

WEALD VIEWS

In the Three Suttons

August 2020









CHURCH OFFICERS OF:	ST. MARY'S, SUTTON VALENCE	SS. PETER & PAUL, EAST SUTTON	ST. MICHAEL'S, CHART SUTTON		
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Captain of Bells		Mr N. Hodgson 01622 863337	Ms H. Knowler 01622 749012		

CLERGY LETTER

Dear friends

Here we are, five months into the pandemic and we are at last seeing many of the things we used to take for granted opening up again. Indeed, we have even been told that it's O.K. to go away on

holiday – I have a funny feeling that we are all in need of one of those at the moment and I hope that you will all have the opportunity to have some sort of break during the next few weeks – whether that be a trip abroad or a "staycation".

With this in mind, I was talking to someone the other day about Jesus and whether he ever went on holiday, and if so, what he would have packed in his suitcase. It was a silly question really, as although I believe that Jesus and his disciples would have taken the odd break from the almost constant round of preaching, teaching and healing etc, he wouldn't have had a suitcase indeed he had very few belongings at all - so he certainly wouldn't have had the plethora of things that we seem to think are essential in order to enjoy our time away.



However, as we were talking we began thinking about the things that we pack in our suitcases and if they can tell us anything about Christ and our relationship with him. First there is the change of clothes that we need —

the beachwear for the daytime and the smarter clothes for the evening in order to ensure that we have the appropriate clothing for each situation. Surely, we thought, it doesn't matter what we are wearing when we come into Christ's presence – the important thing is what is going on inside us, our state of heart and mind – these are the things we really need to get right.

Once we reach our destination and start our holidays we usually get out the sun tan lotion to protect us from its harmful rays — obviously that reminded us that if we trust him and follow his direction, Christ will ultimately give us all the protection that we need. Many people take some form of music playing device with them on holiday to help them to really relax and switch off — surely, we thought, this reminds us that Christ promises perfect peace

to all who truly come to him. Then there is the bucket and spade that many of us take down to the beach — obviously this should remind us of the amazing creative power of God. And finally, of course, there is the good book that we get out as we laze around the pool — I don't think I need to tell you what that should remind us of.

All these very different items which we carefully pack in our bags before we set out - and I'm sure you can think of many others – plus, hopefully the hidden theological message behind them. However,

please don't forget that no matter where you travel or how you enjoy this holiday season, Christ would like you to invite him to be part of it is well – after all he really does promise all those things I have already mentioned – plus much more.

Hoping that you all have a very good and Blessed August.



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, CHART SUTTON

Well, things are gradually getting back to somewhere close to normal. I hope everyone has coped with the lockdown period and is now enjoying a little more freedom.

At the time of writing (middle of July) we have not yet been able to start opening the church to congregations and having services, but we are beginning to make plans. We hope to be having some more regular services before long – hopefully by mid August. In the meantime our Vicar, Fiona, will continue with our on-line services and presence. Do look it up under "Hands Churches" (stands for Headcorn and The Suttons!)

The same will apply to bellringing, so if you have missed the dulcet tones of our six beautiful bells, they should be ringing out again soon – though we have some preparation and safety checks to carry out first.

While we have not managed to do any fundraising activities, I understand that some of our supporters have increased their regular gifting to the church. A big thank you to you all, it is such a help.

On the subject of fundraising, we are hoping to participate as usual in the Kent Ride

& Stride event on 12 September. If you fancy walking or cycling to some local churches and raising some funds for St Michael's at the same time, do get in touch. If you can't walk or cycle on the day, but are able to sponsor one of us to do so, please let me know. There is a form at the bottom of this page to enable you to pledge an amount for visiting as many churches as we can on the day (maximum of five for me...) Please fill it in – St Michael's keeps half of the money raised and other churches in Kent are supported by the other half.

Do remember, the Vicar is still contactable if you need to talk to her (01622 – 891804)

All the best, "stay safe" and do look us up on the interwebbythingywotsit.

