OPM

ISSUE 26
DECEMBER 2026

ORLESTONE PARISH MAGAZINE

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Additional Support
APL Computer Support

About Us
Orlestone Parish Magazine (OPM), covering Orlestone and surrounding Parishes, is run on a not-for-profit basis, with all proceeds to be forwarded to a charity or charities to be decided by our Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Parish Council and, if possible, our readers!

https://www.orlestoneparish.co.uk/latest/



DECEMBER

December is definitely wintertime although there are still a lot of green leaves on trees and shrubs and nowhere near enough rainfall. I was really worried this week when a friend returned from Norway to report that there was no snow even in the very north of the country and the ice hotel had melted. Scary stuff. However, I can see that local holly trees are full of berries, my hyacinth bulbs are growing and I have enough Christmas cards to keep me going for a few years. Not all bad. Oh, and if necessary and while the gas cylinder lasts I can eat tinned soup and rice pudding. Plenty of wood & coal for our fire, too, so at least we'll be warm if hungry and bored, there may not be enough candles to read by. Maybe winding up the radio or torch will be fun. Hope I don't sound too serious or too flippant.

I've enjoyed bringing this magazine to life and I'm glad to say that someone has stepped
forward to take it over. I won't give a name as nothing is entirely settled and I don't want to scupper proceedings. I know that an online magazine doesn't hit the spot for the older demographic, which makes up the majority of those who want one, and I would have loved to have achieved that. However, there's a renewed ambition to create a printed magazine, which depends on an income to pay for the printing and a distribution system. It can be done and it requires some younger energy to solve those problems. A new person should be able to do it, so exciting! Best wishes to you all, thank you for reading the OPM – I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Margaret



Contribute your updates and photos at editorparmag@gmail.com by the 21st of the month

Bilsington Village hall-
Your local venue
Bilsington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7JU
Registered charity 302685

Enquiries through committee members or by email
Chairperson: Mr Mark Bilham 07776 218383
Treasurer/Bookings: Mrs Vivienne Hudson 07887 850075
Secretary/Bookings: Mrs Amanda Riley 07720 386874
bilsingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Hall Hire

Hall available to hire for conferences, meetings, craft workshops, exercise classes, dog training, theatre, music events, private parties etc

Bright & airy hall in a lovely rural location, holds up to 100 people (80 seated), PA system, fully equipped kitchen, stage, Easy access & disabled toilet

We have a selection of tables & chairs for hire

Prices

Local community (not for profit) groups £8.50 ph
Local classes £9.50 ph
Private parties & events £15.00 ph (£100 refundable deposit)
For weddings please email

Find us on facebook & Instagram

Bilsington village hall regular groups

please get in touch to join our regular groups

Yoga with Isabel-Tuesdays 10:00-11:15
isabel carballal 07757 858642
yogaisabelkent@gmail.com

Low impact circuit class with Sandra-Fridays 10:00-11:00
sandra gooding 07525 857419
sandragoodingtraining@gmail.com

For information on any of our events or to join the email distribution list contact us on bilsingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Kenardington Village Hall

For just £10 per hour you can hire this small, cosy and characterful space. Kitchen and bar area, fast wifi, TV, chairs and tables plus little ones for children too. Refurbished four years ago, the hall is great for meetings, drop in working space, children's parties, and village fund raising events.





To book or enquiries contact Brenda on 0776 6755 322



WEEKLY CALENDAR
HAMSTREET VICTORY HALL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PILATES 9 -10	PILATES 9 - 10	PARENT & TODDLER 9 - 11	TAI CHI BEGINNERS 9:30 - 10:30	COFFEE MORNING 9:30 - 10:30	YOGA 9:30 - 10:30
YOGA 5:30 - 6:30	BEGINNER PILATES 10:10 - 11:10	YOGA 1 - 2:15	TAI CHI ADVANCED 10:30 - 11:30	BOWLS 7:30 - 10PM	
WI 7:30 - 9:30 (2ND MON OF MONTH)	BEGINNERS TAI CHII 6 - 6:45		DOG TRAINING 5:30 - 7:30 (TIMES VARY)		
	BOWLS 7:30 - 10PM				

BOOTFAIR
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH
APRIL - OCT: 8AM - 12PM



A Space for Classes, Clubs & Workshops

Whether you're looking to run a regular class, workshop, club or community group, Warehorne Village Hall offers a welcoming and versatile space to suit a wide range of activities.



Facility Information

The Hall offers everything you need for a comfortable and successful event. Our practical facilities make the hall suitable for everything from celebrations and meetings to regular classes and community activities.

- On-site toilets
- Kitchenette
- Parking
- Tables & chairs included
- Flexible layout



Get In Touch

Church Road, Warehorne Kent, TN26 2LH
info@jumpkent.com
@WarehorneVillageHall
@WarehorneVillageHall



Warehorne Village Hall

Church Rd, Warehorne TN26 2LH



Time-table

JUMP

Mondays
3.45-4.45pm (4-5 year olds)

Thursdays
7:30 - 9pm Jump Singers

Saturdays
9.30am-10.55am (6-8 yr olds)

11.10am-12.40pm (9-11 year olds)

12.45-2.15pm (12-15 year olds)

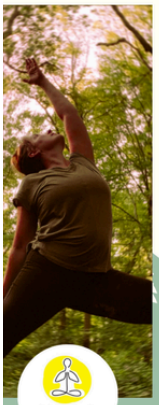
Yoga with Lizzie

Tuesday
6pm - 7pm

Yoga with Edith

Wednesday
6.30pm - 7.45pm

In a playful & friendly environment, come explore Hatha Yoga - a blend of somatics, mobility and strength with breath at its centre. No experience necessary.
Contact:
edithtankus@gmail.com





More Information

JUMP
Inclusive, interactive classes for young people. We sing, We dance, We play.

Contact: Kelly O'Leary
info@jumpkent.com

Have your party here

Warehorne Village Hall is available to hire for private parties, celebrations, meetings, and classes.

With excellent facilities and a welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect venue for both one-off events and regular activities.





Time For Tea

A friendly and relaxed gathering. Whether you'd like to catch up with friends, meet new people, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, everyone is welcome. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with plenty of conversation, laughter, and community spirit.

