else. For youngsters it is an open space in which to exercise imagination and let of steam. For those who are looking for their roots it is a place of searching. For Nature it is a place of quietly getting on with life in so very many guises. For lichenologists it is a place to put on the 'would like to visit' list. Through the lighter months of the year, for Rev Andrew, it is the place for Forest Church, a different way of engaging with God.

It is also somewhere that needs care. Tompsetts mowing, families and friends tending graves, those are familiar sights. But here are two more rather unusual stories of caring.

Strong winds in October damaged one of the smaller yew trees to the east of the church. A large branch was left partially attached and needed some delicate work with a chain saw to avoid further damage to the trunk. Ben Hatcher and his crew spent several hours sorting it out. The same day Ben completed remedial work on the venerable yew by the Wedding Gates. Various branches have now been strengthened by a technique called bracing.

On October 27th Rev Andrew lead the final Forest Church of the year during which he blessed the beautifully refurbished seat by the labyrinth. Paul Holt, seen here with his wife Catherine and son Oliver, had restored the seat in memory of his parents, Mick and Pearl Holt. Some readers may remember Pearl as one of the writers of the monthly WI reports for the mag.

Judy V





THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN TENTERDEN,
ROTHER AND OXNEY

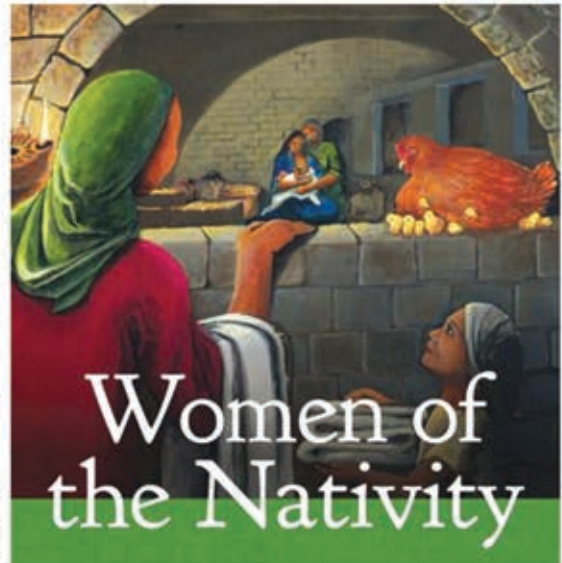
APPLEDORE - EBONY - NEWENDEN - ROLVENDEN -
ST MICHAEL'S SMALLHYTHE - STONE - TENTERDEN -
WITTERSHAM

Reflective Services for Advent and Christmas 2024

You are invited on a journey through the Advent and Christmas season of 2024 – 2025 inspired by this series of reflective services.

'Women of the Nativity' seeks to reflect on the Biblical stories surrounding the birth of Jesus from the perspective of women who were there – some are mentioned in the Bible, others are imaginary characters, ordinary women, who would have played a part in and witnessed this extraordinary story.

Our reflective services involve music, prayer and narrative and present an opportunity to use the Advent and Christmas seasons to explore personal faith, deepen relationships with God and be still in the busyness of the season. Come along to any of the services below to find out more. (It is not necessary to attend all services)



Saturday 23rd November 10:15am St. Mildred's, Tenterden. (following Churches Together Breakfast) The First Sunday of Advent - Sarah's Story

Saturday 30th November 9am St. Mary's, Ebony
The Second Sunday of Advent - Huldah's Story

Saturday 7th December 9am St. Peter's, Newenden
The Third Sunday of Advent - Abigail's Story

Saturday 14th December 9am St. Peter and St. Paul's, Appledore
The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Mary's Story

Saturday 21st December 9am St. Mary's, Rolvenden
Christmas Day - Shiphrah's Story

Saturday 28th December 9am St. John the Baptist, Smallhythe
The Holy Innocents - Rachael's Story

Saturday 4th January 9am St. Mary's, Stone
The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus - Elizabeth's Story

Saturday 11th January 9am St. Michael's and All Angels, St. Michael's
The Epiphany - Mariamne's Story

Saturday 1st February 9am St. John the Baptist, Wittersham
Candlemas - Anna's Story



Rolvenden Gardening Society



Annual Meal



37 members and friends attended our Annual Autumn meal at the Bull, Rolvenden, on the evening of Saturday, 26th October. It was an enjoyable occasion with good company and great food and gave us a chance to spend time with people we perhaps hadn't seen in a while. During the evening, we held a chocolates and wine raffle which generated £95 for our funds.

Thank you to the Bull staff for looking after us so well and providing a great service which enabled the evening to be a successful and memorable event.

