

Fond memories of the East Sutton Church Summer fete. Let us hope we can enjoy this event next year.





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CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends

I think that many of you will be aware that I have never claimed to be a gardener – far from it, any plant given to me is usually guaranteed a very short and uncomfortable future. However, recently I have managed to have a few horticultural successes and I am feeling rather chuffed with myself

My sunflowers are growing in height and strength, the tomato plants are looking great and beginning to flower, while two of my three roses, which hadn't bloomed for three years have not only recovered but also given me some beautiful flowers. The third rose, which I genuinely thought I had killed (because I had failed to water it) is now coming back to life with lots of fresh green leaves.

(yes, I know, pride comes before a fall).

So what is the secret of my success you may ask — well I suppose the first thing is that I have given these plants a bit of my time and attention, not a lot, but enough to ensure that they are in the right sized pots with the right amount of food and water. In the case of the sunflowers and the tomatoes I have also provided them with some support by gently tying them to canes (I use my fathers old trick of cutting up old pairs of tights rather than using twine as it stretches and therefore wont damage



the stem). While for the roses, in all three cases, the trick was to give them a good prune.

Of course I realise, that having got all my plants on the road to healthy growth I need to ensure that they stay there. Watering and feeding them, dead heading the roses, picking out the

unwanted stems on the tomatoes and increasing the amount of support that they and the sunflowers so obviously need as the grow taller.

Well all this got me thinking. Indeed I started to wonder if their could be parallels between our journey through life and that of a plant. I have now come to the conclusion that there definitely is.

For a start, just like my plants, we would probably survive if left to our own devices, however, how strong, happy or healthy would we be of that was the case? And would we automatically "grow" in the right direction? I'm sure we can all agree that we would definitely suffer if we didn't receive the right amount of water and nourishment. While although we we might think that we would like the freedom to go wherever the whim takes us, or make whatever life choices we want, I think that we can all agree that in order to lead good and fulfilling lives we really need a bit of

Continued on next page...

structure and support to hang on to. Finally, we need to appreciate that just as with my roses, we can all benefit from regular dead heading by letting go of those things that might tie us to the past and restrict our ability to move forward. While we should also make sure that we regularly take stock of our lives, where we are and what we are doing so that we can "prune back" on the things that may simply be diverting our energies from more beneficial activities.

Now we could try and do all of this by ourselves, but I wonder, how successful would we be if that was the case? We could, of course, turn to our families

and friends for help and support – and I'm sure that they would give it.

But there is one person, who I can guarantee will always be on hand to offer the best nourishment, training, support and pruning there is. It will come as no surprise to read that I believe that person to be God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. But of course he never imposes himself on anyone, he simply waits and hopes for people to invite him into their lives. So, will you invite God to be the perfect gardener for your life today?

With love and blessings for a flourishing July



Use your old clothes to help others in poverty

Lockdown drove many of us to do a Spring clear-out of our wardrobes. But what do you do now do with the old clothes you no longer want?

Charity shops may be closed for the time being, but there's still a way to donate your old items and support your favourite charities. Just go online and visit Thrift+. It is an online store where you can buy and donate great quality second -hand clothes. And you get to choose which cause to support when you make a donation.

While lockdown measures are in place, they've introduced a doorstep collection service, so you don't need to leave your home to support life-transforming charities.



The queue

While waiting in a long queue early one morning for the supermarket to open for us 'seniors', I was surprised to see a young man saunter along and try to cut in at the front of the queue. A furious old lady waved



her cane at him, and he quickly backed away.

A moment later, the young man tried again. He managed to dodge the old lady, but then two old men started shouting at him. Again, the young man backed away.

But he wasn't giving up, and soon the young man approached the queue for the third time. By now, all of us pensioners were ready for him, an angry wall of opposition.



The young man stood there for a moment, and then shrugged his shoulders. "If you people won't let me unlock the door, none of you will ever get in to shop."

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I need to practice social-distancing - from my refrigerator.

