



# Cobham & Luddesdowne

*August 2022*      **News**      £1

**PARISH of COBHAM & LUDDESDOWNE with DODE**

**Vicar — currently in an interregnum**

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SUBMISSIONS *Cobham and Luddesdowne News is a community magazine produced by and for the residents of Cobham, Sole Street and Luddesdowne.*

**Please send material for inclusion by the 15th of the month**

**preceding publication to [editorialcfn@gmail.com](mailto:editorialcfn@gmail.com)**

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**Cover photograph by Adrian—thank you**

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August  
2022

Welcome to another edition of Cobham and Luddesdowne News.

This month you will see that a couple of fundraising events are taking place: the table top sale on 28th August, in aid of the Church Room's renovation (page 15).

There is also an opportunity to enjoy tea and cake on the 29th August at the Cobham Church. Please note that the exhibition of the post cards submitted for 'The View where I am' will now be held in October. Details can be found on page 14.

I hope you manage to get a summer break either away or at home— whatever you do—enjoy!

Tina

### **Would you be able to help us?**

We are looking for someone who would proof read the magazine on a monthly basis for us.

You would need to have an email address we can send the magazine to. It would help if you had Publisher on your computer

The magazine would be ready to proof read about the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month and we would need it back by about the 20<sup>th</sup> to send it off to the printers. The dates could vary by a day or so depending on what is happening.

If you would be willing to help please contact me, by email at [cobandlud.office@btinternet.com](mailto:cobandlud.office@btinternet.com) or by phone on 01732 823936

Many thanks

Janet



## **ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOM REFURBISHMENT APPEAL**

The Local Funding Group (LFG) for the St Mary's Church Room (Tin Tabernacle) Refurbishment Appeal recently received some welcome support from an elderly Sole Street resident. The gentleman, who wishes to remain anonymous, commented on the challenging and time-consuming task that the Group are undertaking and promised financial support for the project. His notes are reproduced below.

*To: The Local Funding Group and Chairman*

*Plus fellow Sole Street Residents*

### **ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROOM, SOLE STREET FUNDING FOR RE-FURBISHMENT AND REBUILD VIA LFG**

*Thank you, Chairman, for your confidence in asking me to write these notes to support the above aims of the LFG to complete the above works and to give residents an idea of the complexities for completion. These notes are an addendum to my letter dated 15.6.22. to the LFG Chairman that explain my recent thoughts (Withholding my details, available on request.)*

*I am a long-term resident of Sole Street (60 years), but I am not a member of the LFG or any council group, but I support the LFG action and their intent with respect to the above.*

*My background is as a retired electrical project engineer engaged in new build and refurbishment of industrial and chemical manufacturing plants. With intensive build cooperation with owners and other trades and to meet stringent standards and time scales.*

*I have not been involved in the current LFG preparatory works but these notes are my best knowledge.*

*It is suggested that the LFG as the finance controller will continue to raise funds and the PCC (Parochial Church Council) will appoint, instruct and supervise the approved contractor to start work. The church will have freedom to inspect the work but must be aware that changes beyond specification will result in additional costs, these may exceed finance availability.*

*My understanding of the project is as follows:-*

*The existing Tin Tabernacle, 'St. Mary's Church Room', Sole Street, was built in 1889 from a 'standard' kit of materials bought and erected by locals on garden land gifted by the Architect, Sir Herbert Baker. I understand it has been in use since that date.*

*Its present state requires extensive works to meet current standards for public buildings construction, retaining its religious and public use and access.*

*Cont'd on page 5*

*The church is unable to finance such works but remains as owner with moral responsibility to maintain future use as at present.*

*The current building and proposed replacement is not subject to Council Tax.*

*The LFG work to meet the Church requirements and raise funds to initiate and progress the project.*

*It is the PCC's responsibility to appoint and retain an Architect to prepare drawings and specifications to the LFG and Church requirements and to obtain planning permission from the Council*

*The architect will obtain competitive tenders from five contractors*

*The contractor selected by the PCC will employ and supervise subcontractors under his control via site meetings*

*The PCC will instruct the approved contractor to start work.*

*On instructing the contractor the PCC will take on the management role.*

*I have questioned the apparent VAT on the project, but I understand this cannot be reclaimed.*

*There is an important time constraint when planning approval expires on 28<sup>th</sup> October when renewal of approval will require an additional cost and maybe the proposed tender has expired. This urgency will depend on a quick response to the current request for donations.*

