

The Parish of St Peter and St Paul, Headcorn

www.handschurches.org Facebook : Headcorn and the Suttons

Vicar Reverend Fiona Haskett

The Vicarage, 64 Oak Lane, Headcorn, TN27 9TB

Telephone 01622 891804 or email fiona.haskett@btopenworld.com

Parishes Administrator: email secretary@handschurches.org

Churchwardens

Mrs Meryl Francis, 31 Knaves Acre, Headcorn, TN27 9TJ

Tel: 01622 892034/07871 592815 or merilynsandford@hotmail.com

Russell Anderson, 19a Oak Lane, Headcorn.

Tel: 01622 891991/07484 321054

P.C.C Secretary

Mrs Maz Routledge, 29 Forge Lane, Headcorn.

Treasurer

Mr Stephen Morrison, 36 Chaplin Drive, Headcorn, TN27 9TN

Tel: 01622 892138

Electoral Roll Officer

Mr Peter Wilford, 9 Church Walk, Headcorn, TN27 9NP

Tel: 01622 892007

Choir

Mrs Annie Hawkes, Tel: 01622 890797

Captain of Bellringers

Mr Tim Munt, 4 Hyde's Orchard, Headcorn, TN27 9UE

Tel: 01622 891724 or tim@muntonline.com

Magazine Editor

Mrs Helen Anderson, 16 Chaplin Drive, Headcorn, TN27 9TN

Tel: 07944 668802 or Email: magazine@handschurches.org

Magazine Advertisements

Email: advertising@handschurches.org

Magazine Committee Chairman

Mrs Gillian Mountjoy Tel: 01622 890395 or dohl@dircon.co.uk

Subscriptions Coordinator

Geoff Haffenden Tel 07980 791079 geoff.haffenden@gmail.com

Church Mission Statement:
FOLLOWING CHRIST TOGETHER



Parish Letter

As I write this letter, the whole country seems to be swathed in an atmosphere of fear and anxiety over the possible effects of the Covid 19 Corona virus. What should we be doing for the best? Should we go to this/that/the other? Should we be cancelling various events where people gather together in significant numbers? And of course, where on earth are we going to buy our loo rolls and hand sanitiser from? The chances are, by the time you read this, many of those questions will have been answered.....and no doubt, replaced by several more. None of us likes uncertainty and we are definitely in a situation where that is the case now.

I don't know if you are aware, but the coronavirus gets its name from a distinctive corona or 'crown' of sugary-proteins that projects from the envelope surrounding the particle. This, you probably won't be surprised to learn, reminds me of another "crown" that all Christians around the world are very much aware of at this time of year.

The crown of thorns worn by Christ at his crucifixion.

But, there is one enormous difference between the "crown" worn by the Corona virus and that worn by Christ. As already mentioned, the former is leading to fear and uncertainty, it is likely to lead to infection, illness and sadly possibly worse. However, the crown worn by Christ has the potential to lead to exactly the opposite.

When we look at the crown of thorns we are reminded of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who despite all the aggression and animosity that was levelled against him, never gave in to any fear or uncertainty that he may have been feeling as he made his journey to the cross. He never stopped loving those around him and he even asked forgiveness for those who had conspired to put him to death. Of course, the crown of thorns should also remind us of something else – Christ's final victory over sin and death. Rather than fear and uncertainty, this crown should surely symbolise confidence and joy.

So what does that mean for us? Well I believe there are several things.

For a start, there is the fact that no matter what we are going through, no matter how uncertain or fearful we might be feeling, we know that Christ himself would have felt the same. Because of that, he will be understanding how we feel, indeed he will be suffering with us and for us in our own anxieties. But I don't believe that he will simply leave it at that, because I believe that he will also be there alongside us to help and support us, to give us comfort in times of trouble, confidence in times of uncertainty and the hope and assurance of eternal life with him after our journey through this

flawed and fractured world is over. All we need do, is turn to him, acknowledge his presence and accept his unfailing love and support.

I pray that you will all have the certainty of a happy & Blessed Easter – regardless of what Covid 19 might throw at us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona', with a simple horizontal line above it.

The Church of the Lock Down!

