

# WEALD VIEWS

# In the Three Suttons



November 2020





SS. PETER & PAUL, ST. MICHAEL'S,

OF:	SUTTON VALENCE	EAST SUTTON	CHART SUTTON			
Vicar THE REV'D FIONA HASKETT fiona.haskett@btopenworld.com <b>01622 891804</b> Benefice website: <b>www.handschurches.org</b>						
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ST. MARY'S,

CHURCH OFFICERS

# **CLERGY LETTER**

**Dear Friends** 

As I sit here writing this letter, thoughts of the speech that the Prime Minister made yesterday with his stark warnings concerning the onset of a second wave of the coronavirus are still whirling around my head. Of course, we all knew that

a second wave was very likely, however I don't know about you, but I had hoped that it would be a lot less severe than the first – now we know that might not necessarily be the case and, once again, we are faced with the probability of a very challenging and uncertain time ahead.

I also understand that there are many people who will be worried about how they are going to cope, physically, emotionally or financially if things get worse. Well, if that is the case with you, please let me try and reassure you.

It is now 7 months since this country first went into lockdown and we were all justifiably very worried at the time. Yet, by helping each other we not only did it, but we also learned to appreciate many of the simple things in life as well as the myriad of people who enhance our lives in so many ways. Although we couldn't celebrate Easter with our usual Easter Egg Hunts and family gatherings, we still enjoyed the day in our own



ways. Although we couldn't have the big VE Anniversary celebrations that we had planned for, we were still able to enjoy the day by having virtual Tea Parties with our neighbours on our front lawns. Thursday evenings became real community events as we all stood on

our front doorsteps and applauded the NHS. People became more aware of their neighbours and more willing to help those in need, the Headcorn Covid-19 support facebook page was full of genuine requests and offers of help while, although parents found themselves in the unenviable position of also being temporary teachers, there can be no doubt that there were also many benefits from returning to an old fashioned and simple way of family life with time spent together on walks, cycle rides, gardening or baking.

So, yes, there were challenges and there will be more to come. But, by being prepared to think outside the box, I'm sure that it wont be all doom and gloom. For example, all those of you who drew rainbows and put them in your windows, why don't you replace them with pictures of poppies for Remembrance Sunday – although there wont be a big parade this year, there is nothing stopping you from observing the 2 minutes silence in your front

Continued on next page...

gardens together – and then perhaps you can join with your neighbours in applauding all those who ever have or continue to serve in the armed forces.

As for Christmas – well we know there can be no big carol services this year, but we can and will have a "virtual" one that will be available on line for you to enjoy and sing along to from the comfort of your own home whenever you want. As for the Christingle and crib service – well we are hoping to be able to put something together for Christmas Eve at Sutton Valence—however, sadly as things stand at the moment there will be no singing allowed. There will also be a "virtual" nativity available to watch on-line via Facebook and Youtube which we hope will be both meaningful and fun. We are still wondering if it will be possible to have a very small alternative to the Christmas Tree Festival at Headcorn.

But of course there are some things that will continue, we will have special services in all three of the Suttons on Christmas morning, there will also be an alternative to the nine lessons and carols at Sutton Valence and of course I, along with many of my colleagues in other Churches, will still continue to broadcast services via Facebook, the Website and our Youtube channel as well as my daily messages and Compline on Facebook.

So please, don't panic about what the future may hold, instead be positive, concentrate on what we can do and not what we can't, help each other and stay safe.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help at all during this difficult time.

With Blessings for the coming month.



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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.

# From the Registers:

## Marriage

9th October at St Peter & St Paul's East Sutton -Tom Brinley Codd & Cathy Weller. Despite the restrictions on numbers this was a lovely intimate and personal wedding that was very special for all those who attended.



#### **Funeral**

15th October at St Michael and all Angels Chart Sutton - Joan Hall

## Church Services in the Three Suttons will be:

1st November – All Saints Day – Reading - Matthew 5: 1-12

10am - St Mary Sutton Valence - Holy Communion

6pm – St Michael & All Angels. Chart Sutton – Evening Prayer BCP

#### 8th November – Remembrance Sunday – Readings - Isaiah 2:1-5 & John 15: 9—17

10am – St Mary the Virgin, Sutton Valence – Service of Remembrance

10.45 – St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton – short Service of Remembrance

3pm – St Michael and All Angels Chart Sutton – Service of Remembrance

#### 15th November – second Sunday before Advent – Reading – Matthew 25:14 – 30

10am – St Mary Sutton Valence – Holy Communion

6pm - St Michael & All Angels. Chart Sutton - Evening Prayer BCP

#### 22nd November - Sunday before Advent - Reading Matthew 25:31 - end

11.30 - St Peter & St Paul, East Sutton - Fourth Sunday Special - Christ the King

#### 29th November – Advent Sunday – Reading Mark 13: 24 – 37

10am – Benefice Service of Holy Communion at St Peter & St Paul Headcorn 6pm -St Peter & St Paul Headcorn – Service of First Light.

