

MAY 2023

£1.00

MARSH MESSAGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE

romneychurches.org



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



May 2023

■ Wednesday 3 May

9.30am Morning Prayer

St Mary's Bay.

■ Thursday 4 May

9.30am Holy Communion

Lydd.

■ Sunday 7 May, 5th Sunday of Easter

9.00am	Coronation Holy Communion	St Mary in the Marsh.
10.00am	Coronation Holy Communion	Newchurch.
10.30am	Coronation Morning Worship	Dymchurch.
10.00am	Coronation Holy Communion	Fairfield.
10.30am	Coronation Morning Worship	St Mary's Bay.
10.30am	Coronation Civic Service	Lydd.
10.30am	Coronation Holy Communion	Greatstone.
10.30am	Coronation Civic Service	New Romney.
6.00pm	Coronation service of the Word	Ivychurch.

■ Wednesday 10 May

9.30am Morning Prayer

St Mary's Bay.

6.30pm Holy Communion

Brookland.

■ Thursday 11 May

9.30am Holy Communion

Lydd.

■ Sunday 14 May, 6th Sunday of Easter

9.00am	Holy Communion	Snargate.
9.00am	Holy Communion	Burmarsh.
10.30am	Holy Communion	Dymchurch.
10.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Bay.
10.30am	Holy Communion	Lydd.
10.30am	Family Worship	Greatstone.
11.00am	Holy Communion	New Romney.
6.30pm	Evensong	St Mary in the Marsh.
6.30pm	Evensong	Brookland.

■ Wednesday 17 May

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bay.

■ Thursday 18 May, Ascension Day

7.00pm Benefice Holy Communion Lydd.

■ Sunday 21 May, 7th Sunday of Easter

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 Morning Worship Lydd.
11.00am Holy Communion New Romney.

■ Wednesday 24 May

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bay.
6.30pm Holy Communion Brookland.

■ Thursday 25 May

9.30am Holy Communion Lydd.

■ Sunday 28 May, Pentecost

9.00am No Service 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 Holy Communion New Romney.
6.30pm Evensong Ivychurch.

■ Wednesday 31 May

9.30am Morning Prayer St Mary's Bay.

ROMNEY MARSH BENEFICE WEDDINGS, BLESSINGS and BAPTISMS



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:

■ **Ann Rolfe 01797 362719**



Revving Up...

On 28 May the Church will be celebrating the 'Birthday of the Church'. We will read about the events of Pentecost in Acts when over 2,000 years ago the disciples received Jesus' promised gift of God's Holy Spirit. The disciples were hiding themselves away, afraid of the future, afraid of persecution, not knowing what direction to go in next. Without Jesus leading them they didn't think they could continue with his work but, as promised they received the Gift of The Holy Spirit. No longer are they hidden. This dramatic event revealed them as Disciples of Jesus and the Spirit gave them the ability to speak in other languages so that everyone there could understand what they were saying. WOW!

For many Christians Pentecost represents the Birth of the Church and it is certainly something to celebrate.

I invite us all to use this month of May to get ready for the Church's Birthday Party! As I am sure you know, if we want to have a successful party we need to prepare well and one of the first thing to do is to send out invitations. There is no good having a party without guests! Who are we going to invite?

If we are following Jesus' example then everybody is to be invited! Therefore our invitations need to make sense in both the written and spoken word. They need to be in a language that children, young people, the elderly and all our neighbours outside of the church can understand. Because if we are not careful enough to choose assessable (understandable) language we might just as well speak in an unknown foreign language which can alienate people and prevents anyone from hearing the Word and receiving the invitation.

This is one of the Church's biggest challenges and it's our challenge too. We need to ask ourselves how we can become more open, welcoming and inclusive in our attitudes towards others, perhaps many very unlike ourselves. We need to ask ourselves this question, otherwise our words will become like 'Hot Air' which just evaporates. We then can become like



deflated balloons, lifeless and empty of any joy! But all is not lost because a deflated balloon also offers the opportunity to be filled and an expectation of the joy it can bring to a party.

At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and those around them could hear and see that they were followers of Christ. They saw this through their joyful words and actions and many around them were attracted to what they said and did and became followers themselves. People today are still attracted to faith in God's Love but only if we share it first.

As today's disciples, we too can be filled with the Holy Spirit and share those gifts with others. Everyone of us has different gifts and talents which are to be equally valued. We too can share God's love and joy to those around us when sharing our unique gifts. When we use our individual gifts of the Holy Spirit, be it being a good listener, a good friend, offering Hospitality, making things, being good at accounts, playing music and singing, teaching and the list go on. As we use our gifts for the glory of God we are revealing God's gifts of the Holy Spirit of Love, Joy and Peace. WOW, what an amazing gift to share! Why wouldn't we want to share this exciting Good News!

Of course there is another very special party to be celebrated earlier in May. On 7 May we celebrate King Charles III's Coronation. Our churches throughout the Benefice will be holding special Sunday services and will also be joining in with village parties throughout the Benefice. Do come and join in these celebrations if you

Revving Up continued on page 6

Revving Up *continued from page 5*

can. For those who can't let us remember to include them by taking them cake to share. I feel sure there will be a lot of cakes and balloons around in May.

Have a joyous month of May and share that joy with family, friends and neighbours.

•
*Blessings and prayers,
Rev'd. Jacky Darling*

The special prayer for Pentecost

*Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of
faith,*

*revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

A special prayer for the Coronation of King Charles III

*Almighty God, the fountain of all
goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and
peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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FLOWER Festival



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, BURMARSH TN29 0JJ

FRIDAY, JULY 21ST 11AM - 5PM
SATURDAY JULY 22ND 10AM - 5PM
SUNDAY JULY 23RD 10AM - 4PM

REFRESHMENTS AND HOMEMADE CAKES

Our theme this year is based on
Wedding Anniversaries
Sponsors and help needed please

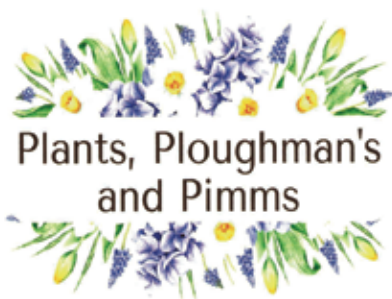
Burmarsh festival will take place around the
church yard on Saturday 22nd July.

TELEPHONE GINA HYSOON ON 01303 872341 OR HEATHER
BATMAN ON 01303 873781 FOR MORE INFORMATION



SUNDAY MAY 21st FROM 11am

Burmarsh DCC are holding a plant sale which will include bedding plants for the summer, vegetable plants and possibly some other donated plants! All at very reasonable prices.



Plants, Ploughman's and Pimms

There will also be a cake stall selling homemade cakes and biscuits, cream teas and other refreshments available too.

Ploughman's lunches will be available with a glass of Pimms! An afternoon not to be missed.

At the Church, Church Road, Burmarsh.
TN29 0JJ

BURMARSH

Plants, Pimms and
Ploughman's



craft sellers / charities who would like a stall email burmarshfestival@outlook.com.

The Burmarsh Festival will be donating some of the profit to the Hall fund. •

Church Hall

The window above the hall door has been cleaned – what an improvement! Thank you Mark.

