August 2026

THE LINK







In this issue:

- escaping from the Tower
- canine cool
- parent power
- Château Hever
- local events

...and so much more

Parish magazine of Four Elms, Hever and Markbeech

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Welcome to the August Link

Hold the front page! This spectacular nest, a wren's I believe, has to feature front and centre! I found it on the ground and very much hope that it was home to some successful fledglings before it fell to earth. The construction is exquisite, neatly lined with the softest mix of wool and down, I hope our sheep supplied the wool, and bound together with horse hair and fine twigs. I wonder if Treacle the pony noticed she was being robbed?



Whilst wrens like down, most country people have traditionally battled to destroy ragwort before its seedy down is ready to disperse, so I was intrigued to see some proudly growing round Winston Churchill's circular swimming pool on a recent walk round Chartwell. This is the pool which had to be camouflaged during the war as it was a perfect bull's eye for enemy bombers out to get him. Al tells me that the National Trust has significantly altered its attitude to ragwort because it is ecologically important, providing forage for not only the cinnabar moth but 119 other species and is only dangerous if it ends up dried in hay.

In other birds news, the RSPB is celebrating the improved fortunes of the Dartford Warbler, albeit in Dorset not Dartford. Back in 1963, there were fewer than a dozen breeding pairs left in the UK, all of them in Dorset. Responding to the crisis, the RSPB bought land at Arne near Wareham and the area is now a stronghold for the species, with this site alone supporting 97 pairs in 2025.

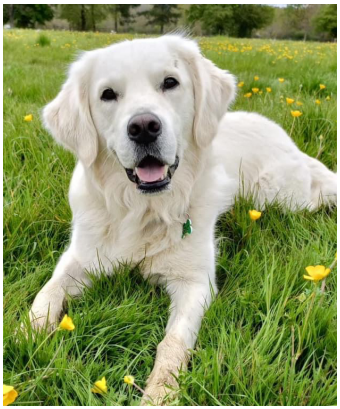
Have any of you been listening to "Key Changes" on Radio 3? It is a fascinating history of the development of music over the centuries. I have just learnt that much creativity in the late 1600s was due to the arrival of coffee on the scene. Before that, as urban water was unsafe to drink, composers were permanently slightly tipsy after drinking weak beer all day (and a tot of rum is half a pint!!). Now their acuity, Purcell's included, was vastly improved and from then creativity knew no bounds!

Joanna Wade, thelink@hever.org

THE LINK

pets of the month

When we moved into Pigdown Lane in 2023, it was Dexter, our Goldador, who came with us. Dex loved Hever life with all of his paws. He adored the long walks, the space, and most of all our large pond – a dip in the pond to chat with the ducks became a daily ritual that left a trail of wet footprints throughout the house! Sadly, Dexter had developed epilepsy at 18 months old. We found out latterly he'd had oxygen deprivation at birth. We adapted our lives so someone was always home to give him emergency medication. In the summer of 2024 we were devastated to lose him. He was four and had been a huge part of our family.



The hole Dexter left was immense. Then we met Lucy… and the rest is history. Who could resist a dog who stood beneath a perfect rainbow on her "trial" morning? Lucy arrived underweight and shut down, but with the boundless energy only a Springer Spaniel can have. Having never lived in a house, everything was new - from carpets to house training - but she took it all in with her earnest eyes and quiet determination. Just over 18 months later and she's healthy, confident, and loves life and everyone she meets.



Her love of water began cautiously. She eyed our huge pond with interest but no intention of going in, unlike Dex. Then one day she tripped and realised (much to our horror) she'd found a new favourite thing. Unfortunately the pond leaves her covered in silt with a smell that announces itself. But a solution was at hand, and luckily she loves her paddling pool as much, you can find her floating in it at least three times a day and normally with a selection of toys at easy reach. And it even travels to her amazing dog walker (thank you Rachel!). Lucy has embedded herself in our hearts. You'll often find her racing down Pigdown Lane or through the local woods collecting sticks with a joy that's impossible not to smile at. She still circles when she's excited, leaves wet paw prints across the floor, and a wet patch on all of the sofas and believes every walk is the best one yet. She arrived as a closed off and failed "gun dog" but has become the most adorable "fun dog" - in her own slightly chaotic but deeply lovable way.

Susi Coates

what we do

At Hever Primary School we are very fortunate to have a strong core committee at the heart of our PTA. Our mission has always been to raise increasingly vital funds for our school, which will have a direct and lasting impact on all of our pupils and many pupils to come.



We have been incredibly successful over recent years in raising significant funds which have enhanced learning opportunities and brought even more magic to playtime. This funding has contributed to a playground resurface, installing a shepherd hut, lots of exciting playground equipment, the funding of school trips and our most recent project – an outdoor classroom! Fundraising isn't an easy task, especially in today's world so we are always incredibly grateful to see faces from our lovely parish at events we run. We often see familiar faces at our Christmas wreath making workshop, our PTA Quiz and of course at, our largest event and biggest fundraiser, the Summer Fete. It is through these events and thanks to the hard work of our Grants Committee that we can continue to support our thriving school so much.