Heather St Michael's PCC

	Ride & Stride Sponsorship Form
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Phone	
I would lik	e to sponsor Heather Knowler £ per church (five maximum),
	or a sum of £
(Send to: 2	Cherry View, Green Lane, Boughton Monchelsea, ME17 4LE, or email: heatherkk2014@gmail.com)

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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.

Smile Lines

Keep your distance!

I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch you with a six-foot pole" would become national policy, but here we are!



Who's right for which job?

Does your company struggle with the problem of properly fitting people to jobs? Here is a handy way to decide....

• Take the prospective employees you are trying to

place and put them in a room with only a table and two chairs. Leave them alone for two hours, without any instruction. At the end of that time, go back and see what they are doing.

- If they have taken the table apart in that time, put them in Engineering.
- If they are counting the cracks in the floor, assign them to Finance.
- If they are screaming and waving their arms, send them to Manufacturing.
- If they are talking to the chairs,
 Personnel is a good place for them.
- If they are sleeping, they are Management material.
- If they are writing up the experience, send them to Technical Publications.
- If they don't even look up when you enter the room, assign them to Security.
- If they try to tell you it's not as bad as it looks, send them to Marketing.
- And if they've left early, put them in Sales.

Body parts

A doctor in our village surgery often plays a game with his younger patients to put them at ease, and to test their knowledge of body parts. And so it was that one day, while pointing to my young son's ear, the doctor asked him solemnly, "Is this your nose?"

Alarmed, my son glanced over to me and said softly: "Mum, I think we'd better find a new doctor!"

All in a name

I'm dyslexic, and recently attended a Zoom conference about the disorder with a friend. The speakers asked us to share a personal experience with the group. I told them stress aggravates my condition, in which I reverse words and letters when I'm tense. When I finished speaking, my friend blurted out, "Now I know why you named your daughter Hannah!"

Shock

On a bus a man gave his seat to a woman. She fainted. On recovering, she thanked him. Then he fainted.



Hello all, we hope you are able to get out into your garden and enjoy the fresh air after the extended lock down. We are still finding plenty to do on the allotment and in the garden, and at least with precautions and a lot of common sense we can make small steps as announcements are made – good luck.

Plant out rooted cuttings taken last month into individual pots. Feed and water regularly, and pinch out shoot tips to encourage bushy growth.

Water fruits and vegetables in flower regularly as it's essential to maximise crop yields. Tomatoes short of water may result in splitting and rotting when eventually watered. Water camellias and rhododendrons that are developing their spring flowers now, failure to do so may result in future bud drop (remember if you have water butts it is best to use this water for camellias and rhododendrons).

Prune all trained forms of apples and pears, shorten new growth to just a few inches of the main frame work. Prune out fruited stems of raspberries and cane fruits at soil level.

Vegetables Sow lettuces for winter use and sow spring cabbages.

Keep flowering displays of bedding plants and sweet peas going for as long as possible by regularly picking off dead flowers and seed heads. Boost growth with a generous liquid feed.



Plant hyacinth bulbs in bowls or hyacinth glasses this will give a cheerful display in winter. Put in a cool place. Keep an eye on them and gently water.

Dahlias Feed with a good liquid fertilizer and continue spraying against pests, following the up to date rules at your local garden centre. Keep checking supports and adjust ties where necessary.

Hedges need trimming by the end of this month. Prune back new growth from the sides. Reduce height by using a length of string as

a level guide. **Never** cut back into old wooded growth of most hedges.

Alpines Take cuttings from alpines which have finished flowering and plant in

prepared soil under a frame – not a greenhouse!

Chrysanthemums Water weekly in dry weather. If large blooms are desired remove excess buds leaving one for each stem. Apply fertiliser and keep the stems supported.

Pot grown plants should be watered every ten days or so.

Flowers from seed Remove dead flowers. Plant out grown perennial seedlings. Spray monthly with insecticide (according to the current rules and regulations!)

