

Yalding & Laddingford

Parish & Church Magazine

50p per issue



March 2021

St.Peter & St.Paul, Yalding with St.Mary's, Laddingford

For further information please go to Church website

www.yaldingchurches.co.uk

Further information can be obtained by contacting

Father Paul Kish or the Churchwardens

(contact details are in the magazine).

EDITOR'S NOTES

It's time to take a walk!! Our cover this month is a sign for the Medway Valley Walk and the Greensand Walk. This photograph was taken by Amanda Stewart who has been blogging local walks and posting her photographs of our beautiful countryside on facebook. This sign is in Yalding - you'll have to hunt for it, but a clue is - walk over Twyford Bridge towards the railway station. Our back cover this month is a picture from Yalding Walks which has 6 walks to enjoy. All walks are available to buy in Yalding Post Office. They have been very popular lately due to our lockdown situation.

Also this month we have the first of two articles from Tracey from The Chequers about Wild Swimming and the adventures she has had swimming in wild places - truly inspirational. *June Chapman*



FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

There are two named footpaths that pass through Yalding. They cross over each other near The Lees and share the same route along part of Hampstead Lane. Beyond the lock, the paths squeeze along a track between the river Medway and the railway line, before forking to go their separate ways.

The Medway Valley walk is the shorter of the two at only 28 miles. It starts in Tonbridge and follows the river to Yalding and beyond to Rochester.

The Greensands Way is a massive 108 miles long. Starting its journey at Haslemere (Surrey), it follows the Greensands Ridge, a ridge of sandstone containing the green mineral glauconite. The path takes a route south of, but roughly parallel to, the North Downs before terminating in Ham Street.

Local walks along the Greensands Way can take you into Hunton and further on into Linton. Alternatively, walking in the other direction will lead you to East Peckham old church with its far-reaching views to Hadlow. Walk a little further still and you will come to the village of West Peckham.

More information including maps can be found on Greensand Way-Explore Kent and you can read the photographer's blog at followthepathphoto.wordpress.com

Why not put your boots on and go for a walk?

Photograph and article by Amanda Stewart

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PARISH LETTER... from Justin Elks

Lent in the time of Covid

Over the last year, many of us have given up a great many things to protect our communities and the NHS from the impact of a second wave of Covid infections. As you read this, we shall be in the Christian season of Lent, commemorating the forty days that Jesus spent being tested in the wilderness. Lent is a time when we reflect on our shortcomings and apply self-discipline to our lives by abstaining from pleasurable activities.

In the context of the pandemic, we could be forgiven for thinking that there has been quite enough abstention, self-discipline and reflection recently; equally, I suspect all of us have found ourselves tested, and have sometimes struggled to “do the right thing”. I’ve certainly found at times I’ve needed the help of others to remind me why the current measures are important, and to put my own needs and wants in a wider perspective.

A key part of the Lenten process is repentance – expressing regret and sorrow for past actions. John the Baptist’s cry in the wilderness was “*repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near*” (Matthew 3:2). Jesus calls on us to “*repent and believe the good news*” (Mark 1:15). We recognise and confess not only our faults, but also our inability to solve them ourselves. We see the need for God’s help, and are forgiven and brought closer into a relationship with God through faith in his Son. We abstain as a sign of our humility and regret for our past faults. Taking this one step further, John challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees to “*produce fruit in keeping with repentance*” (Matthew 3:8) – how we behave is to be an outward sign that repentance and forgiveness has taken place.

Pastor Mick's story

I came across an inspiring illustration of this Lenten process when looking into the story of Pastor Mick. Mick’s story is a Bible story set in the 21st century. Mick became a dangerous, violent drug user and dealer, triggered by painful abuse and loss suffered as a child. Now aged 40, having fallen into a life as an underworld fixer, he found himself one day in a rough industrial area, waiting outside a gym for a problem to solve; a gun in a plastic carrier bag, so that no DNA or prints would be left behind. While this wasn’t a new situation for Mick, things took a different turn to normal. Seeing his target come out

of the gym with his two children, he saw a brilliant light that blinded and paralysed him.

“Mick took the gun, pressed it to his own chin, and pulled the trigger...”

This was the moment his life changed forever. He’d hit rock bottom, had enough of his life and wanted to die. Mick took the gun, pressed it to his chin, and pulled the trigger... It didn't fire.

He broke down in tears and felt “*in that moment I was seeing myself for who I really was*”. Mick was suffering a complete breakdown, his violent past catching up with him, the end of decades of pain. While sectioned under the Mental Health Act, Mick met Pastor Tony; together they prayed and talked. Mick says he began to feel emotions again and, giving up his former life, he got clean again. It was the end of a troubled life, and the beginning of a new life of hope. Overcoming dyslexia and dyspraxia, he studied and was awarded a degree in theology.

Today Pastor Mick works with a charity in Burnley helping people who are homeless, addicted, and hungry in one of the most deprived areas in England. He doesn’t see his work as a penance, but as his privilege to help others – “*I knew I had been forgiven for my past....and I didn't want to live in this sin. This is why I'm free, I'm not spending my life in torment. It's redemption.*”

While our Lenten experiences probably aren’t as extreme, we can recognise the themes of examination, repentance, redemption and the strengthening of faith. All of us can be tested, and we all go through tough times where we don’t live up to our, or God’s, expectations of us. But God’s strength is shown in the way he works through our weakness and sin to make a difference in the world. Jesus’ love for us can help us to show God’s strength and power to others. This Lent, I hope we can come to a God, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge and repent of our weakness through faith. Then perhaps we can draw closer to God, and be strengthened to move forward, respond better to our challenges, and do the right thing more often in our lives.