We have a strong relationship with Hever Castle and Hever Village Hall which allows us to continue assisting with the annual Hever Christmas Fair which is supported hugely by residents of Hever and raises a great amount of money to support both the school and our wonderful church, St Peter's. On behalf of Hever PTA, the PTA trustees would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. If you would like to learn more about an event or if you would be interested in helping, then please do e-mail us at heverpta@hever.kent.sch.uk

Have a wonderful summer.

Megan Park
co chair Hever PTA

the extraordinary story of Nicholas Heath



If you glance back through the long history of our local ministry, you will find names that quietly shaped the fabric of England. Among them, one stands out like a beacon: Nicholas Heath, who was instituted as the Rector of Hever by Archbishop Warham in 1531. He was just 28 years old. Heath arrived in Hever at a pivotal moment in English history. The Boleyn family was living down the road at Hever Castle, and King Henry VIII was aggressively trying to divorce Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn. As a young priest, Heath was dropped right into the epicentre of the English Reformation. While his time in our parish lasted only two years before he left to pursue a glittering career, Heath's life became an extraordinary rollercoaster of royal drama, high politics, and narrow escapes.

These were turbulent and taxing times for the clergy. Local priests had to contend with the sudden growth of Protestantism and whiplash changes to church doctrines, which they were forced to obey and preach under threat of treason. Heath, highly educated with a doctorate of Divinity from Cambridge, quickly caught the eye of the royal court. He maintained local ties to Kent, appearing on the table of vicars at St Peter and St Paul in Shoreham in 1538. Henry VIII trusted Heath's brilliant mind, appointing him as royal Almoner and sending him on a high-stakes diplomatic mission to Germany in 1535 to promote theological and political understanding and negotiate with the Lutheran princes of Germany. Back home, Heath was even asked by Henry VIII to help oversee a new English translation of the Bible, known as The Great Bible; the title page explicitly notes it was "*overseen and penned by Heath and the Bishop of Durham at Henry's command.*"

On the surface, Heath appeared to accept Henry VIII's break with Rome. Beneath the surface, however, he was playing a dangerous game, secretly keeping in touch with Reginald Pole (who would become the last Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury) in an attempt to restore papal influence in England. As the crown moved between different monarchs, Heath's refusal to compromise his deep-held beliefs repeatedly cost him his freedom. Under the young King Edward VI Heath tried to compromise, only accepting the new Book of Common Prayer after the House of Lords modified it to be more Catholic. But when he finally took a hard stand against further Protestant reforms, he was stripped of his bishopric and thrown into the Fleet Prison in 1551.

Under Queen Mary I ("Bloody Mary") who restored ties with Rome, Heath's career rocketed. He became Bishop of Worcester, Archbishop of York, and in 1556, Lord Chancellor of England—the highest political office in the realm. Queen Mary, sold Chobham Park in July 1558 to Heath for £3,000, a huge sum in those days. The entire estate was put up for sale in 2024 at a guide price of £15 million! This era was marked by brutal religious persecutions, and Heath's high office forced his hand into some grim history. As Lord Chancellor, it is highly likely that Heath had to issue the official legal writ for the execution of Thomas Cranmer—the famous Protestant Archbishop and former owner of nearby Otford Palace. Yet, when Queen Mary died in 1558, Heath chose peace over bloodshed. Rather than backing a Catholic rebellion, he went to Parliament and proclaimed the Protestant Princess Elizabeth as the rightful monarch, single-handedly preventing a civil war.

Queen Elizabeth I was deeply grateful to Heath for securing her throne, even keeping him on her Privy Council for a time. However, Heath refused to take her Oath of Supremacy, resulting in another arrest and a spell in the Tower of London. Fortunately, wealthy prisoners in the Tower were treated reasonably well, and he survived the ordeal.

How did our former rector's story end? History is divided, leaving us with a fascinating mystery. The best-known version: he was released on the condition that he wouldn't meddle in state affairs, retiring to his estate Chobham Park in Surrey, where Queen Elizabeth even made several cordial social visits to him before his death in 1578. The alternative version**:** he was never truly free, being constantly moved back and forth from the Tower of London, eventually perishing within its cold stone walls. This legend can be found on his memorial plaque erected in 1908 at St Lawrence's church in Chobham. Whichever version is true, next time you look at the list of past rectors at St Peter's, spare a thought for Nicholas Heath: a man who arrived in Hever as a young 28-year-old priest, rose to the steps of the throne, and left an indelible mark on British history.

