

MARCH 2023

£1.00

MARSH MESSAGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE

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Romney Marsh
Benefice

Brenzett • Brookland • Burmarsh • Dymchurch • Fairfield • Greatstone • Ivychurch • Lydd
Newchurch • New Romney • Old Romney • St Mary in the Marsh • St Mary's Bay • Snargate

Romney Marsh Benefice Services



March 2023

■ Wednesday 1 March

9.30am Morning Prayer

St Mary's Bay

■ Sunday 5 March, Lent 2

9.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
10.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary in the Marsh
Newchurch
Fairfield
Dymchurch
St Mary's Bay
Lydd
Greatstone
New Romney

■ Wednesday 8 March

9.30am Morning Prayer

St Mary's Bay

■ Sunday 12 March, Lent 3

9.00am Holy Communion
9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
10.30am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
11.00am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong
6.30pm Evensong

Snargate
Burmarsh
Dymchurch
St Mary's Bay
Lydd
Greatstone
New Romney
St Mary in the Marsh
Brookland

With verses from the Bible as the starting point, Gaynor Cobb reflects on the worldwide message of love and friendship sent by Jesus through his disciples.

Inspired by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 15 for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, this collection of Bible verses, powerful prayers and carefully curated reflections aims to motivate the reader to consider new ways to support individuals and communities as we strive for friendship and peace.

Within the collection are prayers for places: Ukraine, Africa, The Holy Land and The Middle East, as well as prayers for the displaced, strangers and the children of war. The book also looks at special places and people associated with peace as it considers the ways in which we find our own peace within.

Prayers for Peace and Friendship also considers our humanity and the way in which all people should be treated with love and dignity, preserving human rights and ending persecution and oppression. People and nations are invited to embrace the peace of Christ through friendship, love and human rights.

Sales will help support ChildAid to Eastern Europe and its work in Ukraine
www.kevinmayhew.com



Product code: 1501718
ISBN: 9781838581459



■ Wednesday 15 March

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bay

■ Sunday 19 March, Lent 4, Mothering Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion St Mary in the Marsh
9.00am Holy Communion Newchurch
10.30am Morning Worship Dymchurch
10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's Bay
10.30am Holy Communion Greatstone
10.30am Family Service Lydd
10.30am Morning Worship New Romney

■ Wednesday 22 March

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bay

■ Sunday 26 March, Lent 5, Passiontide begins

9.00am Holy Communion Burmarsh
9.00am Holy Communion Snargate
10.30am Holy Communion Dymchurch
10.30am Holy Communion Lydd
10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's Bay
10.30am Morning Worship Greatstone
11.00am Morning Worship New Romney
3.30pm Evensong Ivychurch

■ Wednesday 29 March

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bay

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Revving Up...

Dear friends

The New Year has passed, we are wondering if Christmas ever happened and it feels like Spring is just around the corner with the promise of Summer to come! At least that is how I am feeling as I write this.

I have just come back from Portsmouth, from Wale Island where I spent a week at Sea Cadet Training Centre – HMS *Excellent* completing my 'Chaplains Basic Course' for the Sea Cadet Corps. I can now sign myself as Reverend Chris Hodgkins RNR (SCC) if I so desired.

Just like my involvement with St Nicholas Church of England Primary Academy, my Chaplaincy for New Romney Sea Cadet Corps is an important part of my ministry in the Benefice. I aim to attend as often as possible enabling me to get to know both cadets and adult volunteers. It is a ministry of presence, of being alongside as well as part of the Corps.

The training we received included modules on Chaplaincy, nurturing people,



giving teaching (an important part of the Chaplain's role is teaching the core values) as well as leading spiritually.

We looked at the 'Cycle of Grace':

Acceptance

Sustenance

Identity

Achievement (Service)

Ephesians 2. 4-10

The Cycle of Grace impacts our ministry as both Christians and Chaplains.

Acceptance comes from knowing that God loves us and that even when we were 'dead through our trespasses', God made us alive together with Christ. By grace we



Scapa Flow in September 1942. Leading these three on the quarterdeck of the flagship of the British Home Fleet, HMS King George V, is the Chaplain of The Fleet (and Archdeacon of The Royal Navy) Thomas Crick. Bringing up the rear is the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple.

have been saved, raised up with Jesus Christ and seated with him. Sustenance is that 'through the ages to come God will show us the immeasurable riches of his grace towards us. Our identity is that we have been raised up with Christ and are 'seated with him in the heavenly places in Jesus Christ'. We achieve and show service because we have been 'created in Christ Jesus for good works', which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. All this we bring to those around us in our daily lives and as a SCC Chaplain I bring to the Corps.

Of course there was drill, learning when to salute and how to do it properly, the difference between standing to attention, standing at ease and standing easy. How to wear our uniforms, what to do with our caps and the fearful bellow from Lieutenant Commander Paul Barker for having your hands in your pockets!

At the heart of chaplaincy is 'Kenosis', a model of Christian behaviour centred on Jesus 'emptying himself' found in Philippians 2.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 *who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,*

7 *but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,*

8 *he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.*

We spent a morning in theological reflection thinking about Kenosis and how

it impacts our Christian lives, how we serve the Sea Cadet Corps as Chaplains as we join in with what God is already doing. There are four stages to Kenosis (emptying) and Chaplaincy:

Working For

Working With

Being For

Being With

You start by doing something *For* someone before working *With* someone and engaging in relationship. Being *For* deals with orientation, it's the movement from *Working With* to *Being With*. Being *With* is the fundamental component of the character of God, the deepest place of ministry and engagement.

The Sea Cadet Corps was started in 1854 when a vicar in Whitstable, returning from the Crimean War, noticed many orphans on the local streets and encouraged local sailors to form a group to help them. It is an amazing organisation of which I am privileged to be such a small part of. We should be proud of our unit and the opportunities it offers our young people. •

*May God Bless you.
Reverend Chris Hodgkins RNR (SCC)*

Lord, bless this Ship and her Company and all Units of the Sea Cadet Corps throughout the world. Guide Charles, our King, and protect all who go down to the sea in ships.

Teach us to serve you as our Master on our earthly voyage, so that, at the last, we may come to the peace and safety of your eternal haven.

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

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To arrange and discuss your forthcoming Wedding, Blessing or Baptism within the Benefice, please contact Ann Rolfe on **01797 362719**.



Marriage in the Benefice

Following agreement with all the churches in our Benefice, the rules on Marriages have changed.

Henceforth any person who lives in one of our parishes (or who has a qualifying connection) is now able to marry in any one of our churches.

Additionally, there are changes that simplify the way banns are called.

For more information contact:

■ **Rev'd Chris Maclean**

01797 320345 or

■ **Ann Rolfe 01797 362719**



BURMARSH

Church Hall



I'm pleased to report that the demolition of the rear of the hall is almost complete.

I would like to say a special thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to fund raise and make this part of the renovation happen. Special thanks to the men of Burmarsh, Richard, Denis and Alan, who have helped with the removal of tiles and rubble. A fantastic job, thank you. •

Church news

Although there were no services at Burmarsh during January the church has remained open most days. I have heard that the door can be quite difficult



to open at times, but if the open sign is showing, then we are open!

We continue to have books and apples for sale in the church in aid of the Hall funds. I hope it encourages people to visit the church and to step inside. We have a very small dedicated congregation and we would love to see more people attending our services on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. I know 9am is early for some but it's an excellent way to start your Sunday!

As I mentioned previously, our main fund raising event for our church is our Plants, Pimms and Ploughmans, which will be on **Sunday 21 May** starting at 11am. Over the years it's become a popular event and a time to sit and chat over a cup of coffee or a glass of Pimms with a ploughman's lunch. Please put this date in your diary.

We are already taking orders, so if you need bedding plants or vegetable plants then, please get in touch and I'll make sure your order is secure. Gina has already started sowing some seeds. I had hoped to start work in the garden this week... but church admin seems to have got in the way! There is still plenty of time. It's still very cold outside! •



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DYMCHURCH



St Peter and St Paul

A meeting was held on 25 January to discuss fund-raising for the upkeep of the church. Several good ideas and suggestions were forthcoming.

The confirmed events which will take place at the church are as follows:

Saturday 18 March, 10am-12 noon

A coffee morning with small affordable gifts and flower posies being available to purchase in time for Mothering Sunday. Refreshments will be available. Mandy Matcham is leading on this event.

Saturday 22 April, 10am-3pm

Plants and Bric-a-Brac sale with a performance of singing by *The Seaside Singers* (11am-11.30am and then again 11.45am-12.15pm). Refreshments will be available. Liz Acarnley is leading on this event.

Volunteers are required to run the stalls and provide the refreshments for both of these events.

Please contact those who are leading on the events for more information or to offer your assistance.