# Refugee bakers feed people in need from church kitchen



A bakery set up in a church kitchen to train refugee women in bread-making skills is now supplying its local food bank with more than 200 loaves a week following the coronavirus lockdown.

Proof Bakery in Coventry, founded two years ago in conjunction with the Church Urban Fund, is sending 250 loaves a week to Coventry Food Bank, paid for by regular customers — and increasingly donors from as far afield as Scotland and Singapore.

The bakery, specialising in sourdough but

teaching a range of baking skills, meets in St Catherine's Church in Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry. So far 11 refugee women have graduated from the bakery's training programme, with three currently employed at the bakery. Two of its bakers are refugees from the conflict in Syria.

The bakery is aiming for 500 donated loaves a week for the food bank and people in need. "We are expecting demand to keep increasing as more people lose employment. And with the bakery restarting its training programme for refugees this month, there is no better time to support it."



# When did you last buy a singleuse plastic bag?



It seems that most of us have bought just four from our supermarket in the last year, which is a drop of 95 per cent since

the 5p charge was introduced five years ago.

The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs reports that prior to 2015, most shoppers were buying 140 single-use bags a year.

But sadly, the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the bigger war on plastics, with a huge rise in throwaway personal protective equipment, and a resurgence in single-use cups, cutlery and other items.



Hello everyone and we hope you are able to dodge the showers and still get out in your garden? There are still plenty of leaves and sycamore seeds to sweep

up as well as oak apples for the squirrels to collect up and bury in our garden ready for their winter harvest! We send the sycamore seeds off in the green Council bin together with cutting back from the roses and shrubs although leaving some for protection on the plants.

Despite the weather we still have a variety of birds visiting our

garden. Nature's harvest is still providing plenty of berries to feed the birds as well. We continue to put out fat balls which contain plenty of seeds these encourage the birds to feed and also search for the occasional grub amongst the shrubs! Recent siting's have been: a wren hopping in and out of the bird house on the garage wall and then dipping in and out of the bird bath. The next trick is to shake, shake, shake and fly back to the top of the bird house and

sit in the sun to dry. We have spotted a jay searching in the oak tree for sustenance! Our usual Robin has also joined the party together with a couple of blue tits and black caps. The bees are still very busy on the salvia hot lips which is now huge! Please let us know if anyone would like a cutting next year as we have plenty to choose from!

Continue to collect autumn leaves from

around the garden, putting them in large bin bags to rot down into leaf mould whilst remembering to pierce with the fork. Adding a biological composting activator can speed up this process. On lawns, collect leaves using a rotary mower with the blade set high to shred and collect the leaves at the same time. Make sure ponds are covered with netting to prevent leaves blowing in there.



Bare rooted rose bushes should be available from specialist rose growers now, so plant them as soon as possible after they arrive into well prepared soil.

Clear away remains of old crops from the vegetable garden. Start forking over the soil, mixing in well rotted garden compost as you go. Hardy varieties of peas and broad beans can be sown now, but cover with cloches for added protection.

Continued on next page......



Many trees and shrubs can be planted during winter, along with hedges, conifers and fruit trees.

Ensure unheated greenhouses are well insulated with bubble wrap polythene to keep your over wintering plants snug in

the winter months, as well as protecting the plants with 'fleece' if possible overnight when the temperature drops. Next morning you will need to check and remove the fleece if needed. You will still need to give the plants some water sparingly! If you are lucky enough to have heaters, these need to be checked regularly to ensure they are working efficiently, and use a max – min thermometer to monitor them.

Happy gardening and keep safe and warm with best wishes from Keith and Jean.



# Operation Christmas Child Shoe box appeal

Last year, thanks to the generosity of the folk here in Headcorn and the Suttons, some 50 children in deprived parts of the world had a Christmas to remember, a Christmas that showed them in a very tangible way, that they are cared for. It would have been the first time that any of them would ever have received a Christmas gift, so the contents of the shoe boxes that you filled would have been greeted with real joy and happiness.

