

# Brabourne & Smeeth Parish News

February 2021

30p



## ***Message From Rev Chris***

January/February 2021

Dear Readers,

As I write this month's thought, another national lockdown has begun and on a gloomy wet day there is a sense of heavy shadows falling over what has recently been the chink of light and hope of a new year and waving goodbye to the *annus horribilis* of 2020. The Bishop of Dover, Bishop Rose, has said: "This is hard. We are weary, the days are short and we miss spending time with those we love. But God's goodness remains undimmed, even if we cannot presently see it. Christ came to a world wrapped in darkness, a world that did not understand him, and through his presence he transformed it - and us."

When it's dark we put on a light- and whether bright or dim, it shines in the darkness. We look to the light of the two vaccines and the rollout of these to offer hope against this disease. We see the light of kind and thoughtful deeds to help others who are struggling. We might bring light to others by keeping in touch by the phone or video call. Our churches continue to be a beacon of light and hope as they have for many centuries in difficult periods, with the benefit of technology we can gather safely online and by phone to support and worship together, as well as offering practical help with parcels of essentials for anyone struggling (please contact Rev Chris).

As we are reminded in the Bible, "**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**" (John 1:5)

This year, my daughter and I are putting a piece of paper in a jar each week on which we write down a moment of light, something good from the week, which we will open up and read in January 2022. Perhaps this might be a way to help you look for and notice the light around, and to give thanks for all the good things amongst the challenges ahead.

Stay safe and take care of yourself and those around you,

Blessings

*Rev Chris*

**Vicar of the Stour Downs Parish**  
**Rev Chris Denyer, The Rectory, Church Road, Smeeth**  
Tel 01303 470791

**Parish Administrator:** Liz Richardson - [office@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:office@stourdowns.org.uk)  
Enquiries can be made via email to [office@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:office@stourdowns.org.uk) or 0752 6688826

## **Congratulations to our Rev Chris!**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Rev Chris (Priest-in-Charge) was collated as Vicar of the Stour Downs by Bishop Rose, The Bishop of Dover, at a service in St Mary's Smeeth and also live-streamed.

If you are wondering what it is to be 'collated', the collation is the legal process by which Chris was made Vicar. As the Archbishop is patron of the Parish, the job of presenting and instituting are rolled up, or 'collated', into one.

The service also included an induction by the Archdeacon of Ashford, which gave the 'real and corporeal' ownership of the benefice (in a corporate capacity), whereby Chris actually came into role as Vicar. This meant the sequestration of the benefice ends as, finally, does the interregnum – the time without a Vicar/Rector.

The next occasion that the bells in the parish churches are able to be rung, will signal the end of the interregnum and that there is a Vicar in post. Something to listen out for post-lockdown...

Now as Vicar of the Stour Downs Parish, please note Rev Chris's new email address:  
[vicar@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stourdowns.org.uk)

Do get in touch if you or someone you know would benefit from a parcel of essentials, or if you need some support in this challenging time.

Donations of long-life food products can be left in the porch of the Rectory in Church Road, Smeeth (TN25 6SA).

## **Stour Downs Parish Services**

Details of services for the coming month cannot be given as it is not yet known when it will be the right time to begin the usual schedule again, or the shape of a modified form.

We continue with online worship via Facebook :

**Online live** (and recorded for viewing later) at  
<https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-275026813134319>

**Or By Phone:** Dial the number shown below and enter the Room number followed by the hash key and then PIN followed by hash key when prompted.

**Dial: 0333 0110 945   Room number: 15371271#   PIN: 1030#**

The churches in Brabourne, Smeeth and Stowting are open daily for prayer and reflection.



## Even to Bethlehem and Back.....

Last year should have seen a Lent Challenge from the Stour Downs Churches as has been our habit alternate years since 2014 when we cycled to Jerusalem (on an exercise bike). Of course, 2020 was a bit of a challenge for a number of reasons and meeting inside a building or sharing activities with others was not possible. So nothing happened. However, the Stour Downs Parish is not one to do nothing for long.

A small group of us decided to take a walk locally but collect our cumulative miles and translate these onto a journey to Bethlehem and back – approximately 10,000 miles. The plan was to get to Bethlehem for Christmas and back into the Stour Downs for Easter. We had four aims:

- ~ To maintain our own well being during the pandemic
- ~ To appreciate the world in which we live and reduce our carbon footprint
- ~ To notice and care about other people when we are walking. Everyone is struggling to a greater or lesser extent in these challenging times and we needed to try to do a little something to help.