DATE FOR THE DIARY:

27th February 2025: Melvin Smith from Wittersham will be giving a talk about hop picking in Rolvenden Village Hall at 7.30pm. It will be open to members and non-members and so please make a note of the date and come along and revisit memories from times gone by. Hop gardens will certainly be a different type of garden than the usual subjects of our Winter talks!

Maralyn Button





Rolvenden Pre School is now taking applications for children starting pre school next year...

■ As well as our well-equipped room, outdoor play area and garden, we have the village and surrounding fields to explore and we spend time with the Reception class in Rolvenden Primary including joining in their drama activities. ■ We were graded good in all 4 Ofsted criteria at our last inspection in July 24.

To see the activities the children enjoy take a look at our website:

<https://rolvendenpreschool.yolasite.com>

our facebook@rolvendenpreschool

Contact us on rolvendenps@gmail.com with any questions or to arrange a visit.

Get those little grey cells working this Christmas

See how many words you can make out of these 9 letters.

Two rules: Only use each letter once in a word and you must use the middle one.

T	I	S
L	A	R
G	T	H

H	E	A
R	A	R
D	S	C



Tenterden Singers
Concert
Comfort and Joy
A Christmas Musical Interlude



Saturday 7th December 7.30pm

St Mildred's Church Tenterden

TICKETS: £10 pay on the door
or from Webb's Ironmongery Tenterden

In aid of the St Mildred's
Transformation Project



Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 6 December 2024

'Edwin Lutyens: At Home and Abroad' Hubert Pragnell



Hubert Pragnell will be speaking about Edwin Lutyens' architecture. He will be looking at Lutyens' international work as well as the more local buildings.

Lutyens was active in both Rolvenden - Great Maytham Hall - and Northiam - Great Dixter. This promises to be an absorbing and interesting talk which will give insights into Lutyens' creations and relationships with his clients and subjects.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden

Coffee and biscuits

7.15pm for 7.30pm start for lecture

Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4

<https://therolvendenhistorygroup.wordpress.com/>



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Cranberries



Who would think that cranberries, those small sour little red berries would be classified as a super food?

They are high in vitamin c, good fibre and antioxidants which help boost the immune system and fight infection. It is well known that cranberries are effective in helping prevent urinary infections. They can also help your heart by lowering your bad cholesterol & raising the good. If using the juice do buy the unsweetened otherwise the sugar content reduces the benefits. The Native Americans used them to treat blood poisoning as well as being an important food source.

They have been around for thousands of years and originated in North America, they grow in cool climates with acidic soil and thrive in bogs and marshes. The early settlers soon discovered the berries and could see their potential, they became a staple crop in the 1800s especially in Massachusetts. They developed "wet harvesting", where they flooded the fields and the berries floated to the surface for easier collection. In 1816 Captain Henry Hall was the first person to commercially cultivate them in Denis, Massachusetts.

They were introduced to the UK in the 19th century being imported mainly from New England where cranberry farming was taking off. Cranberry production has been tried here but is not a viable crop, so we continue to import. Initially they were seen as being exotic and a luxury food to be used sparingly in sauces and desserts. Their popularity increased during the late 19th and early 20th centuries



especially around Christmas time as we started using them in a similar way to the Americans at Thanksgiving.

Of course, now cranberries are very popular and are readily available either fresh, which appear around Christmas, frozen or dried. Serving cranberry sauce with turkey has been a tradition for Thanksgiving dinner in America for hundreds of years and only became really popular here in the 21st century.

As an alternative to the traditional basic sauce, try cooking the cranberries in orange juice and adding some nutmeg and cinnamon, or adding a good splash of port. A gravy made with cranberry juice instead of stock and a little Madeira is excellent with pork or hot gammon. These are all equally good served with game, pork or chicken.

An American friend introduced me to cranberry and apricot pie which had been sweetened with a little amaretto, I hadn't come across that combination before but it was delicious, this could also be made as a compote.

A winter version of summer pudding can be made in the same way but using cranberries and raspberries, 175g cranberries to 1 kg frozen raspberries, cook the cranberries slowly with a tightly fitting lid so very little liquid evaporates.

I think the dried cranberries are a must in the larder, so good as a snack, to add to granola or sprinkled in a salad as well in baking. My quince tree normally produces a good crop but this year I only had one! This is a great shame as I like to make paradise jelly which is quince and cranberries, not only is it delicious it is the prettiest delicate colour.

Cranberries can also be used in many cocktails and mocktails, perfect for the festive season.