Good news! Despite lots of letters from Folkestone and Hythe District Council demanding payment of business rates (letters received all had different amounts!) I can report that after many phone calls, form-filling etc, we have been exempt for this year although I am still waiting for the official confirmation letter.

We are awaiting the repair on the cracks at the back of the hall. We still have an uphill struggle but we are determined to carry on. We have raised £10,000, although some of that has already been paid out.

I had a Buy A Bag For £1 stall at the Easter egg hunt at Lathe Barn at the beginning of April. Gina was unwell so my friend Sue came to help. We made £84. •

The weather hasn't been very kind to us so far during this growing season with a lack of sunshine and frosty nights, but we will be ready as normal for our annual Plants, Pimms and Ploughman's, which will be on **21 May**, starting at 11am.

We hope the sun will shine for us then! We are taking orders now. Any help on the day would be much appreciated. Please get in touch if you are able to help: **01303 873781**. •

Flower festival

We are having a Flower Festival during the weekend of **21-23 July**. We have had a great response and have enough flower arrangers to do a variety of anniversary themes. Thank you all for volunteering.

Anyone who would like to sponsor an arrangement, either in memory of a loved one or an association, then we would be pleased to accept your money!!

Refreshments will be available during the weekend including home made cakes. This will coincide with the Burmarsh Village Festival event on **Saturday 22 July 22**. There will be stalls around the church hall and church, so if you know of

Dog show

Thanks to Celia Woodbridge, Apple Tree Cottage at Aldergate Lane, Burmarsh will be holding a Dog Show on **Sunday 23 July** in aid of the Hall fund. This is in conjunction with the Burmarsh Festival. •



Books and cakes

There will be a Book and Cake sale on **Saturday 12 August** from 1pm to 3pm, with Emma Batten. •

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DYMCHURCH

Coronation Celebration

In celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May, you are invited to bring your own picnic lunch for the gathering after the Sunday church service on **7 May**. The DDC have decided to make the gathering a bring-your-own picnic lunch as this will alleviate the need for the organising of food and catering for special dietary needs. Tea and coffee will be available.

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.

Leprosy Mission boxes

Please can the people who have Leprosy Mission boxes from St Peter and St Paul, Dymchurch return them to me as soon as possible.

Money needs to be sent to The Leprosy Mission which really needs this money for its work, especially in Bangladesh, where

- ☐ I'm the first to admit that my little lad isn't the most academic of people, but tonight he was looking at a distant electricity pylon and asked "Is that Paris?" So I've made a decision. And the decision is: I'm going to stop the standing order to his university savings fund.



there are many suffering from this dreadful disease.

Very many thanks – **Joan Duckworth,**
31 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch,
tel: **01303 872513.**

Dymchurch Synners WI

At their April meeting, Dymchurch Synners WI members enjoyed a very interesting talk and slide show from Martin Newcombe about *The Countryside of Dr Syn*.

We meet monthly on the second Thursday to enjoy lively meetings and social time, listen to a speaker or enjoy an activity. We have sub groups for many popular activities, with more groups in the making, so there is sure to be something to grab your attention.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 11 May** when we will be having an Introduction to Holistic Therapies with Sheila Thomas.

For further information or to arrange to come along as a visitor please contact any current member or email:
secdymchurchsynnerswi@aol.com

APCM – Sunday 14 May

Note for your diaries: The Dymchurch, Burmarsh and Newchurch APCM will take place after the Sunday service on **Sunday 14 May** at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Dymchurch.



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NEW ROMNEY OLD SCHOOL



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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GREATSTONE

St Peter's Church

Spring seems to be passing so fast this year! The Lent course for Lydd and Greatstone was held at lunchtimes and we enjoyed home-made soup as we studied together through the weeks of Beginnings and Endings.

There was a lot of laughter and we discovered what good cooks some of our men are! Once expenses were covered we were able to send a cheque to Porchlight, the local charity for the homeless.

Our Big Breakfast in April was another happy and successful morning thanks to



Big Breakfast.



Carole and Alison who slaved over hot stoves for two solid hours. The rest of us tucked in to their produce with gusto!

With the rest of the country we shall be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and on **Sunday 7 May** there will be a Community Bring and Share Lunch.

Next month there will not be a breakfast. On **20 May** at 10am there will be a Coffee Morning and Plant Sale. We hope the scaffolding will be gone by then and the tower will be waterproof once more.

The Craft Fair advertised for May is cancelled. It will be back in June.

St Peter's Church

PLANT SALE

and

COFFEE MORNING

 **Saturday 20th May** 
10 - 12 noon

St Peter's Church Hall
Roberts Road, Greatstone
Reg. Charity no: 1146683

IVYCHURCH VILLAGE CORONATION CELEBRATION



Monday 8th May from 12 noon

Ivychurch Village Green

(hall if weather is poor)



GAMES



Including **CHUCK-A-CHICKEN**,
children's activities and crafts,
competitions for 2 age groups
optional Fancy Dress Kings & Queens



BARBECUE 2pm

Entertainment by Applause 1pm and 3pm

Let's Go Clubbing

a juggling journey through the
history of club music



After the performance the audience will be invited
to have a go at circus skills!

... and...

STALLS

e.g. cakes, plants, books,
bric-a-brac, art, craft etc

to reserve your **FREE** table visit

ivychurchparishcouncil.org/contact-iaa/
(reservation essential)

IVYCHURCH

St George

Services in May

Sunday 7 May, 6pm.

This is one of the three days of Celebration of the Coronation of King Charles, and there will be a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving in St George. The service will be followed by a loyal toast. Do come.

Sunday 28 May, 6.30pm.

Evensong.

Easter Sunday



On Easter Sunday 24 children and 23 adults came to a short Family Service telling the message of Easter and the Resurrection, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

During the service Rev'd. Chris Maclean spoke about a Ukrainian Easter tradition of congregation members being fully soaked in church on Easter Day. He was surprised when someone in the congregation who was visiting Ivychurch confirmed this, telling Rev'd. Chris that she



is Ukrainian. To the disappointment of some he did not soak her though!

Whilst the children hunted, some of the adults in the congregation were spotted (*bottom left*; see who you recognise!) sitting outside the church soaking up the sun.

Churchyard

Work has commenced to keep the churchyard in trim for the coming year. A photo of Celia working in the churchyard. The raised beds which will be planted with herbs have been moved to outside the West door to take advantage of the sunlight, and be in proximity to an external water supply. When in the churchyard, if you wish please do pick some herbs, and also water the plants!

The Mighty Mowers (or maybe they should be renamed the Almighty Mowers!) have had their first cut of the season. Any other help with the care of the churchyard is very welcome. Please contact Celia on **01797 344376**. That's Celia in our picture, weeding around graves.



Produce in The Porch

If you grow more in your garden than you can use there is a box in the church porch which can accommodate any excess. People are then encouraged to take what they can use, and if they wish, put a

Ivychurch continued on page 15

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Ivychurch continued from page 13

donation in the church wallbox. Many thanks to all who have, and continue to, put donations in the Foodbank box in the porch. Page 56 of this magazine includes a list of items of which the Foodbank is in short supply.

Village brunch

On Saturday 1 April the Parish Council held a brunch in the Village Hall which was enjoyed by many villagers.

