Graveney with Goodnestone Village Newsletter

December 2019 and January 2020



Happy Christmas!

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and successful and prosperous 2020!

As always get in touch and share your views at: graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com

All Saints' Church

Everyone is welcome to all our services and events

1 December		
8 am	Holy Communion	St Barnabas
10 am	Sung Communion	Hernhill Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Graveney Church
8 December		
10 am	Morning Worship	Hernhill Church
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Graveney Church
3.30 pm	Christingle	St Barnabas
15 December		
8 am	Holy Communion	Hernhill Church
10 am	Sung Communion	Boughton Parish
		Church
3 pm	Carols and Crib	Graveney Church
22 December		
10 am	Sung Communion	Hernhill Church
4.30 pm	Lessons and Carols	Graveney Church
Christmas Eve		
4 pm	Crib service	Hernhill Church
11.30 pm	Midnight Communion	Boughton Parish
		Church
Christman Davi		
Christmas Day		

9 am Holy Communion	Hernhill Church
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10 am	Christmas Cracker	St Barnabas
10.30 am	Christmas Celebration	Graveney Church
	with Holy Communion	

Christmas Cracker and Christmas Celebration are all age services

29 December

10 am	Sung Communion	St Barnabas
	benefice service	

2020 services subject to confirmation please check church noticeboards and benefice website,

5 January

8 am	Holy Communion	St Barnabas
10 am	Sung Communion	Hernhill Church
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Graveney Church

12 January

8 am	Holy Communion	Hernhill Church
10 am	Morning Worship	Boughton Parish
		Church
10.30 am	Holy Communion	Graveney Church
19 January		
8 am	Holy Communion	Hernhill Church
10 am	Sung Communion	Boughton Parish
		Church

26 January

10 am	A benefice service for	Hernhill Church
	Plough Sunday with	
	Sung Communion	

2 February

8 am	Holy Communion	St Barnabas
10 am	A special service for	Hernhill C of E School
	Education Sunday	
10.30 am	Morning Worship	Graveney Church

Carol singing in The Four Horseshoes ~ Saturday 14 December at 7.30 pm: Come and join us for well-known carols all can join in

Holy Rumpus 'A family friendly way to discover church': A brand new monthly programme for families, Saturday 14 December and 8 January in St Barnabas. 3.30 to 4.30 pm followed by refreshments.

Wednesday Worship in St Barnabas: 11 December and 8 January at 11 am ~ a half hour service followed by refreshments

Lite Bite Lunch: Wednesday 11 December and 8 January (2nd Wednesday of every month), drop in between 12-1.30 pm. Home-made soup, rolls, fresh fruit, tea, coffee. St Barnabas, Boughton Street,

Breathing Space Friday 10 January 7.30 – 8.30 pm in Hernhill Church: An hour of peace, in a candlelit church with music and silences, no words to say, no pressure. Come as you are, find a seat, soak in the atmosphere, leave when you are ready. All welcome, whether you go to church or not, full of faith, no faith or just curious – but need an oasis of calm in a busy life.

Vicar: The Revd Jean Burrows 01227 751410 jeanburrows@jeanius.me.uk

Back in the summer I went to Greenbelt, a Christian arts, faith and justice festival which I try and attend very year. One of the speakers was the outspoken comedian Russell Brand who did temper his language for an audience with children present. He declared, 'There is no politics without God. There is no point without God. That, for me, that's how I see it ...the materialistic world, governed by economics, can only be overwhelmed when people have an individual connection with spirituality that they value more than their materialistic connections. When people achieve that, we will rise up. There is no separation.'

'There is no politics without God,' politics and religion do mix. At the height of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, the Archbishop of the time, Desmond Tutu, confessed that he was confused about which Bible people were reading when they said that religion and politics do not mix. Religion is about the whole of life, not just one hour in church on a Sunday. The Bible is full of commands about justice, caring for the disadvantaged in society and loving your neighbour wherever they live. A previous bishop of Liverpool (and England cricketer) David Shepherd wrote a book called 'Bias to the Poor' because God does have a bias towards the disadvantaged in society and Christians follow where God leads.