*I support the proposed circular letter appeal to all Sole Street residents (and others) and feel it should be wholeheartedly supported.*

*The arithmetical shortfall against the 348 residents is obvious. Not obvious is the number of unknown costs that will inevitably arise during the project may require extra cash.*

*A generous response to this appeal will illustrate residents' appreciation of this village asset. To this end I am happy to enclose my cheque for an early start to this appeal, subject only to the ongoing clause for repayment if the project fails.*

*The LFG will help Cobham Church Parochial Church Council who will be responsible for the project.*

*The LFG gratefully appreciate this help and the assessment of the tasks ahead We wish to invite other residents to follow the generosity expressed, by making a donation to:*

*Account: Tin Tabernacle Community Fund*

*Account number 83638219*

*Sort code 20-25-43*

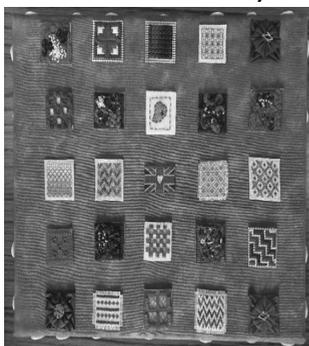
*Thank you, the LFG Committee.*

## North Kent Embroiderers

Hello Everybody,

The North Kent Embroiderers celebrated Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a bit of a party. We started with a 'right royal' quiz which tested us all on our knowledge of The Queen and the history of the Royal Family.

Several members had brought along items of interest for us all to look at. Sue brought along a wonderful collection of newspapers and magazines relating to the coronation in 1953 as well as a collection of souvenirs of the day which members enjoyed looking at. Some of our ladies recalled the day itself but some of us were too young!



Evelyn brought along a collection of pieces of crochet work done by her grandmother around this time. These included beautiful collars and cuffs to be added to a garment She intends to honour these pieces by making a quilt on which to sew them.

Veronica showed us her collection of red, white and blue 'inchies'- small samples of different types of embroidery which she had mounted onto a board. In the centre is a tiny Union Jack

No gathering of this kind would be complete without food! Members had contributed to the Platinum Jubilee themed spread which was enjoyed by all.

Next month we look forward to hearing about 'Needlelace Today'. This will be a talk by Sue.



If you would like to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please look at our website <https://northkentembroiderers.co.uk/> or email us at: [info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk](mailto:info@northkentembroiderers.co.uk) contact our Chairman, Eileen Tuff on 01474 324734 Happy stitching, Karen (All links and photographs used with permission.)

## **SOLE STREET WI**

Sole Street WI members continue to revel in our weekly walks throughout the year and the glorious weather of this English summer has been an exceptional joy. Indeed it has inspired much “blue sky thinking” from the full re-instatement of all our traditional monthly meetings with speakers in the St Mary’s Church Room to a reformation of our two old book clubs into a new monthly social gathering to discuss recent reads at Mepham library. We are also entering for The Lady Denman Cup and the theme for this year’s writing competition is “The Power of Community”.

Post-Jubilee craft meetings have resumed at a gentler pace than the flurry of hyperactivity sustained throughout June. At county level we are creating a design for the Huxley Cup which this year is a small community space for well-being and wildlife. The wildlife aspect is supported by RSPB and will focus on theme “Our Fabulous Flying Friends” - birds, bees, butterflies, moths and bats.

During August our ladies will be sorting pre-loved goods and making refreshments to help those participating in the Garage Sale Safari being organised for 29th in aid of the Local Funding Group for the “Tin Tab”. Stationed outside the Church Room will be our indefatigable Valerie with her husband Brian, selling tickets and raffle tickets.

Our August meeting is an informal meeting for afternoon tea in Min’s lovely garden.

We very much welcome visitors and new members to our WI. Our local events are only part of West Kent Federation’s activities as they also have on offer a programme including Art & Craft Annual Days, Water Colour Painting Workshops, Fun Orienteering Photo Trail in Rochester, Women in Politics Day, Darts Tournament etc etc.

The programmed speaker for main meeting on at 7.30pm on 27 September is Martin Heard on subject “Women Impressionists - The Neglected Modern Mistresses”. For information on this and all our activities please contact Yvonne telephone 01474 813455.