Justin Elks, Licensed Lay Minister

Read Mick's full story at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-55273677>

SKINNY DIP?? More Chunky Dunk!

Tracey Leaver

Open water, wild water and particularly cold water swimming have all had increased mainstream media coverage over the past year.

This has been for several reasons including the need to find places to swim while the pools were closed in lockdown, to take advantage of last year's summer weather and warm(er) waters, and to enjoy the widely acclaimed benefit to mental health as well as to physical health of immersing yourself in cold water.



NEWS from The Chequers, Laddingford

Some may know I took the plunge into open water swimming quite a while ago - 12 years ago in fact. I swam as a youngster at the local pool, and then joined a swimming club. But I was never better than, and usually worse than, average.

I enjoyed the sessions, the galas and the friends I made but I was never really competitive, usually finishing in the bottom half. There were other “fishes” around with a lot more talent and speed than I could ever hope to achieve.

So when the time came at around 12 years old to make a decision whether I would train with the squad before school, there was little point in continuing as I would never be in the running to win competitions.

From then on during my teenage years my best friend and I hung out at the local swimming baths around 5 nights a week, probably the good looking lifeguard might have been a reason too!

And enjoyed several years of messing around, learning to dive off the top board and spring board (remember those?) and generally continuing to smell of chlorine.

As I went into my late teens and out to work my priorities changed and swimming disappeared from my life, except for the summer holiday splash in a pool or sea.

It wasn't until picking up a free magazine at Cannon Street Station one morning on my way to work that swimming popped back into my life.

There in the corner was a tiny, tiny article about a new event starting up called “The Great North Swim”. asking for swimmers to enter to take part in the experience of swimming 1 mile open water in Lake Windermere.

The organisers aim was to introduce open water swimming to “normal people” just as marathon running now is for “normal people” as well as elite athletes.

The mantra was that if you complete the necessary training, you'll be able to complete the event.

Nowadays lots of people run a marathon, so, I thought to myself, surely with training I could do this. swim...

I had done my swimming badges albeit some 30 years ago! (who can remember those – 10m /100m etc) and felt sure I had done the 1500m breaststroke.

So I signed up and that's where my real swimming journey began.

I researched how to train. Join a local triathlon club that swam at a lake, and they'll sort you out.

I didn't even know what triathlon was but as luck would have it I found Leybourne Lakes with open water swimming there.

A safety induction is always needed swimming in open water, so that was my opportunity to meet people, ask advice on wetsuits and discover the Do's and the even more important Don'ts.

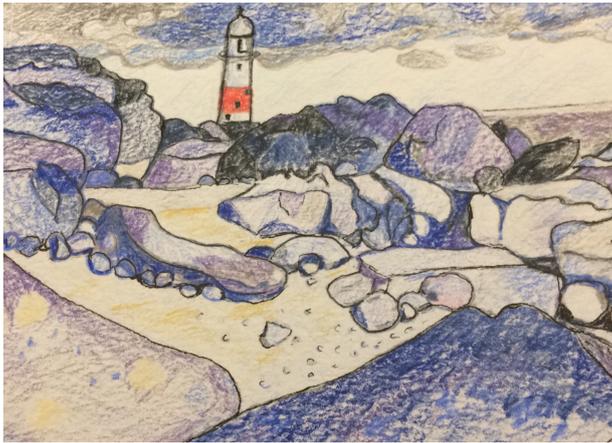
I now realise how lucky I was to have Leybourne so near (20 mins drive). In fact organised swimming sessions are now available at a couple more lakes not far away. Many swimmers I've met over the years don't even now have a lake anything like that nearby.

to be continued...

YALDING ART GROUP

www.yaldingartgroup.weebly.com

It has been sometime since Yalding Art Group has met in person which although this makes me sad, it is also making me more determined to inspire artists to draw and paint. It has been reported that taking 'me' time by



either drawing, painting, crafting, knitting and crocheting, mood lifts and there is a wonderful sense of achievement. You can't buy that!

So with the conundrum of not being allowed to meet, I have taken to posting on www.facebook.com/yaldingpostoffice and [JuneChapmanArt](https://www.facebook.com/JuneChapmanArt) and here are three pictures which have been posted.



The upper image is from Debbie of a lovely dreamy landscape by the sea with a lighthouse.

How I long to be there! If you look at the magazine online, you will see it is in a lovely blue with a hint of red in the lighthouse. Lovely.

Our second pastel picture is from Maggie and is of Primroses which is the image we were going to use for our Annual Arts & Crafts Poster, which of course didn't happen in 2020.

I'm not going to give up hope for 2021 and if there is a way of holding our Annual Arts & Crafts Fair this

year, I will!! Watch this space.

Our last picture is of boats tied up by Mike. Another dreamy landscape we would all love to escape to.

I hope we have more pictures posted during the month and I might put you into the magazine next month. Happy painting.

Remember anyone can post, you don't have to be a member of Yalding Art Group.

Watch out for an art post every Thursday. We have had hands, noses and mouths, Cinderella and the ugly sisters, draw your dog or cat or favourite animal and there will be more ideas when I get inspiration!

Keep posting your lovely art so I can pick three for our April article.

Just remember, if you take time from 10-12 on a Thursday morning to create something lovely. we will be very pleased to see it posted online. Anyone can post and it can be of absolutely anything - I am only giving a suggestion every Thursday, so get out your sketchbooks and get drawing.