Mandy Yarnold

inspired by a piece in the Shoreham & District Historical Society's newsletter





Hever Rose and Horticultural Society
SUMMER SHOW
Saturday, 15th Aug 2026 - Hever Village Hall 2pm - 4.30pm
Refreshments and raffle - all welcome

four elms fete 2026

This year's fete was another tremendous success, made possible by an incredible team effort from start to finish. Preparations got off to a flying start on the Friday, with a fantastic turnout of volunteers helping to set up in record time. There was one unexpected moment of drama when a glass ornament left in direct sunshine ignited the very dry grass. Thankfully, the Willerby team (already on site to set up the magnificent maze) reacted immediately, quickly stamping out the flames before they could spread, and the fire brigade arrived shortly afterwards to ensure everything was completely safe. This was a reminder how quickly fire can spread in these dry conditions and we should take extra care when we are out and about.

Fete day itself was packed with attractions. Visitors enjoyed a wide selection of stalls run by the school, church and local businesses, creating a real community atmosphere. We enjoyed fantastic performances from the school on both the stage and in the arena, alongside wonderful music from the Edenbridge Town Band. A particular highlight was the welcome return of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, with a spectacular flypast and display from a Hurricane. After a long but hugely rewarding weekend, we had much needed extra helping hands from Together and Giving and the Hever Barn Dance team which meant the clear-up was completed in record time too. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered, took part and came along to support the fete. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all, and we can't wait to do it all again next year!

Louise Nightingale



Interested in joining a new Community Garden?
We're looking for people who want to work together, growing food and creating a community space at
Bore Place (find us at TN8 7AR).

The space already has a young fruit and nut orchard, we've seeded a wildflower meadow, and started growing some veg. Now we need people to build on that: whether you've got green fingers, you're handy with tools, or you're simply curious and want to learn as we go, there's a place for you here.
Come along on **Weds (10am–2pm)** and/or **Fridays (10am–2pm)** to see what we're up to, hear our plans, and get stuck in.





Hever Village Hall

Saturday 12th September from 6.30 pm

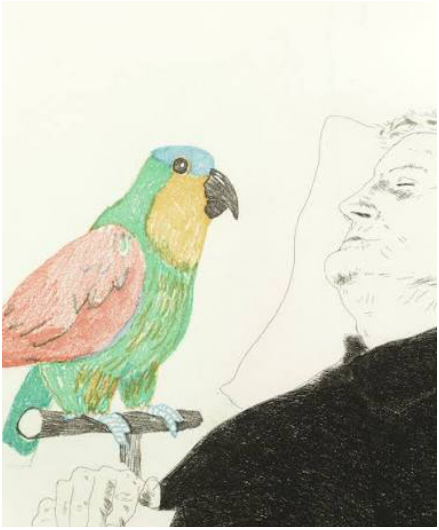
A great family night out, barn dancing, BBQ, local beer and fancy dress competition

https://events.liveit.io/hever/hever-barn-dance-2026/

BARN DANCE

birds of a feather

There follows a bird miscellany.... birds NOT of a feather.



First, the late great David Hockney is famously associated with parrots, one of his best-known etchings is the eccentric "my mother with a parrot" from 1974. And here it is! Apparently he chose a parrot for its colour more than anything, he was enjoying etching and wanted to expand his skills. I love the fact that he just created without intending a deep hidden meaning and let the work speak for itself.

Second, in these hot days I have very much envied the water birds on Hever Castle lake smugly gliding around looking cool.... here are some Egyptian geese and Mallard ducks.







And then there are the birds of the air surfing the waves of heat, both buzzards and red kite are quite common now. This is a buzzard.



And finally, as recently experienced by Bridget:

Here at the Link we often reference Merlin, the excellent app for identifying birds from their calls. It turns out that it can, in a sense, work both ways. Sitting in the garden late one night in May we heard the mewling call of what Merlin told us was the female tawny owl. Merlin also offered us recordings of the calls of these owls and in that casual way one has when you cannot foresee the future, I pressed play. What happened next was one part very alarming and one part totally thriling. There was, at once, a great flapping of what sounded like great wings and a rush of air past and just behind my head. Lucky Ivan sitting on the bench alongside me could see it all rather than just feel what was happening as the barn owl landed on the back of the bench almost on my shoulder. I was in the recovery position by then having no idea what was happening and desperately trying to silence Merlin. Almost as quickly the tawny owl realised that we were very far from being a likely mate/ally and flew away. We were very sorry to be such a disappointment while feeling a bit like people who can conjure owls from the ether.



hever castle vineyard

Residents of Hever and the surrounding villages may have noticed some significant changes in the south-facing field to the north of Hever Castle, overlooking it across the adjacent river. What was once open farmland is now home to 12,500 newly planted vines, marking the beginning of an exciting new venture for one of the village's most recognisable landmarks. Hever Castle has officially begun work on its first vineyard, a project that aims to produce wines grown, served and sold exclusively on the estate. While it will be several years before the first bottles are ready, the planting of the vineyard represents a major investment in the future of the Castle and its connection to the local area.