We were also hopeful that some people might encourage us through donating to the Stour Downs churches.

Little by little we have increased our numbers as more people have joined in and there are now 58 walkers. Each week a report is sent out to all the walkers (and a number of others who are not walking but like to receive the reports). The reports aimed to be slightly amusing, maybe contain a fact or two about the places we were supposedly visiting and give the walkers and others something else to think about at least once a week.

As a result of the Even unto Bethlehem and Back walk there are a number of emails flying about correcting the weekly report writer, debating details and making suggestions for future weeks. All very light hearted and seemingly encouraging walking, communicating and smiling. It is proving to be worthwhile. We have also raised £593 for the Stour Downs Parish.

If you might like to join us please let me know. All you need to do is walk – half a mile or many miles is all included – and let me have your total each Friday (or soon after). If I have an email or postal address you will receive the weekly report. It would be wonderful to double our walker number, double our interested observer number and raise double the present amount of money by the time we finish the walk on Easter Saturday. DD

**Donations to the Stour Downs can be made by anyone, in any amount(s) and at any time during or after The Walk. They can be given to your preferred church or to the Stour Downs Parish. Details of the latter are: Stour Downs PCC account: Sort Code 60 01 21:Acc No: 56761422 (Please add The Walk as the reference) or copy the following link**  
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/050269f0-c29e-4d38-8b83-5eb1b7a60a00>

# Around Our Villages

## Gardeners' Society

As it is not possible to stage events in the village hall the following Zoom presentations have been arranged:

Friday

29 January "Shrubs are Boring - Really? Are You Quite Sure?"

*[Nancy Stevens will regale us with illustrations of shrubs from around the world & the stories behind them]*

Friday

26 February "Popular House Plants - Care, Cultivation & Health Benefits"

Presentations will start at 7:30 pm, last for approximately 45 minutes with a 10-minute Q & A session at the end. Full details for joining the programme will be circulated a few days before the event.

For more information about the Society please contact our secretary Wendy Sanders: [01303 813451](tel:01303813451), email [brabournewendy@gmail.com](mailto:brabournewendy@gmail.com). or visit our website at [www.basgs.com](http://www.basgs.com).

## Smeeth W.I.

We have been able to hold two meetings via Zoom during the Second and Third Lockdown periods. We enjoyed our Festive Christmas Meeting attired in decorative sweaters, hats and/or earrings. It was a fun meeting. We have now had our Happy New Year Meeting when entertainment was supplied by Kathleen MacPhee kindly reading her amusing story 'What I heard on the Bus!' followed by a General Knowledge Quiz. Prizes were later delivered to Kathleen, Daphne Bocutt and Sue Russell our General Knowledge tie winners.

We look forward to our meeting on 8th February when it will be another celebration for our Secretary Margaret Garrett's Birthday.

## Royal British Legion

The continued Covid restrictions have prevented the Brabourne and Smeeth Branch of the R.B.L. conducting its usual monthly meetings and we are waiting patiently for the word from the Government to allow us to do so. Until then we have continued to attempt to keep in touch with each other by telephone and checking that all members are well. We have received a number of "thank you" notes from those senior members of the Legion who received our Christmas Hampers and from others who received some form of Branch gesture prior to Christmas. Our grateful thanks go to Jenny Cooper for all the work she undertook to ensure that no one was forgotten, particularly at such a difficult time for her

We look forward to being able to get together again in the Spring, when we can resume our usual programme of events

### **Sad News of a Much-Loved Villager.**

Villagers were saddened to hear of the death of Ron Cooper early in January.

Well-known and respected throughout the villages, Ron was a long standing member, former treasurer and tireless worker for the local branch of the Royal British Legion. His contribution not only to the Legion but also to many other village organisations including the Brabourne & Smeeth Gardeners Society and the Royal Air Forces Association was greatly appreciated and his presence will be sorely missed.