Molly Isaacs



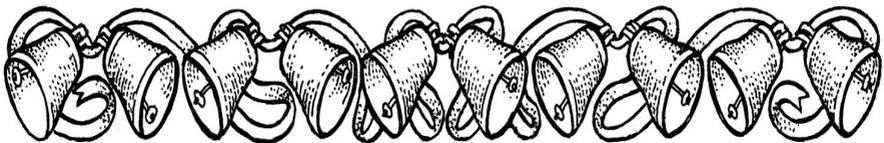
## **BELL RINGING by Peter Hartley**

To celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and conclude the Cobham events for the Jubilee we rang a Quarter Peal on Sunday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 of 1,260 changes of Grandsire Doubles in 47 minutes. The band was 1. David Gyles 2. Peter Hartley 3. Byron Aldous 4. Mike Hyde 5. Stuart Edwards (who had the added responsibility of conducting the quarter by making the calls and unscrambling any evolving tangles in the order of the bells) 6. Christian Antrobus.

The first bell No. 1 is always called the Treble and ours was cast in 1907 by Gillet and Johnson of Croydon and given by Ivo, the cricketing 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Darnley to mark the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of his son Esme, Lord Clifton who became the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Darnley. The last bell No. 6 is always called the Tenor and is the heaviest of the ring. Our Tenor weighs 15cwt. and was cast in 1632 by Joseph Hatch. This centuries old bell has never before rung for a Platinum Jubilee and when might it next, if ever, ring in celebration of a seventy year reign?

Probably in that unknown future Grandsire Doubles, composed by the Clerk of the Pantry to King Charles I, Mr. Roan, around 1650 might be a chosen method for bell ringers are happy to remain loyal to the old favourites. In Doubles methods the front bells change their required order with every pull of the rope as long as the skilled ringers are concentrating hard and diligently counting, in their heads, their ever changing place. The Tenor bell stays at the back as the last to strike in each change of six giving the ringing a steady rhythm.

Events come and events go and bells remain relying on their ringers to give them their voice.



The next **Meopham Library Writing Group** meeting will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022** at 10am until about midday. There is a different writing theme each month and everyone is invited to write a short story, poem or article, using less than 1,000 words. Recent writing themes have included; "Eye of History", "The Cruise" and "The Queen".

In August, a new Rolling Story will begin, ready to be read out at the September meeting. Each person has to write just 150 words for their part of the story. There is also the monthly writing challenge, where everyone chooses a word, which all have to be included in a paragraph, using less than seventy words.

If you are interested in writing poems, stories or articles, either as a beginner or as a more experienced writer, you are invited to join our small, friendly group. Writing can be very therapeutic for people facing difficult times. Some people in the group just enjoy writing about their memories, which are really appreciated by their family and friends, while others have already had their stories and poems published in magazines or books.

The following writing group meetings will be on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> November. For information about the group, please ring **01474 813379** or come to Meopham Library on the first Thursday of the month.

The **1<sup>st</sup> South Street Boys Brigade and Girls Association Company** meetings start again on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September at South Street Baptist Church, next to Hope Hill Scout Camp, from 6pm until 7.30pm during term time. Boys and girls aged 5-18 years old are very welcome to come and join in the fun, which includes challenges, badge work, team games, craft, cooking and outdoor activities. The uniform is a blue T-shirt and a blue sweat-shirt with embroidered badges and the weekly subscription is £2. To find out more please ring **01474 813379** or visit the **South Street Baptist Church Website** at: [www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.southstreetbaptist.org.uk)

The Boys Brigade Honey Hill Camp Site is in Maidstone and has an adventure playground, wooded areas and well equipped camping facilities. The Boys Brigade **Water Activity Centre** in Maidstone has recently been upgraded and it has bought new canoes, kayaks and stand up paddle boards. All these water activities are supervised by a team of fully qualified leaders. For more information about Boys Brigade, please visit the **Boys Brigade Website** at: [www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK](http://www.BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK) A new **Friday Club** will be starting in September, at South Street Baptist Church for families with children aged about 3-6 years. There will be Lego, construction toys and games, board games and some creative activities. More information will be available next month.



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Telephone: 07765 405641 Email: [prestigemaintenance@outlook.com](mailto:prestigemaintenance@outlook.com)

### **THE MEADOW ROOM COBHAM**

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£6 per hour

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Bookings and Enquiries

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The next event is the Autumn Show & Plant Sale which is to be held at The Meadow Rooms on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 from 2pm to 3.30pm. Members will exhibit their home-grown flowers, vegetables, and preserves. Non-members are welcome free of charge to view the exhibits between 2pm and 3.30pm. Plants plus tea, coffee and homemade cake will be on sale.