It is our therapy for you!

If you are at a loss for inspiration, just pick a subject and look through Pinterest - or YouTube - there are so many artists out there demonstrating. Don't be disheartened though, just take a theme and run with it.



If you want to look at local artists, keep the 4th-20th June 2021 in your diary as South East Open Studios are hoping to be able to have open house for local artists where you can visit and see them at work.

Local artists - usually include Sue Williams - lifelike botanical studies, Carole Robson - more abstract paintings from nature, Alisa Jaffa - glass art and Kara Jewellery.

If you haven't been to this event, I can recommend it.

June Chapman

HARI COVERT RECIPE

for when Wild Garlic appears...



What a winter, with Lockdown 3 and our personal liberties so curtailed!. Don't you, like me, turn to cooking and prepare a range of foods during these bleak winter months?

But I get excited when the first green shoots of Wild Garlic (also known as Ransom) appear on the floor of our local woodlands. From late February onwards, this abundant plant pokes its head up with a heady smell pervading all around.



This is food for free! Something we all overlook; but it is simple to use in a number of ways.

The broad green leaf can be used in a pesto — I make bucket loads each year and keep it in my garage fridge for the rest of the year. — It is so versatile — Marinate your olives with a spoonful of pesto and some chilli flakes or smother the top of a freshly baked Focaccia... it is a thing of beauty.

The flower buds can be salted and kept to garnish a salad; or the fully flowering heads can be coated in a light tempura batter and fried to make a slightly different nibble.

A soup made with the green leaves can be garnished with some lightly poached smoked haddock flakes and a soft-boiled egg to make a light lunch. Are you drooling yet?
I am told you can also make an ice cream with it but I have also used it in a savoury Panna Cotta so as you can see it has many uses and all you need is to find a favourite spot and spend a little time picking it.

Wild Garlic Pesto

Ingredients

- 300g Wild Garlic Leaves
- 3 Cloves Garlic
- 500ml Olive Oil
- 1 Tbs Rock Salt
- 50g Grated Parmesan
- 150g Brazil or Walnuts - Omit for nut allergies!



Method

- Pick over the garlic leaves for any creepy crawlies.
- Place all ingredients in food processor together and blitz to a good creamy consistency.
- Top up with more oil to make up a litre of sauce.
- Place in sterile jars in the fridge
It will keep for 6-9 months easily.

Wild Garlic Panna Cotta

Ingredients

- 300ml Double Cream
- 200ml Milk
- 50g Wild Garlic Leaves
- 2 cloves Garlic
- 1 heaped tsp Wild Garlic Pesto
- 3 Leaves of Gelatine
- Salt & Pepper



Method

- Place the gelatine in cold water to soften.
- Heat the milk & cream and infuse with the wild garlic leaves, pesto & crushed garlic cloves.
- When the garlic leaves are softened (after 10 minutes or so), purée the mix with an electric blender until well chopped and strain.
- Mix the softened gelatine into the warm mixture and strain again into serving glasses.
- Garnish with a piece of crispy pancetta and some deep fried crispy wild garlic leaves.
- Serve with some melba toasts for a perfect light starter or snack

We're lucky to have the Secret Chef living in the village with his scrummy recipes (and his scrummy pastries!) to tempt us.

The recipes this month are quite adventurous, and will suit those who like to forage for free food! We'd like to run a Recipe page, so please email your favourites to the Mag address. *Editor*

A WINTER WALK WITH WOOSTER



Kind neighbours permit me to walk their dog whenever I fancy and I'm hugely grateful. I find a dog is always happy on a walk, and happiness is the one infection we're all happy to catch!

It's good to get out for a walk in winter. In tune with the cover

photo theme, this walk includes a small section of the Medway Valley path. The stretch on the Medway is really the best part of a rather ordinary walk.

During that bit of snow we had, I set off well booted and wrapped up, with dog lead and poo bags just in case, and called in for Wooster. As usual, he recognises my knock and bursts from the door leaping with joy. What a pleasure that is! And of course, he doesn't ever mind the weather or the mud either.

He knows the way and sets off down the yard. Just to show him who's boss, I go the other way. He looks back, realises what's up, and comes tearing after at full throttle. Did I hear "Yippee!! Rabbits!!!" as he raced by? Once he's checked out all the holes, we join the footpath along past Yew Tree Cottage to Woodfalls, then, with dog back on lead, we follow the road to Laddingford.

Now take the footpath from the Chequers to Stoneham Lock, crossing the Teise and Gravelly Ways into the old gravel workings; not an attractive area, but it's quiet, with a cold wind, birdsong, and the dog's off the lead.

The path is more or less straight and becomes more wooded. It's really muddy here in winter, so boots are essential.

At the lock we found the river level really low, to do with maintenance at Twyford sluice. There was a narrow boat moored in the deep water of the lock while river traffic is suspended. The water flowed much faster than normal, the barge swaying in the current. Definitely not a spot to try Tracey's cold water swimming!

From here we follow the Medway downstream; it's easy going, except where the path skirts the field edge. There, it's quite slippery so take care; elsewhere it's fine, with views over the river all the way to Twyford Bridge. Very few water fowl to be seen in the fast current, and the shallow water exposed the heaps of rocks placed to reduce bank erosion. It was not at all the usual view of the river.

I always look forward to the sight of Parsonage Oasts on the far bank, with the geese in residence. The house looks as though it's always been like that, but I understand it was still a working farm and oast until conversion just after WWII.