Contact Kim: kim.hamilton58@btinternet.com

Future dates: 3rd September, 1st October, 29th October, 19th November, 17th December.

Other Events

Monthly Social Dance
Once a month with Linda. Mixture of Ballroom & Latin American Dancing, Social Squence Dances, Latin Line Dancing and Party Dances

Contact Linda: 07859304900

Quiz Night
21st November 2026

Wreath Making
4th December 2026
Contact Pav:
pavlacummum@hotmail.co.uk

Community Brunch
Our Community Brunch takes place several times throughout the year and is a great opportunity to bring people together. Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for years, it's a chance to enjoy good food, good company and a relaxed morning catching up with neighbours and making new friends. Everyone is welcome.



Warehorne Community Brunch

Everyone Welcome!



- Full English
- Sandwiches
- Cake
- Tea & Coffee
- Juice

Sunday 10th January 2027

Warehorne Village Hall

10-12

Cash Payment Only

Vegan, Gluten Free & Dairy Free Options Available

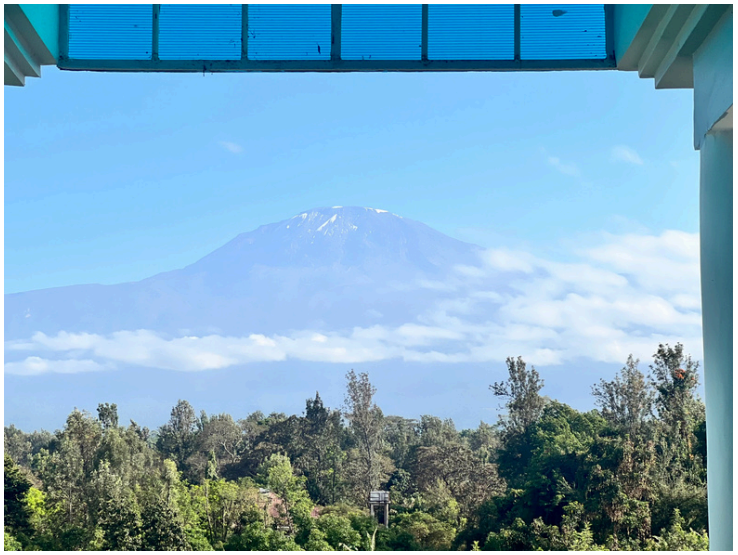
Climbing Kilimanjaro – By William Rawlinson

Hello, I am the editor for this month's magazine. Over my school half term, I was given the opportunity to climb Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa, in Tanzania. It was a 9-day trip, making it possibly the most tiring 9 days of my life. We were a team of 7, me, a teacher, 4 other boys and a guide from the UK company; Adventure Peaks.

18th October Day 1 – We had left for the airport at 4PM on Sunday, it was an hour and a half drive, you can only try to imagine what that was like with 5 16-year-old boys stuck in a van. Once we had made it to the airport we had some downtime, so we all went to get some drinks for the plane and had some burgers for an early dinner. Once we were on the plane, we were told to try and get some sleep by our teacher. However, planes aren't the best places to sleep so we were up for the whole 8-hour flight watching movies we could barely hear. Once we had touched down in Ethiopia, it was already early the next day in the Uk.

19th October Day 2 – We arrived in Ethiopia as a layover and were excited to get to Tanzania. However, it was another 3-hour flight before we would finally touch down. Once we were in Tanzania and got into the minibus, we all realised that we take road safety for granted. After a horrifying 30-minute drive we had arrived at the hotel, and we were given the most amazing view of... clouds. We were disappointed but we got an all you can eat dinner and that made us forget our woes.

20th October Day 3 – I woke up and the view from outside my room was amazing (see image). This was going to be the first day of climbing. We started at the gate around 1800m, already 3x higher than the highest point in the UK. We started our walk with high hopes, through the forest, we saw monkeys and tree ayrox, it took us 5 hours to get to our first camp after a long day in the sun. The first camp was 3000m, we were pooped by this point, but we knew we needed to get some good rest for the next day.



21st October Day 4 – We woke up to a cup of freshly made Tanzanian tea, it was just what we needed to get us up for the day, after breakfast all the tents were down and we set off again. 1 hour after we set off, we had made it out of tree cover and onto the rocky terrain that we would have to get used to for the next few days. Our next camp was at 3600m; however, we had travelled 8km of up and down terrain during the day, so we were all tired.



Tree Ayrox



Rocky Terrain



22nd October Day 5 – We woke up, not ready for the day ahead. We had to walk 14km as the crow flies to the next camp, as well as go from 3600m to 4500m and back to 3000m. We started off the walk with another cup of tea, truly a British expedition. We had to walk 7km to a place called the lava tower, as seen in the image. This is where we had lunch, the reason we went up to 4600m to have a lunch wasn't just for the views, but our bodies had to acclimatise to the altitude. After a nice quick lunch, we had to start our decent to the next camp at 3000m, the lowest we had been since the 3rd day.

23rd October Day 6 – The most tiring days of my entire life. We woke up at 4am to the view of the city we had stayed in on the first night, the lights were on as it was pitch black. We got ready as the wind was stabbing us, with the use of headtorches and gloves. This is where we get to the first obstacle of the day. Barranco Wall (see image), you can probably imagine what it is by the sound of the name. It is a wall we had to scramble up, which sounds as scary as it was, it doesn't look as big as it really was in the photo, but the wall is 257m tall, almost vertical on some bits, all with our bags securely strapped to us. One part of the wall is "exposed" meaning that we had to step over a gap, it makes me sweat even writing about it. Once we had made it to the top of the wall, the journey of the day was far from over. Next, we had to walk down a bowl that was also 250m in height, basically meaning we had climbed the wall, just to go back to the original altitude, only to then climb back up the other side, that was obstacle 2. We had a long straight path we took once we were at the top of the bowl, this was 3km. Our 3rd obstacle of the day was another bowl; however, this bowl was 500m tall on both sides, and was very steep, it consisted of ledges you had to get down rather than a nice slope. After we made it to the top of that, we had our lunch at around 3995m. As seen in the picture. Once we had finished lunch and had a toilet break, we set off again, we had to climb up a gradual slope that was 400m tall but 5km long. At the end of that slope, believe it or not, we weren't there! We had to go down another steep slope that was 300m and finally, have a final 400m climb up to our second to last camp. The day wasn't over though...





