

March 2019



Unless things have radically changed in the two weeks between writing this piece and its publication, Britain is edging towards the cliff-edge in its negotiation over the terms of our leaving the EU. Deal or no deal? Northern Ireland backstop or people's vote?

What kind of Brexit did the people actually vote for? What will happen if Parliament allows the clock to wind down to the point where we wake up on 30th

March to discover we're no longer citizens of the EU?

Every utterance from members of the government and the opposition seems to carry with it some subliminal agenda. The Prime Minister has switched from threatening a 'no deal' Brexit to no Brexit at all if parliament fails to back the deal she negotiated with the EU; consequently, 'Brexiters' who previously stated that under no circumstances would they back that deal are starting to find ways of justifying doing so.

Similarly, 'Remainers' float between making unlikely alliances with advocates of a 'hard Brexit' to try to bring down the government, or at least to delay the process, and demand a 'People's vote'. Is the Prime Minister deliberately slowing the process down so Parliament ends up having either to back her deal or leave with nothing? Is the Leader of the Opposition intentionally stirring up divisions within the Conservative Party by offering to support the government under certain conditions?

Lent is traditionally a time for reflection and putting aside worldly values. As we think about the Temptation of Jesus in the desert, the social injustices he encountered and the political manoeuvrings which led to his eventual arrest, trial and execution, we are invited to ponder our own fallibility and mortality. St Matthew wrote: "The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'" Jesus replied: "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" (Matthew 11: 8-10, NRSV)

The purpose of Lent is not to indulge in self-flagellation but to bring ourselves to the point of realisation that there is a better way and that we don't have to burden ourselves with the weight of expectation of wealth, status and power.

Whichever way Brexit turns out, let us pray that our political leaders will address the real social problems we have and that the plight of the most vulnerable in our society will not be ignored.

Rev. Alan

Café Tunstall

Church with no singing, no preaching and no books!

Join us once a month to enjoy good coffee and good company; to discuss issues of the day from a moral or Christian standpoint; to ask awkward questions and to explore the meaning of life!

**Next meeting: Sunday 3rd March at Tunstall Church from 4pm - 5pm
Children are welcome**

Parish of St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

Thank you for your contribution to Tunstall Church received through the Free Will Offering scheme during the past year.

More and more, the church is dependent on the regular giving it receives in this way and your continuing support is very much appreciated.

If your contribution is Gift Aided, please do not forget to let us know if your tax situation changes and we shall ensure our records are updated

*Pamela Gray
Free Will Offering Treasurer*

Services during March, 2019

Sunday 3rd March - Sunday before Lent

8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Parish Communion	Bredgar
9.30am	All-Age Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Family Service	Wormshill
11.15am	Parish Communion	Rodmersham
4.00pm	Cafe Tunstall	Tunstall
5:00pm	Evening Prayer	Frinted
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

Wednesday 6th March

7.00pm	Ash Wednesday Communion	Tunstall
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Sunday 10th March - Lent 1

8.00am	Holy Communion)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion	Frinted
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Bredgar
10.30am	Family Service & Baptism	Milstead
10.30am	Matins	Wormshill
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

Sunday, 17th March - Lent 2

8:00am	Holy Communion	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion	Milstead
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	Informal Communion	Bredgar
11.15am	Morning Prayer	Rodmersham
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

Wednesday, 20th March

7.00pm	Midweek Holy Communion	Tunstall
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Sunday, 24th March – Lent 3

8.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Tunstall
9.00am	Holy Communion (said)	Wormshill
9.30am	Parish Communion	Tunstall
10.30am	ExCiTe all age lay led worship	Bredgar
10.30am	Morning Prayer	Frinted
6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Milstead
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

Sunday, 31st March - Mothering Sunday

8.00am	Holy Communion	Tunstall
9.30am	Parade Service	Tunstall
10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Bredgar
10.30am	Mothering Sunday	Milstead
11.00am	Mothering Sunday	Wormshill
11.15am	Mothering Sunday	Rodmersham
6.30pm	Evening Prayer	Tunstall

World Day of Prayer 2019

Further to the article in last month's magazine it has been decided that the churches in our benefice will join with one being organised in Sittingbourne at the Baptist church.