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The final deadline for the submission of material is the 14th of the preceding month. Acceptable formats for articles are MS Word, MS Publisher or text files. PDF files can sometimes be used, but as their proportions cannot be altered without distortion, they can't always be used. Suitable picture formats include: Jpeg, BMP, PNG, GIF, etc.



Why did God make mothers?

Here are some of the answers sevenyear-olds gave to the following questions...

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mum?

God knew she likes me a lot more than other kids' mums like me.

What kind of little girl was your mum? I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him? His last name.

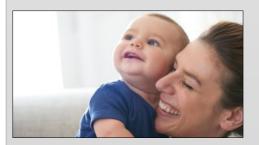
Why did your mum marry your dad? She got too old to do anything else with him.

What's the difference between mums & dads?

Mum knows how to talk to teachers without scaring them.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.



Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.

Coronavirus: For the first time in history, we can help save the human race by lying in front of the TV and doing nothing. Let's not mess this one up!





We hope you are enjoying both your garden, and hopefully by July will be able to get out and see other gardens in Kent and surrounding areas.

Hanging baskets and patio pots

Water hanging baskets and patio pots daily. Even if its raining their compost

may remain dry! Add a plant feed once a week. Pick off dead flower heads and pinch out shoot tips to encourage branching.

Thin heavily laden fruit trees

Carefully thin heavily laden fruit trees to allow remaining fruit more room to grow. Tie in new shoots on cane fruits. Pick strawberries and trim off old foliage. Remove any straw or unwanted runners, If you have any old carpet underlay, cut an area large enough to just over the size of each strawberry plant with a slit to the middle and place under each plant to protect from slugs etc.



Keep an eye on the blackcurrants, white currants, and red currants as they will quickly change colour and sweetness. Also the blueberries need a check now and then together with the grapes if you are lucky enough to have these.

Vegetables

Sow swedes and turnips. Finish planting leeks and late Brussels sprouts, winter cabbages and spring broccoli. Water well in dry weather. Lift and store onions.



Dahlias

Adjust and tie in new stems. Plants which appear to be growing less quickly should be treated with a fertiliser every four weeks, taking care not to get any on the leaves. Remove dead flowers to encourage new ones.

Carnations and Pinks

Remove dead flower heads and control pests as appropriate. Water in dry conditions and fertilise as required. (We are fortunate today as there are so many pelleted products on the market – or you can use your tried and tested ones!)

Sweet peas

If you have grown sweet peas in your garden or allotment they will need picking regularly, when you have had enough of them there are always plenty of neighbours that would be grateful to receive a bunch to cheer them up.



Flowers from seed

Remove dead flowers from annuals to encourage new blooms. Water regularly. Support taller varieties with canes or similar.

Sow wallflowers and/or Sweet Williams

Sow wallflowers and/or Sweet Williams in sites prepared in spring checking over

the ground first for any weeds that may have appeared!



Roses

Roses should be dead headed as soon as flowers fade, cutting back to just above a bud on the main stem. Summer prune **Wisteria**, shortening long wispy stems back to 20 cm.

Cuttings

Take Cuttings of fuchsias, geraniums, marguerites

and tender perennials. To

propagate shrubs, take shoot tips of new growth, root in pots of gritty compost and cover with plastic bags.

Greenhouses.

Ensure greenhouses are shaded. Open doors and vents daily. Check for signs of pests and treats as appropriate.

Heathers

Weed and add peat if needed.

Perhaps the weather will be good enough for us to have our tea outdoors.



Noticeboard

Lychgate repairs at Sutton Valence Church



It's finally happening!!

The repairs to the lychgate will be starting on Tuesday 30th June and should take about 6 weeks to complete.

We are sorry, but the main footpath through the churchyard will have to be closed to the public

the W

Sutton Valence WI will not be meeting this month. Any queries please ring:

Rosie on 01622 842034.

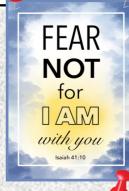


St Mary's
Monthly Draw
Winners of the June 2020
draw

First Prize - Rev Fiona Haskett

Second Prize - Mr & Mrs Steve Pereira

Congratulations!!!