End of 23rd and 24th October Day 7 – If you thought yesterday was difficult, it isn't over! We got to the camp at 5pm, had food and settled down in the tents at 7pm. We went to sleep… and woke up at 10pm the same day to start the final accent. This was the start of the most gruelling and difficult 8 hours of my life. Starting at 10pm, we were still tired from the previous hike, but we plodded on. At a pace close to a snail's, we were slowly making it up to the peak. We were told that we would be taking 5-minute breaks every hour or hour and a half to eat and drink, this lasted around 2 and a half hours before the breaks started to half, and half and half. I started to get altitude sickness at around 5300m, and it hit me hard. I had huge pains in my head, even taking paracetamol didn't last long, and I think I had minor hallucinations, like seeing one of my friends who was in front in the darkness, when observing, it was nothing. One of my friends had a bad reaction to the altitude where he couldn't drink anything because he would throw it back up as soon as he drunk it. However, we proceeded, all as the same group. After 7 hours, we made it to the crater (see image), this was an achievement, we could see the peak from where we were. We had a well-deserved break before the final hike. The peak was only 100m higher from where we were and 0.5km away, we thought we would make it in 5 or 10 mins, however, the altitude disagreed. It took us 1 hour to get to the peak from where we were. BUT WE MADE IT! (see image). This had to be my greatest achievement I have ever made and will stay with me for my whole life. We then started our decent, you don't want to stay at the top for long, as it gets too cold. The decent was quicker but still took use 8 hours, this is mainly due to us going from 5895m to 2200m. This was a much faster pace than going up, but we all were sick of the mountain by the time we had got to the final camp.



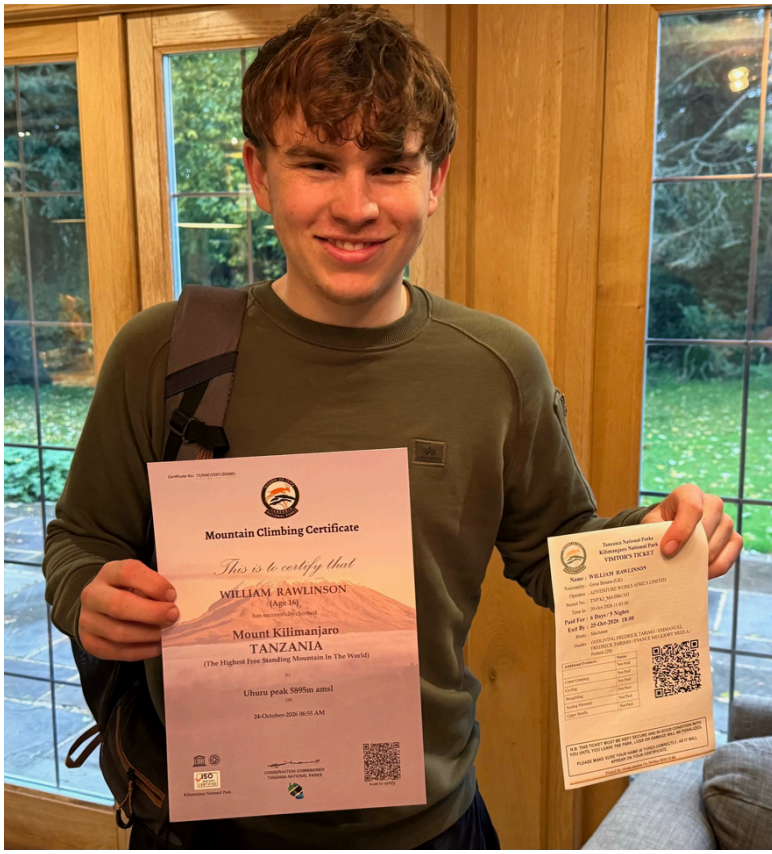
The Crater

It may look small in the photo, but what you are seeing is a 250m drop and a 2.5km wide crater



Us at the top

25th October Day 8 – We woke up at 7am, we wanted to get down the final bit of the mountain, get on the bus and have a shower. We walked to the end gate and received our government certificates proving we climbed Kilimanjaro (see image). We then got shoved into a bus with our bags and sent to a restaurant, which served us fresh food and brought us back to modern life with a cold cola. We bought seveners from the nearby shop, I got a fridge magnet for my grandma. We were finally sent off in the bus for one of the last times, straight to the hotel. We got there, got booked in and I had the best shower of my life. We then had the rest of the day to rest in our rooms or go in the pool. We discussed the next day over dinner, and we talked about all the things that happened on our amazing trip.



26th October Day 9 – The final day. We woke up at 10am, packed up and got ready to leave. We got on the minibus for the final time, and said goodbye to our 3 guides that had been looking after us the whole trip, we still miss them all. We got on the plane to Ethiopia, this time only taking 2 and a half hours, and the same day, we got the plane to the UK which took 7 and a half hours to land. We grabbed our luggage in Gatwick, and got sent to school by the taxi where our parents were waiting.



Thank you for reading



COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

SATURDAY 19th DEC

2-30 pm



TRADITIONAL & MODERN MUSIC

REFRESHMENTS

Pilgrims Hospices

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

10TH - 11TH JANUARY 2026

ASHFORD

Doorstep collections of real Christmas trees from anywhere in the Ashford Borough area, for a chosen donation.

The last Christmas tree recycling campaign raised over £78,000 for your local hospice in east Kent, with more than 4,200 real Christmas trees collected and recycled by Pilgrims Hospices.

Register and donate online at: www.pilgrimshospices.org/treerecycling by 08:00 AM on Monday 5 January

Find out more here!

Proudly sponsored by:

Ashford Borough Council

Pilgrims can help you enjoy a hassle-free end to the Christmas period with our environmentally friendly service. By making a donation you are helping to make our care possible.

This poster is made from recycled paper.

www.pilgrimshospices.org fundraising@pilgrimshospices.org Pilgrims Hospices in east Kent is a company limited by guarantee. Registered office 56 London Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8JA. Registered as a company in England No. 2000560. Registered Charity No. 293368

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD Annual Toy Appeal

SUNDAY SERVICE 29th. NOV. AT 10.30 AM

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR TOY APPEAL?