There are two services for Friday 1st March, 10.30am and 7pm, both of which will be held in the Baptist Church, (opposite Wilkinson's). The evening service will also include input from youth groups. The organiser Hilary Hendry, is trying to involve all the churches in Sittingbourne. There is also information on the web site www.wwdp.org.

Her contact details are.... Hilary Hendry Hilary.hendry@live.com
Tel: 07981070190



Lent courses

'Art in Lent'

Tuesday evenings from 12th March to 9th April in
Tunstall Church, starting at 7:30pm

York Course: 'Daring to see God now'

Thursday evenings from 14th March to 11th April at 56, Park Drive ME10
1RD, starting at 2:30pm

Please let Alan Pinnegar (aepinnegar@gmail.com) or Brian Evans (beneficetunstallandbredgar@gmail.com) know if you would like to attend either of these courses, or sign up on the sheet at the back of each of our churches.



Lent Lunches

March 13th Tunstall School

Guest speaker from the New Leaf charity which supports victims of domestic abuse.

Immediately followed by the Community Lunch at the school (£4.00 per head) – **please let us know if you will be attending the lunch.**

March 20th 2, Draysfield, Wormshill ME9 0TY

March 27th Torry Hill, ME9 0SP

Guest speaker from Porchlight which supports the homeless (to be confirmed)

April 3rd "Little Danes", Milstead ME9 0SA

April 10th Bredgar Church

Guest speaker: Bishop Ken Barham to talk about the work of the church in Rwanda

For catering purposes, please let us know which if these you would like to attend by entering your name and contact details on the sign-up sheet at the back of each church.

Entries from the Parish Registers

Funerals and Burial

February 5 th	Marcelle Bunch	Tunstall
February 12 th	James Clifton	Milstead

Holy Baptism

January 27 th	Ava Whiting	Tunstall
February 3 rd	Harlie-Ray Robinson	Tunstall
February 17 th	Harley La-Haye	Tunstall
	Maddison Foord	Tunstall

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

The augmented church choir will perform

Fauré's Requiem

on **Sunday 7th April at 6.30pm**

All are welcome

There is no charge but there will be a retiring collection



Passover Supper

This year's Passover Supper will be held on **Wednesday 17th April in the Midwinter Room, Tunstall at 7.15 for 7.30pm**

This celebration is part of our preparation for Easter and together we enter into the Jewish Festival that was celebrated to commemorate the exodus from Egypt.

A traditional Passover meal will be served (including a vegetarian option on request). Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

Tickets are £6.00 and are available from Pat Tatchell 01795 471956 tatch@blueyonder.co.uk As numbers are limited please book early to avoid disappointment.

We welcome four members of Five Churches' branch who have come to join us and we look forward to seeing them at our meetings. We always welcome new members and if anyone would be interested either just come along or contact me, Sue Thomas, on 422810.

March is a very busy month for Mothers' Union. On Tuesday 5th March we have a members' meeting in the Baptist church Knightrider Street. The speaker is from "Holding On and Letting Go" a bereavement organisation. This meeting is open to all and starts at 10.30am.

On Monday 18th March is our annual Wave of Prayer. This will be held at 3 Woodstock Road at 11.30. A buffet lunch will follow. All welcome.

Our normal March meeting will be on 20th March in the Midwinter Room and our speaker will be Kevin Jacobs. Again, all are welcome to this.

Monday 25th March is Lady Day and the service this year will be held at St. Nicholas Allington at 10.00am. Again a buffet lunch will follow the service.

On Wednesday 17th April there will be a members' social evening at 3 Woodstock Road starting at 7:30pm. This will be our opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to Danielle who has been our 'godmother' for several years.

There are some copies of an interesting and informative article regarding Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union and also the objectives of the new Seven Church Branch at the back of Tunstall Church. We hope to display copies on the Noticeboards of the other churches in the Benefice.