Future fundraising plans

These include the following ideas and suggestions:

- Beetle Drive, Tea Dance and a Flower Festival.
- Liz Acarnley has offered to give a talk on Ethiopian Health Care.
- Sharon Bryant has offered to give a talk and presentation on her recent trip to Hong Kong.
- Mandy Matcham may be able to give a presentation about aromatherapy and

she is planning another aromatherapy workshop. The workshop held last year was enjoyed by all those who attended.

All of these talks and presentations require the use of a projector. Does anyone have one or able to borrow one please? If yes, please advise Liz, Mandy or Sharon.

Dr Syn prints



A few of the signed Dr Syn prints which were donated by local artist Terry Anthony have been sold for church fund-raising.

There are still some signed Dr Syn prints available – *The Phantom's Revenge*. It has been suggested that a donation of £25 be given for each print.

If you wish to view or purchase the prints, please contact Chris Clark on **07740 395497** or by emailing **chrisclarkcw@dymchurch@gmail.com**

World Day of Prayer

Don't forget that we will be gathering at St Peter & St Paul, Dymchurch, on Friday 3 March at 2pm – with our friends from the Methodist and Catholic churches – to celebrate the World Day of Prayer Service prepared by the women of Taiwan. Everyone is most welcome to join us.

Parking

Please be considerate when parking outside the church.

We do not want to fall out with our neighbours, therefore here is a plea asking

people to please park considerately in the area near the Dymchurch memorial and outside the church, ensuring that access is clear for all vehicles. In fact, please be kind and leave the parking areas nearest the church for those congregation members who have limited mobility. Thank you for your consideration with this matter.

Refreshments after Sunday Church Services



Many people enjoy the fellowship while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee after the Sunday Church Services.

There is a rota on the noticeboard at the back of the church to ensure refreshments are available after the Sunday Church Services. It is great that some people have kindly put their names down to facilitate the refreshments, but there are still some gaps. If you are able, please put your name on the rota, if we all take a turn, the work will be shared and we will all get a chance to enjoy the fellowship.

Refreshment supplies of tea, coffee, squash, sugar and biscuits will be made available in the servery cupboard. This means people facilitating the refreshments will only need to bring the milk.

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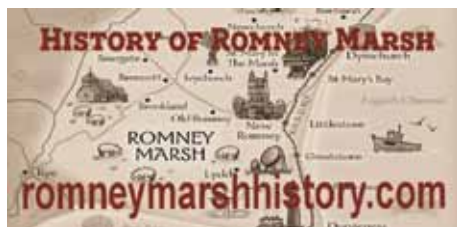
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St Peter's Church

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9 – 12 noon**
(Breakfast available 9 – 11)

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EASTER RAFFLE,
EASTER BUNNIES**



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A poster for a 'Pre Easter Craft Fair'. The background is white with a border of colorful Easter eggs (blue, yellow, pink, green) and green leaves. The text is as follows:

**Pre EASTER
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GREATSTONE

Giving by phone

The symbol to the right will be familiar to smartphone users, perhaps less so to other folk, but it is a new way for members of St Peter's Church, Greatstone – and anyone else – to give to our church. Scan it with your phone's camera, tap 'Open' and you have reached the website of the Parish Giving Service (PGS), which has been adopted by most of the parishes in the Church of England as the most flexible, effective and secure way for people to support their church's finances. You are given the option of a one-off payment or a regular contribution monthly, quarterly or annually – the amount is up to you. If you are a taxpayer you can opt to pay by Gift Aid, which adds 25% to your gift at no additional cost to you.

This symbol above (it's known as a QR code, which means 'quick response') takes you directly to the section of PGS devoted to St Peter's Church. You can also get there by Googling 'Parish Giving Service', or by phone on **0333 002 1271**, or by completing a paper form, available from our treasurer Joe Butterworth – ring **01797 212028**.

You may prefer to support our historic mother church, All Saints', Lydd, in which case this other QR code (right) is the one to scan. Other ways of getting to the All Saints' part of PGS are the same as in the previous paragraph. It cost £72,000 to run our two churches in 2022 and most of that money came from the regular gifts of members, offerings in church and several fund-raising events. In 2023 we have to do it all again, so any extra help will be gratefully received.



APCM



St Peter's and All Saints Lydd are actually one parish so share the APCM. This year we are holding it after morning service on **12 March** and then having a Bring and Share lunch together. March will see a busy kitchen at St Peter's as each Tuesday the 12.30 Lent course, led by June Noakes, includes a soup and roll lunch. And the popular Big breakfast returns on **Saturday 18 March**, from 9am to 11am, alongside the usual stalls and raffle. We look forward to meeting many friends as we munch.

Sit yourself down



It is exciting to see the new benches installed in the garden area, with pots where bulbs are beginning to show their heads. Soon it will be warm enough to sit out in the new bright space outside the hall, while youngsters at the mid-week Drop-in sessions have already been racing round the carefully-designed pathway on their wheels.

Who? What? Where? When? How Many?

FUN QUIZ



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IVYCHURCH

St George service

There will be a service of Evensong at 3.30pm on **Sunday 26 March**.

Mothering Sunday 19 March

Mothering Sunday, on the fourth Sunday of Lent and the third before Easter, was a day since the Middle Ages when those who had moved away returned to their homes to visit their mothers, and their Mother Church where they had been baptized.



By the 19th Century when there were a number of people 'in service', traditionally those returning home for the day would gather wild flowers *en route* as gifts for their mothers. During the 20th Century posies were prepared by members of church congregations for children to collect and present to their mothers during Morning Service and this has continued into the 21st century.

Although there will not be a service at St George this Mothering Sunday on 19 March there will be a table with posies of flowers in the church for children to collect one for their mothers, and for anyone else who they would like to remember with a posy.

All are welcome to the Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30am at St Nicholas, New Romney or to those in other churches in the Benefice (see page 2).

Easter Sunday service and egg hunt

In Ivychurch on **Easter Sunday, 9 April** at 3pm there will be a short service in the church followed by an Easter Egg Hunt; this will be in the churchyard if the weather is good, or in the church in the event of rain.



Village activities

Celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles the Third, 6-8 May.

There will be a service of Thanksgiving in St George, and *The Bell* pub is planning a musical event. A Village Celebration is planned, weather permitting on the village green or, in the event of poor weather, in the village hall on **Monday 8 May**. More details will be in the April *Marsh Message*.



Planning meeting for the Village Celebration. Monday 13 March at 7.30pm.

In the Village Hall. Please come to offer help and ideas.

Ivychurch Film Show, Wednesday 15 March, 7pm for 7.30pm.

In the Village Hall, showing *Empire of Light*, filmed at Margate and Camber. All welcome.

Quiz on 17 March at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Raising money for the Village Celebration and other Ivychurch Amenities Association (IAA) activities. £5 per person, either bring a team or we will fit you into one. Ring Julia on **01797 344623** or email **jab.ivychurch@gmail.com**

Winter warmth grant

The Ivychurch Winter Warmth Grant Scheme is for Ivychurch Residents. If you or someone you know would benefit from some financial support as a result of the rising cost of heating please, in confidence, contact Mike on **01797 344623** or email **mikeh.berry@icloud.com**



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All Saints', Lydd Church

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- view the herons nesting from above
- see our Parish from a new viewpoint
- see the bells and the ringing room

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Adverse weather conditions could result in the tower visits being cancelled.

It is a hard climb up the spiral staircase, and the upper steps are fairly worn. Climbers must wear shoes with a good grip (e.g. trainers) and not be suffering from a medical condition which would make the climb inadvisable. You will need both hands free, so cameras and binoculars must be in pockets or in a bag with shoulder strap. The minimum age is 10 yrs., and those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult (one adult per young person). Stewards decision is final. Climbing is at your own risk.

Event in Aid of All Saints General Fund - Charity No 1146683

LYDD

Gurkhas' cheque donation

Following the Christmas Concert performed by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, Councillor Clive Goddard and Town Clerk Angela Alexander visited Shorncliffe Army Camp to meet with Director of Music Capt. Esther Hayes so that Cllr. Goddard could present the cheque raised from the proceeds of the concert.

The concert raised £1,500 after the expenses had been paid for the transport of the band and its kit, and to All Saints' Church for the refreshments served during the interval and to heat the Church.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust provides health checks, medicines and a Winter Allowance for items to keep the pensioners warm during the chilly winter months, items such as jackets, blankets, hats and thermos flasks. In addition, the Trust helps to finance earthquake resilient homes to keep people



safe as well as a Welfare Pension that is distributed to impoverished Gurkha veterans or veterans who are not eligible for the standard Army pension. For some this is their only income.