A fuller tribute to Ron will appear in a later issue of the Parish News. *GT*

### **Long Service to Communities of Smeeth and Brabourne Recognised**

Smeeth Parish Council Chairman David Herrick presented John Jamieson with his Community Awards Certificate from the Kent Association of Local Councils in recognition of his service to the communities of Smeeth and Brabourne over the years and in particular his 30 years as Editor of the Parish News.

Whilst no longer editing, John still plays an active role in duplicating and distributing the News to local residents.

### **Need help with transport for your covid vaccination?**

Ashford Voluntary Car Scheme could help. Our drivers are taking people from across Ashford Borough (including Tenterden and the villages) to get their jabs. We charge £2 plus 50 pence per mile to cover our costs. Drivers and passengers must wear masks.

Contact Owen on 01233 633219 or [transport@ashfordvc.org.uk](mailto:transport@ashfordvc.org.uk)

Owen South  
Ashford Volunteer Centre

## *View From A Bench*



I have watched the horse and sweet chestnut trees which grow along the ancient wall of Smeeth churchyard for many years now and have enjoyed seeing them move from tight, arrow shaped buds, through the emergence of vivid green leaves and creamy coloured candles to the spikey shells housing conkers which fall sometime before the leaves turn and drift to the path. I walk through last year's leaves now, delighted to see that despite all that is happening in the world these trees are continuing their cycle and those candles will light up the late spring skies again. Incidentally the first recorded game of conkers is from the Isle of Wight in 1848 and it was the Victorians who wrote recipes for making conker flour. You won't come across these nowadays as it's been discovered that if consumed in excessive quantities conkers are mildly poisonous.

Here and there the pale lemon petals of newly opened primroses can be seen like little pools of light among the dark blades of grass. As yet however I cannot see any snowdrops so my daily exercise over the next few weeks will have to occasionally bring me up to the churchyard to watch out for them – another harbinger of Spring which I really do not want to miss. Strangely it is roses which are making me smile here today, in mid-January, under the bare, skeletal branches of the winter trees. On one grave I see pink rosebuds while in the Garden of Remembrance there is a vase of roses which I know were placed there as tight buds on Christmas Eve and which are now fully open, glorious blooms which have survived the winds, frosts and snow. Perhaps I can aim to do the same.

Around the base of the sundial which stands where three paths converge by the church porch crisp brown leaves nestle in the grass unmoving as there is barely a breeze today. Others lie along the edges of the paths where they landed or have been blown and where they wait silently until the winds of January lift and scatter them elsewhere. There might not be snowdrops yet but there are plenty of daffodil leaves and on closer inspection sturdy, tightly wrapped buds are visible on short stems ready to stretch up and burst open.

The star in the window is still shining out across the graves to welcome you as you walk towards the church so if you are able, think about walking up to the churchyard this month and look out for the primroses, snowdrops and daffodils. You might also like to take a walk around and see if you can find the grave with the following inscription:

*A trying affliction she patiently bore, Till dying when a heavenly vision she saw*

*O tis lovely, isn't it lovely she cried As she looked on the face of her Lord and died. SH*

# The Brabourne and Smeeth Allotment Society

## *A Plot Holder's View*



The winter has finally brought a few cold days which have helped to control unwanted insects. We have had cabbage white caterpillars eating our Cavalo Nero right up to Christmas but now they are gone so hopefully we will get some to eat once growth recommences.

The wet though, is something we could do without. It is difficult to get on with the winter jobs, especially weed clearing. Some of the pruning jobs have been done but then it is difficult to burn the clippings.

The orchard project at home has suffered too. I planted two trees which were then awash after the deluge we had. The recent arrivals have been heeled in in the greenhouse until the weather warms and the ground dries out. The worry now is that they may get ahead of themselves in their cosy environment.

It's time to sow my onion seeds in the greenhouse. A moment I always enjoy as it is the start of another growing season. It's time to dream of all the delicious vegetables and fruit we hope to grow and forget about all the challenges pests and diseases will present.

*BDF*

## The Birds and the Bees



Here is some good news: all new major roads will have wildflower-friendly verges that could boost our numbers of birds and bees.

Highway England has said that vibrant road verges will be created as standard on new roads over 300 miles in England, using low nutrient soils which will be seeded with wildflowers or left to grow naturally.

A staggering 97 per cent of our meadows have been destroyed since the Thirties, due to modern agriculture. This means that the 238,000 hectares of road verges across the UK could become a vital habitat for pollinators.