Many thanks.

Sue Thomas



Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May

Martin and I attended the meeting in Canterbury on 9th February to introduce this year's campaign. At the moment it looks as though I am the sole organiser for the Sittingbourne churches so I will just have to do the best I can.

This year's campaign focuses on Sierra Leone. This is the worst country in which to be a mother as deaths in childbirth and of children under the age of five is very high. Christian Aid is working with an organisation called RADA to improve antenatal care. At the moment often when a woman goes into labour, she has to walk miles along the road for help and often she dies on the way. The help is frequently given by non-qualified people.

The Canterbury Christian Aid committee are organising a concert by the Galliard Trio. This will be held on Saturday 30th March in St. Peter's Methodist Church. Tickets cost £10 and more information can be obtained from jbarber@uk2.net

Christian Aid week this year will start with a service in the Cathedral on Sunday 12th May at 6.30. The preacher will be Canon Tim Naish. Please put Christian Aid week in your diary **12th – 18th May** and help support this worthwhile cause.

Sue Thomas



THE SITTINGBOURNE MUSIC SOCIETY
Friday 22nd March 2019 at 7.30 p.m.
Highsted Grammar School, Highsted Road,
Sittingbourne

Maki Sekiya – Piano

Virtuoso international Japanese pianist, includes Bach Inventions, Schubert Fantasie and Chopin Etudes.

Admission £15.00 (under 18 - £1.00) Tickets available at the door

Annual Church Meetings – Tunstall and Rodmersham

Please make a note in your diaries of the annual meetings. This is your opportunity to hear what has been achieved during the past year, to appoint churchwardens, elect members to the PCC and to look to the future of our parishes.

St Nicholas, Rodmersham Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held **after the morning service on Sunday April 7th**.

St John the Baptist, Tunstall Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Midwinter Room on **Tuesday April 23rd at 7.30pm**.

Tunstall Church Electoral Roll 2019

Full Revision

Please note that this year, 2019, a full revision of the Electoral Roll is needed. This means that everyone has to re-register even if you have been on the electoral roll previously.

New applications to join the Electoral Roll from regular attendees at Church are also most welcome. Application forms are now available at the back of the Church. Please complete one and either hand it to me or put it in the box provided as soon as possible. If you would like any more information on joining the Electoral Roll or have any questions, please speak to one of the Churchwardens or myself.

Reminders will be made in the Church, magazine and newsletter as well as the website to advise people that the application forms are now available in the Church.

Joanne Williams - Electoral Roll Officer



Easter Lilies

Easter Sunday is on April 21st so I will soon be taking orders from those who wish to donate an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. These will be incorporated into the Easter arrangements for Easter Sunday and the week that follows.

I hope that the £5 we have suggested in past years will cover the cost again this year.

I have last year's list so will speak with those people again but new names are very welcome. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the other floral arrangements for Easter please see Rosemary.

Rosemary 421710

rjhorwood@btinternet.com

Prayer Partners



Each Easter, those who wish to be prayer partners, begin their new year. In order to take part you need to write your name on a piece of paper in the basket in the Lady Chapel during one of the services on Palm Sunday.

Then, on Easter Day, you take a piece of paper from the same basket and the name of that person becomes your partner for whom you pray all year. Traditionally, you disclose yourself to your partner by sending them an Easter card the following Easter.

For details please contact Joan O`Rawe



Quiz Night - Saturday 9th March

Peter Barton is hosting a quiz for church funds on **Saturday 9th March**.

The quiz will be held in Tunstall School and will start at 7:30pm. Teams should comprise up to 8 members and the cost is £5.00 per head.

Please bring your own food and drink.

Raffle prize donations will be gratefully received.

Please let Peter know if you wish to take part on 479816 or email peterbartonfca@gmail.com

replaced with a mixture of horsehair and lime plaster and then given seven coats of lime wash. Our legacy is a new ceiling plus a considerable amount of dust so a major clean-up is under way. As the new ceiling is under a splendid new roof completed in 2017 we look to the long term and have started to look at other parts of the building that need attention. The final costs were met by a contribution from G H Dean & Co. under chancel repair liability and a donation of £2000 from the Rodmersham Society plus just over £2000 from the PCC. The recoverable VAT will be reclaimed as we turn our attention to other parts of the building that need attention.