Buy a gift for a child or young person up to the age of 19. Toys; games; books; puzzles or toiletries. Please NO soft toys or food/drinks. Drop off unwrapped gifts to the church between 10am-12pm on Saturday 28th. Nov or after Sunday Service between 11.30am-12.30pm on Sunday 29th. Nov.

Additional drop off between Sat - Mon during daylight hours, please leave gift in the porch at 2 Romney Road.

Thank you so much.



IT'S FREE • FUN • REWARDING

More than a hobby – it's a great way to meet people, learn a new skill and be part of something special!

FRIENDSHIP TEAMWORK COMMUNITY



All ages All abilities Welcome!

Make new friends Be part of a team



HELP YOUR CHURCH

LEARN A UNIQUE SKILL

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

Everyone can learn – and every bell counts!

Experience the thrill of ringing together!

ENGLISH CHURCH BELL RINGING

TRADITION • PEOPLE • COMMUNITY • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH · WAREHORNE

Carol *Service*

& Crib Blessing

Sunday 20 December · 6pm

With a children's tableau and **the Jump Singers**
Followed by mulled wine & mince pies

ALL WELCOME



@warehornechurch

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH · WAREHORNE

Christmas *Morning*

Friday 25 December · 10am

Lasting no more than an hour

A family service with Holy Communion

Christmas carols accompanied by
Kelly O'Leary-White & Jeremy White

ALL WELCOME



@warehornechurch

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, RUCKINGE

An important service at Ruckinge in November was the annual Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance, which this year took place on Sunday 8th November. The church was full and it was a very moving service. Young people from the Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts and Guides group paraded their colours and read a story. At this service it is hard to look at the older members and the younger leaders of the Group without realising that they could have been among the fighting forces in both past wars. Some of those read out in the roll of honour were only a little older than the current Explorers. Difficult.

December is a busy month in all churches, culminating in the joyous celebration of Christmas. I hope we'll see lots of people at any of the services, holding to the real meaning of the season. At Ruckinge we begin the month with the sound of bells! On Friday 4th December at around 10.00am, we will welcome a team of expert bellringers who will ring a Full Peal on our newly restored bells. This should take around 2 hours so come and listen if you can, the full peal is not often heard. The next day we'll be holding 'Warm Up', with homemade soup & pudding and offering gifts and cards to buy. We'll also be holding a late afternoon of singing in December, getting us all in good spirits, so Come and Sing. Then in January we'll hold another Soup lunch to get us through the dark winter days.
All events are shown on posters in the magazine.

Thanks and memories for all that happened in 2026. Hopes and aspirations for 2027.
Mary Sillibourne Churchwarden 01233 732615

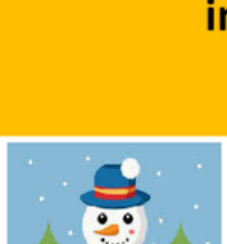
St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge

Warm Up for Christmas

Gift Market
Cards, gifts, accessories, bric-a-brac
Hamper Raffle

Home cooking
Soups, Puddings, Cakes, Savouries

Saturday 5th December
11.00 am – 2pm
in the church



All are welcome !

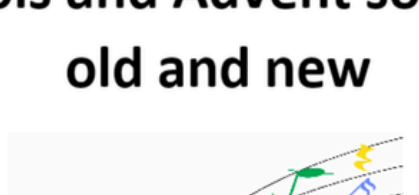


Come and Sing !

at

St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge

Carols and Advent songs - old and new



Thursday 10th December at 3.30pm





Mary Magdalene Church Ruckinge

you are invited to the

"Prams and Grans"

Carol Service

Mums, Dads and Grandads also admitted !

Babies, toddlers, prams, pushchairs and noise - *no problem !*

All the children will get a chance to *take part* in the 30 minute carol service

Christmas Eve 3.00pm





st Mary Magdalene Church Ruckinge

you are invited to the

Candlelight Crib Service

A family celebration of the joy of Christmas with the message of the angels

Christmas Eve 6.00pm



Another Winter WARM UP…



Got those winter blues?

Come for a soup lunch

at St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge

Tuesday 26th January 2027

12 noon – 1.30pm

Lunch with friends old and new in a warm and friendly place. *Children and dogs welcome*

Discover Bell Ringing at Saint Matthews — a family tradition for the future

At the heart of Warehorne, directly opposite the Woolpack Public House, stands our beautiful historic church with its bell tower whose sound has marked village life for centuries. Now we're inviting families to become part of that living tradition. Bell ringing at Saint Matthews is welcoming, fun, and suitable for all ages. No musical background needed — just enthusiasm and a willingness to learn.

Why families love ringing at Saint Matthews

- **A shared family activity — learn together in a friendly, relaxed tower**
- **A village tradition — help keep Warehorne's historic bells ringing**
- **Great for young people — builds confidence, coordination, and teamwork**
- **A warm community — meet ringers of all ages from the village and beyond**
- **Flexible involvement — practise nights, occasional Sundays, weddings, and special events**
- **Completely free — no equipment or fees**

What you'll experience in our tower

- **The thrill of ringing the centuries old bells of Saint Matthews**
- **The satisfaction of mastering a unique and absorbing skill**
- **The joy of contributing to village life — from Sunday services to celebrations**
- **The pride of helping preserve the bell tower for future generations**

Perfect for families in Warehorne and surrounding villages Bell ringing is one of the few activities where children, parents, and grandparents can learn side by side. Children from around age 10 can start, and adults of any age are welcome. It's social, rewarding, and a wonderful way to connect with the heritage of our village.

Come and try it at Saint Matthews. Practice evenings every Wednesday 7-9pm We'd love to welcome you for a friendly, no pressure, taster session in the tower. Meet the ringers, see how the bells work, and have a go on a rope. You'll be surprised how quickly you pick it up.
Help us keep the bells of Saint Matthews Warehorne ringing into the next millennium. Your family could be part of this.

Graham Epps ***grahamepps@talktalk.net***

The Cosy Kettle

A warm welcome awaits you at **The Cosy Kettle!**

Open 7 days a week for a selection of hot and cold drinks - homemade cakes - light lunches – cream teas - ice cream desserts including sundaes and waffles – afternoon teas (24 hours notice required please).