The idea was first championed by castle owner Richard Guthrie, who recognised the potential of the south-facing field for growing grapes. The site has many features that modern vineyards look for, including strong sunlight exposure and natural protection from frost. Three classic grape varieties; Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier - have been planted, mapped using GPR tracking. This combination creates the potential for producing both sparkling and still wines in the years ahead.

The project is another example of how Hever Castle continues to evolve while remaining rooted in the village landscape. The estate is already a major employer and visitor destination, attracting thousands of guests each year. Producing its own wine could further strengthen Hever's reputation as a destination while creating a distinctive product closely linked to the village itself. The vineyard has been established with support from specialist vineyard managers VineWorks Ltd, who will oversee its development and care. Considerable preparation work has taken place behind the scenes, including soil testing and careful selection of root stocks and varieties best suited to local conditions.

Over the coming months, residents will see the installation of trellising and protective fencing as the young vines become established. If all goes to plan, the vineyard could eventually produce up to 15,000 bottles each year. For now, the vines are small and the harvests remain some years away. But as they grow, they will become a visible symbol of Hever Castle's investment in the future – one that local residents can watch develop right on their doorstep.



Gemma Wright
PR Executive, Hever Castle

Hever Parish Council

Your Hever Parish Council
PROUDLY REPRESENTING HEVER, MARKBEECH & FOUR ELMS
Any questions? Please contact clerk@hever.org

With the school holidays now here, there are free family fun days being run across the district. Please visit www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/familyfundays for information of these fun filled activity sessions for children up to the age of 12.

The latest Here for you Leaflet is now available and contains a comprehensive guide of resources to support individuals and families facing financial challenges. It covers a wide range of assistance options, including:

- Financial and Benefits Support including Pension Credit, Universal Credit, Tax Credits and budgeting loans, Council Tax reduction and Crisis & Resilience Fund
- Family and child support including Free School Meals and vouchers, childcare assistance, school transport, holiday activities and food programme.
- Cost of living and household bills including utility bill support, food support, broadband and mobile discounts, insurance and budgeting advice
- Health and wellbeing - healthcare cost support, wellbeing services, mental health resources.
- Community and Specialist Support -Citizens Advice and Money Advice hub, support for Armed Forces carers and older people, upcycling and repair cafés, Transport Assistance.
- Additional help -pet cares support, warm spaces.

To view a copy please visit: https://heverparishcouncil.gov.uk/latest-here-for-you-help-leaflet/

There are an array of roadworks planned over the coming weeks. Keep up to date with what is planned by visiting Causeway one.network

The next Hever Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th September in Markbeech Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Planning Meeting will commence at 7pm.

Rachael Turner Clerk and RFO
077849 12645
clerk@heverparishcouncil.gov.uk



The Eden at Hever Castle

business directory

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Accommodation

Greyhound at Hever, Bed & Breakfast, restaurant for residents.		01732 862221

Building & Design Services

Andy Sayers Electrical Services maintenance and repairs		07836 256 146
APH Electrical & Property Maintenance		07816 291713
Beauproperty	house design and building	01892 249000
Causeway Joinery	bespoke joinery for the public and trade	01342 850170
Eden Valley Builders	extensions, conversions and general building	07778431470
HJM Plumbing & Heating	general plumbing, heating and maintenance	07908854881
G Moss	joiner & builder	07778 440 644
Jem Pickard	painting and decorating	07850 371558 or 01732 863062
M & M Walker	painting & decorating, plumbing, heating	07774 218 684
Michael Beall	bespoke carpentry and joinery	07796 175140
Richard A Maslen	Fine furniture and bespoke joinery	07930 341415
W Smithers & Sons	listed building, conversions, extensions,	01342 850 559

Dog Training

Claire Cook, Positive Reinforcement Dog Trainer in Edenbridge		07818 070672

Education

Chiddingstone Nursery School for children 2-5 years		01892 871315
Jade Johnson language tuition in German, French & English online or in person		07761 287517

Fitness and Health

BDHL private & group health insurance and corporate wellbeing		01892 891900
Flexi Foot Care, Diane Fletcher - home visiting podiatrist/chiropodist		0790 3293533
Hever Castle Golf Club	golf course	01732 700771
Step by Step, Michelle Hogan, mobile foot care practice		07786 038149
Falconhurst Cricket Club	cricket and training sessions	07771 892762
Paul Marro Cognitive Hypnotherapy www.htherapy.co.uk		01732 808211
Realign, osteopathy and personal training www.realign-osteo.co.uk		07841 776591
Smart Nutrition and Fitness personal training for midlife women & beyond		0771 8588847
Tennis by Nature	kids tennis coaching by Gary Markham	07802 842554