In his last Five-year inspection in 2016 Mr Roger Turner, our church architect made the church windows a high and immediate priority. In a number of cases the cast iron glazing bars have rusted and this has affected the surrounding stonework. In addition many windows have panels that should open to allow greater ventilation but these no longer work. Mr Turner will provide a prioritised list and an estimate of the costs involved. No-one expects that this will be comfortable reading but given the impressive progress made by the combination of the PCC and the Rodmersham Society, not forgetting G H Dean & Co. and the Doubleday Trust everyone hopes that, given time, the windows will be saved.

In a new departure for Rodmersham, the APCM will take place in church after morning worship on **Sunday 7th April**. Copies of relevant reports, financial statements and a schedule of elections will be circulated by the PCC secretary after the PCC Meeting on 18th March when the revised Electoral Roll will be available for inspection.

John Fisher

Dates for your Diaries

Saturday 18th May in Tunstall Church - 7:00 for 7:30pm

- a concert to be given by Quodlibet of Canterbury - a vocal quintet

Rodmersham Open Gardens - Saturday 15th June

Please note that the date for the **Tunstall Harvest Supper** is now **Sunday 6th October** in the Village Hall. Further details in due course.

John Slate

**Rodmersham Village Hall
Annual Meeting
Wednesday 20th March at 7:30pm**



All are welcome to attend the meeting and to share ideas. Please come as you will be made very welcome.

Ted Hobday

Friends of Tunstall Church report on February's talk by Nick Sanford



Nick Sanford, Estate Manager, gave an illustrated talk on the history and present wonder of Godinton House and gardens.

He described Godinton as “an oasis on the edge of Ashford” and his photographs showed this to

so true. Idyllic. 950 acres of parkland, coppiced chestnut woodland, farmland for arable, sheep and cattle with the Great Stour river meandering through to be topped by the spectacular house. What an interior, what carvings and paintings.

The history of the families that owned the property over 600 years and the enhancements they made to the house and grounds is too dense to cover in this brief article.

Nick's talk gave a great impetus to the tour the Friends have arranged on Wednesday, 15th May. Details of the arrangements can be obtained from Pauline who as usual has made the exemplary preparations.

The cost will be £12.50pp including tea/coffee and biscuits or how about taking a picnic in the fabulous grounds if you wish?

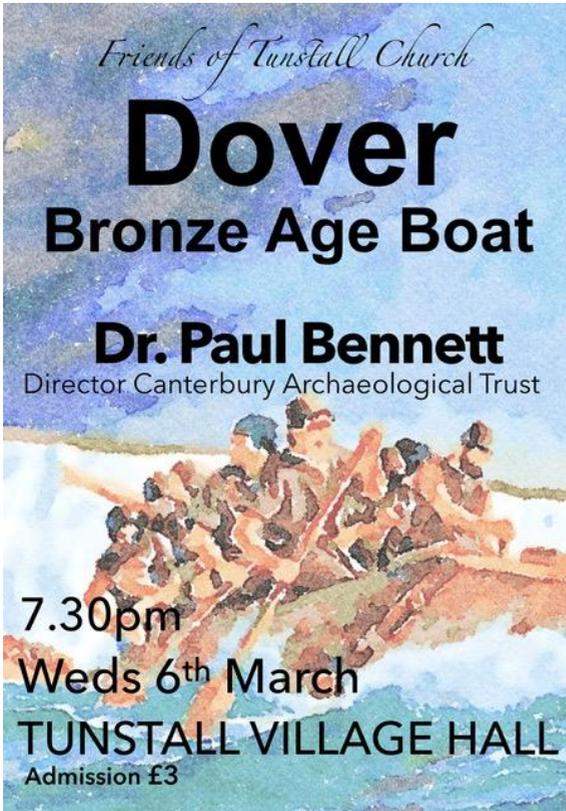
David Prew

Friends of Tunstall Church

Dear Friends,

Our programme continues as usual on the first Wednesday of the month at **7.30pm** in Tunstall Village Hall.