Lavinia



If you want to see how this crop is grown take a look at You Tube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPrXlgEar6I>



A Year in Newenden Wildflower Meadow and Friends of Newenden Meadow

We have had a good year of flowers in the meadow, which started with snakes-head fritillaries, green wing orchids, (only two, but wonderful all the same), many yellow rattle plants and lots of grass vetchling's lovely pink cerise flowers. Next came a sea of buttercups and later there were large clumps of meadow vetchling and birds foot trefoil, also, some ladies bedstraw, musk mallow, field scabious, tufted vetch (more plants than last year!) and meadow cranesbill. The marsh-mallow plants that we planted two years ago did very well and we planted forty more plants in May, and hope they will be established by next year. Marsh- mallow has been planted as habitat in the hope of one day attracting the very scarce marshmallow moth which is present only in very few places in this corner of the south east.

It was very pleasing to see so many flowers in the field, but there were disappointingly few bumblebees feeding from them or collecting pollen. In the spring there were a few Early Bumblebees, some Garden bumblebees and Buff Tails, but none of these in any numbers and virtually no Common Carders. In the second cycle of the year, when the first nest has died out and new Queens start their nests, there were more and also Common Carders in larger numbers. But, bumblebees have had a very bad year, most likely because of the cold wet weather in the spring. We are hoping this is a glitch because of the weather and not a downward trend.

On the 31st of May, we launched the Friends of Newenden Meadow and have been gradually building on members and planning events. We held our first celebration field event in August, complete with celebratory cake. On the day it poured with rain and a few hardy Friends came for a drink and cake under the gazebo, and then a walk round the field when the rain eventually stopped!

Because there were so many plants still flowering and setting seed in early September, we delayed cutting the grass to disastrous effect when it poured with rain for days, before we could bale the hay and remove it from the field. Since then, volunteers have periodically joined us in the field to rake up rotting hay to save the plants underneath. We have managed to clear quite a large area and can see small seedlings beginning to grow. We have also strimmed areas of grass and sown yellow rattle seed which will germinate in March next year.

We now wait for the spring and hope the flowers we had so successfully nurtured, will grow again and hope also that the bumblebees will do better



next year too. Meanwhile we can see beautiful big Buff Tail queens buzzing around the Mahonia bush which hangs over our garden fence, and hope, depending on the weather, they will manage to carry on through the winter. While winter stops much happening in the field, the Friends are busy planning events for next year, which will include a talk on Bumblebees in the spring, and events in the field in the summer. All of which will be advertised in the New Year.

If you would like to volunteer to help us in the field, which is always an enjoyable affair, or become a Friend of Newenden Meadow and get news and invites to our events, do get in touch by email: jillianeldridge@hotmail.com, or ring or text: 07984169314. Follow us on Facebook: Newenden Meadow Restoration Field. Instagram: [newendenwildmeadow](https://www.instagram.com/newendenwildmeadow). *Jillian Eldridge*

Your Guide to Christmas Celebrations in Rolvenden and Newenden Churches

The Services

- Christingle Service – Sunday 8th Dec 4:00pm - St Mary's
- Tenterden Youth Cadet Force Carol Service –
Wednesday 11th Dec 7:00pm - St Mary's
- Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 15th Dec 4:00pm -
St Peter's note time has changed from the one shown in last month's mag
- Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 22nd Dec 6:00pm - St Mary's
- The first Eucharist of Christmas- Tues 24th Dec 10:00pm - St Peter's
- Eucharist for Christmas Day – Wednesday 25th Dec 11:00am - St Mary's

Mary and Joseph's Journey - from 1st Dec to 24th Dec



The journey starts on Sunday December 1st at the 11:00am Morning Service and ends on Christmas Eve, 24th December at 4:00pm in St Mary's where we will be having a bit of a tea party to welcome the weary couple and get them in that stable ready for arrival of the baby. Please sign up if you want to host Mary and Joseph and save 24th 4:00pm for fun with a festive feel in St Mary's.

Something for families and the young at heart - these two big hearted bean bags will again be travelling through the parishes on their way to the Stable in St Mary's. If you would like to offer them shelter for a night please use this link to a short questionnaire. Your answers will give us all we need to know to sort out the schedule for the journey. It will take you two minutes and be assured, we are not collecting any other data.

<https://forms.gle/aujTDLdN5wHs3LVJA>

We also have a Facebook page where you will be able to follow their journey. If you would like to do that, please join Mary and Joseph's Journey 24

Or give Judy a call on 01580 241504.



The Mayor of Ashford Awards at The Star Rolvenden

Back in May 2024, we were doing the RFC Presentation Day BBQ, when Kate Walder announced the Tigers had won The Mayor's Community award, and to our surprise, so had The Star. We were covered in BBQ soot and smoke, so it was decided to agree a formal presentation date, with the Tigers, and all their players. We are so incredibly proud of this Pub and our loyal customers, staff and friends, and we will cherish this award for years to come.