The house figures

A local artist, Geoffery Hall, has painted many familiar Kentish scenes, including Parsonage Oast. We often use a set of his place mats at tea. I expect there are many copies around these parts... which reminds me - it's time for a cuppa soon, and a warm fire.

So, now at Twyford Bridge, we turn for home, across Lees Road into the orchard and follow the Lees stream home, through the wood planted by Donald Cooper of Congelow, in the days when the Doubleday Trust owned and first laid out the Gardens.

This is a very ordinary walk, much of it on rough, unused land and only takes an hour or so; I really ought to do it much more often. Walking is good for body and soul, and Wooster's enjoyment is a bonus.

One thing I am sure of: I kept my social distance throughout - for I didn't see another soul!

GS



Confessions

- 1) The top image is not Wooster at all. It's clip art, and not at all like my walking companion
 - 2) The lower image is of my Geoffery Hall place mat depicting Parsonage Oast, taken after tea!
- Can anyone please help me to do a better job next time? GS



YALDING POST OFFICE

**Most loved
Post Office
in Kent**

2016/17/18/19/20

Future of Yalding Post Office.

I have just received a letter from Post Office Ltd offering me the choice of operating this branch on the original contract for the foreseeable future. It also means that on my retirement the new Postmaster would be offered the same contractual terms. *Basically this means you are stuck with me for a while yet.* With luck, no more threats of forced closure.

Sorting Office news. Our posties transfer to their new building in Snodland on 15th March. New postie Jo will become the holiday and sick relief for both Yalding and Watringbury delivery rounds so you will still see her occasionally. Dan and Cheryl will be continuing as normal. A new postie will take over Jo's round.

Royal Mail postal problems. Please be aware that Royal Mail staffing levels have taken a huge hit from Covid 19. Many offices are operating at about 50% staff capacity, with post Christmas mail levels about double normal. Please don't panic. The mail will arrive... eventually.

When posting, please remember...

EU parcels all need a customs label in clear, legible block capitals. If not, it gets "Return to Sender". **Signed For items** always show as still at Yalding until they are signed for at destination.

Another concern has arisen recently... For **pre-paid "Tracked" items**, we can only accept **returns**. If you have printed your own, pre-paid "Tracked" label, most of these cannot be processed or deposited at a Post Office. These have to be taken to main Royal Mail depots at Tonbridge or Parkwood. I'm just not allowed to accept them.

We can process pre-paid "Tracked **returns**" and all other pre-paid "Standard", "Signed For" and "Special Delivery" items; - just not "*pre-paid Tracked*".

For customers with **Post Office Card Accounts**. (POCA) We await news from POL and Gov't about how they will cater for those who cannot transfer benefits to a standard bank account.

The Coronavirus emergency. Please wear a mask in the shop. Only one customer in the shop at any one time (more than one allowed if residing together) Please also keep a safe distance apart whilst waiting to enter.

Bakery. Our alternative supplier of pastries has recovered enough to resume producing his wonderful croissants etc. Coxheath Bakery has resumed its Monday service.

Helen's cakes and biscuits. Helen has re-started her biscuit making and we hope to have a steady supply available again at the Post Office. Thank you Helen.

Vulnerable persons cash withdrawals. We are happy to allow 3rd parties to undertake financial transactions for vulnerable or isolating people. We require a confirmation letter from the customer and ID from the 3rd party.

New stamps sets this month are the **Only Fools and Horses** and the **Legend of King Arthur** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request.

All kinds of Post Office savings, insurance and investments, telephone and Broadband services available. **Post Office Classic Travel Insurance** cannot be arranged in branch at present due to a technical problem, but you can collect literature and contact details from us.

(Continued overleaf)

YALDING POST OFFICE

Foreign Currencies. We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars...Hopefully people can resume foreign travel this year. POL have informed us that credit on Travel Money Cards can be encashed at all branches in UK currency.

Your Post Office offers FREE cash withdrawals with most debit cards, pay bills, top up gas and electricity cards and keys, pay in cheques and cash to most banks using your debit card. We do Health Lottery, phone Top-Ups, Fishing licences and Moneygram. And, of course...we sell stamps and send parcels and letters all over the world.

Bakery items fresh every day. Croissants and other pastries Thursdays and Saturdays, cold drinks, unique greetings cards by local artists, Yalding honey, Joan's jams.

Bit Spicy curry mixes, hand-made fabric items, stationery, Yalding mugs, fresh eggs from local chickens, Loddington Farm fruit juices, Oakapple Farm fresh produce.....**All in stock now.**

As well as a large stock of locally made face masks, bags and scrunchies...all moneys to the Yalding Surgery fund to pay for some new vital equipment. Well done to Sharon...the face mask manufacturer extraordinaire...

The Post Office Gift Card is an ideal gift for that person hard to buy for....These can be used at pretty much every major retailer in the UK and online. See us for details.

Our opening hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm. 2.00pm to 5.30pm. Closed on Sundays.

Early closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays (12.30pm Saturdays).

Many thanks for your wonderful support for Kent's Most Loved Post Office....

Telephone...01622 814327

Look us up on our Facebook page and website.

100 CLUB

February Draw Results

1st	Yalding Church Choir	67
2nd	Sue Williams	84
3rd	Rob Bird	78

Next Draw is on the 7th March

R. Young





CALL TODAY:

01622 814343

**To book your FREE lift
to get to your Covid
Vaccination Appointment**

**Cabs for Jobs is for older and vulnerable Yalding
residents who need help getting to and from
their covid vaccination appointment**

Donate Here: gofund.me/b5f1e5ab

YALDING SURGERY

As I write we are still in National Lockdown but both national and local Covid infection rates are falling, and the vaccination programme is well underway.