Stonebaked pizzas are available for eat in or takeaway on Friday evenings from 5pm to 8pm. We also provide outside catering for small or large events.

For enquiries or to book a table contact us on:
01233 733030
jacqui@cosykettle.com
facebook.com/TheCosyKettle

The Cosy Kettle

Craft at Cosy



Looking for inspiration /company /help with a new or existing craft project?

Join us on **Wednesday evenings 7pm to 9pm**

Bring your own sewing / craft project or start something new!

(Small selection of materials to buy and equipment to use)



We are excited to welcome guest crafters on the first Wednesday of each month



These will be charged, bookable events



Cosy Kettle menu /refreshments available to purchase.

Contact us on 01233 733030 or via Facebook

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

I am sorry that we're unable to include a report this month other than to thank everyone who came to the Coffee Morning last month. It was very successful and there was a busy hall full of people for the whole of the event. Thanks go to everyone who stepped up to organise the raffle, the teas and the sale of poppies.

The annual Service of Remembrance was held at St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge. It was, as usual, a meaningful and respectful service with a large attendance by the Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scouts and Guides. Rev Geoff Abasolo-Munnery spoke of the sacrifice of so many and of the work of the Royal British Legion.

At the time of writing (22nd November) Peter Gostling,who usually writes this report, remains in hospital following an emergency operation. We all send our best wishes to him and his family and pray for a speedy recovery.

Margaret Hanlon (Editor)

Peter Gostling 07713104488

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HAMSTREET & DISTRICT BRANCH

The aim of the Royal British Legion is to support ex-service personnel, but you do not need to be ex-military to belong.





The Hamstreet & District Branch of the Royal British Legion

ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL

Saturday 31st October 2026

Hamstreet Victory Hall

Tea/Coffee Cakes Raffle Poppies

Any donations of Raffle prizes/cakes would be most welcome

Looking forward to seeing you

VILLAGES' BARGAIN OIL NETWORK

Prices crept down a bit for the mid November order. I managed to get 96.37ppl (+5% vat) which as about 5ppl cheaper than any other quote that came in and more than 6ppl than the order just 2 weeks before. It's always worth remembering that just a 1ppl reduction is £5 off a minimum 500 l order so 6ppl is £30 cheaper! However, the conflicts and instability in the world continue to impact the international oil market and what we have to pay to heat our homes is not a stable bill at all.

During the colder months, I order twice a month on the 2 nd and 15 th (in both cases on the next working day if these dates are at the weekend). April sees the return of once a month ordering till October, 2 nd or next working day. So, the next orders will be on **2 nd December, 15 th December, 4 th January, 15 th January, 2 nd and 15 th February.**

Please get your orders to me by the early evening of the day before. I always try to add latecomers but it's an unwelcome extra job for me and the winning company could say no to orders over and above those they've quoted on the basis of.

Any queries or to order, please e-mail me, where possible. I always acknowledge messages no matter how I receive them so please chase me if you don't hear from me. I'd rather people don't contact me via other routes, e.g. messenger, text.

Any household within a 5 mile radius of Hamstreet can access this service. You're welcome to pass on my details. I know that means some people who are in Aldington Parish fall outside the area but there's really nothing I can do about it, it's not my rule.

Please be reassured, there's no additional cost or on-going commitment to ordering your oil through me. I am just a member of the community and this is a voluntary, not-for-profit service that I slot in around my work, family and other activities. Contact me for more information.

Susan Hanlon
ordermeoil@hotmail.co.uk (preferred contact route)
01233 730884 - often answer-phone (I can take several days to pick up)
07810436191 – usually voicemail (absolute last resort, please)





1ST RUCKINGE & HAMSTREET CUBS

Cubs have been thinking about healthy eating the last few weeks. We've covered food groups, thought about creating balanced meals, considered protein sources that aren't cuts of meat and made smoothies. I was a little disappointed to see that several Cubs thought a sweet dessert was part of a healthy meal rather than a treat. We tried hard not to demonise food but to speak in terms of everyday and occasional treats.

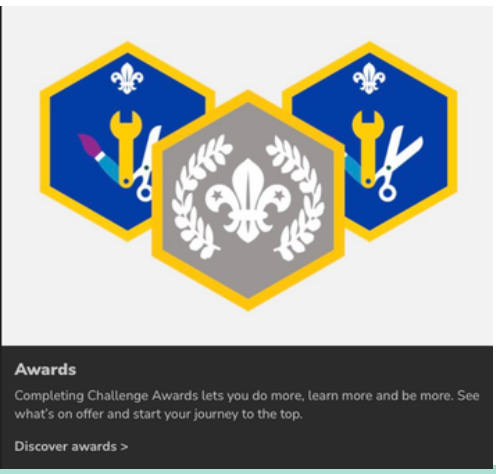
The smoothie recipes chosen for Cubs to create and try all had a bit of a twist: one was kale based rather than sweet options like berries, the rest had ingredients that boosted the protein content, for example peanut butter, chia seeds, almonds, silken tofu. We explored oat milk as a dairy option in one of our four creations too. Cubs tried all the smoothies. That different people have different tastes was a lesson I was happy they were learning too; things aren't just nice or yucky, keeping the door open to possible change. There were several Cubs who liked the kale smoothies best which had sweetness from mango and sourness form lime in it too. I think the apple and berries smoothie with yoghurt, oats and almonds was pretty universally enjoyed. All recipes were from the BBC food app, search 'BBC food smoothies' and you'll be transported to a page with lots of options to try.

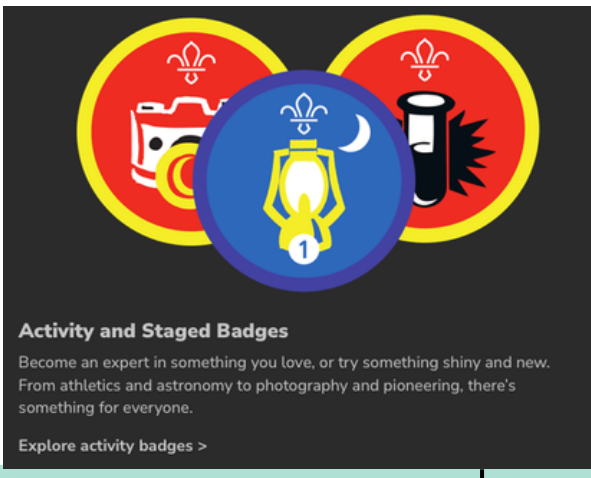
We're getting out and about to burn off some of the calories food brings this week, climbing at Dover Leisure Centre. Later in the term, we'll be bouncing around at Flip Out too.