In an age of austerity faith groups have become increasingly important and visible players in grass-roots campaigns on issues as wide-ranging as low pay, food poverty, racial justice, climate change, human trafficking and modern day slavery. Christians are concerned with the issues of everyday life, tackling the root causes, trying to change structures, not just driving their ambulance to the bottom of the cliff to rescue those who have fallen through the cracks of society. But that is unsettling for some, they are happy with the caring but not the campaigning aspect.

As you decide who to cast your vote for on 12 December how will you decide? Will you be looking for deep seated structural changes that enable the building of a more equal society or do you want policies that maintain the status quo or are the best for your particular situation? Will you ask whether policies put the few or the many at the front of the queue?

Later in December we'll be celebrating Christmas, for Christians the birth of Jesus the Son of God. Jesus didn't stay a helpless, vulnerable baby, he grew up to challenge the religious and political leaders of his time. Following his teaching is a whole life commitment, 24/7, not just letting him into our spiritual life but allowing him to influence all aspects of our life and that includes allowing him to influence our politics and how we vote.

With best wishes for a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Revd Jean Burrows

Parish Council News

November Parish Council news will follow in the next edition.

A Message from your County Councillor

As I am composing this at the beginning of November this will, for most of you, appear in the December issue of your Parish Newsletters. Can I therefore wish you and yours a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By then we should have a new Government. I always strive to avoid Party Politics in my reports but I think we can all agree that we hope to emerge with a Government formed of a Party (or Parties) with a majority sufficient to deliver the Policies/Promises it is elected on.

I can only hope and implore that we have an election free of the threats and hatred which scarred the Local Elections in May. Too many good MP's from both sides of the House, especially young female MP's with families, have felt the need to step aside and not re-stand. We need a Parliament which reflects all of Society, not one which values threats and intimidation over reasoned debate. The Good Lord says we should love our enemies, not hate, threaten and revile them. We have just paid tribute to millions who gave their lives to defend our freedom, free speech and right to selfdetermination.

At Kent County Council we have a new Leader in Roger Gough from Sevenoaks. He will be known to many of you for his time

responsible for Children and Education and prior to that for Economic Regeneration.

One impact of my no longer being Leader of Swale Borough Council is less evenings in Sittingbourne. This allows me to attend more Parish Councils, most weeks getting to three or four and regularly managing two in a single evening. Highways and Drainage are regular issues at Parish Meetings. I have recently Chaired a Meeting in Selling with the Deputy Cabinet Member (now the Cabinet Member) for Highways and the Director. Several results have already been achieved and others should follow soon. I also joined a 'walkabout' in Tunstall with the Parish Council and the local Highways Manager.

One sad fact is the number of funerals I seem to be attending of late. One I must mention is that of Vaughan Howland who gave over 50 years' service to the Community at Dunkirk including 20 years as Parish Council Chairman. He was a good friend to myself and well as the Community and will be greatly missed.

Andrew Bowles

Emaíl: <u>Andrew.bowles@kent.gov.uk</u>

Mobile: 07778629879

Summer and Winter 2019 from the footpaths

What a summer we've had, on the 25th July the garden thermometer topped out at a staggering 41.9 Celsius, and that was in the shade, phew; yet during the first week of October-the first frost.

Then of course the rain, it seems to me that during these last few months we've had more wet than dry days.

Neither the rain nor heat of course made walking nor footpath maintenance enjoyable.