Friday 18th October was the day set for the double celebration with the Mayor of Ashford Lynn Suddards, Councillor for the Beaver Town Ward, and our own ward Councillor Kate Walder – Rolvenden and Tenterden West Ward, presenting both awards.

The Star Rolvenden's, Lynn Walker, Yvonne Mallinson, and Michael Walker (alias Lyn, Yve & Mick), received a Certificate of Achievement reading:

"TO THE STAR PUBLIC HOUSE FOR ITS LONG AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO ROLVENDEN'S COMMUNITY. ITS COMMITMENT AND CARE FOR ALL RESIDENTS, YOUNG AND OLD AS A TRUE COMMUNITY CHAMPION IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE."

This included 16 years of community work in the village: Headquarters of the Rolvenden Village Fete; Covid's Care Bear Food Bank Scheme; and for the 3rd year running The Warm Hub, a warm space for our senior citizens to enjoy free tea and coffee, a roaring fire, newspapers, magazines, board games, cards and



dominoes etc, and to gather and chat with neighbours. We have a saying in the pub " there are no strangers here only friends we haven't met yet".

The youngsters are also catered for. We are the hosting venue for Rolvenden Tigers Football Club, and Rolvenden Cricket Club, supporting our young sportsmen and women. And right now, our main focus is Rolvenden Primary School, who are having new classroom facilities built because their existing portacabins are at the end of their life. We are working together with the School to raise money to furnish the new building with school desks, bookcases, tables and chairs etc.



The Tigers Football Club's Certificate of Achievement reads:

"TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND PLAYERS WHO HAVE MADE THE CLUB SO SUCCESSFUL AND DESPITE ADVERSITY KEPT ON GOING TO GIVE SO MUCH ENJOYMENT AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ROLVENDEN AND BEYOND."

This is a junior football club with 5 teams, all competing in local leagues, all under 13 years of age. There is an under 13's, an under 10's, an under 8's etc. It is headed up by Ezio Muratore, and is run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, mostly parents of the young players, who come with a passion for football and the local community.

Boys and girls across all abilities are most welcome and the club is often recruiting new players across all age groups.

*If you would like more information on the Tigers,
please contact Ezio Muratore direct on ezio_muratore@outlook.com*

Yve M



The Lay Ministers



Alison, second right, and Judy, second left, at an Annual Readers' Service in Canterbury Cathedral

Once upon a time each Parish Church in the land was served by one Vicar performing diverse activities in the service of his community. I say 'his' advisedly because, of course, all Vicars were male. In her letter to the magazines in September, Joy Rapley, drawing partly on her own experience, was able to tell something of the prolonged journey which resulted in women's Ordained ministry becoming accepted. Today it is impossible to imagine how the Church would manage without their contribution. But this isn't the only way in which our parishes have changed over the last few years. Our own Benefice of Tenterden, Rother and Oxney now consists of 9 churches working together under the leadership of a small clergy team. You may see any combination of the three in your local church on some, but not all Sundays. At other times your

worship will be led by other ministers, some Ordained but retired from full time ministry, and others, like myself, who are thoroughly trained, but who are Lay Ministers.

It can be a little confusing! So often have I been asked what this means, that I thought it might be helpful to say a little about who we are and what we do. Distinguished from our clergy colleagues by the blue scarves we wear when robed, there are five of us in this Benefice: John and Tessa Badcock, Alan Gostelow, Judy Vinson and me - Alison Gilbert. Judy and I both trained in the early 'noughties'. Our three years of part time training at Canterbury Christchurch College was shared with the local Ordinands, who were ordained 'Deacons' at the same point as we received The Bishop's Licence, enabling us to carry out our ministry at any church within The Vine Deanery. Alan, who has been serving since way back in 1972 was trained in the Salisbury area. You may have heard us referred to as 'Readers'. Somewhere along the line, realising that this could cause confusion, Readers came to be known as Licensed Lay Ministers. Thus we now share the title with John and Tessa, who were Licensed, in 2017, to the Guilford Diocese.



So what do we actually do?

Well, if you encounter any of us in your churches, we may appear to be engaged in many of the tasks which you see Ordained clergy involved in. We can lead most forms of service, so you may find us at Evensong, or Celtic Morning Worship, a Remembrance Service on 11th November or Matins, and many others. From time to time we may be invited to compose the liturgy for a special service. This, to me, is a most enjoyable and fulfilling task. And some of us may make a major contribution to the local Parish Magazine. We can assist at, (but not lead the main part of) a service of Holy Communion. Some of us regularly conduct Funerals - but we cannot conduct a Baptism or a Wedding, though we may help in preparing those involved. We can preach at any service, we can lead a Parish Group, and teaching is an important part of our ministry, carried out in many different guises. Of course, all these tasks require preparation. A ten minute sermon usually requires several hours of thought processing and composition if it is to make a valuable contribution to worship time - and hopefully beyond. For some LLMs Pastoral Visiting is a major focus, but we all have a duty of pastoral care for those we encounter. We usually spend much of our time in just one or possibly two of our parishes, and do not 'move on' as is the norm for most of the clergy, so congregants have a chance to become familiar with us perhaps over many years.