Councillor Goddard said, "I would like to thank Major Beven and the Town Clerk, Angela, for their work to organise the event, Rev'd. Chris Maclean and the Church Wardens for granting permission to hold the concert in All Saints' and their hospitality. Negotiations have already begun for this years' Christmas concert and we will be meeting in late Spring with the band master to discuss future arrangements".



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NEWCHURCH

St Peter and St Paul

Our Sunday services are continuing through February and March, with planning for our Easter-themed Country Market and Coffee Morning in full swing; this is on

Saturday 1 April
between 10.30am
and 12.30pm.

We already have a good selection of stall holders booked in, and hope to see you as well for a Spring 'catch-up'. •



Picnic in the park



Newchurch Village will be having a 'picnic in the park' and other events on **Sunday 7 May** – see the village website in April for activities! •

Peter Dunning

Coffee morning change of date

Note the May Coffee Morning has been moved to **Saturday 13 May** because of the Coronation the previous weekend. •

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Romney Marsh
Benefice

LENT GROUPS 2023

**The Lent Group at St Nicholas will now run from
Wednesday 1st March 7pm at St Nicholas Church
weekly until Wednesday 22nd March [4 weeks] and
will be on 'Living in Love and Faith'**

**St Mary's Bay is on Wednesday mornings 10.30am,
at All Saints' Church Hall, starting on Wednesday
1st March and running for 5 weeks.
It is titled 'A walk with Jesus.'**

**For further details and to sign up for a group please contact Reverend Chris Hodgkins on
01797 335003, ctahodgkins@hotmail.co.uk**

NEW ROMNEY

St. Nicholas Church

Our Captain of Bellringers, David Jackson, has retired after many years of wonderful sound co-ordination.

Having presented David with some tokens for his garden, we approached his wife Mollie for some background information about his role at St. Nicholas. Here is Mollie's report.

"In 2007 David was approached by Maddy Dale, the then-vicar's wife, to join a new team of bell ringers for St Nicholas church. Four interested people were joining together to form a team, Maddy, Jenny Gaunt, Chris Cooper (tutor) and David.

"David was introduced to bell ringing as a child when his father was verger at St Michael's Church, Holbrook, Derbyshire, which had a single bell which he often chimed for services.

"In the 1980s he learned to ring in a peal of eight with the Tower at St Anne, Bewdley, and rang several years at St Peter and St Paul, Rock, Worcestershire.

"In 2008 David was invited to become tower captain of St Nicholas, New Romney by the Priest in charge, Martin Dale.

"After bell practice on Monday evenings sustenance was sought at *The Prince of Wales* in Fairfield Road. Local people became interested in the church bells and the ringing team soon increased to 18 ringers.

"'Climb the Tower' days were linked with the Friends monthly book sale and



those who chose to climb the tower were treated to a little history lesson at the top.

"This was also a great way to recruit new ringers and both Vernon Hutchens and Tony Smart, who learned to ring at St Nicholas as children, joined the team along with their wives.

"The ringing team was very keen to recognise and acknowledge annual events and civic services. Ringing with muffled bells for Remembrance Day was always very special, as was the ringing for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, followed by her Majesty's death and then the Proclamation of King Charles III.

"During Covid the bells were silent but on the occasion of the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral the tenor bell was tolled 99 times.

"There were also during this time requests from people whose loved ones had died for the bell to be tolled and one notable and moving time was for the funeral of Mark Skilbeck.

"Mark had served on the PCC for many years. He raised funds for the refurbishment of St Nicholas Church with Liz his wife and also founded The Friends of St Nicholas.

"David formally retired on Christmas day 2022 and was kindly presented with garden tokens from St Nicholas PCC and the bell ringing team. A memorable evening of merriment with all the bell ringers at the Broadacre was held on 6 January."

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ST MARY'S BAY

"Feb/March Diary Dates"

.....

Mon 27th Feb

BINGO

2.00pm

.....

Friday 10th March

Coffee & Cake

10.00am

.....

Sat 11th March

Lent Sight Savers

Coffee Morning

.....

Sat 18th March

Lent Soup Lunch

12.00 noon

.....

Mon 27th March

BINGO

2.00pm

St MARY'S BAY

All Saints' Church

This is a month with three saints to remember:

St David – 1 March.

"Good and gracious God, as we give thanks for St David, guide us".

St Patrick, 17 March.

"Lord, in your love, we arise each day".

St Joseph, 19 March.

"Jesus cared for by Joseph: come lighten our darkness".

For our worship we continue to have our Sunday services at 10.30am and we have a mid-week service of Morning Prayer each Wednesday at 9.30am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

In Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing through to April, at 10.30am there will be a Lent Course in the church hall each Wednesday. Again, everyone is welcome.



Another special date

On **25 March** we celebrate The Annunciation. The Christian church has celebrated this festival since the fourth century. The angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell of the birth of Jesus – the day known as Lady Day.

Events

The cake and coffee mornings, bacon butties and bingo coffee mornings and the bingo afternoon are always well supported – here re the dates for March:
Friday 10 March, 10am.
Coffe and cakes in the church hall.

St Mary's Bay continued on page 23

All Saints' Church Book of Remembrance Request for inclusion of name

The book is kept in the church

Please return this form to:

Pauline Moses, The Waves, Coast Drive, St Mary's Bay TN29 0HN Tel: 01797 363175.

A minimum donation of £10 towards the cost of calligraphy would be very much appreciated. Cheques made payable to: **PCC St Mary's Bay.**



All Saints' Church Book of Remembrance request for inclusion of name

Name of deceased (as to be written in book):

.....

Deceased's date of birth: Deceased's date of death:

Name, address and telephone number of person requesting entry in book:

.....

.....

.....

*All Saints Church, St Mary's Bay
welcomes your support...*

**Please join us for cake and coffee on
Friday 10th March 2023, 10-12 noon to help
raise vital funds for our church**



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St Mary's Bay *continued from page 21*

Saturday 11 March, 10am.

Lent 'Sight Savers' coffee morning in the church hall.

Saturday 18 March, 12 noon.

Lent Soup Lunch in the church hall.

Monday 27 March, 2.30pm.

Bingo, tea and biscuits in the church hall. •

February quiz answers

1 Greaves 2 Saul 3 Hophni 4 Merab. •

March quiz

Answers to be found in the February
Marsh Message.

- 1 Where can you try something for free in 2023?
- 2 What does CARM stand for?
- 3 What is the name of the church in New Romney High Street?

4 What is special about 3 March and how many countries are involved?

5 Which building is reopening on Saturday mornings?

Answers next month! •

Gardening tips

■ Hoe and mulch weeds.

■ Mow the lawn on dry days. Keep a 'wild patch'.

■ Sow seeds outdoors when it is mild.

■ Plant summer bulbs such as dahlia and lilies.

■ Prune roses and hydrangea.

A busy time is beginning! •

For us, another Spring Time beckons. Enjoy all that this means. New life! •

*God bless you all,
Pauline Moses*

St MARY IN THE MARSH

St Mary the Virgin

Pennies for Porridge

Giving to those less fortunate than ourselves is a basic precept of Christian life. The PCC have kindly agreed to host the Lenten Pennies for Porridge fund raiser again in 2023.

You are invited to take a jar and fill it with loose change. All the money collected then goes to the Mt. Kenya Tree Nursery to provide a daily nourishing drink for children at the adjacent nursery school.

As with other charities, Mt Kenya Tree Nursery has ever-increasing demands on its funds. Strain on the world economy, plus the effect of the war in Ukraine all influence the cost of grain and milk, even in rural Kenya. The cost of such items has more than doubled. More parents are finding it difficult to feed their families,



creating greater reliance on the nutrition that the daily porridge drink gives their youngsters.

Many to thanks all who regularly support this vital project. •

Spring Fair

The joint Church and The Project Fund's annual Spring Fair will be on **Saturday, 25 March** from 10am to 12 noon in the church. The usual stalls will be in attendance: tea/coffee; homemade cakes and savouries; books, raffle, tombola etc.

Any donations of home-made cakes and pastries gratefully received. Also, any volunteers to help on the day would be much appreciated.

Please contact Helen Carr if you are able to help, or if you require more information, on **07971 236897**. •



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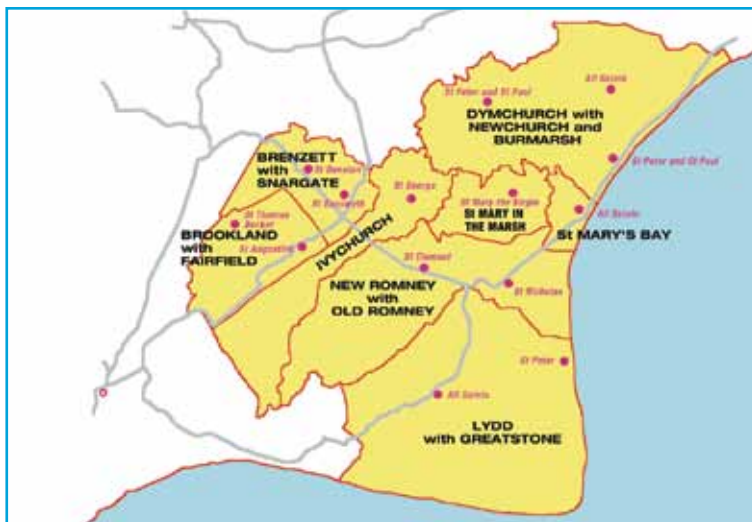
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Benefice churches' locations

If you are visiting the area and want to visit the 14 Benefice churches, here are their locations.