So, early one frosty November morning, with almost a clear blue sky, I walked up past the very impressive C15th grade 2 listed Goodnestone Court, and over the rail crossing and up towards the village hall, then turning round, stopping and taking in the landscape that awaits you. Favershams Parish Church of Saint Mary of Charity, with its splendid spire over to the right, and across to the left are the hills of Boughton Hill, Blean Wood, Dunkirk and surrounding areas, and of course the rising steam from the frost on the fields; and the foreground the poly tunnels. It must have been cold because a goods train spraying de-icing fluid chugged its way towards Faversham.

Crossing towards Broom Street, and on through Coney Banks and farmyard; a young chap on a tractor splashed through the mud on his way between the poly tunnels and farmyard. The poly tunnels by the farm were in the process of being built, and the skill of the workers to align the racking for the soft fruit and poly tunnel frames was worthy of a photograph.



Across Warm House Lane, following the (very muddy in parts) footpath to the road at the beginning of Nagden, the views to the right of the Marshes and beyond to Sheppey made me realise just how lucky we are to be able to walk freely on footpaths; and enjoy the fresh air.

Nagden as ever was its usual hive of industrious activity and cacophony, and its now lone white and brown horse, the path then following Faversham Creek northwards, it must have been slack high tide; the creek was like a mill pond.

Sitting patiently on a marsh tussock was a White Egret, I guess hoping for a snack, but to me a white bird against a green background is hardly good camouflage; but it seems to workdoesn't it!! Last year I enlisted the help of Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) to cut back the brambles in their managed reserve, it's certainly helped me, it's amazing how quickly undergrowth and brambles grow; and the brambles habit of tumbling over each other to reach out as far as they can-succumbing to a pair sharp pair of garden shears and lightweight loppers are always with me.

As I 've mentioned earlier, the views from the creek to Sheppey and Whitstable are worth the walk, the wind turbines on Sheppey were rotating slowly, with one pylon having 3 pairs of blades on it as opposed to three single blades. I wasn't aware of other types of wind turbines other than the usual 3 bladed type, it was only when I got to the sea wall that I realised. The parallax effect. There were in fact two wind turbines rotating at the same speed, and I was initially viewing them face on, but as the footpath meandered around; I saw the two wind turbines.

Along the sea wall is Castle Coote, a restricted access area shingle banked marsh area maintained by KWT, and at this time of the year many migratory birds were resting there on their way to foreign climes, or just enjoying different food; or maybe as that day-just chilling out!

In silence about a dozen sea birds flew up in front of me, may have been Oystercatchers, the shrill call of one sea bird, which according to my bird book was a Black-tailed Godwit was almost deafening, but the best was yet to come. A hen harrier (bird book) with something in its beak just casually and without a sound flew a few yards in front of me towards the seawards edge of the reserve; that birds dark brown and black markings and feather colours are far more appropriate than the White Egret I'd seen earlier. Further on I passed two men who had walked from the Seasalter direction, they were carrying binoculars, cameras; and telescopes on tripods. One said that from about now until the end of the year, when the tide is out; seals haul themselves up onto the sand and shingle banks between Sheppey and the mainland. The man I spoke to is part of a national team that go out during November carrying out bird surveys, they were just out for a recce, he kindly pointed out to me that there were Brent geese about, cor he wasn't joking, there must have been 500-700 of them bobbing up and down on the calm sea, they come here to eat the sea grass; it was surprising how quiet they were even though they knew I was there.

By now it was about 11am, and having arrived at the Sportsman, I made myself as comfortable as I could on a damp bench for a rest.

Walking along roads is not overly safe, but that is what you have to do to pick up the next footpath (and back to Goodnestone) that runs parallel to Seasalter Road just south of the Sportsman. Someone had kindly bagged and dumped hardcore in the layby, plus I found a motorcycle tyre and its inner tube, and umpteen empty beer cans; just why do people do this?

This path then crosses the Cleve Hill sub-station entrance and up to Cleve Hill Road, again taking time to look around you and enjoy the views; All Saints church sitting in its own glory and the Graveney marshes and sheep grazing on the Seasalter Levels towards Whitstable. Two wooden bridges that take you from Cleve Hill to Broom Street, and as ever these needed some attention; half an hour or so was enough to clear the bridges of brambles etc.