Food - Catering and Restaurants

Gorard Dean Catering -	all events undertaken call Melanie Dean	07710 005 635
Greyhound at Hever, Restaurant with rooms, open to non-residents		01732 862221

Funeral Services and Burial Grounds

Alex Jones funeral directors & monumental masons		01732 860047
Eden Valley Woodland Burial Ground on the Kent/Surrey border		07802 630012

Garage Services

Stuart Rieman luxury passenger car servicing & repairs		01883 715037

Gardening and landscaping

APF Trees	tree surgery and garden maintenance	07786 884924
Hever Landscapes	for all your garden projects	01892 740133
French's Fencing	gates, automation, fencing supply & fitting	0779 5551436
Richard James Landscaping,	all aspects of both hard and soft landscaping	richard@richardjamesland.co.uk
SA Landscaping	landscaping, garden maintenance, fencing, driveways and more	01732 671146
Thompson Tree Care Ltd,	tree surgery, tree felling, hedge cutting	07747345815

Home Services

Daren Wood	chimney sweep, pots and cowls fitted	01959 564263
MOLE CATCHER, Peter King		Mob:07432 813614 or 01892 520287
Pegrum	boilers, heating, plumbing & oil tanks	01732 463256
Sure Kill	pest control services	01732 863206
The Caring Fuel Collective, home heating oil suppliers,		www.caringfuel.com

IT

My IT Wizard Ltd	Computer problem solving	07779 285839
MR Computing computer repairs in your home, no call out charge		01732 590077

Local Produce

Allman Butchers	meat & groceries	01732 863214 or 700288
Falconhurst Farm Shop and deli		01342 850172

Taxis

Relyon Cars	local taxi company	01732 863 800

Venue Hire and Weddings

Falconhurst Weddings	01342 850526
Markbeech Village Hall	01342 850328



news from four elms primary

The final weeks of the summer term have been full of exciting learning, memorable experiences and plenty of reasons to celebrate. We were delighted to welcome an external visitor to school recently, who recognised many of the strengths across Four Elms. She praised the high-quality teaching taking place throughout the school, particularly the way teachers model learning and engage pupils in lessons. Speaking and listening were highlighted as a real strength, alongside the positive behaviour, strong relationships and consistency throughout the school. It was wonderful to see the hard work of both staff and pupils recognised in this way.

Across the school, children have continued to immerse themselves in their learning. Class 1 have enjoyed gardening projects and creative Drawing Club activities, whilst Class 2 have explored Brazil, fractions and poetry inspired by their visit to the pond. Class 3 have developed their sketching, writing and mathematical skills, and Class 4 have explored topics ranging from money matters to wellbeing and preparing for the transition to secondary school. A particular highlight of the term was Class 4's production of *High School Musical*. The children delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing great confidence, talent and teamwork. Their hard work and dedication resulted in a truly memorable show and left audiences thoroughly entertained.

Alongside classroom learning, pupils have enjoyed a range of wider opportunities, including a debating workshop at Sevenoaks School and transition visits for both our new Reception children and pupils moving into their classes for September. The Four Elms Fete was another wonderful celebration of our school community, with children proudly performing the songs and dances they had worked so hard to prepare. We finished the year with our Values Awards celebration, recognising the children who consistently demonstrate the qualities that make Four Elms such a special place. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that the children have achieved and to celebrate the compassion, aspiration, respect and sense of community that are at the heart of our school.

We also said goodbye to our Year 6 pupils as they completed their journey at Four Elms. They have been fantastic role models and have made a significant contribution to school life. Whilst they will be greatly missed, we wish them every success and happiness as they move on to secondary school. We are incredibly proud of all that our children have achieved and wish everyone a happy and restful summer break.

Anna Cheddie
Head of School

news from hever primary

What better way to round off the year than by sharing some of the amazing opportunities the children have had this term to extend their wider learning. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

Helene Bligh
Headteacher


Westminster Hall


Wimbledon

Hever Triathlon


Y4 Bushcraft


Y6 Residential


Y6 Residential

church in august

During the summer, the six Sundays from 26th July till 30th August will have just one service on each Sunday at each of the churches. Please watch out for any late changes with details of services below. Readings and full details are also at https://threespires.wordpress.com/diary/

Date & time	Service details	Sunday
26th July 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity 8
2nd August 10am	Holy Communion Four Elms	Trinity 9
9th August 10am	Eucharist Holy Trinity Markbeech	Trinity10
16h August 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever with baptism	Trinity 11
23rd August 10am	Holy Communion St.Peter's Hever	Trinity 12
30th August 10am	Holy Communion St.Paul's Four Elms	Trinity 13

Our small groups are suspended during August and will resume in September – details in next month's Link. Please contact any of us if you would like prayer or to talk to someone during this time or any other help.