Heathers Take cuttings if desired.





Hopefully the weather will be good to us in August and we should be able to have tea in the garden whilst keeping a beady eye on our produce! We have plenty of birds which we feed and are an amusement so long as they do not hop on to the table! We also have grey squirrels come into the garden, although I must admit we would prefer the red squirrels to

pay a visit.

Happy gardening with best wishes from Keith and Jean.



Who is most lonely now?

Young people have been twice as likely as baby boomers to experience lockdown loneliness, according to a recent survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

More than half of 16 to 24 year-olds said they have felt lonely during the pandemic, compared to less than a quarter of those aged 55-69.

Noticeboard

Lychgate repairs at Sutton Valence Church



It's finally happening - But very slowly.

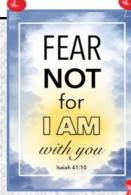
Although the repairs to the lychgate have now started, issues that require further investigation have been discovered and delayed the work.

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



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

Rosie on 01622 842034.



 $\frac{100}{\text{Club}}$

St Mary's 100 Club Monthly Draw

 $\frac{100}{\text{Club}}$

Thank you to all those who renewed their membership to the 100 Club and a special welcome to anyone entering for the first time.

There is still time to enter - please contact Mary Brett on 01622 843748

Winners of the first draw for year 2020/2021

First Prize - Keith Andersen Second Prize - Andrew & Rita Clarke

Congratulations!!!





THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE 2019 RAISED THE MAGNIFICENT SUM OF

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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

To: Mary Brett, 2 Malthouse Cottages, Chart Road, Chart Sutton ME17 3RA

I wish to subscribe to the St Mary's Church, Sutton Valence 100 Club
for the year 2020/21. I enclose my subscription (of £12 or multiple thereof)
of payable to St Mary's Church PCC

Name(s):

Address:

Multiply - Noah opened up the ark and let all the animals out, telling them to "Go forth and multiply!" He began to close the great doors of the ark when he noticed that there were two snakes still sitting in a dark corner. Concerned, he said to them: "Didn't you hear me? You can go now. Go forth and multiply."

"We can't," said the snakes sadly. "We're adders."



August Jottings



At the end of August last year a small butterfly was deemed worthy of a few minutes of BBC South East's television news time: The Long-tailed Blue - an occasional migrant from across the Channel – had been seen in several locations near the Sussex coast and it was hoped that there were enough of them to mate and produce a late season generation of pristine specimens, numerous enough to attract butterfly twitchers from far and wide to come to see them. Unfortunately I heard no more and have not been able to confirm whether any of the eggs they laid completed their life cycle successfully.

There should by now be some other migrant butterflies and moths from across the Channel to be seen – some of which will have arrived last month or even earlier. Perhaps the commonest of the migrant butterflies is the Painted Lady and the moth that is most likely to be seen, because it flies during the day, is the Hummingbird Hawk moth.

By the end of August the caterpillars of our native hawk moths will be fully grown and so it is not unusual to see them not on their food plant but on the ground, searching for somewhere where the soil is loose enough for them to be able to burrow into it and pupate below ground. In my experience it is the caterpillars of the Elephant Hawk moth that are most frequently found on the ground. In the open countryside they can usually be found feeding on rosebay willowherb but in gardens they are more likely to be found on large fuchsia bushes. However, they can wander quite far away from their foodplant when ready to pupate and I once found several of them in the middle of my vegetable garden.



I have no intention of commenting on the way in which the coronavirus pandemic has been handled in this country but I sincerely hope that the new normal way of life will enable schools to operate efficiently next term. We shall see.

Michael Beaman

Cajetan - saint who founded the pawnshops

Bit short of cash just now? Cajetan (1480–1547) should be the patron saint of anyone who needs some extra money – immediately. For it was he who founded the Monts de Piete – the pawnshops – in the 16th century.



They were first designed to help people through a lean time, not exploit them.