We are accountable to the Rector of the Benefice - in our case, Lindsay - but beyond that to Bishop Rose. We have our own 'Warden of Readers', Nigel Collins, who supervises us, and ascertains that all our 'paperwork' is kept up to date. We undertake Safeguarding Training to the same level as the Clergy. Our services are given voluntarily, and we are not paid.

If you meet us round and about, you'll hopefully come to the conclusion that we're a cheerful bunch, who enjoy the work we've chosen to do!

Alison Gilbert – LLM



**Back in the day...
front doors looked
really exciting!**



www.maidstoneshelter.org.uk
Tel: 01622 296450

In 2013, a team of church leaders in Maidstone recognised a pressing need. They and others were meeting many people in need of help and in need of a home. That need still exists today.

Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter provides a meal and a bed for the night for the homeless in the County Town of Kent. Operating in the cold winter months of January, February and March each year, we provide a warm space, a hot meal and support for local people who are in severe financial need.

Temporary overnight accommodation for up to 15 people is typically in church buildings. Co-operating with partner agencies (including Maidstone Borough Council and other support services) we aim to assist in securing permanent accommodation and gaining available counselling and employment/benefits.

This valuable ministry brings together churches in the area, church members and over 100 volunteers from the local community.

A home is more than just a roof over our heads. It is a place of safety and comfort, a refuge, a place where we feel comfortable, a place of belonging and often a place where there is family or community. To be homeless is not just about a lack of accommodation, but also a lack of security and stability, a lack of close community and a feeling of exclusion.

The causes behind homelessness are often complex. Although one of the top reasons is 'loss of income', there are many factors behind homelessness including unemployment, national austerity, family and relationship breakdowns, mental or physical illness, addiction and/or substance misuse, debt or poor decisions, migration, poverty & debt, the struggle to return to independence after prison or care, and acute shortages of affordable housing. The list of reasons is endless.

Nick, a guest last year, says:

'I was in a flat, but I became very ill and 'died' on the operating table for 3 minutes. [Because of this] I got behind on rent. I told the landlord who said OK, but then he told me to leave. I have worked for years in the village: Church warden, St John Ambulance, Youth clubs, Part-time Police officer. I was in the Scouts for 35 years and also in a church drama group doing plays around Kent.

All the staff here are very wonderful. They help with clothes and, whatever you need, they will do their very best to get it. I thank them all from the bottom



of my heart. Very nice staff and understanding, made me feel very welcome. I do not know what I would have done without being able to be here. Words are not big enough to say. This is the best thing I have come to.'

We are convinced of the importance of our service, which is borne out by the many life-changing stories that we hear. Year after year lives are touched by wonderful individuals like Nick and it's a privilege to do something to help.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

- Volunteer – if you are interested in getting involved please go online to www.maidstoneshelter.org.uk/volunteer
- Donations – £10 pays for a meal, hot drinks, sandwiches and snacks for one or more of our guests. Donations can be made by BACS or online – full details are on our website: www.maidstoneshelter.org.uk/donate
- Putting on Fundraising Events
- Gifts of provisions
- Keep us in your prayers.

Rev Richard Williams, Trustee

To our friends and family in England, Merry Christmas!



As I listen to my wife Barbara play Christmas music on her piano, my heart is filled with gratitude to Jesus for his many blessings. In 1639 my forbears, Robert Kitchel and Margaret Sheaffe, left Rolvenden for the New World in search of religious liberty. Now, 385 years later, we continue to celebrate our Lord's birth.

Christmas is a time for Barbara and I to gather together our parents, children, and grand children and share our family stories and our Christian faith. Throughout our highest of holy days, we are also thankful for our English forbears who cleared the path before us so that

we have the freedom to openly celebrate Christ's birth.

Barbara and I will initially celebrate our Christmas at home in Indiana on 24-25 December with my parents, her Mom, my oldest son Lee and his family, and my sister and her family. This will be a time to celebrate family as well as Christ's birth. We will recount the Christmas story by reading from Luke. We then travel to North Carolina to celebrate again later in the week with our daughter Bethany and her family. She is battling cancer, and in faith we will celebrate her prayed for recovery with her husband and children as we again retell the Christmas story. Christmas is a wonderful time for renewal of our faith in Jesus and a celebration of God's goodness within our family.