We only have 2 leaders at Cubs so are constantly begging for support for parents and leaders from other sections. We're lucky to have the support we do but it always feel precarious. Could you help? Leadership training is not onerous, is free and you are welcome to be clear on what you can and cannot offer, e.g. half of the meetings each term... Please have a think. Volunteering looks great on a CV!

Do you have a skill or interest you'd like to share with Cubs? You can take a look at the main badges online to see if you can fit your skills into our programme, search online at www.scouts.org.uk then Cub Awards. We concentrate on earning the Challenge Awards but would be happy to work with you on an Activity Badge.

Susan Hanlon
Akela
susanhanlon@live.co.uk preferred contact route
01233 730884 (usually answer phone)





Musings with Adam
Dec 2026

So, it's the Christmas edition of the magazine already. How did that happen? Looking back over the last year in Hamstreet, it looks as though a new business is all set to open in the former Woodville unit, which during my lifetime has been a butcher's store, Woodville Antiques (run by former OPC chairman, Andrew McBean) and two different beauty centres (Butterfly Beauty and Star Beauty). If you're stuck for Christmas present ideas I know of a book that delves into the history of the shops in Hamstreet, as well as four local pubs. My mum has a new murder mystery novel out too. This one, called 'Before I Say "I Do",' is about a hen party in France that goes disastrously wrong when one of the party is murdered. You know where to find them... (*Editor ... in the Cosy Kettle!)*

I wonder what 2027 has in stall for the village and its environs. The half-unit by the garage still looks forlorn but I do hope Hamstreet isn't going to lose yet more commercial space. Following its time as the garage shop, the unit was used as the office for a care company, a gun shop, a bike shop and then Smart Dogs grooming centre prior to the unit's decapitation! With more housing developments being submitted all the time, surely the village needs all the commercial space it can get?

I've been busy creating videos for YouTube throughout the autumn. It's probably a niche interest but I've been putting together montages of signposts that I find interesting. The old wooden posts at Warehorne and Woodchurch are much more aesthetic than the modern metal posts which are prone to recreational twisting (surely there must be something more interesting to do?). There are also a few relics in the videos, such as the 'B2070' still being signed in Warehorne Road (Hamstreet) as well as in Newchurch. The main road hasn't been a B-road since the 1970s, and the A2070 bypass has been in place since 1994. It's not quite the 'Antiques Roadshow' but there are certainly a few 'antiques' along our roads! In case anybody is curious, the B2070 is now a road in Hampshire, being the number given to the former A3 through Petersfield.

Anyway 'A Miscellany from Deepest Kent' is where you'll find this footage, as well as a montage I put together of photos of the village, including footage of the much-missed firework display. There's even a montage of snowy photos for Christmas which I'll put on when it's December (because that's when Christmas begins – not October!).

Something I highlighted to a few councillors this year is an issue with signage in Tenterden, which has replaced 'Hamstreet' with 'Hythe' as the main destination via the B2067. Whilst it's somewhat ignominious for our village to be removed, the road is hardly suitable as a through-route to the seaside town (especially for lorries) with its lane-like section east of Hamstreet now riddled with potholes. KCC say that changes to the signs are afoot if the money can be found.

It seems that road signage is becoming a 'DIY' affair for parishes these days. When I reported 'Brenzett' being signed in both directions as you exit Park Farm I was informed that money would need to be raised by a local parish council if they wanted it changed. In the old days they used to just put a white patch over errors like that. Similarly I pointed out a sign in Sussex which had Northiam spelled as 'North' and a distance to Ashford that was four miles less than it actually is. The solution? Rather than correct the info with a couple of patches, East Sussex County Council just removed the sign!

How did our society become so complex / inefficient that putting five characters on a sign is now too expensive?

It seems that this is an albeit non-life-affecting illustration of the ongoing struggle which seems to affect every facet of society. As soon as wealthier folk are asked to pay more dummies tend to be spat out and the burden put back onto the poor, usually in the form of cuts, but the money for services has to come from somewhere and poorer people just can't afford a tax rise with rent and bills still skyrocketing. As this is a Christian magazine (I think) I don't think I am speaking out of turn in saying that with wealth comes responsibility and that contributing to our crumbling society should be something to feel positive about, as not everybody can afford to, especially as the onset of AI and driverless cars is going to put more and more people on benefits as time goes by. Not everybody can be a programmer or a manager and society needs to cater for those of all skill levels and intellects. The current paradigm feels more like a game of musical chairs with more and more chairs being removed with every new innovation the tech bosses come up with.

Another area where there seems to be a rich/poor divide in attitude to me is the matter of climate change. Most people now agree with the science that has been around for at least fifty years in that climate change is real, humans are driving it and that it is very bad, especially for the poorest people on the planet. So if everyone is now trying to do their bit by being more ecological, what gives the wealthy an exemption? Why do we not see them leading by example by driving smaller cars, taking less flights and certainly not blasting off into space just to look at the earth and come back down? I don't doubt that there are some ethical rich folk who are happy to pay more tax and live more ecologically but the general message given by advertising, etc. is that people should strive to be like the irresponsible elites.

I do hope that this won't be the final parish magazine and I would like to thank Margaret for her work and for including my contributions over the past few years. If this is my final submission I hope some future archivist will be able to look back on my content and say 'That bloke was way off the mark' but sadly, to quote the band Travis, at the moment 'Im seeing a tunnel at the end of all these lights.'

And with that musing, I'll sign off for now (pun intended). I hope it is a happy Christmas, regardless of your budget!