It was then a case of retracing my steps back to Goodnestone; I'll let you guess how long in distance and how much time it took.

As ever, if you think a footpath needs attending to, or waymarker or post is missing or faulty, contact me via the parish council clerk, or ring KCC on 03000 41 81 81, or use their website reporting tool. I use that, it enables you to pinpoint exactly whereabouts you've seen the fault, and from a dropdown list you can select the appropriate fault, adding pictures from your phone or camera as well is really useful.

Whether or not you celebrate the upcoming festive season, remember, walking is free, and is good for heart, body, soul and mind, so; enjoy a walk out with your family and friends.

The Friends of Graveney Church

The Friends of Graveney Church would like to thank everyone who participated in their final event of the year, the Xmas Bazaar. Many went home with full shopping bags and smiles on their faces and also winnings from the Tombola. The wonderful total raised was £595.02.

The Friends raise money towards the preservation of the building. We are looking for new members to bring innovative

ideas for fundraising. Anyone with an interest in assisting with the preservation of this historic church would be welcome to phone Linda Winter for more information on 07961 427997.

We wish you a very merry Christmas .

Linda

PARISH CLERK VACANCY

The Parish Council will have a vacancy for a Clerk in January and we would welcome early applications for this post. Candidates will work from home on a part time basis and be required to cover 10 meetings a year plus very occasional finance and planning meetings. Duties will include managing the meetings, taking the minutes, implementing actions and decisions, handling the Parish Council's finances and ensuring all necessary statutory and regulatory disciplines are followed. You will need to be able to work independently, be well organised and have good communication and IT skills. Salary will be dependent on experience and qualifications and although previous experience as a Clerk would be desirable, appropriate training can be provided.

Closing date Friday 6th December, interviews week commencing Monday 9th December, start date to be agreed.

If you are interested in applying for this position or want to obtain more information, please contact Bex Ratchford – <u>clerkggpc@gmail.com</u> or on 07941 987691.

Four Horseshoes Pub

Hi everyone

Thank you to all of you that attended the Dolly Parton night a complete sell out and what a night it was, so many great comments on the night and guests calling the day after to tell us what a brilliant night they had

We still have tickets available for our Robbie Williams Cabaret & Carvery night on Friday 6th December just £24 for 2 course Carvery and the Show

Swing v King so Rat Pack and Elvis on Friday 13th December again £24 for 2 course Carvery and the show hurry tickets selling fast

The Abba Night on Friday 20th December last few tickets available now book quickly to avoid disappointment

Saturday 21st December Christmas Party Night with Them Two & You (guest singers) 8 till late

Christmas Eve Rayoke from 8 o'clock

Christmas Day Dinner places still available at £55 for 4 courses

New Years Eve wristbands are now on sale £5 includes buffet, in house Disco & Karaoke, our minibus will be available for pick up and drop back home at £5 per person per trip (must be pre booked)

For all our clubs Social, Bridge & Ukelele please pop into the pub for December & January dates

Our Sunday Carvery continues to grow week on week and sells out most weeks so please book to avoid disappointment 01795 538143 every Sunday throughout December and January still £12 for 2 courses

We look forward to seeing you soon

Best regards

Steve, Kim, Lisa and baby Dolly



News from GREAT



The examination into the proposed giant Cleve Hill Solar Plant and Battery Storage has now finished and, after 6 months, it is impossible to predict the outcome of this examination. However, what is certain is that, as an ever-greater group of campaigners, we have attempted to affect the outcome of the examination rather than leaving anything to chance.

GREAT (Graveney Rural Environment Action Team) came into being about 2 years ago following a call from the Parish Council. At that stage the plans about the proposals were rather vague but concerning nevertheless, as the whole of the marshes would be wiped out by nearly a million huge solar panels.