Merry Christmas! John and Barbara Kitchell



Christmas Tractor Run

in aid of Rolvenden Primary School

RUN BY EDDIE & ROSIE TOMPSETT



DECEMBER | 21 | FROM 5.30PM

Meeting at 5.30 at the Ewe and Lamb for a festive drink, then at 6pm up through the High Street, finishing at The Star for a grotto, festive BBQ, drinks & fun...

For more information call

07826 364356



Community Fundraising
Project



Friends of St Peter's Church Newenden

First Thursday Talk

12 Noon Thursday 5th December 24

in St Peter's Church, Newenden



The Murder of Billie-Jo Jenkins

Ray Fysh

Ray was a forensic scientist for over 40 years, the last fifteen as a Specialist Adviser (Major Crime). This role meant he was an integral part of the police investigation team from day one of an enquiry right through to the trial.

The talk this year will discuss the investigation into the 1997 murder of Hastings teenager, Billie-Jo Jenkins.

Ray lives locally and his book 'Shallow Graves – My life as a forensic scientist on Britain's biggest cases' is a best seller and is available from all major suppliers – he will willingly sign your book if you so wish.

Ray was shortlisted for the True Crime Awards 2023 as best new true crime author.

The First Thursday talks last for about 45 minutes. Entrance is free but the Friends welcome donations.

And after the talk you might like to have lunch at the White Hart Inn or at Nibbles.

Please note, the White Hart car park is for patrons of the pub – you can come to the talk and then patronise the pub, but to avoid a fine, please do remember to drop into the bar and register your vehicle before you come across the road to the church.

There is no First Thursday Talk in January but the 24/25 season will be back for February and March 2025



Memories of winters at the Hart

The really severe winter I remember was 62/63 back when the family home was still a farm in north Kent. But I do also remember seeing the Hart looking like the photo from Reg Spelling's 'Newenden - a pictorial history'. There was a day in early January in the late 60s when we had a total of 5 customers, all having walked. I rather liked a quiet pub but, understandably, it was not so popular with Dad.

After I finished with Uni in 67, I worked for the firm on and off for two years. It was my job to open up for the evening. The opening routine was down in the bar at 5:50pm. Add a bit of kindling to the fire, light the Calor gas poker and insert into the smouldering heap. Lights on, ashtrays distributed, curtains drawn in the Saloon, and unbolt the Saloon and the Public doors. Bring in a new log from the pile as you did so. If all was well, remove the poker. We were ready for Dick to come over from the garage and continue to run the pumps from his stool in the corner until 8:00. After that we could draw the rest of the curtains! It was in 65 as I and a couple of friends were 'doing the Christmas decorations' that we discovered a new role for the fire. The decorations were unsophisticated, holly, ivy, paper chains, a few silver baubles, and balloons. Maybe it was chat about Father Christmas coming down it that caused us to take a look up the chimney. Somehow we linked that small patch of sky at the end of a long black shaft with the balloons. We decided we had to see if we could get a balloon to fly out of the top of the chimney. Boosting the updraft



with the addition of some newspaper proved to be the secret. Suitably boosted, up and out went the balloon.

There just maybe a reader or two who remember the innocent fun that followed the singing of Auld Langsyne to welcome in the New Year. A stack of balloons were produced and the fire boosted. The pub emptied. People stood in the carpark and the road waiting for balloons to appear, descend and be caught and brought back in for a second flight. From then on, customers would start asking in October: 'Will you be putting balloons up the chimney?' That's how traditions start!

Judy V

A Yuletide down under: An Antipodean Christmas

As I sit here in my new home in Robertson, NSW, I cannot help but marvel at the stark contrast between the Christmases I've known in the UK and the festive season I'm about to experience in Australia. The thought of celebrating Christmas in the midst of summer is both exciting and surreal!

This won't be my first Australian Christmas. Back in 2015, our family came over from the UK for Guy and Jane's Wedding. We all spent Christmas Day at the Murray's family home south of Sydney, beginning with a traditional early morning trip to the beach where nearby there is a picturesque inlet with majestic pelicans who ignored the humans invading their habitat. There was a traditional Australian Christmas meal consisting of salmon and roast pork with salad. And of course, no Australian Christmas is complete without the obligatory Christmas pudding and cake for dessert.

I'm looking forward to experiencing the 'Carols by Candlelight' tradition, where people gather in church or parks to sing carols by candlelight! It's a beautiful custom that often takes place on Christmas Eve.

Despite the warm weather, Guy has not allowed me to forget the Christmas tree. I have ordered a locally grown tree, set to be delivered in early December. I have already been busy baking five rich fruit cakes; one large one for the family and four smaller ones as gifts. They are now awaiting marzipan and icing.