For further information email [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

**In your own garden, the RHS recommended Top 10 jobs for August are -**

- 1 Prune Wisteria
- 2 Don't delay summer pruning restricted fruits
- 3 Deadhead flowering plants regularly
- 4 Watering! - particularly containers, and new plants, preferably with grey recycled water or stored rainwater
- 5 Collect seed from favourite plants
- 6 Harvest sweetcorn and other vegetables as they become ready
- 7 Continue cutting out old fruited canes on raspberries
- 8 Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
- 9 Keep ponds and water features topped up
- 10 Feed the soil with green manures

If you would like to become a member of Cobham Gardeners' Society, It's only a modest £8 for the year – money you get back from free entry into all Gardeners' expert speaker talks and massive savings of up to 50% on quality plants at local garden centres. For further details of all Gardeners' activities contact [cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cobhamgs@hotmail.co.uk)

Come to tea (and cake!)  
with the Friends of Cobham Church  
August Bank Holiday Monday 29th August  
1.30 – 4.30 pm in the church



***'The View Where I am'***  
***A fascinating exhibition of postcard sketches and aerial photos***  
***showing different perspectives of Cobham***  
***will now be held on Sunday 9 October***  
***NOT TO BE MISSED!***  
***Further details from Kate ([hyde.kate@gmail.com](mailto:hyde.kate@gmail.com))***



## **VILLAGE GARAGE/TABLE TOP SALE**

A community event will take place in August to help raise money for the ongoing restoration of our much-loved quirky Victorian building in Sole Street.

The fundraiser is part of efforts to raise £100,000 to restore St. Mary's Church Room to its former glory. Built in 1889, the smallish prefabricated structure (known locally as the 'Tin Tabernacle') is the only community facility in Sole Street.

The community event will take place on Sunday 28th August (bank holiday weekend), from 11am to 4pm. Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy fresh air and exercise around Sole Street - following a set trail, either by walking, running, cycling or scooting!

There'll be a range of stalls and activities dotted around the trail, including those offering upcycled, recycled and homemade items, plus refreshments.

Parking is at Sole Street Railway Station (DA13 0XY) and a family pass trail map can be purchased for £5 from the Tin Tabernacle (Manor Road, Sole Street, DA13 9BW).

**FOR SOLE STREET TABLE TOP VENDORS:  
£10. 00. ENTRY FEE TOWARDS THE RESTORATION OF  
ST. MARY'S CHURCH ROOM**

Proceeds from your sales are for your own benefit.

Ideas include crafts, books, refreshments, toys, plants, home produce, games, antiques, bric-a-brac

**TELEPHONE 01474 814560 TO BOOK**

# **Cobham, Luddesdowne and Sole Street Church Services during August**



## **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham**

## **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

**10:30am Holy Communion (BCP), Luddesdowne**

## **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Cobham**

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

**10:30am Holy Communion, Luddesdowne**

## **Midweek services**

**There are no Midweek services during August**

## Cobham's Register

### Wedding

**Joseph Michael DWYER and Lilibet Abbe Christer DIBBEN** were married in Cobham church on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The service was conducted by Rev'd Edward HURST, Vicar of Shorne parish church.

This Wedding was transferred from Shorne parish church due to part of Shorne's ceiling in the nave falling down.



### Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

**Jutta Frieda Maria FIELDEN** was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1935 and died on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 aged 87 years old. Jutta's funeral service was held at a Crematorium in Leicestershire earlier in June. Then a service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Jutta's life took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 in Cobham church. The service was conducted by Licensed Reader from Ash, Alison HARDING. Our sympathy and prayers go to Jutta's sons Nick and Chris, their families and friends.

***A summer break can be a time of reflection and peace – before the busy round begins once again...***

#### **A Blessing Comes**

It's good to get away from noise  
From chaos and from din,  
To seek in solitude and peace  
The beauty that's within  
To go into a quiet place  
Where all is fresh and green,  
And contemplate in silent calm  
Great truths and things unseen.

The mysteries of the universe  
The wisdom of the sage,  
Or take some old and lovely thought  
From a bygone age,  
And meditate upon the good  
The honest and the true,  
This calms the mind and you will find  
A blessing comes to you.