Local roles

- By the time this magazine reaches you the St George churchwarden and the Parish Church Council members will have been appointed for the year 2023/2024.
- Councillor Tony Hills, who has for many years represented the interests of local people as a Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor, spoke about his role now as a Kent County Councillor. In addition to speaking about the issue of how to control excess speeding on Romney Marsh, and praising the Parish Council, with support from F&HD Councillor Clive Goddard, for the work they are doing to address the problem in Ivychurch he advised all residents to report any concerns they may have about potholes on our roads to Kent. To email, go to: **kent.gov.uk, roads-and-travel**, then select **Report**, followed by **Select Fault Type** and, finally, **Potholes**.
- A resident of Ivychurch and an Ivychurch Parish Councillor, Alan Martin, has been selected as one of a number of potential F&HD Councillor candidates and, if elected on 4 May, Alan will take over Tony Hills' role representing Ivychurch and surrounding areas on the Marsh.

Film club

The Ivychurch Film Club meets every third Wednesday of the month in the Village hall at 7pm, with the film starting at 7.30pm. The film for **17 May** is 'Living',

starring Bill Nighy who plays a sad late-middle-aged man who, for reasons which become clear during the film, embarks on a project that gives some meaning to his life. All are welcome.

Ivychurch Village Coronation Celebrations



Saturday 6 May. The Bell pub is planning Live Music from 3pm. Look on *The Bell* Facebook page for details.

Sunday 7 May, 6pm Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving.

Monday 8 May Ivychurch Coronation Celebration Lunch from 12 noon on the Village Green. 'Let's Go Clubbing' – a juggling troupe providing interactive entertainment for the whole family will perform at 1pm and 3pm, Barbeque Lunch at 2pm, Ivychurch Chicken Hurling (in a nod to the tradition of serving Coronation Chicken, this replaces our usual 'Loo Brush Hurling' for this special Coronation Event), Kings and Queens fancy dress, Coronation styled games, craft for the children, Pimms, table football and much more.

Keep the dates

Saturday 5 August – a Barn Dance in St George's Church. Details will be in the *Marsh Message* of June and July.

Saturday 7 October – Ivychurch Harvest Supper.

CPR

Finally, would anyone like to be taught how to perform CPR in the event that you might be perhaps the only person on hand when someone stops breathing? It is not too late to sign up for a course to be run in the village hall. If you are interested in attending, or have any questions regarding this course, which will be run by the First Responder service, please email Margaret on **mlwaite@hotmail.co.uk** or ring **01797 344283**.



Tower OPEN DAY & May Day Fayre

All Saints', Lydd Church

- craft fayre, refreshments, fun etc.
- view the herons nesting from above
- see our Parish from a new viewpoint
- see the bells and the ringing room

Monday 1st May
(Bank Holiday Monday)

10am – 4pm (First tour 10.30am last 3pm)

Limited space, so places for tower can be booked in advance.

Telephone 01797 320108

Admission free; tower trips £3 per person.

Minimum Age for Tower visits 10 Years Old

Conditions of tower visits:

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

A Blessing for Church Helpers

Blesséd are the coffee makers, the cake bakers and minute takers.

Blesséd are the bell ringers, the song singers and people bringers.

Blesséd are the clock winders, the bargain finders and stay behinders.

Blesséd are the PCC-ers, the drop-in IT-ers and the "Lord, is it me-ers?"

The readers and teachers, the prayers and preachers,
the stretchers and reachers who keep gutters clean.

The visitors and talkers, the summer fete hawkers,
the writers who show where the walkers have been.

The sweepers and dusters, the ones who bring lustre,
and those who can magically muster a team.

The ones who sow; the ones who sew; and the ones who help keep things 'just so'.

For all those who serve, so often unseen,
who fetch and carry and count and clean.
For all those who touch someone's heart
with a word,
whose wisdom and kindness are quietly heard.

We are so very blessed by all that you do.
May God's blessing always rest on you.

Blessings

Rev'd Chris Maclean

Lydd Town Friends and Museum

A small army of volunteers has been busy sprucing up Lydd Town Museum and adding many new features. Over the Easter weekend we received an encouraging number of visitors, including several families.

We will be continuing with our planned openings, including the May public holidays and Club Day in June, and



hope to welcome you and yours. Entry is free.

The next monthly meeting of the Friends of Lydd is on **Wednesday 17 May**, as ever at 7.30pm in the Hardy Hall. Our talk will be on the creation of the Marsh Tapestry. Entry is £2 for non-members, £1 members – or only £5 for a year's membership. The entry fee includes refreshments.

lyddtownmuseum@btinternet.com

You can also find us on **Facebook**

Romney Marsh Choir



We were fortunate in All Saints' Church to be able to be the venue for the Romney Marsh Choir spring concerts. Here is a poem written by one of the members from Lydd, Jenny Sims.

*Oh my goodness what a sight
Church packed for a wonderful night
The Marsh Choir gave it their all
Singing their hearts out and having a ball.*

*Hope our Flock Boss is feeling proud
Of our sound out in the crowd
A classical piece, rock and pop too
What a lovely selection for us to do.*

*A standing ovation asking for more
What a reward to be sure
Everyone out there can join in too
Why not try a venue near you.*

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NEWCHURCH

Our Easter-themed Crafts and Coffee Morning on 1 April was a great success with more stalls than ever before offering a wide array of goods and produce, and a groaning table of cakes and savouries. All our chairs were full for a long time with a real 'buzz' from old friends and new. Thank you for your support!

We've been delighted to welcome the bellringers several times for both practices during the evening and early morning... which means ringing before our 9am services. So far, limited grumbles from neighbours!

May will bring us a wedding for the first time in a long while on Friday 5th, with a church decorated for the Coronation from Thursday 4th; any flower or pots you can spare then will be most



welcome please. As well as a later-than-usual 10am service on Sunday 7th, the village is holding a Coronation Picnic Lunch in the Jubilee field and hopefully lots of royal themed scarecrows will be around the village. We will have celebration bells around lunchtime on Sunday 7th as well.

As a result of the Coronation, our next coffee morning will be on **Saturday 13 May** (reverting to the first Saturday of the month from June).



A busy day at the Crafts and Coffee Morning.

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St Nicholas Church, New Romney

All Books: 50p

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CDs/ DVDs (Including Box Sets): 50p

FREE ENTRY – ALL WELCOME



Romney Marsh
Benefice

NEW ROMNEY

Easter at St Nicholas

Our Easter services were very moving, especially the Good Friday Procession of Witness and Service which we shared with our friends from the Community Church.

The Easter Sunday service saw our biggest congregation for some time, with everyone enjoying the chocolates provided after the service (hopefully this made up for the lack of biscuits during Lent).

Book sale

Our coffee morning/book sale will return on **Saturday**

20 May,

10am-12 noon. Please do come along and help us to raise much needed funds for the church.



If you have any books to donate, bring these on the day – please do not leave books in the church beforehand. If you are able to bake a cake for us, it will be most welcome.

A date for your diary

Friday 23 June, 7pm

Gusbourne Wine Tasting and Pork Pie Evening.

Tickets £10pp in

advance, obtainable

from Ann Rolfe on

01797 362719, or email **ann.rolfe1234@gmail.com**



St Mary's Bay Art Groups
present an

Exhibition & Sale of Paintings



June 5th-10th 2023

**St Nicholas Church
New Romney**

Open 10am - 4pm daily

Free Admission

St Mary's Bay Art Groups is based in St Mary's Bay village hall and meets on a Monday afternoon to provide a place for local artists to practice their artistic skills.