As you will all be aware by now, in an effort to keep everyone safe from the Corona Virus, our churches have been forced to close their doors. Even the vicar isn't aloud in at the moment!

However, that doesn't mean that we have ceased to function—far from it. During this time of crisis we have put additional resources on our website <http://www.handschurches.org/> that we hope will help people to worship and pray at home. Fiona will also be posting “virtual services” every Sunday and also on Good Friday on both the website and the Headcorn & the Suttons Facebook page, as well as a daily “thought for the day” which we hope you will find helpful.

There are several other ways that we can join in worship:

8:10 BBC Radio 4 Sunday worship

8.00 BBC Local Radio “Virtual service” initially lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The BBC is also aiming to broadcast a Sunday morning service of worship on BBC1 but this is subject to outside broadcasting capacity.

Alexa (if you have one ask Alexa to open the Church of England to get started)

Church of England Website for Daily Prayers

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer/todays-prayer>

The Church of England offers online resources and we expect these resources to be added to in due course: <https://www.churchofengland.org/coronavirus>

Finally, Fiona would like to make it clear that she will be at the end of the phone if you would like pastoral support, please telephone/email Fiona on:01622 [891804/](tel:01622891804)
Fiona.haskett@btopenworld.com



From the Parish Registers

Recently Departed

George Edward Horace Newton
Patience Marion Till

'We pray for those who loved and cared for them'

Friends of Headcorn Church 100 Club

Winners of the March draw were:

£25 monthly 1st prize - Daniel Lavender

£15 monthly 2nd prize - Eileen Hale



If you want a chance to win a prize every month please contact Jenny Morrison on 01622 892138.

Praying for the Community in 2020

Quarterly meetings in the Parish Church pray for the 'Churches Together in Headcorn'. Also for all the residents of :-

5 April	New House Lane
12 April	Water Lane
19 April	Moat Road
26 April	Summerhill Road

Please contact Jackie Collins 01622 890199 for special prayers when your area or street is featured.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who has show such kindness to me by offering help, prayers, calling and visiting me, following my recent illness and hospital stay. I am making good progress and on the road to recovery.

Once again, many thanks.

Eileen Hale

Church Quiz Night

Thank you to everybody from the local community who came to support our fundraising quiz night on 7 March. Eighteen teams enjoyed a fun evening, presided over by our vicar Fiona; supported by her husband Graham on the scoreboard. This event raised over £850 for the upkeep of our parish church. Grateful thanks go to Sweet William Florist and Headcorn Delicatessen for being ticket selling outlets in the village.



Headcorn Methodist Church

We invite you to purchase a copy of our next paper Quiz, price £1.

The title is "Shopping at the Greengrocers" and the answers are all names of fruits and vegetables.

Entry forms are available from Noel Grabham: email grabham@btinternet.com, telephone: 01622 891124 or from any member of the Church.

Closing date for entries is 16 May 2020. A prize of £10 will be awarded to the first correct answer received.

Headcorn Scouts

We would like to thank everyone who came to our play 'The Purple Pimple' in February and to our quiz night held on the 7 March. We raised collectively £2,300 towards our funds.

Headcorn Health Walks

Our walk on the 4 March started at Egerton and Paula and I had carried out the risk assessment on the previous Wednesday only to find that one of the fields we were due to cross had been ploughed. Thirteen of us set off on the shorter walk across fields and along lanes. Wednesday was cloudy and dry and quite warm for the time of year. We took time to look at the masses of daffodils that were in flower down in a valley. It was a lovely morning out.

We look forward to seeing you all again when we return.

Headcorn Gardeners' Society

A well attended and memorable occasion. A relaxed and informal atmosphere was experienced by Members of the Headcorn Gardeners' Society while enjoying an excellent carvery at their Annual Lunch at The Weald of Kent Golf Course on Sunday, 23 February.



We sadly regret to announce that all our shows and planned visits will be cancelled for the remainder of the year.

An Introduction to Farming

Being born in close proximity to a country farm institute, where father was a poultry lecturer and instructor, there were often occasions to visit the farm. It had a Shorthorn dairy cattle herd, poultry unit and acres of arable crops and other livestock. Whilst still at Grammar School during WW2, I spent two summer holidays picking potatoes, a very back aching job!