By Kathleen Gillum



TWO WOMEN EVENTS  
Present:

# THE JEZEBEL SEXTET

## with Reuben Richards



**Thursday 6th October 2022**

**St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham, Kent**

**7pm for 7:30 start**

**Fully Licensed Bar**

**Free Public Car Park**

Tickets £20 in advance on [www.twowomenevents.com](http://www.twowomenevents.com) (£25 on the door) or  
from Cobham Community Stores (cash or cheques only)

Follow us on Facebook for contact and info!

### **Luddesdown and District Rights of Way Group**

Friendly local walks run 11:00 am every Wednesday morning at a gentle pace from Luddesdown and Cobham. Contact Gerry or Janet for details:- 01474 813376 or 07977 416366

**The annual RIDE & STRIDE is taking place on SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER .**

**Please sponsor your church's Rider or Strider .**





**Pop-Up Café and Information Hub  
Coming to  
St Mary's Church Room  
Sole Street**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

Come and get together with old friends and new. Have a cuppa and a delicious slice of cake. We'll have all sorts of local information available or you can just come for a chat.

**Everyone welcome ... see you soon!**



**THE TUESDAY POP-IN**

Meetings are held at the Leather Bottle on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.30 till 12 noon; everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxed chat and coffee.

Next pop-in Tuesday 9th August

CONTACT: MARY PALMER - 01474 816788

**:) SMILE LINES :)**

**Everything is wonderful**

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn.  
My house isn't dirty, the cobwebs are gone.  
My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn.  
I think I might never put my glasses back on.

**So far so good**

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm going to need a lot more help. Amen

**As you enjoy your children during the holidays, remember ...**

You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next 16 telling them to sit down and be quiet.

Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young.

Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.



*Weeks after the Pet's Service, nobody had claimed the monkey*



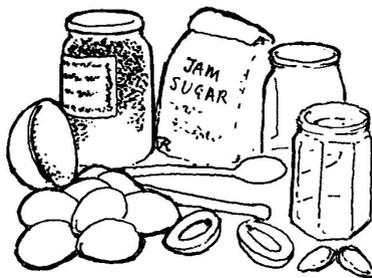
*"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."*

We were happy to see so many of our members on 6th July at our first Strawberry Tea since 2019. Our members always look forward to this annual event, which is hosted by our committee, and this year's did not disappoint. Strawberries, homemade scones and cream with Molly Neville's now famous homemade jam were enjoyed by all, with a couple of quizzes to mull over, one about Kent and another covering the subjects that reflected some of our group activities of art, craft, books and gardening. We heard the report provided by Yvonne Martin from Sole Street W.I. who had attended as a delegate to the W.I.'s annual national conference at Liverpool and were happy to welcome two ladies from Sole Street W.I. as our guests.

Our W.I. awards two annual bursaries which will enable the winners to take part in a course or activity which will not only broaden or enhance their own interests but which will also be of benefit to all of our members. We look forward to hearing the feedback from the two lucky ladies whose names were drawn.

Although we do not hold a monthly meeting in August, a number of our 'groups' will still be getting together. We will also be holding a fundraising event on Wednesday 3rd August 2022, at the Meadow Room, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., which will be open to everyone. Enjoy tea or coffee and home-made cakes and visit our craft, bric-a-brac and book stalls and take part in a quiz to win a prize.

Jenny Brooker (Secretary)



Parishioner, Andrew Clark attended an audience with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Reverend Doctor Justin Welby at Ashford Picture House on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, the event was hosted by Kent Invicta Chamber. Guests were intrigued to hear what the Archbishop would say to the businessmen and women of Kent. Andrew has provided us with a flavour of the discussions;

What does the church expect from business? The question was raised - what do businesses want from the church and what do churches want from business? The Archbishop answered that businesses should play their part in the wider community. He quoted catholic teaching that a business as an endeavour of people working “for the common good” i.e. not just for profit but of its employees and beyond.

On current global challenges. The three things which will occupy the next council of Anglican bishops from across the globe are:-

- Resilience
- Climate and sustainability (the Church of England has committed to being carbon neutral across all its operations including schools by 2030).
- The war in Ukraine

Resilience is dealing with surprises – the “black swan” event- i.e. you never thought there was such a thing and then one comes along. It includes making good business decisions, such as not betting on one thing but spreading your risks and commercial interests, but also having a sense of purpose. He illustrated this by referring to a successful development project his wife had led in Sudan, which was about educating and equipping those in poor and war torn areas to build their own lives and communities.