We would like to repeat our support for this worthy project again and would love it if as many of you as possible would be prepared to decorate a shoe box, fill it with appropriate gifts and drop it off at the vicarage by the 9<sup>th</sup> November along with £5 to cover transport and distribution costs.

Full details may be found on <a href="https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/">www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/</a> operation-christmas-child/

We also hope to have information leaflets and posters in our churches by the time you read this article.

Since we restarted our walks we have welcomed a number of new walkers. All has gone very well with groups of six. On Wednesday 7th October seventeen of us in three groups set off in dry weather for a very enjoyable 4mile walk to Tong Farm and back.

# Headcorn Health Walks

#### November Walks.

Wednesday 4th meet at Leeds church car park (ME17 1RL) at 9.30 for 9.45am start. This is a 90min undulating, circulating walk towards Bromfield, returning through Leeds Castle grounds on footpaths – some ups and downs yet time to stop and stare. Hopefully there will be some good autumn colours. 10

gates no stiles.

Wednesday 18th Meet at Smarden Charter Hall car park (TN27 8NF) at 9.30 for 9.45am start for a 4mile walk over fields, through a small wood, crossing the railway to the edge of

Deering woods. No hills, a few stiles.

Don't forget, it is absolutely necessary to book a place on each walk on a first come, first served basis. If you do plan to walk with us and do not pre - book, we will have to turn you away so please contact Paula 01622 892236 as soon as possible.

Barry Walker

barry@watersideoast.com

### Fire in church

The town's fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"





Quarantining in church had its drawbacks. Two days in, the biscuits were gone, and Rupert was hungry.

moment. "Really big ones," he said.

## The congregation

A minister was considering a move to a busy town-centre church, and wanted to know what the congregation was

like, and especially the church council. So, he rang the minister who had just retired from that church. The retiring minister hesitated a moment and then replied: "Some of them are wise; some are otherwise."

The minister thought carefully for a

#### **Church online**

Among the number of new concepts introduced to us by the coronavirus pandemic is the idea of 'church online,' both among the Christian population and those less familiar with 'church.' Many ministers have commented that, while they may initially have struggled, the new format has worked, and has drawn in people who would not normally go to church; theirs or anyone else's.

One Church of England Diocese carried out a survey across its many benefices, receiving some 180 replies to its questions. Five-sixths, 84%, had made some kind of online provision for its work, with three-quarters, 76%, providing worship services. Over half did such more than once a week!

In total, the online church respondents had almost 1,300 participants on a Sunday, but these were augmented by a further almost 800 who tuned in subsequently. Normally, if you aren't at a church service, you've missed it. Not now! To have so many who followed the service subsequently, an increase of over three-fifths, 62%, of the original Sunday watchers, must say something about the usefulness of this format, popularity, and the convenience of being able to worship at an alternative time.

Do online services 'work'? For many, the overall answer is positive. "Although online services have (a number) of limitations, people can meet with God. Two people have come to faith through online services," wrote one minister. It enables the church to re-connect with those who have moved away, and not found another church to attend. "It's easier for people to come than to walk through a church door," said another.

"We have overcome being a physically dispersed rural church. We are now a church built on a praying community across 30 different people praying together morning and evening," was the testimony of another. Housebound people, providing they have the necessary facilities and technological 'know-how,' can also participate.

Is it worth all the bother? Evidently so, as over half, 55%, of the churches aim to continue online services once lockdown is over. Only 7% said they wouldn't, with the remaining 38% uncertain.

Two-fifths of the churches, 41%, found that their numbers watching the service had increased over the weeks of lockdown, but this was offset by the 45% who found their numbers decreased. The remaining 14% said they had stayed the same.

Overall, have online services been beneficial? In the technical sense, yes, as "we are more capable than we thought at first," said one respondent, but spoke for many. So new technical skills have been learned. "Planning online is very different — it needs to be engaging and concise," said one person, so teaching skills presumably need to be sharpened also.

Faith-wise, as mentioned above, some have come to faith. Some have 'come back' to church. Many have watched for the first time. Some have watched services from other churches. Others, though, will have been put off by the format. "Online services are no substitute for a church service," wrote one leader, and another said, "There is opportunity to reach wider, but more difficult to go deeper."

Dr Peter Brierley may be contacted on peter@brierleyres.com.