The Government has pledged to build 4,000 miles of new road by 2025.



# Mental Health Support in Kent

## Kent and Medway Safe Havens

Are you feeling distressed, overwhelmed, or that things are too much for you? Don't know where to turn to get mental health support?

The Kent and Medway Safe Havens are run by Mental Health Matters and offer face to face mental health support for those living in Kent and Medway to anyone aged 16+. No appointment or referral needed.

If you are attending any one of the Safe Havens below please ensure you are following government guidelines and attend wearing a face covering.

### Canterbury

- Email [Canterbury.mhm@nhs.net](mailto:Canterbury.mhm@nhs.net)
- Visit: Age UK, The Centre, Castle Row, Canterbury, CT1 2QY

### Folkestone and Hythe

- Email [Folkestone.haven@hestia.org](mailto:Folkestone.haven@hestia.org)
- Facebook message @hestiafolkestonehaven
- Visit: Rainbow Centre, 69 Sandgate Rd, Folkestone CT20 2AF
- 

## Mental Health Matters

The Mental Health Matters phone line is free, confidential and open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The service is provided by an independent charity. Call **0800 107 0160** to speak to someone in their highly trained and experienced Mental Health Matters team. Visit <https://www.mhm.org.uk/>

### Release the Pressure

Call **0800 107 0160** to release the pressure if you're feeling stressed for free confidential support at any time. You can also text **Kent** to **85258** for 24 hour mental health crisis support via text from trained volunteers.

This service is provided by SHOUT and you can visit their website here <https://www.giveusashout.org/>

## Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT)

For adults of Kent and Medway, call the 24 hour helpline on **0800 783 9111** if you need urgent mental health support, advice and guidance.

For under 18s and residents of Kent and Medway call the 24 hour **Single Point of Access** on **0800 011 3474** (select option one, then option three).

# **Mental Health Support in Kent**

## **NHS 111 online**

Help and support available online <https://111.nhs.uk/>

## **NHS talking therapies**

NHS talking therapies services are also known as Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services. Talking therapies, or psychological therapies, are effective and confidential treatments delivered by fully trained and accredited NHS practitioners. They can help with common mental health problems like stress, anxiety and depression.

A GP can refer you, or you can refer yourself directly to an NHS psychological therapies service (IAPT) without a referral from a GP.

For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/free-therapy-or-counselling/>

## **Kent Together**

A 24 hour helpline has been set up to support vulnerable people in Kent who need urgent help, supplies or medication. It provides a single, convenient point of contact for anyone in the county who is in urgent need of help during the Coronavirus outbreak. If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need that cannot be met through existing support networks, you can contact the Kent Together helpline at [www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether](http://www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether) or by calling on 03000 41 92 92.

## **Live Well Kent**

Live Well Kent can support you with a variety of problems such as

Managing your money, including debt and benefits

Housing support and guidance

Improving your relationships

You can contact Live Well Kent by phoning 0800 567 7699 or

visiting <https://livewellkent.org.uk/>

## **Mind**

Wellbeing Line is now open if you need to talk please call 0808 196 3898. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 6-10pm.

## **Samaritans**

Call the Samaritans for free on 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) for 24 hour support. They also offer support by email, letter and face-to-face. Visit: <https://www.samaritans.org/>

## *Matters Arising!*

**Brabourne Parish Council**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**virtually via Zoom**

### **Matters Arising**

The new Chairman of the PFA is very pro-active. Junior football training, a maze and some sports activities have been undertaken. There is good intention and some funding sources have been secured already.

The Sevington Inland Border Facility is up and running as is Waterbrook. This has led to some queuing on the A2070 and Junction 10a. The problem seems to be because of the lack of Covid testing of lorry drivers before entering Kent.

The tree survey – Indica Forestry is to undertake the high level work.

### **Donation to St Mary's, Brabourne**

The use of money was queried and it has been confirmed by the charity's treasurer that the funds will be used for the upkeep of the Churchyard. The amount of £250 was approved and it was agreed that the Clerk would request a copy of the Financial Statement and a discussion regarding an increase could be undertaken at the next meeting.

**Scouts and Guides** There is a lack of funding due to the loss of Newspapers. There was a discussion regarding funding and it was agreed that this should remain as it is at £300.