March 6th - The Dover Bronze Age Boat



The poster features a watercolor illustration of a Bronze Age boat with several figures inside. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Friends of Tunstall Church

Dover Bronze Age Boat

Dr. Paul Bennett
Director Canterbury Archaeological Trust

7.30pm
Weds 6th March
TUNSTALL VILLAGE HALL
Admission £3

Our speaker will be Dr. Paul Bennett, Director Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

The Bronze Age boat was discovered in 1992 during roadworks in the centre of Dover. It is a spectacular find from the Bronze Age and is on display in Dover.

Over 3,500 years old, preserved in the clay the boat is considered a spectacular example of shipbuilding and a symbol of the multi-cultural contact and movement of people and goods across the Strait of Dover; somewhat before Brexit.

Another replica boat has been built and fingers crossed will not sink in the Channel like the first.

The boat is also worthy of a chapter in the TV presenter Neil Oliver's book 'The Story of the British Isles in 100 Places'.

This will be another fascinating talk.

David Prew

WW1 Peace Day Celebration



Over the last 4 Years, we have been remembering the fallen of the first world war, along with various significant events of that conflict; The Somme, Passchendaele etc.

For many, Remembrance Sunday last year marked the end of those anniversaries, but not so. Although the hostilities ended at the eleventh hour

of the eleventh day, the actual treaty of Versailles was not signed until the 28th June 1919, 5 years to the day after Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated, marking the start of the war. (And for those who like coincidences 95 years to the day before I was Ordained!)

On the day the treaty was signed, the people of Sittingbourne, Milton, and the surrounding Villages, paraded through the town to mark the peace. It was a real celebration with a Fair, fancy dress competitions, a real carnival atmosphere.

To mark this occasion, the Historic Research Group Sittingbourne, are organising a Parade which will involve the names of the fallen from across Swale being paraded through the High Street on banners, one for each Parish/Memorial where possible.

To this end HRGS are inviting people from each parish to provide two "Banner Bearers" to take part in the parade. Priority will be given to those who are direct relatives of those who gave their lives from a particular parish, otherwise it will be names in a hat! There will also be a fancy dress competition, just as there was 100 years ago!

The event is being organised in co-operation with various members of the Armed Forces, Cadets, and the RBL and other affiliated organisations, and the Parade will form part of Armed Forces Day on the 29th June, 100 years + 1 day after the actual event. Anyone interested in taking part in any way, either as a Banner bearer or fancy dress, or would just like more details of the events on the day, please contact me.

Fr Kevin

News from Indigo Class – Year 5 at Tunstall School



We have had an extremely busy term with plenty of opportunities to share our learning both inside and outside of school.

Mrs Julier took a group of children from Key Stage 2 to the O² Arena to perform in their annual Young Voices' Concert and of course their parents were able to go and support them.

Mrs Walker took a group of year 5 children to compete in an inter-school athletics competition at Oasis Academy and Mrs Castle took pupils from years 5 and 6 to compete in a swimming gala at Sheerness Leisure Centre. All pupils received certificates for their participation and a number returned with gold and silver medals for winning their races.

We held a Poetry week to coincide with Burn's Night that included visits from a bagpiper, Scottish dancing, baking oatcakes, tartan design and weaving. Each class held a poetry slam and following some very intense competition, Ethan represented Indigo class in front of the whole school.

We are very proud of all of their achievements. We are all eager to see what next term brings but in the meantime we anticipate a restful half term.

Ian Shearer, Indigo Class Teacher

Tunstall Gardeners' Society (TUGs)

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on **Thursday 28th March**. The meeting will begin with a short AGM and will then be followed by the speaker G. Francis whose talk is entitled 'The Vegetable Garden'.

The meeting is open to all, with visitors being made especially welcome.

There will be a small charge and tea and coffee will be served to allow people the opportunity to ask more questions of the presenter.