Yalding practice summary

Surgery staff continue to work hard identifying those at clinical risk, following up patients who may have missed their vaccination and cross-checking NHS centrally generated lists.

These figures were for our local practice area as at February 13th.

Cohort	1st jab %
Care Homes	100%
Over 80's	98%
Aged 75-79	99%
Extremely clinically vulnerable	96%
Aged 70-74	96%
Aged 65-69	92%
< 64yrs w. underlying conditions	in focus

Whilst there has been some anxiety about the vaccines and indeed, some patients experience mild side effects, these must be put into context. This really is a lifesaving jab and we would encourage all our patients who are offered the vaccine to take up the offer.

Cabs for Jobs

We are delighted to see yet again our local community has stepped up by supporting the Yalding Taxi initiative for local residents who are struggling with transport to reach the vaccination centres. Thank you and well done!

We anticipate as time goes on and supplies increase the vaccination will be rolled out to all surgeries, especially as the continuing new variants will necessitate booster jabs very much like the annual flu programme.

Surgery access

Our surgery continues to be open for patients needing face to face appointments or collecting prescriptions. Check out the surgery Facebook page or our website for up-to-date news and information. We are re-opening appointments for booking online but please note these will be telephone appointments only due to the Covid restrictions.

Other services available to you

Lock down has been difficult for many people with emotional and financial pressures on top of isolation. If you, or anyone you know, are struggling please contact the surgery as, if we can't help you on the spot, we can often direct you to another appropriate local service.

Some useful resources:

Mental health

For urgent support, please ring the Mental Health Matters helpline (24/7) on 0300 330 5486 (free for mobiles) or 0800 107 0160 (free for landlines) or Single Point of Access 0800 783 9111

For routine Counselling and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy: You can self-refer through <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/> or phone 03000 120 012

Keep safe and always remember...

Hands, Face, Space

Dr. Alex Scott

Community Support Scheme

(operated in confidence by the parish church)

If you, or anyone you know, is in need of support, even if it is only for a week or two, then do let us know and we can see what we can do to help, even in a small way.

It is important we work together as a community to see us through the worst.

We survive together, not at the expense of others.

Father Paul

- by phone: 01622 814182 (vicarage)

01622 814159 (Rachel)

- by email: support@yaldingchurches.co.uk

- more info: www.yaldingchurches.co.uk

LIFE IN VERSE

The Jackdaw by Margaret N Tate

Black Jackdaws

Perky and inquisitive.

On the roof tops where they live,
Calling out their name "Jack, Jack"

Circling round the house tops,
sitting on the chimney pots

Grey nape and black cap

Leisurely, off they flap.



Gregarious birds, rarely alone
Among all the wires where the winds whistle and moan.

Searching in the moss for grubs
and pecking in gutters for juicy bugs.

Looking into every gap
never stopping for a nap
Always calling "Jack, Jack"
Lest you should forget this black
bird among the chimney stacks



Lockdown SpooF

(in circulation on the web)

I won't arise and go now, nor go to Innisfree
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kathmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.

I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the KEEP OUT posters or the the cherry hung with snow.

And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
Or get to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends,
Nor come within a mile of you, until this lockdown ends.

YALDING BAPTIST CHURCH - OUR SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

NB All meetings will be Zoom Virtual Meetings until further notice

Every Sunday 10.30 a.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME

Zoom Meeting ID: 857 4184 1757

7th March

Communion Service

14th March

Usual Service

21st March

All Age Service

28th March

Visiting Speaker Levi Lee

Kitchen Crew (monthly date to be confirmed, for young people aged 11+) and Junior Church will both be at home via WhatsApp and Zoom.

Most Fridays: 10-11.15 a.m. Praise and prayer **

Alternate Wednesdays: 8.15pm Home Group **

**** Contact **** James and Rachel Bushnell to confirm Zoom IDs & timings
01622 817337 or rachbush75@hotmail.co.uk

yaldingbaptistchurch.my-free.website

www.facebook.com/yaldingbaptistchurch

Do you need some Relaxation?

The pandemic has taken its toll on all of us in various ways. To help us look after our mental health and well-being, we are offering a series of six weekly Zoom Relaxation sessions; do try them out.

What can I expect?

The first half of each session will look at practical ways in which we can support our own mental health and includes a relaxation session.

The (optional) second half of each session focusses on our spiritual side, thinking about what God says on the topic of the week, and includes music, prayer and reflection.

You can join us for just the first half (20-30 minutes), or for the whole session, and you will not be expected to pray aloud or say or do anything in particular!

Who is it for?

You don't need to be experiencing anxiety or depression in order to join in- but you might be, and that's OK. This is for anyone. You don't have to have a faith to join in (even for the second half!).

What do I need?

Just a comfortable chair/sofa/bed where you can relax in a quiet place, undisturbed (as far as possible!), with access to Zoom! You don't necessarily need a camera or microphone- you can listen in without these.

Details for six weekly Relaxation sessions

Zoom Meeting ID: 847 3870 3486

There is a waiting room but no passcode needed. Participants will be muted, to aid relaxation. Please use Zoom chat to ask questions, comment or make prayer requests.

Dates: Weekly for 6 weeks

Mondays 4-5pm, 22nd Feb - Mon 29 Mar

Thursdays 8.30-9.30pm, 25 Feb-1 April

Thursday's content is a repeat of Monday's.