NEW ROMNEY OLD SCHOOL

PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 13th May 10am-1pm

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Services at St Dunstan and St Eanswith

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Refreshments are available after the Services, and *The Red Lion* across the road is always pleased to welcome you after evening services!



☐ Snargate Services

Sunday 14 May, 9am.

Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 28 May, 9am.

Holy Communion (BCP).

☐ Brenzett services

No services at St Eanswith this month.

For further information about Services, please contact Rev'd. Michael Gooch on

01797 361886.

Wife, in kitchen: "What do you want for dinner? Savoury Beef, Mouthwatering Salmon or Luscious Chicken?"

Husband, reading paper in living room: "Hmmm! I'll have Mouthwatering Salmon please!"

Wife: "I was talking to the cat."



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**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
ST MARY'S BAY**

"May/June Diary Dates"

.....
*Thursday 4th May
Coronation*

*Maypole Dancing & Tea
2.30 pm*

.....
*Friday 12th May
Coffee & Cake
10.00am*

.....
*Saturday 13th May
Christian Aid Concert
7.30pm*

.....
*Monday 22nd May
BINGO & Tea
2.30pm*

.....
*Saturday 3rd June
Social Dance & 'Fish & Chips'
7.30pm*

.....
*Friday 9th June
Coffee & Cake
10.00am*

.....
*Monday 26th June
BINGO & Tea
2.30pm*

St MARY'S BAY

Love binds everything together in perfect harmony

Colossians 3:4



I must thank Jeff Elston-Lame for his contribution to the April issue of this magazine. Now we come to May, and there is a lot to celebrate!

1 May, May Day: We remember Philip and James, Apostles.

6 May: Coronation of King Charles III.

15 May: Mathias, the Apostle; Rogationtide; the Middle of May.

18 May: Ascension Day.

28 May: Pentecost and Whit Sunday.

3 The New Romney High Street church is the Methodist Church.

4 3 March was the World Day of Prayer in 120 countries.

5 Reopening of a building – New Romney Old School.

May quiz

The answers can be found in April's magazine.

1 Three Ps at which church in May? (Page 6).

2 Which church for maypole dancing in May? (Page 22).

3 Who is cycling for Dogs On The Streets? (Page 31).

March quiz answers

A month late, but I'm sure definitely welcome!

1 Something for free? The Community Hub.

2 CARM is Caring Altogether on the Romney Marsh.

St Mary's Bay continued on page 27

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

**Please join us for cake and coffee on
Friday 21st April 2023, 10-12 noon to help
raise vital funds for our church**



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St Mary's Bay *continued from page 25*

- 4 Where is there a plant sale on 13 May? (Page 18).
- 5 Where on 6-8 May will there be displays and activities? (Page 15).

Events in May

4 May, 2.30pm.

Maypole, cakes and celebrations in the Church Hall.

13 May, 7.30pm.

Christian Aid concert in the Church Hall... for which we need your talent! Juggling! Magic! Comedy! Instruments! Singing! Poetry! Any five-minute turn will be welcome – contact Pauline on **01797 363175**.

22 May, 2.30pm.

Bingo in the Church Hall.

Gardening tips

- Weeding. weeding, weeding!
- See if a friend or a neighbour needs help.

- Do you need more space, and could use a plot at a friend's or neighbour's garden?
- Watch out for late frosts – don't plant bedding plants until it is warmer.
- Check for birds' nests before clipping hedges.
- Start a rewilding area (or is it already wild without your help..?)

A prayer for Ascensiontide

Faithful God, at this Ascensiontide we give thanks for trusting us with your Son, for never giving up on us, even though we have often ignored you.

As your Son ascends and your Spirit descends, we ask for your blessing on our church people.

Accompany us in our journey on our path to you.

Amen •

*God bless us all
Pauline Moses*

St MARY IN THE MARSH

St Mary the Virgin

Coronation

Big Lunch



On **Sunday, 7 May** everyone from the parish of St Mary – and their families and friends – are invited to a Coronation



Big Lunch from 12pm to 2pm at St Mary the Virgin.

Bring with you some food to share. For more details contact Helen on **07971 236897** or Penny on **07810 717408**.

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CORONATION LUNCH

FRIDAY 5th May 2023

Starter

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Main Course

**Chicken Breast
with Tarragon sauce
New Potatoes
Green Beans
Baby Carrots**

Dessert

**Summer Fruit
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Vanilla Ice Cream
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Cheese & Biscuits**

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Brenzett & District WI

Our Birthday Supper on 17 March, pre-ordered at *The Ship*, Dymchurch, was well attended and delicious as usual. My rib-eye steak was excellent.

On Tuesday 11 April – Monday being a Bank Holiday – Andrew Ashton spoke to us on Absinthe and Art. This green drink, black liquorice-flavoured with wormwood (*artemisia absinthium*), green anise and fennel fennel. has a strength up to 74% ABV and originated in Switzerland as an elixir. But it is better known for its popularity in 19th and early 20th century France, particularly among Parisian artists and writers whose romantic associations with the drink still linger in popular culture.

We learned of the paraphernalia: the special glass shape, the perforated spoons to hold the sugar cubes while water is added to turn the drink opaque and that it was thought to produce madness and hallucinations, hence The Green Fairy often pictured with the absinthe drinker.

In the 1840s it was given to French troops as a malaria preventive, and the troops brought home their taste for it. Absinthe became so popular in bars, bistros, cafés and cabarets by the 1860s that the hour of 5pm was called *l'heure verte* ('the green hour'). By the 1880s, mass production had caused the price to drop sharply, and the French were drinking 36 million litres per year compared with 5 billion of wine.

The consumption of absinthe was

opposed by social conservatives and prohibitionists, partly due to its association with bohemian culture. From Europe and the Americas, notable absinthe drinkers included Ernest Hemingway, James Joyce, Lewis Carroll, Charles Beaudelare, Paul Verlaine, Arthur Rimbaud, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Amadeo Modigliani, Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh, Oscar

Wilde, Marcel Proust, Aleister Crowley, Erik Satie, Edgar Allan Poe, Lord Byron and Alfred Jarry.

The art nouveau posters advertising the drink are beautiful but the sodden, benumbed, head on hand, despondent drinkers in the paintings less so. Absinthe continued to ravage society until it was banned in the US and most of Europe (not UK) by 1915. However all bans were

repealed by 2011 and modern absinthe (less potent) is now freely available.

Andrea organised a Kino visit for the 18 April and will research Cine Marsh in New Romney for other films.

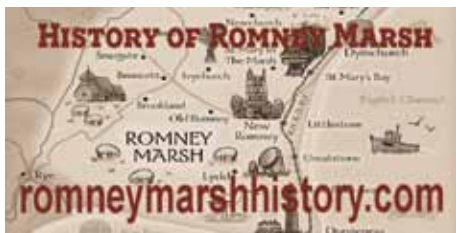
The EKFVI Group Meeting was held on 19 April at Church Hall, S. Marys Bay – the host being Middlemarsh WI and the speaker being from Bray's Bees.