Ann Chesson



Scottish Dancing - Bredgar Village Hall - ME9 8HB

Special Themed Club Nights 19:30-22:30

15 th Feb	Valentine's Day
8 th Mar	Pancakes
5 th Apr	NO DANCING
12 th April	NO DANCING
19 th April	Easter Bunnies
24 th May	May Madness
28 th June	Tutti Frutti
26 th July	Party Night



Regular Friday club nights are 8-10pm, cost £2.50 and have filter coffee during the break! 07952 382 424.

Come along to one of the special events or any Friday evening even if you have never tried Scottish Dancing before. It is a very friendly group who are always ready to help beginners like me who joined only one year ago.

Pat Tatchell

Brexit Stops Tunstall Evening WI !



The members of Tunstall Evening WI were expecting to welcome guests from neighbouring WI groups to their February meeting to enjoy a talk from Helen Whately , the MP for Faversham.

Helen was to give a talk on her life in the Houses of Parliament. Unfortunately, an important Brexit vote meant she could not come. A round of phone calls ensured would-be visitors didn't have a wasted journey. However, the lack of a speaker did not stop the members from having a good evening. We were split into 4 teams to take part in various quizzes and games.

Added to this the all-important cup of tea, handmade biscuits and chatter made the evening fly past.

We meet in Tunstall Village Hall on the **second Thursday of the month** at 7:45pm so if you have ever thought you may like to try WI you will be made most welcome.

The speaker for March is Mary Smith who will tell us all about 'A Schoolgirl's War'.

Jay Collins



Tips from our gardening expert.....

It's March and there is anticipation in the air as we look forward to the spring after the winter and an excess of tasks will tempt us back into the fresh air. These tasks all have the aim of getting the garden ready for the new season ahead and include the replenishing of the soil nutrients that may have been leached out over the winter. Apply a proprietary general fertiliser such as

Growmore to the borders as the plants begin to grow.

This is the time to rejuvenate herbaceous perennials by division. The usual method is to dig up a large clump and plunge a garden fork into the centre and another fork behind it so that the forks are back to back and gently lever the clump apart. Discard the older, woody middle section and replant the younger growth. This also has the added advantage of providing new plants to spread around the garden or give away to friends.

Also, try repotting established container grown shrubs and trees before they become too active in growth. A soil based John Innes type 2 or 3 compost is best as it helps to maintain stability. Choose an ericaceous compost for plants that love acidic conditions. Add a controlled release fertiliser to the compost to provide sufficient nutrients for most of the growing season. If a plant is already in the largest possible size pot then remove the top few inches of compost from the pot and replace with fresh to introduce a new medium into which roots can grow.



The sowing of seeds begins in earnest now. March is an excellent month to sow flowering annuals, perennials and vegetables. Most will germinate quickly especially if you have a heated propagator to help them along. Use good quality seed compost, sowing in trays or pots and follow the general instructions on the packet.

Now is the time for the pruning of bush roses to encourage better flowering. The general aim is to remove all dead, diseased and overcrowded wood first and then cut back the remaining stems to 4 to 6 buds to leave an open goblet shaped plant. A well maintained plant will last 30 to 40 years or more so it is worth taking time to care for it.

A few of the many jobs to start the season on its way. *Peter Forster*

Nature Notes February 2019

We have had a good showing of snowdrops this year both in the churchyard and in many other places. Daffodils are starting to come out in our garden and catkins have been out for some time now.

In our garden recently we had a bird which could have possibly been a snow bunting; it only showed up on a couple of days and I only managed a brief glimpse on each occasion but all the markings and general shape indicated that it may well have been one. It was with the goldfinches.

On a visit to Dungeness we recently saw both little and great white egrets. The great white egrets have only fairly recently been seen at Dungeness and are another bird that has started to colonise our area.

A male smew was on the water in front of the Scott hide on Burrows Pit and a goldeneye was right in front of us in the visitor centre.

Recently we saw two red kites over open farmland just below Sheldwich Church. These birds have a certain stronghold in the Belmont area and we have seen them a few times near there now.