A discussion was held, regarding funding the Playing Field Association, Cllr Atkins proposed £300 should be provided as a donation to the PFA. A discussion ensued regarding storage costs for the PFA (Rush Community), this would cost £5 per week and the £300 would cover these costs and the cost of transportation. This is to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

### **Highways issues – Canterbury Road issues and Bridge Road update**

An email had been circulated regarding the excessive speeds on Canterbury Road between the Five Bells pub and the school. A speed survey was carried out relatively recently and this showed no high speeds in the vicinity of the school. A traffic restriction of 30mph was suggested. There are two school signs and two Z-bend signs, one of the Z bend signs needs cleaning (Clerk to ask the Caretaker to clean). It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Councillor Clair Bell to address the matter.

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr Hickmott had circulated an item about the listing of the telephone box. This is Grade II listed and had original glass in it at the last listing. If shelving is being placed in it, it must not be fixed to the structure. Cllr Hickmott to inspect the phone box and report back.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm, probably by Zoom.

## *Matters Arising!*

Smeeth Parish Council:

virtually via zoom

Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Matters Arising**

- War Memorial: Rev Chris Denyer is to pursue the matter of ownership/ responsibility for the War memorial which has been in situ since 1919; a land registration search has taken place confirming that the land is owned by the church. The Church Council will take responsibility for maintaining the trees and surrounding land. The situation regarding its insurance has yet to be decided.
- Scouts & Guides Funding: Jon Rose presented the case for more financial support from the PC. He informed the councillors of improvements to the S&G facilities, covered by a Government grant-..... the kitchen has been upgraded and chairs replaced at a cost of £1500. However, the S&G have lost their regular annual income of £3000 due to the loss of the newspaper recycling project. Numbers of S&G are temporarily down for various covid-related reasons, as is any rental income. Although finances are fine at present, the loss of income from the paper collection will hit them hard when normality returns. It was proposed that Smeeth PC would increase their donation from £500 to £1000 and Brabourne PC will also be asked to support.

### **Footpaths and Highways**

- No response has yet been received from KCC Highways ref: road safety and the Church Road/The Ridgeway “grass triangle.” The white lines have been re-painted at this site. The white lines need repainting in other areas.

### **Speedwatch –**

- There are currently only 4 active volunteers, so additional volunteers are required.

### **Community Led Plan/Emergency Plan –**

- The new basketball fencing will be erected when Covid restrictions allow. It is hoped that it will improve the issue of balls going over the fencing into gardens.

### **Any other business**

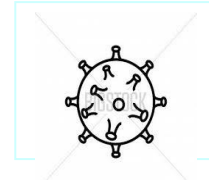
- This year is Census year – it was suggested that this information could be put in the Newsletter.
- KALC Community Awards –John Jamieson was nominated last year, the award could be publicised in the Newsletter.
- The de-fibrillator at Orpins has had a new battery installed and is now fully operational.

### **Date and time of next meetings:**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7.00pm likely to be by Zoom**

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7.00pm**

## Pandemic Trivia!



### ***What we want during the pandemic***

What have men and women been thinking about during the pandemic? According to recent data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), men have been preoccupied with takeaway food and pints, while women have been keeping in touch with their friends.

In a study on the social impact of coronavirus, the ONS found that women are only half as likely to leave home for a takeaway or drinks, and much more likely to go out in order to meet a friend. Women are also far more likely to form a lockdown support bubble and to adhere to government advice than men.

### ***Pandemic Dreams***

The pandemic is affecting our dreams. More people are reporting nightmares which relate to 'contamination' and 'cleanness'.

A recent study has found that the more anxious a person is in their waking life, the more vivid will be their dream images. The findings, published in the journal PLUS One, explain that "Pandemic dreams show a higher proportion of anger and sadness words; these features seem to be associated with mental suffering linked to social isolation."

### ***Beware Hand Sanitiser!***

Don't let vulnerable members of your family accidentally poison themselves with hand sanitiser. It can kill them.

Poisonings from swallowing alcohol-based hand sanitiser have more than doubled in the past year, to nearly 400. Doctors from the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine at the University of Oxford urge that more needs to be done to protect children, the elderly or anyone with mental health issues, from mistaking the sanitiser for a drink.