Our Summer scout camps were held on farms and it was interesting to note that mixed farming predominated and were mainly family farms of a modest size.

After the war a training farm was set up near St Dunstan's which helped train blind servicemen in tending to a small holding, and some of my summer work involved milking goats and feeding the chickens.

On leaving school and prior to an agricultural degree course, a year of employment on a good farm to gain practical experience and give a further insight into the world of farming was required. This involved cereal and more potato harvesting, baling hay from ricks, hoeing root crops, haymaking plus a six week spell in the milking sheds with 60 Ayrshire cows.

Following my studies, an offer of a job, with a cottage, as a second cowman was on a 300 acre farm looking after a dairy herd of 30 Ayrshire cows. The work included preparing the cow shed for twice a day milking, washing udders and carrying the milk to the cooler, mucking out and some field work in the spring/summer as soon as the herd were out grazing.

After two years, I decided to move on and this time I was head herdsman looking after a herd of 200 pedigree Jersey cows. This was much more involved and as well as the day to day duties, I got involved in the breeding of this herd as well as assisting at calving time.

At the age of 26, one had worked on farms for enough years that you could look for a more professional position—the time on the farms was in lieu of National Service at the time. What I did next is a story for another time.

Roger Ferguson

Messy Science

Our first ever Messy Science session exceeded all our expectations with over 40 children and their parents joining us in the Longmeadow Hall to do various experiments relating to light, colour and water. The idea had been to relate it all to the accounts of God creating the world—starting with light, then water and then, as we split light into different colours using various prisms, to remind ourselves of the rainbow that God made as a sign to Noah that he would never bring a world wide flood again. The session was rounded off with the children being given the opportunity to “create” their own pizza’s.



Headcorn & the Suttons

Seeds of Hope

Children's competition

Plant a sunflower seed,
nurture it and watch it grow.
Prizes for the tallest plants and biggest
blooms.

More details in May Magazines
Seeds available at 64 Oak Lane
Headcorn church
Sutton Valence church



Headcorn Parish Council

With Corvid 19 causing uncertainty all around, it is difficult to plan ahead at the current time.

Annual Meeting of the Parish was scheduled for Wednesday, 22 April but has now been postponed.

The Government has postponed the May 2020 Local Elections to May 2021. We know that some Headcorn Parish Councillors are wanting to stand down in May 2020 and are therefore we are keen to co-opt new members. PLEASE get in touch with the Clerk for further information. It is essential that we have a full complement of Councillors as without the Parish Council the village of Headcorn will have no voice to speak to higher levels of Local Government and utilities.

At their March Meeting, HPC agreed to press ahead with additional lighting and a CCTV camera in the carpark down the ramp by Tallow Court, following several incidents in that area.

Also discussed was a parking scheme for Church Lane, which is the private road owned by HPC, leading to the Village Hall. Available for use as public short-term parking, it has unfortunately been discovered by commuters.

A request for Day's Green to have barriers around it was resisted – we are a rural village and that is our village green!

It was reported that Cllrs are meeting Helen Whately, MP during March to discuss planning issues. Two separate meetings are planned with Kent Highways, the first, with our KCC Cllr Prendergast to move on the Lenham Road footpath, the second to discuss our Highways Improvement Plan. We are also seeking a visit from the current head of Kent Highways to discuss outstanding issues.

Please note that there will be no Parish Council Meetings in April

Contact your Parish Council on 01622 892496 or email clerk@headcornpc.org.uk or visit our website at www.headcornpc.org

Etymology Corner

American English—Or Is It?

Anyone who has operated a modern computer will have noticed that the native language of our green and pleasant land is no longer English but English (UK).

As early as the start of the eighteenth century, British commentators were noting a divergence in the language either side of the Atlantic and making disparaging remarks about how those naughty Americans were misusing the mother tongue.

Actually, many of the differences could be accounted for by changes to the language in Britain rather than in America. Words such as **trash** (rubbish), **loan** (instead of lend) and **gotten** (got) are all found in Shakespeare but have since fallen out of use in The Albion. In fact, Shakespearian English is, in many respects, closer to American English than it is to English (UK).