Looking ahead remember that we put the clocks forward on **Sunday the 31st March**.
More next month. Richard and Margaret

Pastoral Visits

Do you know of anyone who is feeling "low" perhaps as a result of illness or bereavement? If so and you think they would like a visit from one of our lay visitors please contact Barbara (424 952).

A friendly face can make all the difference.

Easter Simnel cake

Ingredients

100g/4oz glacé cherries	225g/8oz sultanas
225g/8oz butter, softened	100g/4oz currants
225g/8oz light brown sugar	50g/2oz chopped candied peel
4 large eggs	2 lemons, grated zest only
225g/8oz self-raising flour	1 tsp mixed spice

For the filling and topping

450g/1lb marzipan	1-2 tbsp apricot jam, warmed
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Preparation method

1. Preheat the oven to 150°C/280°F/Gas 2. Grease and line with parchment a 20cm/8" cake tin.
2. Cut the cherries into quarters, put in a sieve and rinse under running water. Drain well then dry thoroughly on kitchen paper.
3. Place the cherries in a bowl with the butter, sugar, eggs, self-raising flour, sultanas, currants, candied peel, lemon zest and mixed spice and beat well until thoroughly mixed. Pour half the mixture into the prepared tin.
4. Take one-third of the marzipan and roll it out to a circle the size of the tin and then place on top of the cake mixture. Spoon the remaining cake mixture on top and level the surface.
5. Bake in the pre-heated oven for about 2½ hours, or until well risen, evenly brown and firm to the touch. (Cover with aluminium foil after one hour if the top is browning too quickly). Leave to cool in the tin for 10 minutes then turn out, peel off the parchment and finish cooling on a wire rack.
6. When the cake is cool, brush the top with a little warmed apricot jam and roll out half the remaining marzipan to fit the top. Press firmly on the top and crimp the edges to decorate. Mark a criss-cross pattern on the marzipan with a sharp knife. Form the remaining marzipan into 11 balls.
7. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the marzipan balls around the edge of the cake. Brush the tops of the balls with beaten egg and then carefully place the cake under a hot grill until the top is lightly browned.

Update from the Brickies

Nail biting time for Sittingbourne football club as we are 3rd from bottom in our league with just 3 more points (effectively 1 win) than the bottom club, but with 2 games in hand. The bottom club will be relegated. It's been a difficult start for our new manager Chris Lynch with so many players leaving, however he has brought in quite a few more and we did get our first win a little while ago, in an exciting game away at Phoenix Sports.

Off the field we now have our new dressing rooms almost completed in readiness for our ground grading inspection on the 18th March. It's an important inspection because if Woodstock doesn't meet the facility and security requirements for a non-league step 4 club by the end of March then despite where we finish we will be relegated to the Southern Counties East Division...a league that isn't easy to get out of; just ask Chatham Town and Sheppey Utd!

We had to build new dressing rooms as the FA rules for our level changed a couple of years back and our existing dressing rooms weren't big enough. Thanks to the incredible generosity of a local builder who has funded most of the renovation of the existing youth dressing rooms to the new FA requirement, they will now be our main dressing rooms. Incorporated in the building is also a medical room, a couple of public toilets and an office. We hope that this builder will accept some publicity for this, so watch this space.

At the time of writing this there are 2 local Kent teams who have progressed to the quarter finals of the FA Vase. This is a competition for teams all over the country who play below us at levels 5 to 7 (we are at level 4). There is a final at Wembley stadium which is played on the same day as the Buildbase FA Trophy which is a competition for clubs at our level up to the National League, which is the league just below the Football League - are you still with me?? The 2 local teams are Canterbury City who play Biggleswade at home (Salters Lane, Faversham) and Cray Valley who are away to Devon side Willand Rovers . If either (or both) reach the final it will be a never-to-be forgotten day at Wembley. All of us at Sittingbourne FC wish them well. By the time you read this I hope that we have climbed the table a bit!!

Peter Pitts, Sittingbourne FC