If you miss the first session, feel free to start on the 2nd or 3rd session

Helen Grant

MP for Maidstone and the Weald

I am here to help you in any way that I can. If there is an issue of concern to you, where you believe I can assist, or if you would like to arrange a meeting with me, please email me at helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk or telephone **020 7219 7107**.

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Darman Lane
Laddingford
Kent
ME18 6BL

www.laddingfordschool.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01622 871270
Email: office@laddingford.kent.sch.uk



Join our Laddingford Family!

Do you know anyone looking for a Primary School place? We still have a limited number of spaces in some year groups – please give us a call to enquire.

Thank you to everyone who attended our virtual open events in November, if you missed these but would still like to know more about the school please get in touch with us via the school office email address below. We would be happy to have a chat with you, via phone or video call and to share some videos with you to give you a flavour of our school.

Our school website has lots of information too, including a virtual tour video on the 'admissions' page;

www.laddingford.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Gemma Hitch

Laddingford St Mary's Primary
Darman Lane, Laddingford,
ME186BL
01622 871270
office@laddingford.kent.sch.uk

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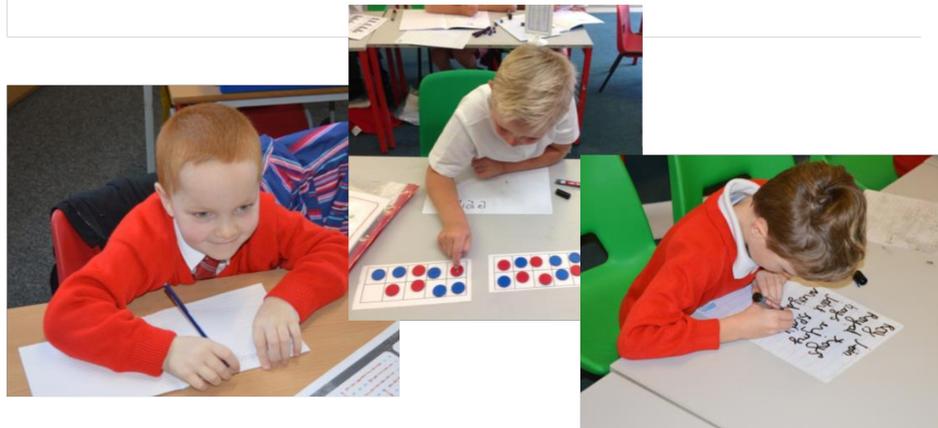
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Laddingford Primary School News

Spring is finally on the way!

As is the theme of my parish magazine articles at the moment, I find myself giving this one a quick rewrite **right** on the deadline (in fact quite a bit past it!). The reason for the rewrite this time is that we now know for certain that a roadmap out of lockdown is in place and the children will be returning to school on 8th March. I'm sure that there are many different opinions on this out in the community and I myself have mixed feelings and some anxieties but as I looked out over the field this morning, I couldn't help but feel utterly delighted at the prospect of seeing children playing there once again.

If you are a parent who has had to navigate this time of remote learning, juggling that with home working and life in general – I salute you, and the end is now in sight. I am also so incredibly grateful to the wonderful team here at Laddingford who have provided remote education and pastoral support through this time, in a multitude of different ways, and with unwavering commitment and positivity. I am particularly struck by the incredible flexibility that everyone has shown; we have had Canterbury University student teachers training with us this term too and their ability to adapt and learn in this new way and to still support our students and add value to our school team has just blown me away.



Whilst it will of course be wonderful to get children back in the classroom in a couple of weeks time, I refuse to buy into the 'falling behind' narrative that is so prevalent. Our children have done fabulous things at home, they've made progress in the core subjects and produced wonderful pieces of art and music, we continue to be incredibly proud of them and look forward to building on these successes when they are back in school.

It still feels too far off to really hope that the big extra-curricular events like sports day and the summer fair will be able to take place, but let's just see what the next few months bring. As we embark on Term 4, I am definitely looking forward to nicer weather and the optimism that spring brings with it.

Take Care, Mrs Hitch



St.Peter & St.Paul COE Primary School

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Kent

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office@yalding.kent.sch.uk

SCHOOL LIFE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2021

Term 3 has been far from normal.

After the Government announcement, at the end of December, we quickly put our remote learning plans into place.

The school has remained open for the children of “Critical Workers” and our wonderful teaching assistants have been supervising the learning of these pupils, on-site, in two separate “bubbles”.

Maintaining these two groupings has been essential to minimise the number of contacts between families.

All of the children have continued to learn via “remote education”.

All of our teachers have been working hard, in new and imaginative ways, to provide learning resources for a broad and balanced curriculum.

Reception class have continued to use a platform called Tapestry and the rest of the school have been using Google Classroom.

Both of these online platforms enable a two-way exchange between the teachers and children/parents at home.

Keeping in touch via these platforms has been vital and, paired with emails, Zoom “Catch-ups”, assemblies and story times, has helped us all to feel connected.

We have also introduced an online “Headteacher’s Challenges Classroom” with additional stimuli across a variety of subject areas.

Children’s work



We know that it is difficult balancing family life, working from home and helping children with their home learning.

However, we are very impressed with the work that is being completed.

Here are just a few examples of their home learning.

Fun in the snow

In the last week of term 3, many families had fun in the snow and



were kind enough to share their photographs of their wonderful creations – both large and small.

Hopefully, school life will feel a little more normal in March.