Guy has introduced the tradition of Christmas stockings to the Australian side of the family. Young Ava is particularly excited about Father Christmas's visit, though I am told he swaps his sleigh for a surf board in these parts!

As in years past, I'll be gathering with the extended Murray family. While the setting may be different, the joy of family coming together remains the same, whether in the frosty UK or sunny Australia.

As I prepare for this new chapter in my life, I am reminded that Christmas is not about the weather or specific traditions, but about the love we share with family and friends.

From Robertson to all of you back home, I wish you a Very Merry Christmas!

Caro Veal



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

December 2024 & January 2025

Our focus this month is on communication: an update from the police, anti-social behaviour survey, a reminder: how to join Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch and useful websites.



Update on Kent police local presence

We invited Kent police to the 17 October 2024 Rolvenden Parish Council meeting: the local Beat Officer and the CSU Inspector (Community Safety Unit). Peter New, Ashford NHW volunteer was also present. Residents had an opportunity to hear about policing, and ask questions.

A member of the public brought up the fact that older residents don't feel safe so won't report crime and would like to get people's confidence back. The Inspector reported that crime is low for Rolvenden and the police stressed the importance of reporting all crime which can be done anonymously.

There has been more police presence in the village for which we are grateful. We must all still remain active and vigilant. We can do this by filling in the survey below and reporting all crime (details at the end of the article).

Kent Police ASB survey (Anti-social behaviour survey)

The police and Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch encourage all residents to fill in this survey.

Online: You can do this through My Community Voice website if you are registered (see below for details on how to do this)/attached link below (paste into your browser):

<https://survey.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Survey/PREVIEW/65e5240a-0485-41c5-8ebf-48ea795fcc89>

Paper-based forms: If you are unable to access the internet/a computer, please collect blank paper ASB survey forms from the church or village shop and return them there when filled in. There will be an envelope with forms and a sealed box to place filled in forms in. These will then be collected by me and I will pass them onto the local Police Beat Officer.

Deadline to fill in all ASB survey forms: 31 December 2024.

We hope to have more police surgeries in the future depending on police availability. Thank you to the police reps, Ashford NHW rep and residents for being proactive and raising concerns about crime. Remember always report crime using the details at the end of this update. There are various Neighbourhood Watch websites you can register with to receive alerts and updates, details below.

How to join Neighbourhood Watch:

If you used to receive the updates via Rolvenden update Mail chimp, please re-register to join Neighbourhood Watch: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/joinNW>
Click on: Find your local NW, scroll down to the box and put in your postcode



then click 'search' on the right. Scroll down and you will Find Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch. Click on 'Not a member yet, JOIN?' then sign up. You can also send me a message: 'Send a message:

EMAIL YOUR SCHEME CO-ORDINATOR'

Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch group has been approved on the 'Our Watch' website. As Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, I can also add you, I would need your full name, address, telephone numbers and e-mail address. You would then need to verify your details via an email verification link once I have signed you up.



Useful alert websites:

My community Voice – Kent. You can register to receive alerts about the local area:

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/>

E-watch.co.uk <https://www.e-watch.co/>

How to register –go to: <https://www.e-watch.co/register.php> then add your e-mail address and click on 'Ashford' then 'Rolvenden nd Tenterden West'

Reporting crime to the police

Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) or online using Live chat: <https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

Hearing or speech impairments. If you are deaf or have a speech impairment and you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service, you can use the textphone service: 18000 or text 999.

Wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy
December and January,
all the best for 2025.

Siân Reeves
Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

Making Communities Tick

Regular things that will change over the holiday season

Memory Café, Musical Memories and the Monthly Lunch Club

- Memory Café and Friends meets every Friday 2 – 4pm
at St Andrews Church Hall, Ashford Road, Tenterden

BUT not 27th December

On Friday the 20th of December at 2pm we will hold a short but meaningful Carol Service followed by tea and cake.

- Musical Memories meets every Tuesday 10:45am – 12 noon
Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden, a singing for health group.

BUT not 24th or 31st December

- Monthly Lunch Club Meets 4th Wednesday 12:30 for 1:00pm
Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels Tenterden. **BUT not on 25th December**

**Our Christmas Lunch at Little Silver will be on
Wednesday the 18th December.**

For all 3: Contact Jan Bridger Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

Some information if you need medical attention

- **Ivy Court** will be closed for December 25th, 26th and January 1st.
On those days the recommendation is to ring NHS 111 or 999.

NHS 111 can if needed, book patients in to be
seen at their local A&E emergency department

or an urgent treatment centre, emergency dental services,
pharmacy or another more appropriate local service

- **Paydens Tenterden** will be closed for December 25th, 26th
and January 1st. Usual opening times are

Mon to Fri 8:30am to 6pm, Sat 9am to 5:30pm

NB 24th December may close earlier.