All Saints, Burmarsh

Church Road, Burmarsh, Kent TN29 0JG
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.048981 0.996376
 what3words.com: ///restriction.swoop.overcomes

All Saints, Lydd

High Street, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AJ
 GPS/Google Maps: 50.951771 0.906204
 what3words.com: ///exotic.fidgeting.videos

All Saints, St Mary's Bay

Jefferstone Lane, St Mary's Bay, Kent TN29 0SW
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.009073 0.978182
 what3words.com: ///sprouts.sensibly.starlight

St Augustine, Brookland

High St, Brookland, Kent TN29 9QR
 GPS/Google Maps: 50.997452 0.833787
 what3words.com: ///toast.secondly.marketing

St Clement, Old Romney

off Five Vents Lane, Old Romney, Kent TN29 0HP
 GPS/Google Maps: 50.990319 0.898056
 what3words.com: ///strictly.dockers.forwarded

St Dunstan, Snargate

off B2080, Snargate, Kent TN29 9UQ
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.022604 0.837408
 what3words.com: ///risky.marshes.outnumber

St Eanswith, Brenzett

Brenzett, Kent TN29 0BL
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.013743 0.857449
 what3words.com: ///hacking.according.unfolds

St George, Ivychurch

Ashford Rd, Ivychurch, Kent TN29 0AL
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.012395 0.889533
 what3words.com: ///bongo.downs.jogging

St Mary the Virgin, St Mary in the Marsh

Pickneybush Lane, St Mary in the Marsh, Kent TN29 0BX
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.013895 0.942450
 what3words.com: ///professed.defaults.months

St Nicholas, New Romney

Church Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8AR
 GPS/Google Maps: 50.985118 0.940809
 what3words.com: ///item.array.belief

St Peter, Greatstone

Baldwin Road, Greatstone, Kent TN28 8RG
 GPS/Google Maps: 50.964092 0.960991
 what3words.com: ///movements.retrial.sushi

St Peter & St Paul, Dymchurch

New Hall Close, Dymchurch, Kent TN29 0LD
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.028352 0.997616
 what3words.com: ///payout.dried.boomers

St Peter & St Paul, Newchurch

The Street, Newchurch, Kent TN29 0DP
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.045044 0.929149
 what3words.com: ///coughed.appealing.awesome

St Thomas Becket, Fairfield

Beckett Road, Fairfield, Kent TN29 9RY
 GPS/Google Maps: 51.003936 0.799485
 what3words.com: ///whistling.twitchy.stack

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Our green shoots



March begins and we start to notice the green shoots of spring growth more and more. Within our congregation, grandparents have news of babies to come in the months ahead.

The Romney Marsh bursts with the new life of lambs in green fields and yellow daffodils line the lanes, raising our spirits after the cold winter season.

Jesus the Good Shepherd feels so appropriate here and I think of the effort made to bring each lost sheep back to the fold.

In the world we have had such horror. We have been watching reports from Turkey and Syria after the huge earthquake which took so many thousands of lives. Every survivor is a green shoot, a life saved from dry rubble in a place of death.

The anniversary of the war in Ukraine on 24 February marked a chilling milestone.

The war continues. We pray for peace and nurture the green shoots of support for the people who have been suffering.

ChildAid for Eastern Europe has organised trauma care for children in Ukraine and Moldova. This will take place online during the war, but there are plans for face-to-face counselling and therapy when peace is a reality.

These green shoots of planning for peace offer hope at a difficult time. Despite the war, plans for recovery are valuable.

The events in Turkey, Syria and Ukraine are bleak and horrifying, yet we can still find green shoots appearing in the most barren places.

I have been thinking of the hymn *Now the Green Blade Riseth* by John Macleod Campbell Crum. Here is the last verse:

*When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life
again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare
have been:
Love is come again like wheat
that springeth green.*

Eternal Father,

*We thank you for the beauty of green
fields and for the green shoots of
spring.*

*Here on Romney Marsh, we are uplifted
by new lambs and longer, warmer days
which begin to fill with early flowers
after the cold of winter.*

*We pray for the people of Turkey, Syria
and Ukraine, where the natural disaster
of earthquake and the evil of war have
brought despair and destruction.*

*May hearts in pain be called back to life
by the touch of Jesus, Our Saviour.*

*We pray for peace and healing love
to nurture the green shoots of recovery.
Amen.*

Gaynor Cobb



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Romney Marsh Rotary Club



The Rotary Club of Romney Marsh is one of 74 rotary clubs in the South East of England and Gibraltar and is proud to announce that on the evening of its 'Thank you' event in January, the Assistant Governor for the region – Peter Sherred – presented an award recognising the club as No.1 in the district *per capita* for giving to the Rotary International Foundation charity, one of the most effective and well-managed charitable organisations in the world.

This prestigious award reflects the generosity of Romney Marsh members in helping Rotarians all over the world to help and support people in desperate need particularly, in recent times, those in Ukraine and in the area of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Peter Sherred said that he was proud of the work that our club was, and is, undertaking and that the award reflects the Rotary principle of 'Service before Self'. Stephen Hagues, the current President of the club, accepted the award on behalf of the members and remarked "Whilst our main priority is to support local charities and good causes, Rotary is an international body and when help is called for we also do our best to help where we can."

It was a welcome surprise for the club to receive this award and reflects the efforts that members have shown to



Rotary Club of Romney Marsh president Stephen Hagues, left, accepts the award from Peter Sherred.

support people in need but, with Christmas now behind us, our thoughts turn to the future planned events for the remainder of the Rotary year which ends in June.

A very successful Burns Night supper was held in January, the proceeds from which will be donated to CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh) and a Quiz Night is planned for **13 May** at the New Romney Bowls Club. But the biggest event on the calendar is our annual golf day which will be held at the Littlestone Warren Golf Club on **26 April**, see our advert on the facing page for full details, contact Mark Singfield on **01797 367258**, or see our club website **www.romneymarshrotary.co.uk** for an entry form. •

☐ For all you people who can't stand musical puns, you have my sympathy; I can't stand them either.

☐ My ducks are absolutely not in a row. At this point, I don't even know where my ducks are.





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St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

Candlemas at St Nicholas CE Primary Academy

We were lucky enough to have our first Eucharist service in school this term using the beautiful communion set

which had been bought for us by the church. It was a beautiful service led by Reverend Chris and Reverend Jacky.

It meant that the children who had been





confirmed recently were able to receive communion in school for the first time with Lehel learning how to be a server.

The rest of Key Stage 2 were able to choose to receive a blessing. It was a deeply moving and spiritual occasion when all the candles were lit and the school was silent in prayer. We are already planning our next Eucharist service in school. Later in the year, we are hoping to run more confirmation classes for children who want to confirm their belief in God.

Worship Leaders start a St Nicholas Community Cupboard

Worship leaders at school have reflected on how they can help and support people in our school community, many of whom they know are struggling with the rising cost of living. Following a meeting with Mrs Turner and Rev'd. Chris, the worship leaders decided to collect food and toiletries every Monday and Tuesday in school and then make it available for families who might need it. "The idea came to us when we were delivering worships about harvest and supporting those in need but families can be in need any time of year, not just



harvest, and we wanted to make sure that we could find ways to support them" – Year 4 worship Leaders. "If lots of us can give a tin regularly, then nobody at our school should have to go hungry at the weekend because we are a community and we want to show we care for each other."

If anybody wants to make a donation, please just bring food or toiletries to the school and we will ensure that it gets passed on to families in need.

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To preserve these important habitats the team of staff and volunteers work hard to manage the site and there's been no exception this past month. They have been busy clearing willow regrowth mainly from some of our freshwater pits. These are home to rare fen vegetation and as such encroaching willow/bramble is controlled to allow this fen vegetation and any other plants to flourish.

There have been some crucial infrastructure improvements to our hide in recent weeks. We have had the roof and foundation to some of them replaced with the hope of improving their longevity.

We had our first Winter Wildlife Guided Walk of 2023. It had a great turnout of attendees and wildlife, with sightings including greenfinches, goldeneye, great white egret, and kestrels.