Mange Tout met for afternoon tea at *The Clifton Hotel*. Folkestone on 25 April.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 9 May** (NB: not the Monday) and will be Resolutions and Craft, so remember to bring all your crafts with you. Guests and visitors are very welcome so please come and join us or, for more details, contact Gill McFarlane on **01797 344297**.



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Dogs On The Streets 2

Race day is getting closer and my training is getting more intense. I am writing this letter as the aches of my longest training ride, 67 miles, are beginning to settle down. It was a lovely ride, including a category 4 hill, to Bredgar Tea Rooms for a sausage roll and a cup of coffee.

I would like to thank those of you who have sponsored me for this 100 mile epic and encourage those of you who can to sponsor me to do so. Having your support will help during the last 20 or so miles when my legs will be feeling the strain of the first 80.

I am riding for Dogs On The Streets, a volunteer-run charity which is dedicated to the welfare of dogs belonging to the UK's homeless community. In reality DOTS do so much more as they are a point of contact for often very vulnerable people. They offer a mobile vet service, foster street dogs and offer practical help



from dog training to giving healthy food to street dogs.

They are a 24/7 charity; Wayne says, "DOTS is phenomenal. Without DOTS life on the streets with a dog would be much harder and stressful not knowing how to access vet care. We both look forward to coming to the station each week. DOTS have been more of a family than my own since I have met the team. DOTS help is 24/7 and I can call whenever there is a problem with my dog."

Please help me to help DOTS care for street dogs and their owners.

My goal is to raise £1,000 for DOTS but in reality, with a

continuing cost of living crisis, this is a huge ask. All I ask is that if any of you are able to help me to support DOTS you can do so via these links or pop your donation in the Vicarage letterbox, North Street, New Romney.

• www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/dots-ride-londonsex100

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The club's 2023 opening day was a little subdued. The inclement weather meant that members were restricted to cleaning, tidying and getting everything ready for the forthcoming season.

Limited play finally got underway on the Wednesday when three members braved the chill winds to play on the



newly prepared lawns. Hopefully, the weather is improving and more members will be encouraged to play.



New members are always welcome. We offer four free taster sessions to anyone interested in coming and finding out about our wonderful game. Please contact Andrew on **01797 262097** or email **asinden@vfast.co.uk** for information.

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Sunday 21 May

The Prayer Pastors will be meeting at Burmarsh Church at 2.45pm to start our prayer around Burmarsh, Newchurch and St Mary's in the Marsh if time and people (3pm-5pm). Please join us at the start or the finish or to come round with us. It is so encouraging when that happens. If not, please keep us in your prayers during that time as opportunities come to share Jesus' love and care.
Do phone Sue Richardson on **01303 980027** for more information.

Romney Marsh

International Women's Day



Resplendent in a sea of purple, more than 60 ladies met at Littlestone Golf Club to celebrate International Women's Day 2023.

IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. The aim of the IWD 2023 #Embrace Equity campaign theme is to get the world talking about 'Why equal opportunities are not enough'. Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities. Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.

Our guest speaker DCI Stefanie Earl gave an inspirational and moving account of her career with Kent Police. Stefanie delivered a powerful account, highlighting the opportunities and challenges which she has faced in both her personal and professional life. We couldn't have asked for a better guest speaker, thank you Stefanie.

The ladies also supported a collection for Smalls for All, a Scottish-based charity which collects and distributes new and gently worn underwear for those who are unable to source their own, both in the UK and developing countries. Donating pants and bras can make a life-changing difference. Dignity matters. To date we have collected 200 bras and 100 new pairs

Ladies with the Bra collection.



L to R: Marsh Academy students Mollie, Harriet, Cali, Olivia, Tia and El.



L to R: Sue Hobbs, Mayor of Folkestone Nicole Keen, Caroline Hobbs and Gemma Hall.

of pants in our Bra Bank. If you have any underwear you would like to donate please contact Janet Thomas on **01797 363657** by the end of April.

IWD 2023 in New Romney was an amazing success, and a huge thank you goes to all the local ladies who supported the evening, Littlestone Golf Club and staff who hosted the event and to all the staff at New Romney Town Council, who did a superb job organising the evening. •
Janet Thomas

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Benefice Web site

www.romneychurches.org

Last month we launched the new benefice website. Many thanks to all who have visited it. In five weeks since it was launched we have had 439 different users visit and 14,000 page views across the site. This shows how important a web site can be as a tool of communication for our churches.

Don't forget to let me know about past events that I can add to the site as news on your own sections of the website, and future events for the main benefice calendar. There is so much going on and this is a good way of getting the word out to others. •



David Parrott

web@romneychurches.org



New Romney Poetry Society

The Society met on 21 March and our topic was 'The Moon'.

Linda started off with a poem about Robert Burns written in the style of a 16th century Spanish dirge. She also read her own poem, '*Mists of Time*', written in an Arabic Mathnawi style. Linda has found over 1,000 different styles of poems and is slowly working her way through them.

Adrian read '*The Moon is but a Chin of Gold*' by Emily Dickinson. This is how the new moon starts off and develops into a full face which shines down on us. He then read a short poem by Kenn Nesbitt about what life would be like for Humpty Dumpty sitting on the moon. It is reproduced here.

*Humpty Dumpty sat on the moon
falling off walls all afternoon.
His shell didn't crack, and he needs no
repair.
The gravity's just so much lighter up
there.*

He also chose another Poem by Kenn Nesbitt, '*The Tale of the Sun and the Moon*' which talks about the different lifestyles of the sun and the moon; one is out all day, the other is out all night. This arrangement seems to suit both of them (and us!).

Pat read her own composition called '*The night he went*', describing how she had to cross the Marsh in the moonlight in the middle of the night when her father died. She read '*The Moon of other Days*' by Rudyard Kipling; written in India and reflecting on his time in London before he went to India.

Jean's poem was '*Moonlit Apples*' by John Drinkwater, describing rows of apples that have been laid down for storage in the loft of a house and how the moon shines on them in the night when all are asleep and still. The description is so good you can see the apples bathed in moonlight.

Our newest member, Moira, read '*Dream Valley*' by William Blake, describing someone walking along a stream and the thoughts and memories it provokes. Daydreams during the day and sadder things at night.

Michael read Thomas Hardy's poem '*The Difference*' which talked about a haunt that his heartmate did not frequent and for him it might have been a happier place if she had. He also read '*The Moon*' by Robert Louis Stevenson. The first line is 'the moon has a face like the clock in the hall' and again makes contrast between the world of the moon and the world of the sun.

Evelyn cobbled together some old nursery rhymes about the moon and called it 20th July 1969 because on that date 'a man walked on the moon'.

John is an absent member of the group as he no longer lives near New Romney but he always emails a contribution and this month it was a sonnet, written by himself called '*The Moon*', and again makes comparison between the sun and the moon.

Finally, Ann read '*Silver*' by Walter de la Mare. This described a scene at night where everything is bathed in the silver light of the moon.

The topic, The Moon, produced a varied selection of poems. I will leave you with the thoughts of Carol Ann Duffy who wrote this as an introduction to an anthology of poems about the moon.

In her introduction to the anthology, Duffy writes: 'the moon has always been, and always will be, the supremely prized image for poets – a mirror to reflect the poetic imagination; language's human smile against death's darkness'.