YALDING LIBRARY

There's a sound to breaking waves when they're close, a sound like nothing else. The background roar is unmistakable, overlaid by the swash of the landing wave and then the sucking noise of the backwash as it retreats.

It was dark, barely a speck of light, but even without seeing it, I recognised the strength of the swash and knew it must be close. I tried to be logical. We'd camped well above the high-tide line; the beach shelved away below us and beyond that was the water level: it couldn't reach us; we were fine.

I put my head back on the rolled-up jumper and thought about sleep...

No, we weren't fine, we were far from fine. The swash and suck wasn't coming from below, it was right outside ...



And so begins *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn

Raynor then watches in awe as her husband, Moth, picks up the tent and runs across the beach with it over his head, when only months ago he had struggled to put on his own coat without help.

This inspirational memoir continues by describing the life-changing events before this opening scene, which takes place 36 nights and 243 miles into the couple's trek along the South West Coast Path of England. It traces how they got there and what led to their decision to walk the long and arduous path in the first place – and we find out why they are wild camping along the way.

We learn that just days after Moth, Raynor's husband of 32 years, receives the cruellest of diagnosis, the couple not only lose their home but their livelihood too. With nothing left and little time, it is this that brings them to making the brave and impulsive decision to walk all 630 miles of the sea-swept coastal path, from Somerset to Dorset, via Devon and Cornwall. Carrying only the essentials for survival on their backs, they live wild in the ancient, weathered landscape of cliffs, sea and sky. Yet through every step, every encounter and every test along the way, their walk becomes a remarkable journey.

Please note - Last month the opening paragraph of Yalding Library's entry in the parish magazine was printed in error. As I write, none of Kent's libraries is open to the public. Some, including the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone and Tonbridge Library, are offering a limited 'Select and Collect' service. Details of this service and all the latest information relating to Kent Libraries can be found at: www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries

The Salt Path is a beautifully written, honest and life-affirming true story of coming to terms with loss, grief and hardship, and of the healing power of the natural world all around us.

Here's what the critics have to say about it:

"The Salt Path is a life-affirming tale of enduring love that smells of the sea and tastes of a rich life. With beautiful, immersive writing, it is a story heart-achingly and beautifully told."

"The landscape is magical: shape-shifting seas and smugglers' coves; myriad sea birds and mauve skies. Raynor writes exquisitely . . . It's a tale of triumph: of hope over despair; of love over everything."

Happy reading everyone. And if you are able to go out walking, I hope you enjoy that too!

Julie West

YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS

This page is for announcements, as sent in to us.

*The contrast this month could not be more stark between the passing of
Christine Butchers and the planned move of long-term residents
Mike Newman & Bernie.
We offer our condolences to Christine's family*



Christine Butchers RIP

Christine Butchers
passed away suddenly on
24th January 2021.

She will be greatly missed by many people.

Thank you everyone for your cards, flowers, and condolences.

This photo of Christine was taken in
December 2019 on a family trip to Lapland.

To all our friends in Yalding and Laddingford, from Mike Newman and Bernie.

After 58 happy years at Riverside Cottage, we are moving to South Devon to be nearer to my family in Exeter and to Bernie's daughter in Sheldon.

When we first planned the move, we intended to have one last huge party to say a big thank you to all our wonderful friends here. Sadly Covid 19 intervened to deny us that pleasure.

The community in our villages is second to none, and we will miss you all so much. While packing, we were



looking at photos of so many of you enjoying the many charity events held around our pool. You were always so generous and supportive.

It is very tempting to mention some of our special friends but there would not be enough space in the magazine. We will be back from time to time to visit our extended family.

In the meantime we will remember you all as the villagers of smiles.

God bless and keep you all safe. Thanks a million

Mike and Bernie.

YALDING PARISH COUNCIL

There was no meeting in February.

ACCESS FROM THE NEW DEVELOPMENT TO THE KINTONS

Countryside had decided not to install access from the site to The Kintons as shown on the plans.

Following a meeting between The Chairman and Countryside's managing director, agreement has been reached whereby Countryside will make a commuted payment of £8,500 to Yalding Parish Council (YPC), who will ask Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to build a bridge, with wheelchair access, from the site at the end of Kintons Walk to The Kintons' car park.

The bridge will be owned and maintained by YPC. This bridge will be in the exact spot as shown on the plans.

PARISH PRECEPT

It was agreed not to increase the precept but to retain it at £69,525 for 2021/22. There will, however, be a slight decrease to residents as we have more properties to share the bill.

YALDING WI

Councillors could not believe that, after 76 years, Yalding WI was to cease as they were struggling to find committee members to run the group. This seemed such a shame as the group has played such a vital part in women's lives throughout the years.

It was first established during WWII to produce and send knitted items for the soldiers from the parish serving overseas as well as to help with evacuees and, of course, making jam and cakes.

Since then, the group has done much more and gone from strength to strength. Cllr Deeann Stead has spoken with some of the ladies who have been part of the WI for some years.

The WI has always been there to help our local families in times of need as well as playing an important part in raising awareness of women's rights and mental health issues.

Then there is the social side when the ladies have enjoyed playing darts, going for weekly walks and lunches, joining in craft sessions, listening to talks on local history and even listening to local ghost stories. They have always participated in local events such as the Yuletide Market.

We are hoping that new members and prospective new committee members will come forward to resurrect Yalding WI. It is our understanding, that within the WI guidelines, the WI can be whatever the members would like it to be.