Stella Constance Joy was born on the 18th August 1932 at 31 Marion Crescent Maidstone to Mr & Mrs Ewart Joy. She was the only child.

At the age of five she started her education at Shernold Preparatory School in Loose Road Maidstone. At the age of fourteen she left school as was usual at that time and attended classes in Maidstone to learn short-

hand and typing which was manual in those days. Having become proficient at that, she sought Secretarial work mostly in Maidstone. She took on such a role initially at The Reeds Paper Company in Aylesford. Following on she took on Secretarial duties at various firms of accountants and solicitors in Maidstone.

In 1959 she met Ivan Broughton and they were married at the Baptist Church in Knightrider Street Maidstone on 3rd March 1962. The Joy family including Stella's Aunts and Uncles as well as ourselves were all practicing members of that church.

Stella and Ivan started their married life in Battersea, South West London until the house they were buying in Staplehurst was built. They moved in towards the end of 1962. Their daughter Sally was born in the West Kent Hospital in Maidstone in June 1964. During their time in Staplehurst they attended the Parish Church were Sally was Christened.

Three years later we moved to Lyndhurst Road in Maidstone. During our early years there it was established that we were unable to have any further children of our

#### **Stella Constance Broughton**



own. We approached Maidstone Borough Council and as a result were able to adopt a nine day old boy and named him Mark Ivan. In 1978 we moved yet again to Four Wents and have remained there ever since.

Our church worshipping continued this time at St Michael's Church in Chart Sutton. Stella in particular soon got involved firstly playing for the Sunday

School that was quite active at the time. She undertook flower arranging as well as singing in the Church choir and became a relief organist when the occasion arose. Stella enjoyed her music throughout her life. Unfortunately she was unable to get to the top grade for singing or piano. This was because Hay Fever was at its peak at the exam time and unfortunately there was no cure for it in those days. She was a member of Maidstone Choral Union and was a soloist on occasions at the Royal Albert Hall.

However, in mid 2019 Stella became unwell and after three falls at home was admitted to Maidstone Hospital. Various tests were undertaken and the dreaded cancer was diagnosed. As a result she was sent to Barty House in Bearsted. Sadly Stella passed away there on 31 October 2019. Stella's funeral took place on the 19th November 2019 at St Michael's Church Chart Sutton; her body was cremated in Maidstone. Her ashes were buried at St Michael's church on Tuesday 3rd December 2019.

R.I.P.

As we revert to GMT we suddenly lose an hour of evening light and, if we hadn't already done so, realise that winter is fast approaching.

I have recently been reading Raynor Winn's sequel to 'The Salt Path' in which she writes about her difficulty readjusting to a settled life with a roof over their heads while her husband, Moth, who has a terminal neurodegenerative

condition studies for a degree. I like her style of writing but I wonder if, at times, she strays into the realms of fiction. Anyway, the reason for mentioning this is that, after Moth has completed his studies they agree to go with a couple they met on the salt path for a far-fromeasy hike in Iceland in late August and, when they get there, they learn that Summer ends at the end of August and winter begins on the first of September; there is no autumn. I sometimes think that in this part of the world we have long autumns and springs, each interrupted occasionally and separated from the other by short spells of winter and summer.

Another reminder of the approach of winter is the shedding of their leaves by

# November Jottings



deciduous trees, many of those leaves turning various shades of yellow, orange or red before falling. The colours are better in some vears than in others but they never fail to provide a bit of cheer and, once they have fallen the leaves are a good source of compost if put in perforated bin liners and left out of sight for a couple of years.

I was quite pleased with the way the area of grass which I had

decided not to mow this year looked at the end of the summer and this month, now that I have cut it down and removed the hay I plan to plant quite a lot of tulip bulbs in it to make a show of colour in the spring. I have also sown some yellow rattle seeds in part of it in the hope that they will germinate and prevent the grass from being too dominant thus helping other flowering plants to get established. I'm sure that creating a wild flower meadow is much easier said than done but I hope that in a few years' time I might be able to see that things are going in the right direction.

# Michael Beaman



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Winners of the October 2020 draw

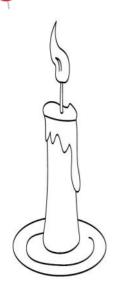
First Prize - Mrs Edna Burniston

Second Prize - Mr Lionel Marchant

Congratulations!!!



For information ring Rosie **01622 842034**.