Rector
Revd.Simon Braid
07802 809849
simonbraid@icloud.com

Administrator
Ana Roxburgh
beneficeemail@gmail.com

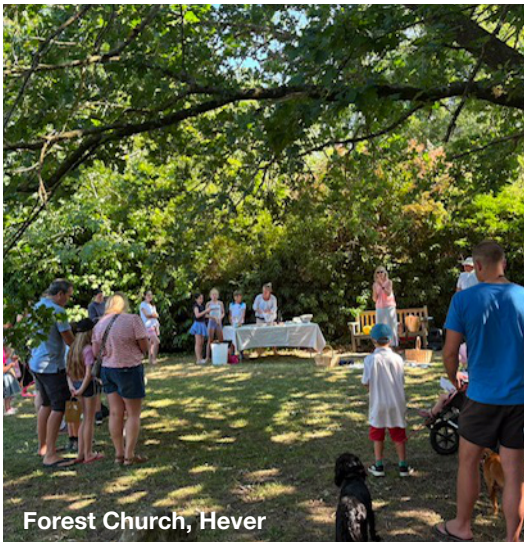
Wardens

Four Elms
vacancy

Hever
Mandy Yarnold
07976 281613

Markbeech
Lynnie Rowan
07881 482154

Nicki Talbot
01342 850526


Forest Church, Hever

From the register:
Weddings
13th June MB Henrietta Talbot & Oliver Roberts
20th June MB Alexis Streeter & James Weller
27th June MB Amelia Hewetson & Guy Huffen

Baptism:
21st June Hever Wilfred John Iles

Funerals:
18th June Four Elms Funeral Jenny Shillabear

our rector's thoughts

By the time you read this, it is almost inevitable that we will have a new Prime Minister and that it will be Andy Burnham. He is the former Mayor of Manchester, newly elected MP for Makerfield and purported saviour of the Labour party from electoral oblivion at the hands of Reform UK and deliverer of our country from low growth, high debt, rising cost living and weak defence. Small wonder that when he took up his seat in Parliament, one MP shouted 'He's not the Messiah!' to which Burnham replied: 'He's a very naughty boy' quoting from the film 'Life of Brian'. I don't imagine Burnham has a 'Messiah complex'. Notwithstanding his Roman Catholic upbringing, it seems he has drifted away from this: he no longer attends Mass and says he doesn't pray. His current religious beliefs are intentionally vague although he has said he traces his political beliefs back to that upbringing.

But what or who is the Messiah? Messiah is a Jewish title from the Old Testament, which when translated into Greek gives us the word Christ. The Messiah was 'the anointed one' – someone specifically chosen and consecrated by God to accomplish a divine purpose. Over time, it evolved into the title for an expected future saviour who would deliver Israel and establish a righteous kingdom. That's why some of the people to whom Jesus spoke found his claim to be Messiah difficult as they had been expecting a military Messiah rather than the Saviour of the whole world, who would suffer for us. So at the cross it seemed that Jesus had gone the way of many other failed Messiahs. But the resurrection proved him to be whom he claimed to be. At Pentecost St.Peter proclaimed: "*Therefore let all Israel know with certainty: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah"* (Acts 2:36). So it is that we refer to him as 'Jesus Christ'.

This might also make us think of Handel's choral masterpiece: 'The Messiah'. In 1741 Handel was close to bankruptcy and about to give his final concert when a friend handed him the libretto based on the life of Jesus from selected verses from the Bible. Handel threw himself into his composition and after a few weeks of undisturbed labour 'The Messiah' was completed. Handel proclaimed: *'I think I did see all heaven before me and the great God himself'*. Unsurprisingly, his fortunes were restored!

This summer why not google Messiah and have a look at some of the Scriptures. Then like Handel we might be able to sing 'Hallelujah', a Hebrew word, which means: Praise the Lord!

God bless you all

Simon

news from the pews

Four Elms

I wonder whether these exceptionally hot days of recent weeks will still be with us by the time you read this. Our lovely old churches, of course, remain blissfully cool, so you can always retreat from the heat into one of them. St Paul's is open every day and everyone is warmly welcome to step inside.

On 5th July we were fortunate to gather in the pleasant shade of the churchyard for our annual Pet Service, kindly led by Rev Sheila Perkins in Simon's absence. A wonderful variety of well-behaved dogs attended (together with their owners!) and we were reminded of God's loving care for all His creation and the comforting thought that our beloved pets will also be in heaven, because God has planned a perfect eternal home filled with all good things.

July always brings our Four Elms Village Fete and, although it was another hot day, it was tempered by a welcome breeze. An excellent turnout of people enjoyed the wide array of stalls and activities, although sadly it was decided that it was simply too warm for the dog show to take place. A big thank you goes to the fete committee, who worked so hard to ensure that the day was once again such a success, with grateful thanks also to all who managed the church stalls. It is a wonderful and joyful event that brings the local community together and is a valuable fundraiser for St Paul's Church, so we are most grateful to everyone who attended for their support and goodwill.