A conversation between George Washington and the Prime Minister, Lord North would have produced only a handful of noticeable differences in vocabulary and accent; however, if one was to eavesdrop on a conversation between President Trump and Boris Johnson, there would be no doubt about their respective nationalities.

The American Revolution marked the turning point of the new, American kind of English. The rebels wanted to announce their separation from the old country and changing the style and accent of the language was certainly one of their aims. The men who gathered in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence had more than a passing interest in words; they understood the power of language to shape national consciousness.

English in America differs still further because of its acceptance of words from the indigenous populations, such as **canoe**, **savannah**, **tomahawk**, **hickory** and also from the Spanish colonists with words like **canyon**, **ranch**, **barbecue**, and **stampede**. Other ethnic immigrants were also major contributors to the diversity, notably the Germans, Italians, French, Dutch and of course the Jewish communities.

America's great lexicographer, Noah Webster was responsible for spelling differences such as **honor** for honour, **theater** for theatre, **plow** for plough, **curb** for kerb and of course that old source of irritation to English (UK) speakers, **color** for colour; not to mention that other bugbear, pronouncing "aloominum" for aluminium.

So, small, seemingly insignificant changes were introduced into the American language and in fact the changes were actively encouraged by many of the influential teachers, politicians and more importantly the newspaper industry. The motivation here was the same as the Rebels had; a complete separation from the Old Country, that's also why the Dollar was adopted as national currency and not the Pound. Bizarrely this was also the motivation for mandating that coaches, horses and waggons drive on the right and not the left of the road as in England.

It was all a symbolic and contemptuous slap in the face of the British Government and more importantly, the Crown. In fact, some patriots proposed to revenge themselves on England by adopting French as the national language and one or two hot-headed legislators even toyed with the idea of adopting Greek! However, the voices of reason argued that English was the obvious choice as first language of the new United States. In 1790, when the first census was taken, four million Americans were counted, and 90% were descendants of British colonists; these results provided the catalyst for the final decision to keep English as the official language with the proviso, as Benjamin Rush put it, English in America should be "improved and perfected". Has it been? This writer believes there is no right or wrong answer to that question, probably one of the reasons he flies the flags of both nations at his abode!

There may be a logical pattern as to how the language has developed over the years in both of the countries; but it is a fact that the widening of the language gap was a slow and deliberate process on the part of our American cousins that has left us with accent and language difference that in today's world is almost endearing and bordering on, dare I say, cute? This fact was not lost on the author Bill Bryson OBE, FRS, who once observed: "***How else could the American Postal Service deliver the mail, while in Britain the Royal Mail delivers the post?***"

Colin Bullock

HeadARA

(Headcorn Active Retirement Association)

Our meetings are currently on hold for the time being.

In February we heard “How to make Headcorn Gardens wildlife friendly” an informative talk with colourful photographs by Maureen Rainey. The talk started with a quote from David Attenborough “in saving our planet, we must act now”. The crises are climate change and loss of biodiversity. There is a lot we can do in our own backyard.

We were advised to start now and garden in a nature friendly way. A group called “Wild about gardens in Kent” have a team of volunteers who visit and give advice to gardeners, community gardens, and gardening for those with learning disabilities. The Doctors’ Surgery is one of only two in Kent with a certificated Wild Life Garden. We were told of the lack of insects and their place at the bottom of the food chain. (40% in danger of extinction). They are important to clean up and recycle nutrients as well as being pollinators. Advice was given against pesticides, fungicides, etc and told all old poisons should be disposed of by taking to the local tip, where there is a special area allocated. Hedgehogs, birds, frogs and any visiting creatures appreciate a dish of clean water or, better still, a pond in a tub. Suitable shrubs and trees are also needed for shelter.

For any further information on the Club, please contact Jane Stone (Chairman) on 01622 891475 or Jenny Gore (Secretary)

News from the Baptist Church

We are delighted to announce that the Rev. Steve Smith has accepted the call to be the Minister of the Baptist Church in Headcorn. After a process of seeking God’s will and going through the channels of the Baptist Union settlement system, the church unanimously decided to invite the Rev. Steve Smith. Rev. Smith, with his wife Caz, met the Deacons on two occasions and preached twice in Sunday Worship and met the congregation over a meal together before the invitation was given.