As a young man, Cajetan gave up a brilliant career in law to become a priest, and he went on to spend his life fighting corruption within the priesthood. He and his friends founded the Theatine Order, which promoted study of the Bible, sound Christian doctrine, spirituality of worship, caring for the sick, and good pastoral care. They worked in Verona, Venice and Naples – where the pawnshops first appeared. Cajetan would undoubtedly have a lot to say about the amount of interest the credit card companies charge these days.

THE WAY I SEE IT: What have you missed most during lockdown?



It's a good question, because it is about the things that make us tick. When I examined my list, I found obvious things going to church, live sport on TV, meeting up with friends for a coffee or a beer.

But as I thought more deeply about it, I realised that what I missed most was TOUCH. For nearly four months I have not touched another human being!

That is an astonishing deprivation. When a baby is born, its first experiences are all of touch. The strong hands of the midwife, mother's excited and loving embrace, tiny hands reaching out to feel mummy's face. We touch our way into life.

And then it goes on. Holding hands with friends, being hugged by grandma, your first serious kiss, and perhaps a last tearful one at the end of a much-loved life.

We greet each other with a holy kiss, the Bible says. And why not?

Sight, smell, hearing and touch. Four senses. And I think lockdown has taught me that the greatest of these is touch!

Canon David Winter

Returning to church



As I am sure you will be aware, the government has given permission for churches to open for public worship again. However, for the foreseeable future, they will be subject to quite stringent hygiene and social distancing regulations in order to mitigate the threat of covid-19. This means that a number of things will be rather different to the way they were for our last services on 15th April.

In particular:

- When you arrive at church someone will ask for your name and contact details – just in case someone else tests positive and we need to warn you to self isolate.
- ♦ There will be a hand sanitising station by the door we ask you to sanitise your hands as you enter the building and also as you leave. We are sorry but we cannot allow gloves to be worn in church (even disposable ones) as they are not easy to keep clean and germ free.
- You will see that in an effort to maintain 2 metre social distancing, some pews will be cordoned off.
- We have also been advised to remove all cushions and kneelers as they are difficult to clean after use.
- ♦ The services themselves will be shorter than in the past (hurray you say!)
- ♦ There will be no singing of hymns although music and hymns will be played for you to listen to and meditate on.
- Refreshments will not be served after the service.

The government and Church of England have both strongly advised that everyone attending should wear a mask (although at the time of writing this was not mandatory)

We are sorry about this but hope that you will all appreciate that these regulations have been put into place to help keep us all safe.

We do not yet know exactly when our services will start again in the three Suttons but are hopeful that it will be before the end of the month. However, we are afraid that, for the time being at least, it will not be possible to resume the previous service pattern. In particular it is likely that there will only be two services per month in each of the churches. We will endeavour to let you all know exactly when they will be as soon as the definite decisions have been made.

We are also hoping to open St Mary's, Sutton Valence for private prayer and reflection on Thursdays and Sundays as soon as the work to the lychgate has been completed.

In the meantime, services at St Peter & St Paul Headcorn will be starting again on 2 August and you are welcome to attend if you would like (although please let Fiona know if you wish to be there as numbers are restricted). These services will also be livestreamed and uploaded to the internet if you would prefer to watch them at home.

We do hope that these current restrictions will be short lived and we look forward to the day when we can all come together to worship, sing and socialise together again.

From the Registers

Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium on 22 June 2020 for Gill Smith.





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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Graham 01622 745484

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The Three Suttons Helpline

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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

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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KCC Community Wardens

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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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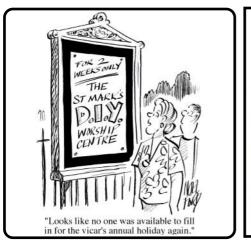


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East Sutton	Mrs J. Burnett	01622 844135
	eastsuttonparishcouncil@gmail.com	
Sutton Valence	Mrs J. Burnett	01622 844135
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