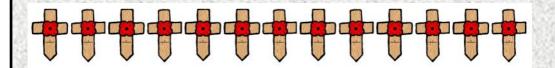
Headcorn Parish Church

# All Souls 2020

A time to reflect, light a candle and give thanks for those we love but see no more.

> Sunday 1st Nov 2.30—4.30pm

> > All welcome



# Remembrance Sunday in the Three Suttons



As I'm sure you will all be aware, government restrictions relating to the Coronavirus will mean that we are unable to observe Remembrance Sunday in the normal way. However, that does not mean that we are unable to observe it at all.

As church buildings along with their grounds are exempt from the rule of 6 during acts of worship, we will be able to hold Remembrance Sunday Services in all three of the Suttons, however, as space is limited, we would ask you to let us know if you would let the relevant contact know if you would like to attend any of the services. Details are as follows.

**St Mary Sutton Valence at 10am**, Remembrance Sunday Service in church, to include the naming of the fallen and 2 minutes silence. Please note that the "Rule of 6" applies to the war memorial for the laying of the wreaths so we would ask you not to gather there unless you have been specifically invited. Please note that Maidstone Borough has NOT authorised a Road Closure for the event. Please contact **Gover James on 01622 842681** if you would like to attend the Church Service.

**St Peter & St Paul East Sutton at 10.45**, short act of remembrance with the reading of the names of the fallen, two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial in the churchyard. Please contact **Julia Ireland on 01622 891058** if you would like to attend.

**St Michael & All Angels Chart Sutton at 3pm**, Remembrance Sunday Service in church to include the two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths at the war memorial within the church. Please contact **Heather Knowler on 01622 749012** if you would like to attend.



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.

# **Sutton Strollers**



Join us and enjoy the glorious countryside around The Three Suttons on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

#### Contact:

Chris ...... 01622 842629

Graham ..... 01622 745484

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The Three Suttons Helpline has been

#### 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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## **KCC Community Wardens**

Kent County Council Community Wardens are able to assist with any issues or concerns you may have. Wardens can offer support, advice and can refer to many partner agencies to help you. Wardens work closely with Kent Police and can also assist in tackling low-level crime and anti-social behaviour (such as graffiti, littering, fly tipping and vandalism). Wardens encourage communities to work together to build stronger and safer communities.

Your area warden Dawn Riach-Brown - 07773 397125

Area supervisor - Janet Greenroyd - 07773 397131

# Churches report rising food bank demand as a result of pandemic



Nearly 100,000 households sought food aid from the Trussell Trust's network of food banks for the first time earlier this year, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Demand is surging further this autumn, as a result of the economic fallout from the virus.

The research comes after food banks

run or supported by Church of England churches reported rocketing demand during lockdown with some opening food banks for the first time while some opened new food banks after lockdown.

#### Just two examples:

Hackney Church in East London was distributing parcels with enough food for 1,000 meals a week at start of lockdown. This figure rose to 8,000 and 9,000 meals a week in June, after the church opened a second food bank. It has since served 120,000 meals.

In Co. Durham, the Shildon Alive food bank, founded by St John's Church, has seen demand surge by 500 percent during lockdown.



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CLERKS TO THE PARISH COUNCILS Chart Sutton East Sutton Sutton Valence	Mrs T. Jenkins Mrs J. Burnett eastsuttonparishcouncil@gmail.com Mrs J. Burnett clerk@suttonvalence.org.uk				
DOCTORS  Cobtree Medical Practice  Langley Surgery  Sutton Valence Surgery  On Call Care: 0845 1552255  Maidstone Hospital	NHS Direct : 0845 4647	01622 843800 01622 863030 01622 842212 01622 729000			
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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Support Line	01622 604396			
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KENT MESSENGER REPRESENTATIVES Sutton Valence - Mrs J Burnett Chart Sutton - Mrs V Underdown	clerk@suttonvalence.org.uk valerie95@outlook.com	01622 844135 01622 843232			
VILLAGE HALL HIRE BOOKINGS East Sutton Filmer Hall Chart Sutton Sutton Valence Youth Centre (behind St Mary's Church)	Mrs J Coyle Annegret Fidock (csvillagehall@hotmail.com) Mrs J Burnett (svvhbookings@gmail.com) Graham Haskett (temporary arrangement)	07703 815215 01622 844741 01622 842024 01622 891804			
HEADCORN AND THE SUTTONS www.handschurches.org	SUTTON VALENCE VILLAGE WEBSITE www.suttonvalencepc.kentparishes.go EAST SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBS				

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