Eric took social distancing while bell ringing very seriously.



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or see www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk

Event Co-ordinator: Deborah Robinson 07745 120140 rideandstride@friendsofkentchurches.co.uk

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St Mary's 100 Club

Thank you to all those who have already renewed their membership and to those joining for the first time.

It is never too late to join. If you wish to subscribe, please complete the below application form or contact me and I will email it to you.

Mary Brett (Promoter)

Telephone: 01622 843748 Email: mbrett11@btinternet.com

Application to join St Mary's 100 Club

When you can't go out, go shopping. That seems to be the decision of many people over 65.

Record numbers of over-65s have signed up for online banking, according



year ago, after being forced to stay home during lockdown.

Overall, the proportion of transactions being made online by those over the age of 65 has doubled,

to recent data from Halifax. And they are climbing from 20 per cent to 40 per cent. now shopping online twice as much as a

July Jottings



The adult cuckoos that arrived in April will be on their way back to Africa this month but their young, cared for by the foster parents into whose nests they were laid as eggs will not be ready to make the journey yet and will have to rely on g built-in behavioural pattern to get them to their winter quarters. If I hear a cuckoo calling it is usually when I am on my early morning walk along the farm track between Hilltop Garage and Chart Sutton church and this year he seemed to be more vocal than usual to start with as I heard him almost every morning from April 24th until the last week in May. Cuckoos are said to change their tune in June – 'cuc-koo' becoming cuc-cuc-koo - but mine just seemed to become less vocal and I rarely heard him again.



Swifts may have got here towards the end of May but it wasn't until early June that I heard their screeching cries as they caught the airborne insects on which they feed. It always amazes me that, once they have fledged and left the nest, they stay airborne until they return the following year when it is time to find a suitable nest site in which to raise the next generation.

What a pity we were locked down in the sunniest May on record! I imagine that many of those who were working at home rather than in the office enjoyed being able to wear the sort of casual clothing suited to the conditions.



The shortage of rain in May meant that the grass didn't need mowing as frequently as is usually the case and I decided not to get the mower out at all in May for the benefit of the insects that prefer it that way. I hope they appreciated it. I have no intention of reducing all of my meadow to neatly mown turf again; I'll just mow pathways through the wilder parts and, if I like the result, I shall keep it that way in years to come and maybe even try to introduce some traditional meadow flowers.

Michael Beaman

Online book of remembrance opened at St Paul's



St Paul's Cathedral has launched <u>Remember Me</u>, an online book of remembrance for all those who have been living in the UK who have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. People of all faiths, beliefs or none are invited to contribute to <u>Remember Me</u>.

HRH The Prince of Wales, who recorded a video message, said: "This virtual book of remembrance is here not just to recall our loss and sorrow, but also to be thankful for everything good that those we have loved brought into our lives."

Family, friends and carers of those who have died can submit, free of charge, the name, photograph and a short message in honour of a deceased person via the *Remember Me* website. The deceased person must have been living in the UK. *Remember Me* will be open for entries for as long as needed. It is intended that the *Remember Me* site will become a physical memorial at the Cathedral.

https://www.rememberme2020.uk/





As you will no doubt have heard, the government has now given permission for churches to open for private prayer. However, we are sorry to say that before doing so, we have to put in place a number of procedures and protocols which, frankly, are unachievable for the three Suttons. We are hopeful, however, that we will be able to open St Mary's for at least some of the week in the not too distant future.

You will also have heard that the government has given permission for the resumption of corporate worship as from 4th July. However, as we have not yet received any guidance as to what form this may take or what safety measures we must first put in place it is likely to be several weeks before we will be able to welcome you all back.

What we do know however, is that there will be several elements to our worship, e.g. singing hymns, exchanging the Peace, joining in corporate responses and staying on for refreshments, which will have to be omitted for the foreseeable future.

We are very sorry about this, but would like to assure you that we are all working hard to ensure a safe

resumption of Church activities as soon as is safely possible.

In the meantime, video services will continue to be made available on YouTube, at 10am on Sundays and may be accessed at any time after that.