- **Boots Tenterden** will be closed for December 25th and January 1st
Open on 26th December but limited hours, please

check online information

Usual opening times are Mon to Fri 8:30am to 5:30pm,

Sat 8:30am to 5pm

- **Pharmacists in both stores can give advice and prescribe
for some conditions under the Pharmacy First arrangement:**

sore throat – from 5 years up

earache -up to 17 years

sinusitis – from 12 years up

impetigo – from 1 year up

shingles – from 18 up

infected insect bites – from 1 up

uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women -

from 16 to 64 years

Organisations here to help

EC30, a coffee shop and so much more! For more information email: info@ec30.co.uk, also see www.ec30.co.uk. EC30, Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden.

Open: Mon- Fri 9am – 4pm; Sat 10am to noon.

The Tenterden Family Foodbank EC30 times as above.

Food boxes for people suddenly in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job etc. info@ec30.co.uk / 07919 381827. Emergencies only please call: 07919 381827 / 07805 840493.

The Old Schoolhouse Larder supporting vulnerable families with children 11 years and under finding it difficult to provide meals every day.

Open Tues 5:15 to 6:15pm at EC30, selection of nonperishable groceries and household & hygiene products. Vouchers allowing families to select fruit & veg from the Tenterden Friday Market and from the Market Square Farm Butcher also available.

Tenterden Social Supermarket Pop Up Shop

Decision pending on when this will return. Please keep an eye on Facebook community pages



Kent Savers for affordable loans www.kentsavers.co.uk

Regular Events

KCC Mobile Library Service visits Rolvenden every 2 weeks on Tuesday:

- High Street between 11:30am and Noon
- Monypenny between 12:10 and 12:55pm

To join phone: 03000 41 31 31

See previous page for details of Memory Café, Musical Memories and the Monthly Lunch Club

Tenterden Parkinsons Café Please note that the monthly Parkinson's Support Group meeting is now scheduled in the afternoon between 2:30-4pm every third Monday of the month.

We are still meeting at the EC30 cafe at Tenterden Recreation Ground Road (next to Ivy Court Surgery).

CARM Rolvenden Meeting Point, every second Wednesday 10:00am to noon in Monypenny Lounge, drop in and meet friends old and new. <https://carmromneymarsh.org.uk/>

Scan the code to be taken to the Kent
Domestic Abuse support website



There is NO excuse for domestic abuse

If you or someone you know is being physically, sexually, economically or emotionally abused by another person, this is domestic abuse.

Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111

If you are in immediate danger,
or suspect someone else is,
call 999

The Samaritans: 0845 79 09 090

Childline: 0800 1111

Mankind: 01823 334 244

domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Please act NOW and call any of these numbers if you feel unsafe or suspect someone you know may be at risk of domestic abuse or bullying.

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Refuse Collection

Waste food bins, small black with orange lid, are emptied weekly. All other bins, grey, green and brown are emptied fortnightly. To see which of your bins are emptied when type 'Ashford BC Find my bin' into your web browser. You have 2 search tools:

- Grey (household) or Green (recycling)
- Brown (Garden refuse)

You can also download a calendar.

Collection dates do not vary through the year except across the Christmas New Year Holiday season.

Please keep an eye out for neighbours who may not be connected to the web. If neighbours are not getting the bins right have a friendly word and tell them which bins to put out when.

For new arrangements on such things as clothes, shoe and electrical items please see the Ashford BC – How do I dispose of?

- Yellow sacks, where supplied, will be collected weekly
- For all queries about recycling or waste disposal:

On-line, see ABC website: www.ashford.gov.uk/waste

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,

Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

e-mail: enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council will meet at

7:00pm January 7th in St Peter's

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email: rolvendenclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council will meet at

7:30pm Dec 12th and Jan 16th

in Rolvenden Village Hall

Members of the public have a statutory right to attend as observers. At the discretion of the Parish Council Chair people may be invited to speak.



Parish Magazine Essential Information:

Articles and supporting photographs: email to judyannvinson@gmail.com. Photos for the cover should be emailed as a jpeg in colour or monochrome to Trevor Lodge on stmaryrolv@aol.com. To keep the cover photos in tune with the month, Trevor likes to keep seasonal photos on hold waiting for the season to come round the following year. Any keen photographers who want to contribute, please send your photos to Trevor.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE IS
5.00PM TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY**

Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 25TH January. ☆ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 26th January.

The online version will be available from 1st February accessed via the Parish Council websites for Newenden and Rolvenden Parish Councils, for which arrangement we are most grateful. *Judy V*



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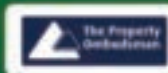


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