Coming events

15 February and 15 March
Wildlife Guided Walk.

17 February, 8 and 12 April
Pond Dipping Open Sessions.

22 February and 25 March
Sound Mirror Exclusive Art and Photography Day.

12 March
Sound Mirror Open Day (*sold out*).

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Ivychurch Croquet Club

The club's AGM was held in the village hall on a very cold January morning followed by lunch at *The Bell*.

The outgoing committee was re-elected *en bloc* and preparations are now underway for the start of the new season in April.

Quiz Night

The Spring Quiz is on **Saturday 4 March** 7pm for 7.30pm and will be held in **St Mary's Bay** village hall – please note the new venue: St Mary's Bay village hall.

Teams may be up to a maximum of six people.

Entry for the quiz remains £5 per person and not as advertised in February's *Marsh Message*. Bring your own drink and food.

To book a table, please phone Andrew on **01797 362097** or email **asinden@vfast.co.uk**

The club will re-open for play on



3 April 2023, weather permitting. New members are always welcome. Please contact Andrew, as above, for information.

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Sunday 26 March

We meet at St Peter and St Paul, Dymchurch, at 3pm to go to the edge of our Parish, The Martello Lakes area, and go west to Ridout and Neptune Holiday Centre. We intend finishing at about 5pm. We would love to have some people to come at 3pm to start the time with encouraging us in prayer.
Do phone Sue Richardson on 01303 980027 for more information.



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Middlemarsh WI

Middlemarsh WI held its monthly meeting on the first Thursday in the month and our speakers were Sheila and Mary from 'wellbeing', who gave members several different treatments, hand and foot massages, hot stone neck and back treatments along with healing and the use of crystals. A very enjoyable session.

We planned outings and discussed a visit to the RNLI in Dungeness which will be followed by lunch at *The Pilot*. We also discussed who we would support in the coming year, and we decided to continue

supporting the RNLI as one of our members knits amazing items that are snapped up every month, all the proceeds going to the RNLI. We also voted to support Porchlight which helps the homeless.

Members were reminded about our craft group which meets on the second Tuesday every month. We welcomed two visitors to our meeting and hope to see them again next month.

If you have any queries please phone Rosemary on **01303 875359**.

Newchurch WI

Andrew Ashton was the speaker at our February meeting with a fascinating illustrated talk on the famous local residence 'Goldenhurst'. Most of us were aware that Noel Coward had made it his residence for many years and his house guests had included an amazing list of famous people – Greta Garbo, Ian Fleming, Margot Fonteyn, Richard Burton and Michael Redgrave among them.

The original house was timber framed from recycled ships timbers and originally only had an earth floor. Over the years it has undergone many renovations and changes with it's most recent famous owner, Julian Clary, being particularly keen to restore the gardens to their original glory. Our speaker, Andrew, had worked as the gardener for ten years and from the photos, the white garden (echoing Sissinghurst) looked particularly stunning. Julian Clary has now sold 'Goldenhurst' but it appears that another famous owner is now in residence. It was lovely to have a talk on a local property with so much history relating to it. We are also hoping to hear more of Andrew's talks in the future.

Andrew kindly judged the competition entries of 'Ornament of a Cottage'. Helen

was the winner with a beautiful David Winter thatched cottage but Lesley Beeching and Brenda Leverick were close runners up with their entries.

Members were saddened to hear that Rose Fitzgerald's husband had recently passed away. A card has been sent to her on behalf of our WI.

Details were finalised for those members going to the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury for a performance of *Fisherman's Friends*. A few of us are also going to the Council Meeting at the Leas Cliff Hall in March.

We already have several future events include an afternoon tea to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, an evening meal to celebrate our birthday month and some members will be attending the Group Meeting being hosted by Middlemarsh WI in April.

Our next meeting will be our Annual Meeting on **Tuesday 7 March** at 7.30pm in Newchurch Village Hall. The competition will be 'Six Homemade Sausage Rolls'.

If anyone would like further information about our WI please contact Brenda on **01233 720181** or Gill on **01303 874154**.

- ☐ The word 'queue' is just the letter Q followed by four silent letters. So a waste of my time reading it or what?
- ☐ Vicar: "I now pronounce you man and wife. You may update your Facebook status."



**What's on at the The Romney Marsh Community Hub
March – May 2023**

Friday 10th March - Hub in the Hall, Newchurch
(Information and advice support) - 10am - 12noon

Friday 10th March - Veteran's pop in - 10am - 12noon

Friday 17th March - St Patrick's Day Coffee Morning
All welcome 10am -12noon, includes a visit from Safe Hands with a selection of goods for you to see and try. James Musselwhite (wax removal Clinician) from The Hearing Care Partnership will be here.

Saturday 25th March - Spring Fayre
Many stalls to browse all welcome from 10am-2pm

Friday 31st March - Our ever-popular Quiz night
From 6:30pm - Book early to avoid disappointment.

Friday 5th May - Coronation lunch with entertainment.

Crafty Club:
All Crafty Club workshops 1:30pm to 4pm
£5 limited places booking essential

Monday 6th March - Card Making
Monday 13th & 20th March - Easter Decorations
Monday 27th March - Flower arranging
Monday 3rd April - Easter Cake decorating

Every Tuesday Singing Group 1.30pm-2.30pm
all abilities welcome £5 per session

For more information about any of these events and activities
Call 01797 363888 | visit www.rmch.org.uk | email hello@rmch.org.uk

Romney Marsh Community Hub



On Friday 2 December, the Romney Marsh Community Hub threw a party to celebrate all things 'volunteer' and, as it was December, we threw in some Christmas Cheer as well!

With over 45 of our volunteers in attendance we had a nice turn out at this busy time of year.

The proceedings started with ensuring everyone had a well-deserved glass of wine. Everyone was then welcomed by our Wellbeing Team Leader, Andrea Hutchens, who read a thank you speech from our CEO, Jon Wilson.

Gavin Hitchman, our Volunteer Coordinator, then took to the floor to give a personal and comedic thank you to everyone for not just the hours they give, but the welcoming environment they have created here at the Hub for customers and new staff and volunteers alike.

The most wonderful buffet was then unveiled and, seeing as there wasn't any

left at the end, we are happy to say it was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Gavin once again took to the floor and began the congratulations, with each and every volunteer awarded a certificate for their valued Commitment and Contribution. They were also presented with a thank you pack of homemade fudge from the Fudge Fairy!

Two very special awards for Long Service were then presented to Margaret Edwards and Joyce Cattroll. These ladies have volunteered for an incredible combined total of 60 years, not only with us but with Hi Kent hearing aids, as well as supporting many other clinics held at The Hub.

It is fair to say the event was a complete success and will be replicated throughout 2023 as we just can't thank our volunteers enough.

For more information on the Romney Marsh Community Hub visit www.rmch.org.uk



*Left, l-to-r:
Tracy Bartlett,
Margaret
Edwards
(volunteer for
27 years),
Gavin Hitchman,
Joyce Cattroll
(volunteer for
33 years) and
Tony Hooper.*





ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY HUB

Sunflower House, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, TN28 8JR

**FREE
ENTRY**

Spring Fayre

Sat 25th March 2023

10.00am to 1.30pm

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We look forward to welcoming you

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New Romney History Society



The Society's AGM took place at the Old School, New Romney on Monday 23 January. The existing committee was re-elected with no additions.

Chairman: Gaynor Cobb

Secretary: vacancy.

Treasurer: Des Bidwell.

Membership Secretary: Mike Shannon.

Mike has started to taking on quite a lot of the responsibilities of the secretary, and so he and Gaynor are sharing the role at the moment.

After the meeting, Mike Shannon gave a presentation from the Fifth Continent Oral History Project about tourism on the Marsh. Mike presented a number of

snippets of memories, given by people remembering visits to the Marsh in years gone by.

At the time of writing the February meeting has not taken place, but it will be on **Monday 27 February** at the Old School. Keith Swallow will talk about Dungeness, and there will be a report on that in the next issue.

On **27 March**, NRHS will be visiting the Town Hall in New Romney with the mayor, Cllr. Paul Thomas, in place of our usual meeting.

NRHS is a small, friendly society and new members are most welcome. Please email Gaynor on **g7.cobb@gmail.com** for details.

Greatstone WI

In February members did a 'hands on' of painting ceramics, to bring out their art talents. WI business was taken after refreshments. In March we choose a new committee.

The Pancake Event which Greatstone was hosting had to be cancelled but we are now looking forward to the Group Meeting being held at St. Mary's Bay and

the Annual Council meeting at Folkestone As the weather gets warmer teas and lunches will be arranged and we may well have an outside picnic.

Greatstone WI meets in St. Peters Church Hall, Baldwin Rd. Greatstone on the second Monday of each month, at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on **13 March**.