We publish links to these video services on our website:

www.handschurches.org

Or via Facebook:

www.facebook.com

And search for: @handschurches

Fiona will also be continuing her "thought for the day" at 12 noon Monday —Saturday. Again, this may be accessed via Facebook or the website at any time after that.

We also have a lovely group who meet to say compline (night prayer) via Zoom at 7.30 on Monday, Wednesday & Friday each week. Please do contact Fiona if you would like to join us. We are also more than happy to introduce Morning Prayer or Daily Prayer via zoom if there is enough interest.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Fiona if she can be of any other help or assistance.



Local is back!

Odd things have been happening to my world in these past weeks of lockdown.

It's got bigger. I've been speaking

regularly via the web with friends in Australia and the United States. Worshippers from Canada and South Africa are taking part in our online church services. Other churches are telling the same stories, with increasing numbers of people logging on.

It's got smaller. Even with the relaxation of regulations, many people are still working from home, home-schooling and mostly exercising within walking or cycling distance from where they live.

It's got faster. Arrangements for a funeral in my family were speeded up, with registration and funeral planning carried out over the phone. A doctor's appointment by telephone significantly cut down waiting time.

It's got slower. Shopping takes longer with queues that people would have complained about before the lockdown. The shops have done a great job to keep the shelves stocked and maintain social distancing.

I've been thinking about what the long-

term impact of the Covid-19 lockdown might be. One of the key outcomes is that local is back.

For decades, we've been hearing about globalization, and how the world is a much more connected place. It is, and the internet has kept many vital businesses running these past weeks.

But we've also come to value what's on our doorstep and in our local streets.

Neighbours have become more important. We're valuing local shops, pubs and restaurants, parks and open spaces. All the people working hard to keep local services going.

Christianity is now a major global religion, with billions of followers around the world. But it began local. It began with Jesus Christ, travelling by foot, preaching and healing around a small area of the middle east. From its local roots, the faith spread around the world.

Today, churches around the world are deeply rooted in their local communities and are seeking to follow Christ's example of love and caring.

Each of us is rooted into our family, into our key relationships and into where we live.

During this pandemic, each of these has grown in importance.

Peter Crumpler is a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE.



Chart Sutton has a small but successful shop in the heart of the village on The Green run entirely by volunteers for the benefit of the community.

It is looking for more volunteers to help run it. It is open between 7am-5pm Mon-Fri and 8am-12noon at the weekend and Bank Holidays. Hours to suit, most volunteers do 2 hour stints. There are some permanent slots available but if you would rather be available for ad hoc covering that is fine as there are times when last minute cover is required.

The volunteers are a great bunch who very much enjoy being part of the community, meeting a wide variety of people. If you are interested in becoming part of this team please call either Valerie on **843232** or Jane on **843743** for an informal chat.

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The Three Suttons Helpline

Chart Sutton, East Sutton, Kingswood and Langley.

operating as a "good neighbour" scheme for about 20 years to make life easier for those needing to get to medical appointments, but who do not have their own transport or cannot easily be helped by family or friends and for whom public transport is infrequent and not a viable option. This scheme covers the villages and surgeries in Sutton Valence,

If anyone would like to use the scheme, please telephone one of the following numbers: **844301 842530 842346**

If you have any other queries or if you feel that you may like to help, please contact Christine Parkes. (email:

christineparkes@hotmail.com or tel. 842217

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Your area warden Dawn Riach-Brown - 07773 397125

Area supervisor - Janet Greenroyd - 07773 397131



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Grow your lawns

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has called on people to allow flowers to grow on their lawns, instead of insisting on smooth green surfaces.

The reason is because nearly 7.5million acres of meadows and pastures rich in wildflowers have been lost since the Thirties, thus removing a vital source of food for pollinators, many of whom are now in steep decline.

The nation's 15 million gardens could help a lot in supporting bees, butterflies and other bugs looking for nectar.