### ***Rising Demand for Leggings***

The popularity of leggings soared last year. They became the must-have fashion garment to see out Covid-19.

John Lewis reported sales of leggings and loungewear had increased by 1,303 per cent. Sweaty Betty was selling a pair of Power Leggings (£75) every 90 seconds. Julia Straus, CEO of the brand, explained: "Good quality leggings transform the way you feel."

Even Lucas Hugh, the retailer that made the £175 leggings Jennifer Lawrence wore in *The Hunger Games*, saw a 100 per cent increase in sales last year, despite shutting down its King's Road boutique. Leggings are "a nesting thing", according to Anjhe Mules, the co-founder of the brand.



There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4<sup>th</sup> century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14<sup>th</sup> February – the birds are supposed to pair.

Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

### The very first Valentine card – *a legend*

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could – until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.



Please feel free to contact Minister Paul Muir at any time during the corona virus crisis:

Tel; 01303813502 or 07929269777 or email; [pjm436@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pjm436@hotmail.co.uk)

Website [www.brabournebaptist.org.uk](http://www.brabournebaptist.org.uk)

#### **RENEW 18: A safe space where it's OK not to be OK**

Come and join us online on zoom for a chance to have a chat with others

Bring your own cuppa and a hobby to do if you wish

Monday 3-5pm

All welcome

Further details from Julie Muir 01303 813502 or 07530406345

#### **ZOOM SERVICES and further information**

To access Zoom services and prayer times go to the church website

[www.brabournebaptist.org.uk](http://www.brabournebaptist.org.uk) and click on "What's On". You will find the link to the meetings and some helpful instructions on how to access the meetings.

Meeting ID: 730 435 387

Password: 080196

#### **Connecting to Zoom by phone for Sunday services, prayer times, and church meetings:**

Ring **0330 088 5830**. Enter the meeting ID number **730435387** then the # symbol and participant ID or #.

The BBC YouTube channel can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-qAqpGiWKiCbKUzhzRB2Og>

The links to our meetings are available for anyone to come and all the information remains available on our website [www.brabournebaptist.org.uk](http://www.brabournebaptist.org.uk), our Facebook page and you can even find us on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-qAqpGiWKiCbKUzhzRB2Og>

In the meantime, please know that as a church we are still very much here, and you can also contact us via email ([minister@brabournebaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@brabournebaptist.org.uk)) or on 01303 813502.

### ***Counting the cost 2020: a year of climate breakdown***

A new report by Christian Aid, has identified 15 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year.

Ten of those events cost \$1.5 billion or more, with nine of them causing damage worth at least \$5 billion. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be higher.

Among them is Storm Ciara which struck the UK, Ireland and other European countries in February costing, \$2.7 billion and killing 14. The UK's Environment Agency issued 251 flood warnings.

While the report focuses on financial costs, which are usually higher in richer countries because they have more valuable property, some extreme weather events in 2020 were devastating in poorer countries, even though the price tag was lower. South Sudan, for example, experienced one of its worst floods on record, which killed 138 people and destroyed the year's crops.

Some of the disasters hit fast, like Cyclone Amphan, which struck the Bay of Bengal in May and caused losses valued at \$13 billion in just a few days. Other events unfolded over months, like floods in China and India, which had an estimated cost of \$32 billion and \$10 billion respectively.

Six of the ten most costly events took place in Asia, five of them associated with an unusually rainy monsoon. And in Africa, huge locust swarms ravaged crops and vegetation across several countries, causing damages estimated at \$8.5 billion. The outbreak has been linked to wet conditions brought about by unusual rains fuelled by climate change.

But the impact of extreme weather was felt all over the world. In Europe, two extra-tropical cyclones, Ciara and Alex, had a combined cost of almost \$6 billion. And the US suffered from both a record-breaking hurricane season and a record-breaking fire season adding up to more than \$60 billion in damages.

Some less populated places also suffered the consequences of a warming world. In Siberia, a heat wave during the first half of the year set a record in the city of Verkhoyansk, with temperatures reaching 38°C. A few months later, on the other side of the world, heat and drought drove the fires in Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. While there were no human casualties reported from these events, the destruction of these areas has a great impact on biodiversity and the planet's capacity to respond to a warmer world.