If you would like to become a member telephone Ann Stark on **01797 362257** or Evelyn Elliott on **01323 840432** for more details.

Evelyn Elliott

It's said that if you are lacking one sense, your other senses are enhanced. That's why people with no sense of humour have an increased sense of self-importance.



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**Saturday
 13 May**

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Romney Marsh Rotary Club

By the time that you read this we will have held our annual Golf Day at the Littlestone Warren Golf Club in aid of the four dementia support groups in our area, the Lydd Dementia Café, Pebbles Dementia Café in Greatstone and the Sunflower Memory Cafés in both New Romney and St Mary in the Marsh. It is hoped that the day was a success and we were able to make a generous donation to the dementia support groups – further details to follow.

We were delighted to welcome a new member to our club in January 2023. Jan Riddington, a retired carer who has moved into our area from Dartford and was previously a member of Dartford Rotary Club. Jan said, "I retired to Lydd in 2022 and wanted to continue with my Rotary life, and so contacted Romney Marsh club and was thrilled to be invited to one of their meetings where they all made me feel totally comfortable and very welcome so I was delighted to have been accepted as a full member. Being a member of Rotary helps me integrate into the community of my new life on the Marsh as well as carrying on with being of service to others and helping to raise monies for our nominated charities."

Our next main fundraising is a quiz night which is being held on **Saturday 13 May** at the New Romney Bowls Club (see opposite for full details).

Even though Easter has only recently been and gone, we are now starting to



Club president Stephen Hagues welcomes Jan Riddington.

make preparations for the 2023 Santa Sleigh Runs! The sleigh is currently receiving some necessary refurbishment thanks to John Angliss and his colleagues. Once the basic work is completed, the sleigh and its reindeers will receive a new coat of paint and be ready for December. We'll keep you posted on its progress.

In conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Folkestone, Folkestone Channel and Hythe we were delighted to present a cheque for £2,000 to The Beacon Folkestone. The four clubs had donated equally and the donation will help fund a Community Garden. Representatives of the four clubs were provided with a tour of the school by Mr Ady Young, Head Teacher, and Mr Mark Jones, Facilities Manager, and came away impressed by the facilities offered by the school and the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff.



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Lent at St Nicholas School



March has been a very busy month for everyone in school with the Church and Easter being close to all our hearts.

Mothering Sunday Celebrations

On Mothering Sunday, children from St Nicholas Primary Academy took the church service with over 150 families attending. The service was beautiful, with children singing heartfelt songs and reading out their personal prayers and poems to their mums, aunties and grandmas. Mums were surprised with gifts of flowers and chocolates from the church. It was a beautiful way to start a very special day.

"We came last year and couldn't wait to come again this year. Listening to all the children was beautiful but hearing my own brought tears to my eyes. We'll be back next year."

Dear Father God

"We thank you for mothers around the world and for the care they give their children. I thank you for my own mum,

who is always so kind and thoughtful to me. Even when I have done something wrong and she shouts at me, deep down I know that she does that because she loves and cares for me and wants the best for me. My mum is beautiful inside and out and one day I want to grow up to be just like her, she's my hero. We offer our support and prayers for all mothers and pray for their lives to be blessed and for their families to flourish under their care and guidance. I pray for the children in our school who no longer have their mums and we hope that today isn't too difficult for them but that they can remember the special times they shared with them. Amen" (*Aarna*)

Commonwealth Day

On Monday 13 March, some children from St Nicholas attended the Commonwealth celebrations that took place in the church this year. Children read out poems and prayers and helped to raise the Commonwealth flag.

"It was a real honour to attend this



service and to take part in raising the flag especially with former service men. It made me feel really proud to be a part of the day and I also learnt about the importance of the Commonwealth as part of my research before I wrote my poem." (Oscar, Year 6)

Lent Fundraising

The worship leaders and school council worked together to organise fundraising activities during Lent. On the final day of term, we drew the raffle for the Easter Egg raffle. Excitement levels around the school were very high as the tickets were drawn. With over 30 eggs as prizes, lots of

children had bought lots of tickets in the hope of winning. We were also due to have our 10p coin race across the playground but yet again because of bad weather, it has been delayed until we start back at school after Easter.

This year, the school has decided to raise money for MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and we plan to work together for the whole year educating ourselves about the work they do to help the less well off around the world. This Lent, we have raised just over £800 which is an amazing effort.

Deanery synod meeting

The deanery synod meeting was held at St Nicholas Primary Academy earlier this month, where part of the evening was spent talking about schools, the church and additional inspections that church schools have – SIAMS. The evening started with a couple of worship leaders leading prayers about St Barnabas and how with encouragement we can all achieve anything in our work together.

"It was a bit scary to do a worship for a hall full of vicars and reverends but it made me smile that they enjoyed getting stickers for thinking about encouragement as much as we do!" (Alfie, Year 4)

Prayer Week

At school we ran a prayer week in the church for the key stage 2 children. It gave children the chance to spend some quality time in church thinking about and reflecting on issues that are important to the children, recognising that readings from the Bible are as relevant today as they were when they were first written.

One of the verses the children looked at was Proverbs 31:8 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.' Children thought about all the people in the world who don't have a voice and how we can use our voices to help and support them.

Most children were surprised at just how many people need us to stand up for them and know that their voices are important and should be used for good. •

Victoria Turner

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Wild Isles, David Attenborough's latest show on BBC, is co-produced by the RSPB, along with the BBC, Open University, Silverback Films and WWF. It's been many years in the making but the RSPB managed to showcase wildlife stories in a way that has never been seen before. Through Wild Isles we'll reach millions of people, helping us to achieve our strategic outcome to reach out to more and more diverse people.

Following the filming theme, we had the Force News channel film a segment on the Sound Mirrors. This is a channel that produces, broadcasts and streams compelling content to anyone interested in the work of the UK military. Furthermore, we had a photo shoot at the Sound Mirrors for an article that was written for RyeZine about the owner of a

popular hot chocolate shop/café in Rye named Knoop's who has been inspired by the Mirrors and Dungeness.

March for the reserve team has been all about finishing off the habitat management programme.

We have recovered the southernmost tern raft on Burrowes Pit for repairs and we hope to be able to make some progress on this and plan to re-deploy in a different location before the breeding season for the terns kicks off. We have a new raft coming in early April which we will also be deploying on Burrowes Pit. This is part of a funding pot which is looking at reducing the impacts of avian 'flu by providing more habitat and reducing forced increased densities of breeding populations through lack of available habitat.

•

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Where Rainbows Meet



On our visit to South Africa, John and I managed to visit Mymoena, Kyle and everyone at Where Rainbows Meet in the Vrygrond township in Cape Town.

There has been a lot of progress since my last visit just before the pandemic. The garden is developing, growing vegetables and herbs to be used in the large quantities of food produced to feed local people, both on site and also at other places in the area. During the pandemic, the organisation produced around 9 million meals to feed local people who were struggling to provide for themselves and their families without work.

The garden and other projects help to rehabilitate those who are unemployed and show the possibility of growing food, even in difficult environments.

Other projects include computer training, sewing and jewellery making, especially bead work. Items produced are sold in an on-site shop and through various contacts.

All of the projects help to build self-esteem within a community where families struggle with a variety of problems, including sickness, disability, unemployment and addiction.