- Adam Colton (hamcopublishing@aol.com)





Thank You from The Dementia Experience CIC

We would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful community of Ruckinge, and especially to Marion Hanbury, who so kindly organised a plant and cake sale at the beautiful St Mary Magdalene Church in support of The Dementia Experience. Thanks to everyone's incredible generosity, an amazing £620 was raised! We are so grateful to Marion, her daughters Caroline Carey and Susie Hay, and everyone who baked, grew plants, helped out, donated or came along to support the event.

Who are The Dementia Experience?

We are a local organisation dedicated to supporting people living with dementia and the family members and loved ones who care for them.

Through our welcoming Hug in a Mug coffee mornings, Music & Movement groups and other One Off Wonder events, we aim to bring people together, reduce isolation, create nuggets of joy and help families feel supported, connected and understood.

Where will the money go?

Every penny raised will help us continue running our clubs and events, keeping them free for people living with dementia and the family members who love and support them. These opportunities to spend time together, share experiences and simply enjoy being part of a community can make such a difference.







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The total raised in 2026 has reached **£1042.81** all due to the kind hearts and good memories of local people. Thank you very much and keep it coming!

This cash helps the hard-working leaders and helpers of Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts & Guides to continue to offer a wide range of activities for the youngsters who attend weekly.

Those same youngsters will grow up and become doctors, dentists, engineers, scientists and other vital and useful members of society. What better way to begin than in the Scouting and Guiding movements.

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ORLESTONE WI

The November meeting made us think a little more about ourselves and how we became who we are. Nature or nurture is a question that can be argued for a long time but we discovered how a search into family history can reveal that both play a part. If you take a look at the two photos below you'll see three generations - my Great Grandma Harriet, born in Ashford and seen here in the hop gardens holding my mother, then my Mother holding me, standing, and my younger sister. By all accounts I have my Great Grandma's temper!

A proposed outing to Bluewater was only taken up by a small number of members so we added a Pizza Evening in the Cosy Kettle and had a thoroughly enjoyable time. We were offered lots of different pizza toppings as well as a salad and we couldn't have done better – nor gone home any more 'full up'.

Our next meeting,on 14th December, will see us making some Christmas decorations – an excuse for conversation and laughter – before tucking into a buffet table supplied by all members. The competiton will be 'a robin' - no surpirse there! No outing this month but there will be the chance to sing carols when we go to Newchurch to join with eight other WIs from the Romney Marsh area. Earlier in December we're holding our annual Christmas dinner, this year at Lydd Golf Club, when there will be food, music and a couple of games to put us all in the Merry Christmas spirit.





January is our Anniversary month, when we'll cut a celebratory cake as well as welcoming back Siana the Elf who always has a lot of silly games to keep us laughing. In January we all win a raffle prize, too! The competition looks forward to spring with Butterflies.

We meet on the second Monday each month (except in August) at 7.30pm in Victory Hall, Hamstreet. Guests will be made very welcome, just pay £1.00 and come along for a couple of meetings before deciding to join us.

Margaret Hanlon, President

07748 006249 01233 732684 orlestone.wi@outlook.com



Winter Bumper Puzzle Page



Sudoku (Medium Difficulty)

8								9
	3			5		6	7	
7					2	8	5	
					1			
9			4				6	
	7	1						
				4				
1			9	2		5		
	4	8		6		3		

Help the elf get to Santa's workshop





Winter Wordsearch

Can you find all the words associated with winter?

Beanie
Fireplace
Frosty
Gingerbread
Icicle
Mittens
Nippy
Scarf
Sledging
Sleet
Snowball
Snowman



W	G	W	J	N	Q	J	K	I	S	Y	S	M	S	Q
W	P	E	G	M	I	W	P	V	C	M	H	O	G	N
W	Z	S	K	P	S	P	J	S	A	Q	C	I	A	Z
Z	S	C	U	K	T	J	P	B	R	F	N	M	R	Q
Y	Z	L	Z	U	A	M	Q	Y	F	G	W	E	A	V
E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	E	O	X	I	P	S
E	G	A	U	D	L	G	W	R	N	Y	J	W	E	I
M	T	N	X	L	W	Y	B	S	J	O	P	L	F	L
V	I	W	I	W	Z	R	Q	P	B	E	C	O	R	L
B	Q	T	D	G	E	B	E	A	N	I	E	X	O	A
L	S	Y	T	A	D	M	V	S	C	Z	G	N	S	B
D	L	K	D	E	I	E	B	I	S	L	E	E	T	W
W	Z	F	V	N	N	E	L	A	D	R	Y	V	Y	O
W	L	I	T	K	E	S	V	S	X	Z	N	M	R	N
V	N	C	W	I	U	O	Z	Y	Q	A	F	G	N	S

Word Block Puzzle

How many word of 4 or more can you create from the 9 letter word WINTERING

Guidelines;

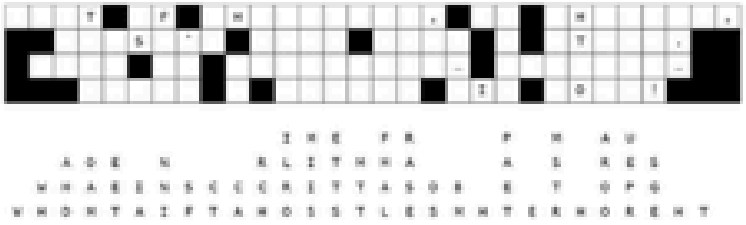
15 = Good

30 = Expert

60+ = Master



Fallen Phrase Puzzle



Try to rebuild the quote from
'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'
The letters from each cell are below the puzzle

Created by Michelle Gardner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OVER 60S CLUB





In November the Over 60s enjoyed the singing of John from Acropolis. We also painted the robins we made earlier (yep just like Blue Peter). Fiona took them away to finalise the finished article and we will get them back at the next meeting.

On 19 November we enjoyed sausage, mash and onion gravy at the Dukes Head. As usual it was delicious and plentiful.

On 23 November we are having a trip out to Notcutts In Maidstone hopefully to finalise our Christmas shopping and have a spot of lunch. On 27 November The Singing Miches will entertain us.

The last get together of the year will be the Over 60s Christmas dinner on 4 December. Our meetings will recommence on 8 January with singer Geoff.

Wishing all our members a merry Christmas (a couple of Baileys should do the trick) and a happy and peaceful 2027.
Any enquiries and further information contact June McKay on 07799 841140. New members are always welcome. Come along and give us a try.