NEW ROMNEY METHODIST CHURCH

A warm welcome awaits you at our worship Sundays,
held alternate Sundays at 10.30am.

See our noticeboard for dates.

High Street, New Romney TN28 8AH



Romney Marsh

Kate Brownnett



I love this Marsh I now call Home.
 I love to wander, I love to roam
 Along the beach looking out to sea
 Where waves and skylines envelop me.
 Glancing out along the bay
 Where Dungeness looms in fine array
 Great guardian of a low-lying land,
 Radiating power lines across stone and sand.
 And shingle beaches strewn with gear
 Of fishing trips far from here.
 Then steam trains puff and smoke and snort,
 Sending out whistles as they ought
 Through fields of green flecked white with sheep
 Dykes well dug that rushes sweep.
 All host of birds and creatures writhe
 With me at home in this landscape thrive.
 Where humans settle, church and farm
 Free from conflict free from harm.
 And vast our bay sweeps forever over
 To rising chalk cliffs of distant Dover.

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Dean Hayward The Haywardians



John Stainer's Crucifixion

St Mary the Virgin,
St Mary in the Marsh

**Good Friday,
7th April
7.30pm**

*Retiring Collection
in aid of CARM*

The Haywardians



The Haywardians is a four-part harmony choir, based in St Mary in the Marsh. We welcome members from all over Romney Marsh and SE Kent. The choir sings a wide range of music, both sacred and secular, from Handel to Snow Patrol. As a non-profit making choir, our aim is to have fun and enjoy singing while raising money for local charities and good causes. Last year we raised £3,540. In total, we have raised £40,500.

Please note the change of dates for two of our concerts:

The performance of Stainer's Crucifixion will now be on Good Friday, 7 April in St Mary the Virgin, St Mary in the Marsh at 7.30pm. Advance booking not required. There will be a retiring collection in aid of CARM (Caring Altogether Romney Marsh).

Dates for 2023

Good Friday, 7 April, 7.30pm.

Stainer's Crucifixion, St Mary in the Marsh.

Saturday, 22 April, 7.30pm.

St George's concert for RM Rotary, St Mary's Bay village hall.

Saturday, 17th June, 7.30pm.

St Mary's, Langley.

Saturday, 12 August, 7.30pm.

Last Night of the Proms, St Mary in the Marsh.

Saturday, 9 September, 7.30pm.

For Dymchurch Methodist at New Romney Methodist Church.

Date TBC, 7.30pm.

Christmas Concert for Mt Kenya Tree Nursery, St Mary in the Marsh.

The choir meets every Friday evening at 7.30pm in St Mary in the Marsh and new members are always welcome. For more information, contact Andrew on **01797 362097** or email **haywardians@vfast.co.uk**

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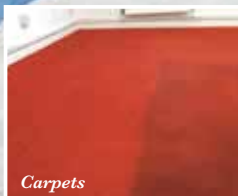
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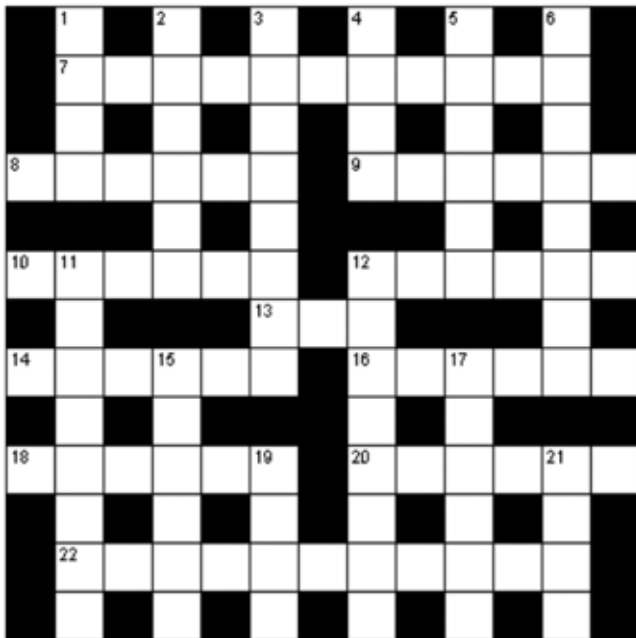
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General Crossword



Across

- 7 Suitable (11)
- 8 Small crustacean (6)
- 9 Garden hedge plant (6)
- 10 Unsteady on one's feet (6)
- 12 Heavenly spirits (6)
- 13 Dolt (3)
- 14 Motor fuel (6)
- 16 More courageous (6)
- 18 Patron saint of Scotland (6)
- 20 Frightened (6)
- 22 Star-gazers (11)

Down

- 1 Impetuous (4)

- 2 Short fast race (6)
- 3 Non-commissioned officer (8)
- 4 Let fall (4)
- 5 Manufacturing (6)
- 6 Wake-up signal (8)
- 11 Eastern (8)
- 12 Fire-resistant mineral (8)
- 15 Layers (6)
- 17 Astounded (6)
- 19 Timber (4)
- 21 Gaelic (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 57

- ☐ I'm going to stop asking "How dumb can you get?". People seem to take it as a challenge.
- ☐ My wife says I only have two faults – I don't listen and something else.



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Saturday Morning openings

The Old School in Church Lane New Romney has been used extensively over the last few years as a Covid Vaccination Centre with around 40,000 vaccinations administered. We are proud that the building has been used for such a vital purpose.

With the vaccination programme running down we are now in a position to start opening regularly again so that people can come into the Old School to see the many documents, historical records and artefacts that we hold. Most are about local people, places and events.

We also hold copies of the Old School registers as well as numerous photographs. We act very much as a local museum, research and heritage centre as well as a community centre for local groups and classes.

We used to open on Sundays but in order to hopefully encourage more people to come and visit us **we will be opening on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month from 10am to 12.30pm.**

Entrance is free, so please come and visit us!

For more information please refer to our website:
newromneyoldschool.co.uk
or contact Pat Goodsell on **01797 458200**.

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The New Romney Poetry Society

Do you enjoy reading and listening to poems? If so you might like to come along to the New Romney Poetry Society meeting which is usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Old School, New Romney. Topics are selected in advance, so you will have plenty of time to research your poems. You do not have to write your own, but you can if you wish.

The New Romney poetry group were unable to meet in December owing to the inclement weather. We met again in January and celebrated the poetry of Robert Burns with a Burns supper (at lunch time).

The Haggis was 'piped' in, courtesy of

some music on the Internet, and Evelyn read Burns' address *To a Haggis*, which we ate with 'neeps and tatties' in the old highland manner, followed by a dessert of cranachan, a mixture of raspberries, cream and oats. In the afternoon we read poems mostly by Burns, including *John Barleycorn*, *Tam O'Shanter* and *Winter: A Dirge*. Sadly, we forgot to end with *Auld Lang's Ayne*!

So if you feel tempted, please ring, Ann Stark on **01797 362257** or Evelyn Elliott on **01323 840432** for more details. We cannot promise you a 'slap-up' meal at every meeting but we can offer tea and biscuits! What are you waiting for?

- ☐ The rule is 'I' before 'E' except after 'C'. Or unless it's when your foreign neighbour Keith receives eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weightlifters.



Romney Marsh Photographic Club

The **Romney Marsh Photographic Club** is **your** local camera club for the Romney Marsh and welcomes anyone interested in any aspect of photography – including smartphone photography, 3D, printing, digital projection and image manipulation.

The club meets each Thursday at 8pm, from September to mid-May, at the St Mary's Bay village hall, Jefferstone Lane TN29 0SW (opp. *The Bailiffs* Sergeant pub) or uses Zoom meetings if required.

Contact Paul Sanderson 01797 458646 • SecRMPC@gmail.com • romneymarshphotographicclub.co.uk

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ST MARY'S BAY COMPUTER CLUB

Each Wednesday 9.30am to 1pm.

St. Mary's Bay Village Hall,
Jefferstone Lane, St Mary's Bay.

Tel: 07484 293703.

You don't have to sign up for a whole course – just do whatever length of time you like.

DYMCHURCH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6pm for 6.15pm.

Dymchurch Village Hall,
Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.

Tel: Margaret 01797 367183 or
Brenda 01233 720181.

COUNTRY MICE NEEDLECRAFT CLUB

Each Wednesday 7pm to 9pm.

New Romney Old School, Church Lane,
New Romney.

Tel: Sue 01797 364133.

GAMES CLUB

Each Monday 2pm to 4pm.

St Peter's Hall, Roberts Road,
Greatstone.

Free parking, free entry.

CRAFTS-'N'-LAUGHS

Each Thursday 2pm to 4pm.

St Peter's Hall, Roberts Road,
Greatstone.

Free parking, free entry.