Computers are also used by children to complete homework as well as for computer training and job applications.

Support is provided for children who are outside the normal school system because of challenging behaviour. Some of the children have never been to school

because they have lacked stable backgrounds and documentation. These children are always in need of help and support and, where possible, they are helped to join the educational system.

When we visited, it was the start of the Easter school holidays and although you could say that there was a holiday atmosphere, it was because there were even more mouths to feed as families brought along their children. The elderly were certainly not neglected and it was clear how vital Where Rainbows Meet is to the community.

During the visit, I was able to give Mymoena a copy of *Rainbow Prayers*, which was dedicated to her wonderful organisation. It has an information page and details of the website.



Mymoena and Kyle.

*Eternal Father,
We give thanks for all those
who work hard to support
their communities.*

*We thank you for the
African spirit of Ubuntu,
where we find our humanity
through our understanding
and reaching out to others.*

*May we work to build networks of love to
show the Holy Spirit moving within us, just as
your disciples sought to show the movement
of your spirit over 2,000 years ago.*

*Father, guide us along the path of every day.
In your service and to your praise and glory.*

Amen •

Gaynor Cobb

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Middlemarsh WI

Middlemarsh WI had another good month. A very interesting talk by Bryony Kapoor about her world travels had us all on the edge of our chairs. We also visited the RNLI to see how they operate. What an amazing set up, so informative. We were made very welcome and were able to view the lifeboat. We presented them with a cheque for £500 which was raised mostly by one member with her knitted items, and also from donations and sales on our nearly new table.

We then all went to the *Pilot Inn* for a fish-and-chips lunch, where we were well looked after. The food was good – a perfect finish to a lovely day.

Interested in joining us? We meet first Thursday in the month at St Mary's Bay village hall 9.45am. For further details phone Rosemary on **01303 875359**.



Newchurch WI

Newchurch House Restaurant once again provided the perfect venue for our birthday celebrations. Members enjoyed a delicious meal whilst taking full advantage of the opportunity to chat with friends and have a few laughs.

Several members will be attending the Group Meeting being hosted by Middlemarsh WI later in the month. Details were finalised for our Coronation Celebration Tea which will be taking place in Newchurch Village Hall on **Monday 1 May**. Catering will be supplied by Newchurch House to ensure that members do not actually have to 'work' on that occasion.

A sheet was given out listing all forthcoming events including a barbecue, a garden visit, a cream tea, bat-and-trap, a fish-and-chips supper and a coffee morning, so we certainly have an active time ahead.

Our 'Bagged Lucky Dip' at the Newchurch Church Easter Fayre was a

great success, raising a useful sum for our funds.

Five of us braved the horrendous weather to attend the recent Council Meeting at the Leas Cliff Hall in March. The guest speaker, Sally Kettle, was truly inspirational and had us all enthralled telling of her struggles with rowing the Atlantic – twice! The first time was actually with her mother. A great choice of speaker, but it is unlikely that any of us will be attempting to follow her feat!

Our next meeting will be our Resolutions Meeting. This year our resolution concerns clean rivers. We will be meeting in our normal venue of Newchurch Village Hall at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 2 May**. The competition is for 'Six homemade marzipan fruits'. There will also be a plant 'swap/sale' table.

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

What's on at... **ROMNEY MARSH COMMUNITY HUB**

Thank you to all for your continued support over the last couple of months!

The community came out in force to support our Spring Fayre - despite the inclement weather, many thanks to Wilko's Ashford, Homebase Folkestone, Asda Folkestone and Ham Street Garden Centre who supported us by donating prizes.

Our recent Quiz night was sold out and a good time was had by all!

Friday 5th May - Coronation lunch

Celebrate the Coronation with us!

3-course lunch served at 12:30pm | Music & entertainment 2-3pm

Tickets £15 - book your place now!

Monday 15th to Friday 19th May - Dementia Awareness Week

Pop in for information and advice support from 10am - 3pm

Saturday 29th July - New Romney Country Fayre, 10am-4pm

Now taking bookings for table top stalls - £10

Friday 30th June - Steve's Big Quiz

From 6:30pm - Book early to avoid disappointment!

***** New classes - all just £6! *****

Pilates Class every Thursday 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Feel good Fridays - Starts 28th April

Legs, bums and tums - 9.30am - 10.30am

Seated exercise - 11.00am - 12noon

Crafty Club:

All Crafty Club workshops 1:30pm to 4pm

£5 limited places - booking essential!

Monday 15th May - **Diamond Art** | Monday 12th June - **Decoupage**

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

rmch.org.uk 01797 363888

New Romney History Society



On Monday, 27 March 2023 the Mayor of New Romney, Cllr. Paul Thomas, and his wife Janet, invited members of New Romney History Society to visit the Town Hall. We had a very interesting and enjoyable evening and were able to handle many of the books and artefacts – one such book may well have been handled by Henry VIII.

We were also invited into the Mayor's Parlour and were shown the regalia which is worn by the Mayor and the huge safe containing many historical documents. We were told that one document New Romney has not yet been able to find is its copy of the Magna Carta which every Cinque Port was given.

Michael Shannon, Membership Secretary

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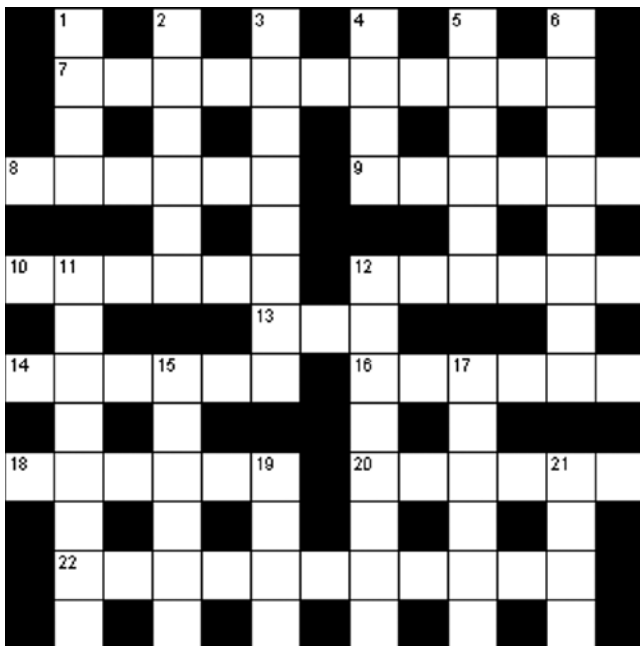
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General Crossword



Across

- 7 Plotter (11)
8 Breathe in (6)
9 Be ready for (6)
10 European country (6)
12 One of the planets (6)
13 Sick (3)
14 Chaffed, teased (6)
16 Be a bit unsteady on one's feet (6)
18 Owing money (2, 4)
20 Extremely small (6)
22 Engagement (11)

Down

- 1 Scrutinise (4)
2 Capital of Turkey (6)
3 Glorious (8)
4 At liberty (4)
5 Imaginary ideal place (6)
6 Break (8)
11 Eastern (8)
12 Final (8)
15 French channel port (6)
17 Offer (6)
19 Neat (4)
21 Ballet dancer's skirt (4)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 53

Romney Marsh Benefice REGISTERS

FUNERAL

5 April 2023

BAPTISM

9 April 2023

WEDDINGS

15 April 2023

21 April 2023

Joyce Cattroll, St Nicholas, New Romney.