We hope that you enjoy a happy summer, with opportunities to relax, be refreshed and savour the long, light evenings.

Serena Barker

Hever

On July 1st, we launched our ambitious campaign to raise £135,000 for the Queen Anne Boleyn Memorial. This exciting project will fund a beautiful new memorial alongside crucial accessibility upgrades for our church, including a ramped entrance, chancel handrails, a new servery and meeting space at the rear of the North Aisle, and a disabled portaloo. Please visit www.anneboleynmemorial.co.uk to learn more, find our JustGiving donation link, and share the news with your friends.

One of the best parts of being churchwarden is meeting our visitors. Recently, brass and tomb expert Jonny Wicken has been helping me uncover our church's history prior to the 1894 Victorian refurbishment. Do you know of any interior photos of the church taken before 1894? There are none in the Maidstone archives, so we would love to know if any exist in local family collections.

We also have some wonderful events coming up. The Hever

History Festival runs from Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th August right here at St Peter's. You can view the full speaker programme and book tickets via the Hever Festival Theatre website. Shortly after, our next Parish Lunch takes place on Thursday 13th August at 12:30pm for a 1pm start. Everyone is welcome to join us for a simple meal, fresh fruit, and delicious homemade cake. Please RSVP with any dietary requirements to help us with catering.

Finally, dust off your cowboy boots and get ready to do-ci-do at the annual Hever BBQ & Barn Dance on Saturday 12th September. Please see the advert in *The Link* for booking information.

Mandy Yarnold
Churchwarden

Markbeech

Almost halfway through July and it has been glorious, if sometimes too hot. Having not been able to drive for 6 weeks, personally it has been a blessing, but the sheep are struggling and farmers everywhere are stressing about the harvest. However, I am sure the Four Elms Fete was wonderful, this was the first year we were unable to go (family wedding), but all the reports I heard in church on Sunday were glowing.

The service Simon took on 12th July featured the Parable of the Sower. One we have heard before, but his clever idea of using Mark, Peter, Luke and Percy to illustrate the type of Christians we can recognise, sometimes with rather ashamed faces. Mark – as in mark time – not growing in our faith. Peter – as peter-out, Luke – luke warm, horrible feeling that could easily be a lot of us, including me, too busy to make time. Finally, the wonderful Percy Vere. The secret to a fruitful Christian life is perseverance as Simon wrote in his Soul Food. Let's hope we can all persevere, especially needed after Simon's departure next year.

At the end of June, many of us in Markbeech celebrated our Parish lunch in Clare DP's beautiful garden. She had gone to a lot of trouble and so had our hardworking cooks, particularly Lynnie and Marielou. Holding the whole thing together were Kit and Liz Kaberry, and so many grateful thanks to them both as well. We had more people than before, and it was a very happy afternoon. On 26th July, 26th we have a Holy Communion at Markbeech at 10am. This is normally a Family Service, but because we have fewer services during the holidays, the services will not be as usual. Please read the Link carefully for details of services and which church they are in. I know the churches are not far apart, but I am fairly certain that most of us do not leave enough time to recover from a mistake.

Happy and safe holidays to you all, especially the teachers and school children, August is precious.

Janey Cooper
PCC Secretary

gardening

Arthritis is not the gardener's friend. It slows us down, makes bending a rather creaky affair and getting up from the ground something to be planned. Over the last 18 months or so, it effectively put paid to any gardening - but now with two new hips and a little bit less spine I'm back in the room (or should I say, garden). I've never progressed much beyond enthusiastic beginner, but enthusiasm is definitely what I need now.

The garden has managed surprisingly well without me. Shrubs grew, flowers bloomed and there have been some unexpected wins. Before my enforced sabbatical, a pesky mole had happily burrowed up and down my border for several frustrating months, leaving casualties in its wake before disappearing to find gardens new. Two years on, bulbs that I had long forgotten have bloomed again- albeit not in their original place! And I have poppies! I sowed them liberally a couple of years back hoping for swathes of majestic red blooms just like you see in fields and verges. Sadly, nothing happened. This year, without my help, a few made an appearance. At first they grew strong and tall. Unfortunately by the time they bloomed, they had flopped to the ground, without the strength to hold themselves up. I sympathise.

There are of course disadvantages to leaving your garden to fend for itself for such a long time. The gaps in the border that I planned to fill are still there. Plants that I put in the wrong place and wanted to move are still in the wrong place. My raised vegetable planters remain unused, except by weeds. My wildflower patch is just a wild patch. And my beloved stream and rockery began once again to disappear under mud, silt and weeds. That is still very much a work in progress. I did enlist the help of my daughter to dig out the six inch thick mud. She achieved in a couple of hours what would have taken me at least two weeks. I'm sorry I gave her the leaky wellies now…..