ROMNEY MARSH PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

Each Thursday 8pm, Sept to mid-May,

St Mary's Bay Village Hall,
Jefferstone Lane, St Mary's Bay.

Tel: Paul on 01797 458646

Email: SecRMPC@gmail.com or go to
www.RomneyMarshPhotographicClub.co.uk

For anyone interested in any aspect of photography (including smartphones, and image manipulation in computer software).

IVYCHURCH CROQUET CLUB

Meets Mondays and Wednesdays from
10.30am to 3pm (approx.)

Millbank Farm, Marsh Road,
Ruckinge, Kent TN26 2QB

Tel: Andrew Sinden on 01797 362097

The club welcomes new members or anyone who is interested in finding out about croquet. Come along and try your hand!

MEETING POINT

Tuesdays, 10am-midday.

St Peter's Hall, Baldwin Road,
Greatstone, Kent TN28 8RG

and Thursdays, 10am-midday

Hardy Hall, Skinner Road,
Lydd TN29 9DD.

Open house for a coffee and a chat.

ST MARY'S BAY SOCIAL SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

Every Friday 7pm until 9.30pm.

St Mary's Bay Village Hall, Jefferstone
Lane, St Mary's Bay.

Tel: Valerie on: 01233 629815.

SHORT MAT BOWLING

Sunday mornings at 10.30am, Tuesdays
2pm and Wednesday evenings at 7pm.

St Mary's Bay Village Hall,
Jefferstone Lane, St Mary's Bay.

Tel: Chris on 01303 870694 (or just
turn up).

Come and give short mat bowling a try!

NEW ROMNEY CRAFT GROUP

Each Tuesday 7pm to 9pm.

New Romney Old School, Church Lane,
New Romney.

Tel: Sandie 01797 362689 or

Sue 01797 364133.

DROP IN (term-time only)

Each Wednesday 9am-11am.

St Peter's Hall, Baldwin Road,
Greatstone, Kent TN28 8RG

For coffee and chat.

CIETIES and MEETINGS

*Entry in this listing is free,
though the listing does not
necessarily appear in all issues.*

CARM MEETING POINTS

(Caring All Together on Romney Marsh)

Dymchurch: Each Monday
10am-12 noon.

The Methodist Church Hall, Dymchurch.

Coastal: Each Tuesday 10am-12 noon.
St Peter's Church Hall, Greatstone.

For more details phone the CARM office
on 01233 758122.

*A warm welcome and a chance to meet
new friends over a cuppa, games,
regular activities and talks of interest.*

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMNEY MARSH

Meets every Thursday at 7.00pm.

The Littlestone Warren Golf Club

St. Andrews Road TN28 8RB.

Contact Sarah Day on 07513 403398

or www.romneymarshrotary.co.uk

HOUSE GROUPS AND PRAYER MEETINGS

Each Thursday afternoon, 3pm.

**Sybil Kelt, 33a Alfred Road, Greatstone,
Kent TN28 8SJ, tel: 01797 363 002.**

NEW ROMNEY BOWLS CLUB

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*Created 2016 by Eric Brown, Keep
Britain Tidy Ambassador. New pickers
always welcome anywhere and
everywhere on the Romney Marsh.*

ALL SAINTS LYDD BELL RINGERS

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Captain: Mrs. Margaret Alflatt,

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Ringin practice and learning to ring.

FRIENDS OF LYDD CHURCH

Rev. Chris Maclean, tel: 01797 320345.

NEW ROMNEY HISTORY SOCIETY

**On the fourth Monday of the month at
The Old School, Church Lane,
New Romney.**

**Further information from Gaynor Cobb
at g7.cobb@gmail.com or 01797 363747.**

*Meetings currently outside during the
pandemic since The Old School has not
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PEBBLES DEMENTIA CAFE

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Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers

The February meeting was a practical workshop. The workshop was entitled *Making a Willow Basket*. Committee member Cecilia, demonstrated how to create the base of the basket with the willow strands. The willow twigs had been soaked in water to make them more pliable and easier to weave. When the base was completed, a handle was tied at the top joining the long strands from the base, and the basket was completed.

Some members plaited the handle to give the basket a more decorative effect. The pictures illustrate the base structure of the basket, and the completed basket with a floral arrangement in the basket.

This meeting was well attended by 27 members, and we were able to welcome two new members to our group.



Diary Dates

8 March

Demonstration by Ellouise Hasler Stott.
Title: *A Spring Walk*.

12 April

Demonstration by Helen Hare.
Title: *Spring Romance*.

All meetings are 2pm for 2.30pm at St. Mary's Bay Village Hall, Visitors welcome. For more information contact Carol **01797 363662**. We look forward to seeing you.



- ☐ If you want to get rid of somebody, just tell them something for their own good. - *Kim Hubbard*
- ☐ I know Facebook never caused the lame to walk but it has sure caused the dumb to speak.
- ☐ Freedom of the press in Britain means freedom to print such of the proprietor's prejudices as the advertisers don't object to. - *Hannen Swaffer*



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Meeting Points

Dymchurch Meeting Point

Mondays 10am-noon.

Dymchurch Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Dymchurch TN29 0NL.

Greatstone Meeting Point

First and third Tuesday of the month 10am-noon.

St Peter's Church Hall, Baldwin Road, Greatstone TN28 8RG.

Lydd Meeting Point

Thursdays 10am-noon, Hardy Hall, Skinner Road, Lydd TN29 9HN.

Brookland Meeting Point

Fourth Friday of the month 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Brookland Village Hall, Boarman's Lane, Brookland TN29 9RG.

The Bridge Meeting Point

First and third Friday of the month 10am-noon

Unit 12, Mountfield Road, New Romney TN28 8LH.

Burmarsh Meeting Point

Watch this space...

Are you ready to see some friendly faces and have a chat together over a **cup of tea and a biscuit?**

Then do come along! There are rumours of **cake**...



CARM Meeting Points are your local place to drop in, enjoy the occasional speaker, outings and games, **and make friends.**

£1.50 voluntary contribution.

If you would like more information just call **CARM** on **01233 758 122**

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Tel: 01797 361906

Visits can be booked for:

Monday 14th November: at 9.45am & 1.30pm

Wednesday 16th November: at 9.45am & 6.00pm

Monday 21st November: at 1.30pm

Mon 9th & Thurs 12th January 2023: at 9.45am



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National Trust Rye & District

All are welcome to our events. Walks start 10am and are five to six miles, £3 only. Talks start 2pm at Brede Village Hall, and entry including refreshments – £5, or £4 for members. Do come along, we are a friendly group!

Tuesday 14 March

Meet at The Swan Inn, Sandhurst for a five miles walk with good views to the North, East and South of the village.

Thursday 16 March

How the West was Shot: Hollywood and the Wild, Wild West. This talk by Pete Allen forges a trail west to celebrate the men and women who helped make The Western the most important genre in cinema history and in doing so helped create the legends of Hollywood and America.



Saturday 13 May

Spring Lunch, Brickwall Hotel, Sedlescombe. The Brickwall Hotel is a charming 16th century Tudor mansion overlooking the pretty award-winning village green. We have been able to agree a really delicious three-course menu – with a choice of four for each course – all for the special price of £35pp (including tea/coffee and gratuities). This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to get together and enjoy good food and conversation in a really attractive setting. We all look forward to seeing you there!

If you wish to join our association, or just come along, contact Membership Secretary Dee Williams on **07760 115413**, or Louise Hull on **07791 383323**.

John Wright

Dymchurch Synners' WI

For the February WI meeting the members enjoyed a very informative talk by Heather from Givaudan and had the opportunity to smell some of the ingredients used to produce perfumes and everyday goods, such as cleaning and personal care products.

The March meeting will be the Annual General Meeting when voting for the new committee will take place.

However, new members and visitors are invited to attend the meeting taking place on **Thursday 13 April** when we will hear about the history of the Masons

and be treated to a tour of the Dymchurch Masonic Hall.

The WI group meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Dymchurch Masonic Hall – which is down the right-hand side of St Peter & St Paul's Church in Dymchurch. There is a free car park on site. Come at 9.45am for a 10am start and the meeting finishes at 12 noon.

For further information, or to arrange to come as a visitor to the meeting being held on Thursday 13 April, please contact Barbara on **01303 87039**.

ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD ON PAGE 45

Across 7 Appropriate; 8 Shrimp; 9 Privet; 10 Totter; 12 Angels; 13 Ass; 14 Diesel; 16 Braver; 18 Andrew; 20 Scared; 22 Astronomer.

Down 1 Rash; 2 Sprint; 3 Corporal; 4 Drop; 5 Making; 6 Reveille; 11 Oriental; 12 Asbestos; 15 Strata; 17 Amazed; 19 Wood; 21 Erse.



LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

■ Councils

Lydd Town Council

Guild Hall, 13 High Street, Lydd,
Kent TN29 9AF.