Rosalia-Joanna Kayleigh Botten, All Saints, Lydd.

Rebecca Mary Parsons and **Robin Anthony Johnson**,
St Nicholas, New Romney.

Anjie Louise Blue Harrison and **Paul John Marshall**,
St Peter and St. Paul, Dymchurch.



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Coronation Day

Kate Brownnett



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Union Jacks flutter in the breeze
Bunting trailing, strung through trees.
The mood is jolly for celebrating
Both locals and travellers happily waiting.
Uniformed men wearing gold and red
With swords by their sides march ahead.
On horseback too they proudly pass
The time has come, it is here at last.
A golden carriage rolls down the Mall
And people cheer with such enthrall.
Then when the carriage passes them by
Hurrahs go up in a louder cry
As they glimpse the new king on his way
To be crowned on this, his Coronation Day.



*There are some car parks where
you can recharge your cat.*

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 £40,700.

Date for your Diary: Our Last Night of the Proms concert will once again be raising the rafters of St Mary's on Saturday, 12 August at 7.30pm. With the return of this ever-popular event, it will definitely be the "Glorious Twelfth"! Watch this space for details and how to book.

Dates for 2023

Saturday, 8 July, 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

Saturday, 9 December, 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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Romney Marsh Flower Arrangers



Our April meeting was a spectacular Spring Meeting. Our Demonstrator was Helen Hare, and the title of the demonstration was *Spring Romance*.

Helen is a well-known Kent Area Demonstrator, a very accomplished floral designer and demonstrator, and tutors at local workshops. It was obvious we were going to view some stunning designs. She has an amazing sense of humour, and this was enjoyed by members as she worked on her beautiful designs at the meeting.

She had chosen some modern and some classical designs. Helen has the ability to follow her designs through or change her designs to match the colours and the shape of the flowers. She also has an outstanding knowledge of flower and foliage and knowledge of garden

plants. At the end of the afternoon the stage was set with some beautiful designs where she placed unusual colours of flowers together, illustrating space, colour and texture in all the designs.

Helen, please come back and teach us more..!

Illustrated in the photos above are her arrangements. The structures of each design were made by Helen. What a stunning array of innovative designs.

Diary dates

5 May National Flower Day

10 May Meeting – learn about dried floral arrangements.

All meetings are 2pm for 2.30pm at St Mary's Bay Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome. For further information contact Carol on **01797 363662**.

Most people are unwilling to sell their souls; but they usually aren't opposed to renting them out for an hour or two.



ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD ON PAGE 49

Across: 1 Conspirator; 2 Inhale; 9 Expect; 10 Poland; 12 Uranus; 13 Ill; 14 Kiddled; 16 Totter; 18 In debt; 20 Minute; 22 Appointment.

Down: 1 Scan; 2 Ankara; 3 Splendid; 4 Free; 5 Utopia; 6 Fracture; 11 Oriental; 12 Ultimate; 15 Dieppe; 17 Tender; 19 Trim; 21 Tutu.



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Dymchurch Meeting Point

Mondays 10am-noon.

Dymchurch Village Hall, 6 Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch TN29 0NX.

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.

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.**

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National Trust Rye & District

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

Tuesday 9 May: Meet at *The Chequers* on the Green at High Halden, to explore the countryside to the north of Tenterden.

Saturday 13 May: Spring Lunch, *Brickwall Hotel*, Sedlescombe. This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and enjoy good food and conversation. It is now fully booked – but we plan another next year!

Thursday 18 May: Ray Hale: *Saving the Old Man of the Forest: The Natural History of the Orang Utan*. The Orang-utan is one of man's closest relatives and yet we continue to destroy its habitat at an alarming rate. This lecture tells the story



National
Trust

of these magnificent creatures; Ray has delivered talks to audiences across the UK for over 20 years. He is passionate about reconnecting people with nature and conservation.

Thursday 15 June: Outing to Polesden Lacey – a most fascinating place! There is so much to do and see, ranging from the fabulous collection of treasures to the gorgeous ceramics and paintings. It was all bequeathed to the National Trust in 1942. The gardens are lovely, in particular the Rose Garden and the double herbaceous border. There is a gift shop, cafe, coffee shop and places to enjoy a picnic. Cost per person £30.00, plus entry fee for non-NT Members.

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**.

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www.parterandsonbuilders.co.uk

Commonwealth Day 2023



*Left to right:
Folkestone
Mayor Nicola
Keen, student
Olivia, Mayor of
New Romney
Paul Thomas,
Jude,
Folkestone
Deputy Mayor
Belinda Walker
and Dover
Mayor Gordon
Cowan.*

Commonwealth Day was celebrated on Monday, 13 March with observances, speeches, exhibitions and cultural events across the 56 Commonwealth member countries. With 'Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future' as its theme, Commonwealth Day aims to unite 2.5 billion Commonwealth citizens in celebration of their shared values and principles, and in pursuit of a common future, centred on sustainability and peace. This was the first Commonwealth Day presided over by His Majesty King Charles III as King and Head of the Commonwealth.

The day also marked the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter, which outlines the values and principles that unify the 56 Commonwealth countries, representing one-third of humanity.

The local ceremony took place at St Nicholas, New Romney. Mayor of New Romney Cllr. Paul Thomas and Deputy Lieutenant Geoff Miles – together with other VIP guests – were joined by members of the public for a short ceremony. Students from local schools read poems and spoke movingly of 'What the Commonwealth means to Young People' today.

In her Commonwealth Day Message (read by DL Geoff Miles), the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC – the Commonwealth Secretary-General – paid tribute to Her late

Majesty The Queen for her seven decades of service and welcomed His Majesty The King for his first Commonwealth Day as the new Head of the Commonwealth. More than 1,000 Commonwealth flags were raised across the globe, in a shared celebration of this amazing family of nations.

After the Commonwealth Affirmation was read by Edwin Seabrook-Smith – Chairman, New Romney RBL – the Commonwealth standard flag was placed on the altar by RBL President Dusty Miller and John Atkins, followed by the Commonwealth Anthem played by the Hythe Town Band, prayers and the National Anthem.

In his closing statement Mayor Paul Thomas thanked the team at St Nicholas Church, Hythe Town Band and Council Officers for organising and supporting the ceremony. A special mention was made for the students of Marsh Academy, St Nicholas School New Romney and Greatstone School.

Raising the Commonwealth Flag symbolises the joining together of members of the Commonwealth community. The ceremony renews publicly, commitment to the Commonwealth, appreciation of its guiding values and the opportunities offered for friendship and cooperation with fellow Commonwealth citizens of all ages around the world. •

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: 03000 418383

Rent Enquiries Tel: 01303 853 700

Council Tax Tel: 01303 853 555

Environmental Services Tel: 01303 858 660

■ Libraries

Lydd Library

20A Skinner Road, 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
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
November	Mon 16 Oct	Wed 25 Oct
Dec/Jan	Mon 13 Nov	Wed 22 Nov

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

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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

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■ 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

■ CHURCHWARDENS

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 • Email: web@romneychurches.org

MARSH MESSAGE

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

JUNE DEADLINE: Monday 15 May before 12 noon