For me though, as much as I love working in the garden, the real joy of a garden is simply enjoying it with friends and family. Summer BBQs, cold beers and chilled wine, grandkids in the paddling pool and making daisy chains…. arthritis can't spoil that!

Jan Ross



benefice monthly rainfall in millimeters

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
FOUR ELMS													
2024	58	122	94	61	49	27	64.0	28	165	86	77	78	909
2025	89	61	4	36	13	28	57.0	38	49	85	66	87	613
2026	162	90	25	4	14	42							337
HEVER													
2024	73	136	81.5	57.5	48.5	25	73.5	31.5	183	82.5	62	52	906
2025	126	54.5	4	29.5	14	31	71.5	27	52	103	61	107	680
2026	187	88	22	2	20	55.5							374
MARKBEECH													
2024	80	139	95	71	61	29	62.0	44	186	77	79	60	983
2025	114	71	4	25	21	33	52.0	22	71	115	63	116	707
2026	183	92	28	3	19	51							376

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Robert.Mayall@kent.gov.uk	cllr.barnett@sevenoaks.gov.uk	12645

the link team

Bridget Harris, Joanna Wade and Ivan Furness
email: thelink@hever.org
Telephone 01732 700986 (Bridget) Mobile 07958 919 631 (Joanna)
Address 1 Triangle Cottage, Hever Road, Hever TN8 7NL
Benefice website threespires.wordpress.com **Community website** www.hever.org

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A copy of The Link can be viewed in The Link section of the community website www.hever.org

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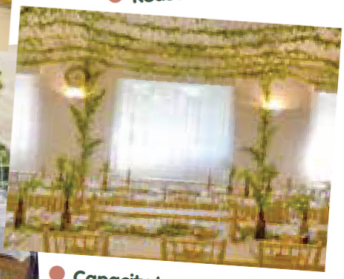


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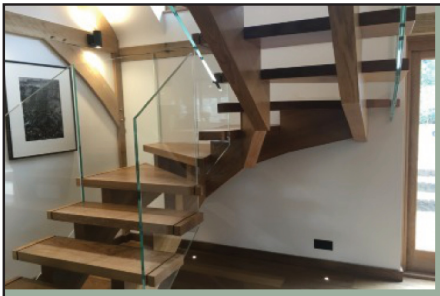
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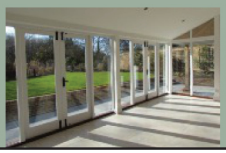
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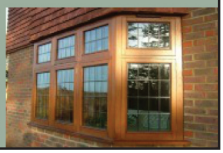
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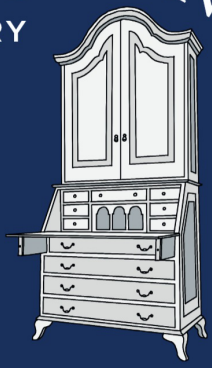




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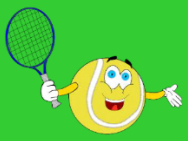
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Thursday
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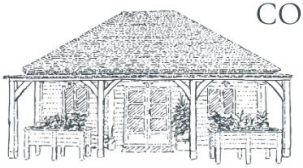
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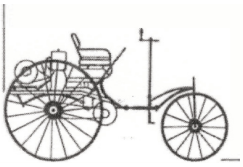
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25 July **Beekeeping Workshop**, Falconhurst 10-3.30pm
5-8 Aug **Hever Festival History week**, talks at St Peter's Hever, Hever Festival Theatre for details
7 Aug **Painting in the Garden**, Falconhurst 10-1pm
11 Aug **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
13 Aug **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
13 Aug **Family Pasta workshop**, Bore Place, adult+child £55, extra child £10 10-12.30pm
15 Aug **Hever Hort Summer Show**, Hever Village Hall 2-4.30pm
16 Aug **Fermentation Fundamentals**, Bore Place, adults £63 10am - 2pm
20 Aug **Pizza and Pipistrelles Night**, Bore Place £65 for 2 adults 7-9pm
22 Aug **Children's Art Workshop**, Falconhurst 10-1pm
30-31 Aug **Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show**, Ardenrun Showground, Lingfield. 8am-6pm
10 Sept **Hever Parish Lunch**, Hever Village Hall 12.30 for 1pm
10 Sept **Bore Place Feast,** celebrating 50 years of Bore Place tickets £80 6-9.30pm
12 Sept **Hever Barn Dance**, Hever Village Hall 6.30pm
14 Sept **Enjoy a Cuppa** at St Paul's Four Elms from 10.45am
14 Sept **Hever Parish Council** meeting, Markbeech Village Hall, planning 7pm, 7.30pm
16-17 Oct **Penshurst Music Festival**
21 Nov **An evening with Anne Boleyn** and her many namesakes, St Peter's Hever 6.30pm

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