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EAST SUTTON COMMUNITY YOUTH THEATRE	. Mr M Dyer-Ball	01622 844321
EAST SUTTON WHIST DRIVE	. Mr R Morgan	01622 843955
MOTHERS UNION	. Mrs G Smith	01622 842530
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION	. Mr M Fitzgerald	01622 743270
SUTTON SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB	. Janet Burnett	01622 844135
SUTTON VALENCE CHORAL SOCIETY	. Mr A Hutchinson	01622 843325
SUTTON VALENCE GARDENERS ASSOCIATION	. Mr D.Gallafant	01622 842439
SUTTON VALENCE HOCKEY CLUB	. Mr L Davies	01622 844046
SUTTON VALENCE KARATE CLUB	. Mr S Pereira	07768 388163
SUTTON VALENCE MUSIC SOCIETY	. Mrs A Hutchinson	01622 843325
SUTTON VALENCE TABLE TENNIS CLUB	. Mr A Collins	01580 892755
SUTTON VALENCE TENNIS CLUB	. Mrs J Waterman	01622 768654
SUTTON VALENCE WOMENS INSTITUTE	. Mrs R Easton	01622 842034
THE SUTTONS BEAVER SCOUTS	. Mrs C Hampson	01622 862894
THE SUTTONS BROWNIES	. Mrs S Smith	01622 730680
THE SUTTONS CUB PACK	. Mrs L Waring	01622 843112
THE SUTTONS SCOUT TROOP	. Mr T Waring	07754 701086
THREE SUTTONS DARBY & JOAN CLUB	. Mrs M Mackleden	01622 861783
WARMLAKE SHORT MAT BOWLS	. Mrs B French	01622 843560
WEALD OF KENT PRESERVATION SOCIETY	. Mrs M Jones	01622 890119
SUTTON STROLLERS	. Mr C Webb	01622 842629
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Chart Sutton	Cllr. Steve Munford	01622 741310
East Sutton	Cllr. Martin Round	01622 890276
	Cllr. Karen Chappell-Tay	079186 75619
CLERKS TO THE PARISH COUNCILS		
Chart Sutton	Mrs T. Jenkins	01622 745043
East Sutton	Mrs J. Burnett	01622 844135
	eastsuttonparishcouncil@gmail.com	
Sutton Valence	Mrs J. Burnett	01622 844135
	clerk@suttonvalence.org.uk	
DOCTORS		
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Langley Surgery		01622 863030
Sutton Valence Surgery		01622 842212
On Call Care : 0845 1552255	NHS Direct: 0845 4647	
Maidstone Hospital		01622 729000
POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICE	EDC	101
. 52.52 555 35 51 61.16	ENS	101
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THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHOOLS Sutton Valence School	M.844301 M.842530 Support Line Head: Mr B Grindlay	01622 842346 01622 604396 01622 845200
THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHOOLS Sutton Valence School Sutton Valence Preparatory School	M.844301 M.842530 Support Line Head: Mr B Grindlay Head: Miss C Corkran	01622 842346 01622 604396 01622 845200 01622 842117
THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHOOLS Sutton Valence School Sutton Valence Preparatory School Sutton Valence Primary School	M.844301 M.842530 Support Line Head: Mr B Grindlay Head: Miss C Corkran Head: Miss M Terry	01622 842346 01622 604396 01622 845200 01622 842117 01622 842188
THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHOOLS Sutton Valence School Sutton Valence Preparatory School Sutton Valence Primary School Sutton Valence Pre-School	M.844301 M.842530 Support Line Head: Mr B Grindlay Head: Miss C Corkran Head: Miss M Terry Mrs F Davidson	01622 842346 01622 604396 01622 845200 01622 842117 01622 842188
THREE SUTTONS HELPLINE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHOOLS Sutton Valence School Sutton Valence Preparatory School Sutton Valence Primary School Sutton Valence Pre-School Sutton Valence Pre-School	M.844301 M.842530 Support Line Head: Mr B Grindlay Head: Miss C Corkran Head: Miss M Terry	01622 842346 01622 604396 01622 845200 01622 842117 01622 842188 01622 842388
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