An Induction Service will be held at the church at 1 Station Road, Headcorn, on Saturday, 2 May at 3pm and it is hoped that Steve’s ministry will begin at the beginning of May.

We hope that friends from the churches and the village will join us on May 2nd to celebrate a new chapter in the church’s life and welcome Steve and Caz with Nick and Katie into our community.

Hospice to tackle isolation and loneliness among local people living with a terminal illness

Heart of Kent Hospice has launched the first Compassionate Neighbours project in the county in a bid to reduce loneliness and social isolation among people living with a terminal illness. It is a free, community-led, social movement offering friendship and support for anyone who is lonely, at risk of isolation, and nearing the end of their life through age or illness.

The project works by matching local people in need with a member of their community wishing to offer their companionship. Matching is based on their shared likes, interests and experiences and is being rolled out across Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling and to all the small towns and villages in its catchment area.

The project is recruiting volunteers, you must be aged 18 or over and able to spare a couple of hours each week. An enhanced DBS check will be required and training will be provided by the Hospice.

For people wanting to know more about Compassionate Neighbours please email CN@hokh.co.uk or call 01622 792200 ext. 240.

CANCELLED **Cancer Research North Downs Walk** **14 June 2020** **Harrietsham Village Hall**

Regrettably we have had to take the difficult decision to cancel THIS YEAR's walk, in light of the recent escalation regarding coronavirus.

We had hoped to be able to go ahead with the walk but all advice and common sense dictates that we put the health of everyone at the forefront.

With apologies to you all for the disruption and disappointment.

Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent

Fun Facts for April

About the Month of April

April is the fourth month of the year and has 30 days.

Symbols of February

- Birthstone: Diamond
- Flower: Daisy and Sweet Pea

Zodiac signs: Aries (21 March to 20 April) and Taurus (21 April to 21 May)

History: In the initial Roman calendar April was the second month of the year until January and February were added in 700 BC. It is thought that the name April comes from the Latin word "to open" and describes the trees opening at springtime. It could also be that the name comes from the Greek goddess Aphrodite.

National Awareness Days (official and unofficial)

1 April 2020 April Fools' Day

April Fools' Day may have come from a few different events in history. One theory suggests that the day comes from the change in the calendar in Europe from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. This moved the New Year from Spring (around April 1st) to January 1st. When people forgot and still celebrated the New Year in April, other people made fun of them.

People liked to play practical jokes all the way back to Ancient Roman times, especially during the Spring festivals. The celebration of All Fools' Day started in the Middle Ages. It was generally celebrated on 25th March throughout much of Europe up until the 1800s.

10 April 2020 Good Friday

13 April 2020 Easter Monday

20 April 2020 Stop Snoring Week

24 April 2020 National Skipping Day



USEFUL NUMBERS

Village Hall Enquiries	Helen Anderson	07944 668802
Parish Council Clerk	Caroline Carmichael	01622 892496
Doctor's Surgery		01622 890294
Pharmacy		01622 890758
Headcorn Library		030004103131
P.C.S.O	John Boyd	101
Community Warden	Stuart Ellesmere	07969 583923

You can ring 101 and report crime and any anti-social behaviour.

Parish Websites www.headcorn.org.uk (Village Hall)
 www.headcornvillage.org.uk (Community Website)
 www.headcornpc.org (Parish Council)

HALL BOOKINGS

V -Village Hall Helen Anderson 07944 668802 headcornvillagehall@gmail.com
M– Methodist Sherrie Wade 07790 648124 sherriewade@sky.com
S– Scout Hut Mr & Mrs Harris 01622 890027 headcornscoutexecutive@gmail.com
Sch– School Hall School Office 01622 891289 admin@headcorn.kent.sch.uk

YOUR MAGAZINE

Deadline for the receipt of items for inclusion in the next issue

NOON on 10 APRIL at the latest.

Please send to magazine@handschurches.org

This is your magazine and we are keen to encourage contributions from new writers around the village. If a subject is of interest to you it might also please others to read about it, so don't be shy, put pen to paper and you might just unleash a literary genius! We welcome all contributions for consideration, but do prefer that items be typed and, if possible, submitted by email. Items must be signed (but names can be withheld if requested).

The Committee cannot be held responsible for the veracity of information given or views expressed.