For further information contact June McKay on 07999841140.

Parkinson's UK

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Contact Elisa...
ebienz@parkinsons.org.uk
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SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2026		
1st Sunday: 6th December **Advent 2** *(Purple)*	9.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Parish Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Family Fun Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington
Thursday 10th December	3.00pm – 4.00pm Carol Singing + tea (no charge) 7.00 pm Taize Prayer for Advent	St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Rumwold, Bonnington
2nd Sunday: 13th December **Advent 3** *(Purple/Rose)*	9.00am BCP H Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle Service	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Martin, Aldington
Saturday 19th December	2.30 pm Community Carols	Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet
3rd Sunday: 20th December **Advent 4** *(Purple)*	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship (HC) 10.30am Matins 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Carol Service 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight 6.00pm Carols & childrens' Tableau with Jump Singers	St. Mary, Orlestone St. Mary Kenardington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Rumwolds, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne
Monday 21st December	5.00 pm Carol Singing	Quarry House, Aldington
Christmas Eve 24th Dec. *(Purple)*	3.00pm Prams and Grans 4.00pm Blessing the Crib 6.00pm Crib Service 7.30pm Carol Service 11.00pm Midnight Mass	St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Peter and St. Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Mary, Kenardington St. Rumwold, Bonnington
Christmas Day 25th Dec. *(White/Gold)*	10.00am Family Service 10.00am Family Service with HC (one hour only)	Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Matthew, Warehorne
4th Sunday: 27th December **Christmas 1** *(White)*	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion	St. Peter and St. Paul, Bilsington

Benefice Holy Communion on Wednesdays @ 12noon, St. Mary, Orlestone

Key Events:

Saturday 5th December 11.00 am – 2.00 pm "Warm Up for Christmas" Soups, Bread Pudding, Cakes and Savouries. Gift Stall., St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge.

SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2027		
1st Sunday: 3rd January **Christmas 2** *(White)*	9.00am Holy Communion 9.45 for10.00am Family Fun Service 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Parish Communion 10.30am Holy Communion and Covenant Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington Village Hall, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet
Thursday 7th January	7.00pm Taize Prayer for Epiphany	St. Rumwold, Bonnington
2nd Sunday: 10th January **Epiphany 1** **The Baptism of Christ** *(White/Gold)*	9.00am BCP H Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington
3rd Sunday: 17th January **Epiphany 2** *(White)*	9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Prayer, Praise & Coffee 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Mary Kenardington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington
4th Sunday: 24th January **Epiphany 3** **Septuagesima Sunday** *(White)*	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am BCP Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne
5th Sunday: 31st January **Epiphany 4** **Sexagesima Sunday** *(White)*	10.30am Benefice, Holy Communion Service	Venue to be confirmed. Please consult with your Church Warden.

N.B. THERE ARE NO SERVICES DURING JANUARY AT: ST. MARY'S ORLESTONE

Key Events: **Tuesday 26th January 12- 1.30, Soup lunch at St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge**

Church of England **Saxon Shoreline Benefice**	**Rector: Rev Geoff Abasolo-Munnery** **revgeoff.saxonshorelinebenefice@gmail.com** **Canon John Saunders retired Anglican Priest)** **Pauline Williams (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)**	**07743 598896** **07732 682472** **07907 676829**
Methodist Minister	**Rev.Adrian Roux** **revadrianroux@wesleys.uk**	**07721 006800**
Roman Catholic Priest	**Father Hans, St Simon's Church**	**01233 622399**
Church of the Good Shepherd & St Mary, Orlestone (C of E and Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership)	**Mrs Doreen Dawson (Churchwarden)** **Mrs Janet Carter (Steward)** **David Smith (Steward)**	**07788 776941** **01233 732403** **01233 732368**
St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge	**Mrs Mary Sillibourne (Churchwarden)**	**01233 732615**
St Peter & St Paul, Bilsington	**Mrs Linda King (Churchwarden)**	**01233 720554**
St Matthew, Warehorne	**Mrs Meriel Bailes (Churchwarden)**	**01233 731211**
St Mary, Kenardington	**Dr Stephen Coles**	**01233 721242**
St Rumwold, Bonnington	**Dr Norman Corfield (Churchwarden)**	**01233 720241**
St Martin, Aldington	**Tim Loat (Churchwarden)**	**07718 052114**

Local Contacts

Hamstreet Surgery	Mon-Fri 8.00 – 18.30		01233 730190
Aldington & Bonnington ParishCouncil	Emily Arnold	clerk@aldingtonandbonnington-pc.gov.uk	07928 453208
Bilsington Parish Council	Peter Settlefield	Bilsingtonclerk@gmail.com	
Kenardington Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@kenardington-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Orlestone Parish Council Clerk	Sue Stiffell	stiffells@btinternet.com	01233 628481
Ruckinge Parish Council	Peter Setterfield	parishclerk@ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714300986
Warehorne Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@warehorne-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Bilsington Village Hall bookings	Vivienne Hudson		01233 721731
Bromley Green Hall bookings	Mark Nash		01233 733613
Hamstreet Church Hall bookings	Doreen Dawson		07788 776941
Hamstreet Pavilion bookings	Mags Wellsted-Boorman		07886 515573
Hamstreet Sports & Leisure Assoc. (Field & MUGA bookings)	Mark Taylor		07786 712939
Kenardington Village Hall booking	Mrs Brenda Headley		01233 733085
Ruckinge Village Hall bookings	Emily Arnold	clerk@ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714 300986
Victory Hall bookings	Mrs Rita Ward	weyward@hotmail.co.uk	07535 349910
Warehorne Village Hall bookings	Kelly O'Leary-White		01233 733980
Orlestone WI	Margaret Hanlon	orlestonewi@outlook.com	07748 006249
Over 60s Club	Mrs June McKay		01233 732879
Hamstreet Bowling Club	Adam Smidmore		07947 007686
Hamstreet Short Mat Bowls Club	Paula Scales		01233 334958
The Shed Men	Sid Gittens	slgittens@btinternet.com	01233 732553
Table Tennis Club	David Smith		01233 732368
Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scouts and Guides Group			
Group Lead Volunteer :	Dave Lukehurst	(as below)	07986 036320
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