The support from Richard Knox-Johnston from the Kent Campaign for the Protection of Rural England gave us the confidence initially to oppose the developers. This support increased incrementally following awareness raising, distribution of leaflets and questionnaires, local media support, fundraising and many more promotional activities. Helen Whately, the Green Party, the Labour Party, the Faversham Creek Society, Swale Borough Council and the Faversham Society and many, many other organisations and individuals have been vital in providing invaluable and loyal support.

It has been an amazing journey, culminating in the National Infrastructure Planning Inspectorate examination which has lasted 6 months. Who could have predicted that locally there were 2 experts on battery storage (and one who was involved in the first moon landing). Or that there was an eel expert, an agricultural classification professional, a qualified and experienced ornithologist, a sheep grazing expert and many, many more individuals with respected views and opinions...

The developers spent around 2 million pounds in defending their proposal. GREAT spent around 1% of this budget BUT the knowledge, experience, skills and expertise of individuals was unbelievable and invaluable and priceless--- together we put up the fight of our lives, even if it felt like David and Goliath at times.

So, where are we now?

The examination has finished and a recommendation will be made to the Secretary of State within the next 3 months. But who will this be and what importance will the new ruling party place on protecting the environment? Will they agree that Cleve Hill is not the right site for testing the world's largest battery storage? Can they live with the potential risk to human life and the destruction of wildlife and nature?

Our fight is not over yet. We will now be asking for a review of the environmental impact on the countryside caused by solar and battery.

And---should the proposals be accepted --- we will fight them on the beaches and the marshes because the proposed development is far too large. It would industrialise the environment and there are better places to put solar and battery which do not harm wildlife and nature. This proposal would destroy communities and a valued landscape loved and used by thousands of people.

GREAT's wish and hope for the New Year is a firm refusal of the proposal.

Merry Christmas to all!

Nagden in the winter:



Christmas Quiz

1. There are two 'Christmas islands'. Name the oceans in which they are located.

2. Which Christmas dinner was eaten by Elizebeth I to celebrate the English victory over the Spanish Armada?

- a. fish
- b. peacock
- c. goose
- d. eel

3. Which Christmas tradition did the very busy Sir Henry Cole introduce in 1843 ?

4. Which Christmas gift of the very highest quality, also known as 'Oil of Lebanon', comes from Oman ?

5. In which European capital city is eel a traditional dinner on Christmas Eve ?

a. Riga b. Rome c. Berlin d.Oslo

6. 'Who' catches the Grinch red handed stealing Christmas presents ?

7. "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephan". In which country was Wenceslas king ?

Answers in the next edition!



Physiotherapy Restores Independence and Gets You Back On Your Feet

Has your loved one had a fall, fracture or a long stay in hospital? Can you see them losing their strength, balance and overall mobility?

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This service is a great way for people who are:

- recovering after a fracture
- recovering after a fall
- o suffering with dementia or frailty
- o restricted by pain

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To find out more please speak to one of our Physiotherapists, Reception Team or call us on 01795 534113

Kesson Physio 2 Jubilee Way, Faversham, ME13 8GD

- 2 (01795) 534113
- 🖂 contact@kessonphysio.co.uk
- kessonphysio.co.uk



Graveney Art Group

First and Third Monday of each month, 10:00am until 12:00 noon. Back at the village hall, from October. Refreshments and good company. All for £4.00 per morning. If you wish to know more contact: Val on 07866 984 678

Village Hall Events and Notices

It is with so much regret that we have to let people know that another of the trustees has passed away. Ros Green was the chairwoman prior to her sister Penny Foster who passed away just 8 days before Ros.

Many of you will remember Ros as land lady of the Four Horseshoes in partnership with her brother Alec. Obviously our hearts go out to their families at this dreadful time for them all.

Ros and Penny would expect us to carry on with the regular after Christmas party for the over 50s, which will be held at the hall on Saturday 18th January 2020, arrival at 2pm. Please let me know if you would like to come for catering purposes.