Tel: 01797 320 999.

Website: www.lyddtowncouncil.gov.uk

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9am to 12.30pm.

New Romney Town Council

Town Hall, High Street, New Romney,
Kent TN28 8BT.

Tel: 01797 362348.

Website: www.newromney-tc.gov.uk

Monday-Friday 9am to midday with additional 12.30pm-3.30pm on Wednesday.

Benefits Tel: 01303 853 853

Concessionary travel Tel: 01303 858 660

Rent Enquiries Tel: 01303 853 700

Council Tax Tel: 01303 853 555

Environmental Services Tel: 01303 858 660

■ Libraries

Lydd Library

20A Skinner Rd, Lydd, Kent TN29 9HN.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 11am-4pm.

Friday midday-4pm.

Saturday 9am-1pm.

Closed Wednesday and Sunday.

Free computer use/internet access and Wi-Fi, Shepway District Council Services website – free membership to access the above and borrow books, audio books, eBooks, eNewspapers, eMagazines.

Reading Group on first Saturday of the month (all welcome). Mah Jong group Thursday afternoons 1.30pm-4pm (all welcome). Free-to-use community space/reading room/gallery. Children's library.

New Romney Library

82 New Romney High Street,
Kent TN28 8AU.

Monday and Friday 9am-2pm.

Tuesday 1pm-5pm.

Wednesday and Saturday 9am-1pm.

Thursday 10am-4pm.

Closed Sunday.

Internet, children's library, online catalogue. No wheelchair access.

■ Doctors

Orchard House Surgery

Bleak Road, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AE.

Tel: 01797 320307.

Website: www.orchardhouse@nhs.net

Church Lane Surgery

Church Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8ER.

Tel: 01797 364756.

Website:

www.churchlanesurgerynewromney.nhs.uk

Oak Hall Surgery

41-43 High Street, New Romney,
Kent TN28 8BW.

Tel: 01797 362106.

Website: www.oakhallsurgery.nhs.uk

Martello Health Centre

20 Chapel Road, Dymchurch,
Kent TN29 0TD.

Tel: 01303 875 700.

Website: www.martellohealthcentre.nhs.uk

■ Emergency contacts

Emergency, Fire, Police, Ambulance or Coastguard Tel: 999

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Tel: 101

Community Wardens

Dymchurch Tel: 07969 583915

New Romney Tel: 07773 369751

Lydd Tel: 07969 583917

Gas leak Transco Tel: 0800 111 999

Electricity EDF Energy Tel: 0800 783 8866

Water Affinity Tel: 0845 888 5888

Shepway Council Tel: 01303 853000
or out of hours 01303 221888

■ Other

Fix My Street

Report graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, broken street lighting, etc.

Website: www.fixmystreet.com

Dungeness-Folkestone tide times

Website: www.tidetimes.org.uk

Crimestoppers

Reporting crime and anti-social behaviour.

Tel: 0800 555111 (100% anonymous)

Website: www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/community/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour



MARSH MESSAGE

EDITORIAL and ADVERTISING (all enquiries)

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ACCOUNTS (queries, payments for adverts)

Joe Butterworth • mm-accounts@romneychurches.org • 07470 196460

MAGAZINE DEADLINES FOR 2023

To assist your forward planning for material to appear in *Marsh Message*, here is a list of key dates in the production schedule for six months ahead. These are correct at the time of this issue going to press, though may change due to circumstances we are not yet aware of.

Note 1: The August issue is combined with the July issue; the January issue is combined with the December issue.

Note 2: 'Delivery to Benefice' is the earliest time a copy of *Marsh Message* might be seen; distribution takes place on and after that date.

ISSUE COVER DATE	Final text/pics to editor, noon on	Delivery to Benefice
April	Mon 13 Mar	Wed 22 Mar
May	Mon 17 Apr	Wed 26 Apr
June	Mon 15 May	Wed 24 May
July/August	Mon 12 June	Wed 21 June
September	Mon 14 Aug	Wed 23 Aug
October	Mon 18 Sept	Wed 27 Sept

ADVERT SIZES AND COSTS

VAT is not charged for these adverts. Advertising is a tax deductible business expense.

Advertising not paid for in advance will not be printed.

Whole page: 125mm wide x 186mm deep **£350.00 per annum** (£35.00p per issue).

Half page (horizontal): 125mm wide x 92mm deep **£175.00 per annum** (£17.50p per issue).

Half page (vertical): 60mm wide x 186mm deep **£175.00 per annum** (£17.50p per issue).

Quarter page (horizontal): 125mm wide x 45mm deep **£87.50 per annum** (£8.75p per issue).

Quarter page (vertical): 60mm wide x 90mm deep **£87.50 per annum** (£8.75p per issue).

Sixth page (horizontal): 125mm wide x 29mm deep **£80.00 per annum** (£8.00p per issue).

Sixth page (vertical): 61mm wide x 60mm deep **£80.00 per annum** (£8.00p per issue).

Twelfth page (horizontal only): 61mm wide x 29mm deep **£40.00 per annum** (£4.00p per issue).

Adverts submitted for printing need to be a high-resolution JPEG or PDF (not a website screen-grab).

If you do not have an advert we are happy to put one together for you at no extra cost.

Marsh Message financial queries to Joe Butterworth at:

mm-accounts@romneychurches.org

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01580 753322 • www.wealdenprint.co.uk



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ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE TEAM MINISTRY



romneychurches.org

■ TEAM RECTOR Rev'd. Christopher Hodgkins

Tel: 01797 335003 • Email: ctahodgkins@hotmail.co.uk • Day off: Friday

■ TEAM VICAR Rev'd. Christopher Maclean

Tel: 01797 320345 • Email: busyonasunday@gmail.com • Day off: Tuesday

■ ASSOCIATE TEAM PRIEST Rev'd. Jacky Darling

Tel: 07484 224973 • Email: jacky.darling@aol.com

■ ASSOCIATE TEAM PRIEST Rev'd. Shuna Body

Tel: 01797 343977 • Email: shunabody@hotmail.com

■ CHURCHES

All Saints, Burmarsh • All Saints, Lydd • All Saints, St. Mary's Bay • St. Augustine, Brookland
St. Clement, Old Romney • St. Dunstan, Snargate • St. Eanswith, Brenzett
St. George, Ivychurch • St. Mary the Virgin, St. Mary in the Marsh • St. Nicholas, New Romney
St. Peter, Greatstone • St. Peter & St. Paul, Dymchurch • St. Peter & St. Paul, Newchurch
St. Thomas Becket, Fairfield

■ MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev'd. Canon Sheila McLachlan (PTO) • Rev'd. Canon David Parrott (PTO)
Rev'd. Mike Gooch (PTO) • Rev'd. Shuna Body (SSM) • Rev'd. Jacky Darling (SSM)
George Faulks (LLM) • Les Carter (LLM) • June Noakes (LLM) • Penny Lowe (LLM)
Frances Aubrey (ALM) • Veronica Brown (ALM) • Christine Clark (Funerals)
Penny Mackrell (Pastoral Team)

■ PASTORAL TEAM

Penny Mackrell, Co-ordinator, tel: 01797 362560 • Sue Richardson

■ FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Charlotte Watkinson, tel: 01797 362685

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New Romney: Ann Rolfe, tel: 01797 362719

Dymchurch: Christine Clark, tel: 07740 395497

Burmarsh: Heather Bateman, tel: 01303 873781

Old Romney (custodian): Charlotte Watkinson, tel: 01797 362685

St. Mary in the Marsh: Bill Caudwell

St. Mary's Bay: Pauline Moses, tel: 01797 363175 • Ian Bentley, tel: 07808 510912

Newchurch: Mike Barclay, tel: 01303 872376 • Peter Dunning, tel: 01303 311779

Ivychurch: Margaret Waite, tel: 01797 344283

Lydd, Greatstone: Mike Botten, tel: 01797 321615

■ CHURCH BOOKINGS

St. Nicholas, New Romney: Ann Rolfe, tel: 01797 362719

All Saints, St. Mary's Bay: Len Dignan, tel: 01303 873451

All Saints, Burmarsh: vacant

Hardy Hall, Lydd: Maggie Clifton, tel: 07905 433302

St. Peter's Hall, Greatstone: Carol Comber, tel: 01797 367597

■ BENEFICE WEDDINGS, BLESSINGS AND BAPTISMS BOOKINGS

Ann Rolfe, tel: 01797 362719

■ WEBMASTER

Rev'd. Canon David Parrott, tel: dwparrott01@googlemail.com

MARSH MESSAGE

Editorial, Advertising (sizes and cost), Subscriptions/Distribution and Accounts information for this magazine is listed *inside this back cover*.

APRIL DEADLINE: Monday 13 March before 12 noon