On town centres and high street retail. Town centres have got to bring communities together and create a sense of place and identity. They must be prepared to reimagine and work in partnership – so for example, it is no good having a great restaurant in the town centre if the streets don’t feel safe or conversely a really safe space where there is nothing to do! It is not going to work to just try and get Debenhams back. The bible ends with a vision not of the countryside, but of building a city – Jerusalem. People want the sense of security and community of the city.

## National Allotment Week - 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August

What creepy crawlies are lurking in your allotment? This year, National Allotment Week has teamed up with the Big Bug Survey to try and find out. The theme of the week is Bugs, Bees and Broccoli, and the aim is to acknowledge the importance of gardening with nature in mind.

As the National Allotment Society (NAS) says, allotments are “a complex web of plants, micro-organisms, fungi, insects and animals that not only produces food but also supports eco-system services such as pollination and offers a refuge for wildlife in urban areas.”

And Bugslife points out: “Bugs are so important to the healthy functioning of our allotments. We tend to focus on the ‘pests’ and ignore all the great work the other bugs are doing for us. They are pollinating our fruit and veg, controlling our pests and improving our soil.”

So if you have an allotment, why not take the survey, and so contribute to the monitoring of allotments and bugs? Go to: <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news-events-campaigns/national-allotments-week/>

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## COBHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022

Tuesday 6 September 7:30pm - St Mary's Church Room

Tuesday 4 October 8:00pm, - Meadow Room

Tuesday 1 November 7:30pm - Meadow Room

## LUDESLOW PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 22/23

19 September Full Council Mtg. Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30pm

21 November Full Council Mtg. Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30pm

16 January 23 Full Council Mtg. Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30pm

20 March 23 Annual Parish Mtg. Luddesdown Village Hall at 7.30pm

### LUDESLOW VILLAGE HALL

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from £40 per session (please visit  
our website for full details)

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#### **LUDESLOW SOCIETY**

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email [lvhbooking@gmail.com](mailto:lvhbooking@gmail.com)

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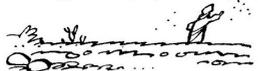
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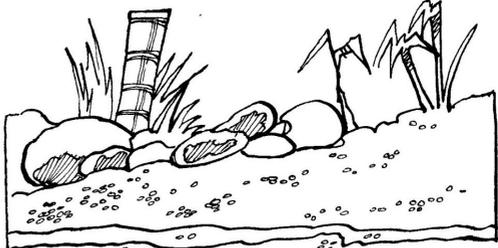
JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
 STORIES WITH  
 HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A FARMER WHO  
 SOWED SOME SEEDS



MOST FARMERS DIDN'T BURY THEIR  
 SEEDS IN THE GROUND. INSTEAD THEY  
 THREW THEM IN THE AIR!

THE FARMER HOPED THEY WOULD TAKE ROOT JUST  
 WHERE THEY LANDED

BUT SOME SEED WAS  
 EATEN BY BIRDS!



SOME SEED FELL ON ROCKS, BUT  
 THE PLANTS DIED WHEN THE HOT  
 SUN SHONE DOWN



OTHER SEEDS TOOK ROOT,  
 BUT WERE QUICKLY  
 STRANGLED BY WEEDS



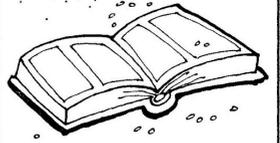
SOME SEED FELL ON GOOD SOIL. IT  
 TOOK ROOT AND GREW AND GREW!



SOON THERE WAS A  
 FINE FIELD OF  
 WHEAT!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE  
 SEED ARE 'WORD OF GOD' AND  
 WE SHOULD LET THAT WORD  
 'GROW' IN OUR HEARTS, JUST  
 LIKE SEEDS IN GOOD SOIL.



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Crimestoppers 0800 555111

**Kent Fire Service** Emergency: 999 Home Safety: 0800 923 7000

#### **Hospitals**

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Darent Valley Hospital 01322 428100

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**Gravesham Borough Council** Civic Centre - 01474 564422



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### John the Baptist

This month, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we remember John the Baptist. By all accounts, he had a rough life. He grew up in obscurity, lived in the desert on a diet of bugs. He wore itchy camel hair. He worked in the heat of the sun, constantly challenging people, and wading in and out of muddy Jordan waters to baptise many. Then he was arrested and kept in a reeking, infested dungeon until one day they cut his head off. Not much comfort in that life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique calling God gave him, which was to prepare the way for the coming ministry of his Son, Jesus. Jesus did not have an easy life, either.

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