Our jumble sale will be going ahead on Saturday 30th at 11am. Huge thanks to our volunteers for their offers to man the stalls.

This has been a truly awful year for Elaine and myself, but we intend to keep the hall events going, so thank you for future support. Trish



Thought of the Month

Let Christmas not become a thing merely of merchant's trafficking,

Of tinsel, bell and holly wreath and surface pleasure,

But beneath the childish glamour, let us find nourishment for heart and mind.

Let us follow kinder ways through our teeming human maze,

And help the age of peace to come.

Garden Maintenance

Mowing \Leftrightarrow Strimming \Leftrightarrow Edging \Leftrightarrow Pruning \Leftrightarrow Hedge Cutting \Leftrightarrow Weeding \Leftrightarrow Blowing/Raking \Rightarrow Planting \Leftrightarrow Fence Painting

Any gardening jobs considered

Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly or One Offs

Call now to arrange a free quote!

Hardworking and reliable gardener

R. Brett Garden Maintenance Phone 01227 918953



Neighbourhood Watch

Please be safe: DO NOT LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLOCKED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR WINDOWS OPEN WHILE YOU ARE AWAY OR AT NIGHT

DO NOT LEAVE OUTBUILDINGS UNLOCKED, DO NOT LEAVE TOOLS OR MACHINERY IN PLAIN SIGHT

REPORT ALL INSTANCES TO THE POLICE

Use 999 if it is urgent or 101 if it is after the fact. After you have reported it to the police, notify

Neighbourhood Watch - Mr. Kevin Castle

Contact: 07749 736669 - kevincastle@btinternet.com

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ABBEY UKULELE CLUBS

WEDNESDAYS – Ukulele Club

Graveney Village Hall

Sandbanks Lane

Every week for the time being 2pm - 4pm

Starting on Wednesday 7th August

William Gibbs Court

Orchard Place, Faversham

every THURSDAY 1pm - 2.45pm

Acoustic Club

Graveney Village Hall 7.30pm

Thursday 1st August & 15th August

The Four Horseshoes Pub

Graveney

FRIDAYS every week - 2pm - 4pm

Ukuleles & Banjos are welcome at all Clubs

Beginners & players all welcome. For more information please contact: JANET & KEITH 01795 530854 / janetipayne47@gmail.com

http://janetipayne.wix.com/abbeyukeplayers





Elizabeth Wilson-Smith Chartered Physiotherapist

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To discuss or arrange an appointment contact LIZ:

01795 530881 or 07974 146353

liz@wilsonsmithphysio.co.ukwww.wilsonsmithphysio.co.ukWalnut Cottage, Nursery Lane, Sheldwich, Faversham, ME13 0DZ

Woman's Institute

We meet in the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors always very welcome to attend.

Upcoming Events:

December 11th - Christmas Meal

For further information contact: Teresa Bowles on 07966 299648 or e-mail teresa.bowles22@btinternet.com

Or Sue Wraight on 01227 751361

Articles for this Newsletter

For any comments, corrections and contributions please email: graveney.goodnestone.news@gmail.com

Please ensure all submissions are made by the 20th of each month to ensure inclusion in the following months' edition.

Please also get in contact if you would also like to receive a pdf of the newsletter via email every month. Versions of current and prior editions are available on the Parish website:

www.graveneywithgoodnestonepc.kentparishes.gov.uk/

If you are missing a copy, please email, alternatively spare copies are available at All Saints Church, The Four Horseshoes Pub and Mallards Farm Shop.

Adverts are welcome at a cost of £2 per half page. Please get in contact via the above email or on 07410 500 855, to discuss placing an ad.

Village Notice Boards

We now have two sets of keys for the village notice boards. If you wish to put up a notice please contact:

Carol Mitchell	01795 532 372
Elaine Cooper	07922 461 543