Ladies, if you are keen to bring this worthwhile group back to Yalding please contact Deeann at deeannstead@outlook.com or call her on 07920 402052. Deeann is only acting as a catalyst to try to bring the group back together.

NEXT MEETING OF YALDING PARISH COUNCIL

The next meetings will be held on Tuesday 2 March and Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 6.30pm. All meetings will be held via Zoom Video Conferencing until further notice.

Parish Electors are able to address the Council by sending a written statement to the Clerk at clerk@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk at least forty eight hours in advance of the meeting. You may still attend the meeting but not speak and you will need to be able to sign into the Zoom meeting via the internet. The Clerk will advise you of the procedure.

YALDING PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWS – PARISH DATABASE

To receive news on flooding, road closures, lost and found and any other important news and information, please send your details to with a request to be included on the database. All information is stored in accordance with GDPR Regulations.

Have you not been receiving bulletins? Maybe it's because you have changed your email address and forgotten to tell us.

Are you new to the Parish? Please let us know.

PATRICIA ROBBINS

It is with a heavy heart that I and my fellow Councillors say farewell to Patricia as a colleague and to say how much we will all miss her.

Patricia, it has been a pleasure to work with you and we will miss your forthright attitude, your questioning in an endeavour to learn and understand, sometimes sparking a debate, and the tremendous support that you have given to all of us during your time in office. Taking on the lead of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee was a huge commitment, especially through the recent difficult times.

But you don't get off that lightly!

Whilst officially you have left the fold, unofficially, we need a session in the pub to say farewell properly, and those street parties/celebrations/Parish events, your place has been reserved!

The very best of luck with the final year of your degree and with your new career but we are only saying goodbye from Yalding Parish Council as you are still so much part of village life.

Stay in touch, stay safe.

Geraldine Brown
Chairman

CASUAL VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR ON YALDING PARISH COUNCIL

- Are you interested in the community in which you live or work?
- Want to get involved in supporting that community?
- Can attend meetings on the first Tuesday of each month?

Any person 18 years of age and older,
who is a local government elector,
who lives or works in the parish,
or lives within three miles of Yalding Parish (for at least 12 months)
may stand for election (subject to not being disqualified)

If you are interested or want to find out more,
please contact The Parish Clerk
on 01622 814134

Note: If there is more than one candidate, it is likely there will be an
election on 6th May 2021

TESTON & WATERINGBURY PRESCHOOL

The focus for Term 4 is based around the book 'Clifford's Manners' by Norman Bridwell. It is about a big red dog called Clifford who models good behaviour during his day-to-day activities.

Children can learn important social skills such as saying, 'excuse me', and being kind to others together with expressing and talking about their feelings in different situations. The children will also be recycling their rubbish, just like Clifford.

In our craft corner the children will be making a special gift for Mother's Day, celebrated on 14th March. Our children will also be creating and sending out thank you cards and learning to play turn taking games.

This term we will also be celebrating World book day. On Thursday 4th March we will all be dressing up as our favourite book character and reading different types of books such as 'Penguin says please', 'The Bear who shared' and 'What if everybody did that'.

To help with our fundraising, we have a 'bags to school' collection from Teston village hall at 09.00am on Friday 26th March 2021. If you are having a clear out of clothes, handbags, shoes, belts and towels please bag them up and bring them along to Teston village hall between Monday 22nd and Thursday 25th March 09.00 – 3.00pm. All monies raised will go towards craft material for the children. We thank you for your support.

If you are interested in joining our pre-school, please contact Tina Driver on 07805 796353 or email tandwngroup@gmail.com



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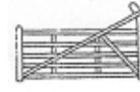
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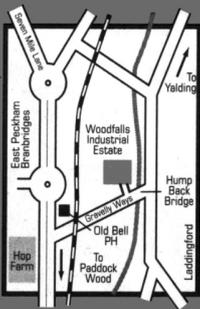
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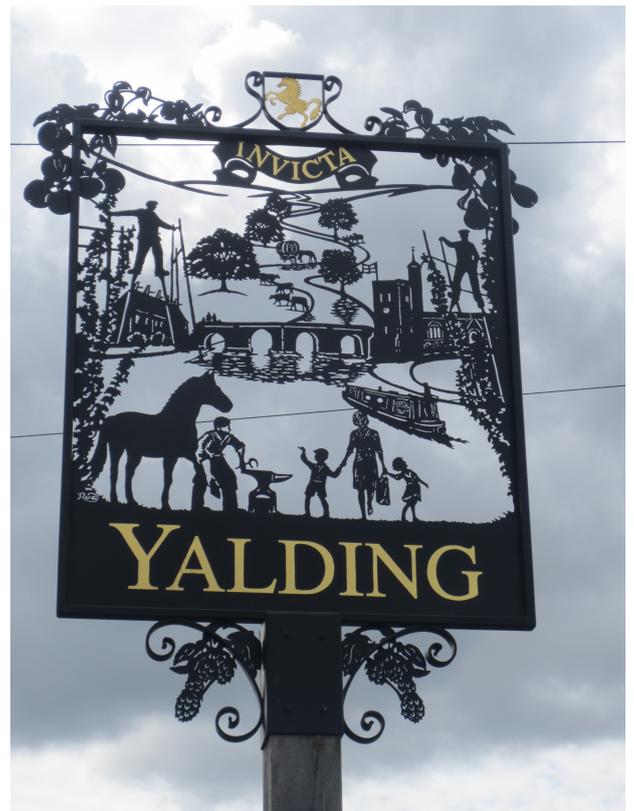
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