Christian Aid says that: "These extreme events highlight the need for urgent climate action. The Paris Agreement, which set the goal of keeping temperature rise 'well below' 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, has just turned five years old. It is critical that countries commit to bold new targets ahead of the next climate conference, which will take place in Glasgow, in November 2021."



## ***All in the month of February***

It was:

**200 years ago**, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1821 that John Keats, the poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 25.

**125 years ago**, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1896 that the premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Boheme*, took place in Turin, Italy.

**75 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1946 that The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version published in 1611.

**70 years ago**, on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1951 that the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. It limits the President to two terms in office.

**65 years ago**, on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

**50 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1971 that the UK's currency was decimalised.

**40 years ago**, on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1981 that Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.

**30 years ago**, on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1991 that the Gulf War ended at midnight when a ceasefire came into effect.

**25 years ago**, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1996 that the oil tanker Sea Empress ran aground near Milford Haven, Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.

**20 years ago**, on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex. The EU subsequently banned all British meat, milk and livestock exports.

**10 years ago**, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011 that the Canterbury earthquake in New Zealand took place. 185 people were killed and up to 2,000 injured., and there was widespread damage across the city.

## Winter Letter to Parishes.

Dear All

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about Highways & Transportation's winter service provisions.

Please take time to visit our website below:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/what-we-look-after/winter-service>

This section will provide useful information on:

- Salt Bins (including locations)
- Gritting Routes
- How and when we salt the roads
- Clearing snow in the community
- The latest weather updates
- How we deal with rural roads with help from the local farmers
- Tips on Winter Driving

Please also have a look at the Direct Gov Snow Code web site below, which you may find has some useful information and hints: <https://www.gov.uk/clear-snow-road-path-cycleway>

We also work closely with the local farmers and provide them with the necessary equipment in order to clear country lanes and act as extra resources when we are fully mobilised during a snow emergency.

Our website also provides information on all aspects of highway management, such as our tree policy, information on roadworks and planned works, crash and casualty data. It also allows you to report faults online at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

**Please take great care on the roads this winter**

**Highways & Transportation will continue to work hard to keep the roads as safe and clear as possible; however, you can also help us in the following ways:**

- Drive to the conditions of the road at all times, especially during times of rain, ice and snow
- If we do get snow on the roads, please don't make any non-essential journeys

Thank you for taking time to read this information.

*The Ashford Team*  
*Kent County Council Highways & Transportation*

## **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

**The Brabourne & Smeeth Scout and Guide Hut**, to book for parties, classes or events contact the Group Lettings Officer by e-mail, when an application form containing all details and hire fees will be sent out to the prospective hirer. For any enquiries and bookings please e-mail to: [scout.guidehq@gmail.com](mailto:scout.guidehq@gmail.com)

**Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall:** to book please visit the on- line bookings system at <https://hallbookingonline.com/brabourne/>  
Enquiries to [brabourneandsmeethvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:brabourneandsmeethvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Baptist Church Hall:** If you wish to book the church hall for a meeting or function, please phone Geoff Thorpe 01303 813152

**The Oak Room:** Bookings and enquiries regarding The Oak Room should be made by e-mail [office@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:office@stourdowns.org.uk) or telephoning 01303 813398

**Neighbourhood Officers:** Our PCSO Aaron Newell can be contacted on [aaron.newell@kent.police.uk](mailto:aaron.newell@kent.police.uk) The Police can be contacted to report rural matters **on 07980978202**  
For further information please visit [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk). Ashford Police Station is 01233 611055

**MP'S Surgery:** Our MP is Damian Collins. If you have any questions, complaints or comments, please book an appointment by e-mailing your name, post code, subject and message to: [shepwayconservatives@btconnect.com](mailto:shepwayconservatives@btconnect.com) or telephone 01303 253524.

**Parish News** Please send all articles, society reports, coming events to Maggie Smith by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication  
tel 01303 813746 or e-mail: [parishmag\\_gie@btinternet.com](mailto:parishmag_gie@btinternet.com)

To advertise in the 'Parish News' contact David Hill on 07827 221569  
e-mail: [davidhillmkc@gmail.com](mailto:davidhillmkc@gmail.com)

### ***Miscellaneous observations on modern life***

As any member of a church committee will tell you, after all is said and done, there's a lot more said than done.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink lager all day.

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly.

I thought getting old would take longer.