

# The Landmark

## CHRISTMAS 2012



**St. Mary's Church**

The Parish Church of Riverhead with Dunton Green

## From the Vicar

What's your favourite part of Christmas?

### Hope

The days leading up to it; hearing snatches of a much-loved carol or Christmas hit on the radio and being suddenly transported back to a happy time, or younger days full of innocence and laughter? Perhaps buying the Christmas tree, and the smell of pine? Perhaps the shops as you step into them with their great bursts of colour, like spring, of reds and gold and greens? Perhaps it's Christmas Eve and the utterly delightful toddlers' Nativity plays, or the warmth and comfortable feeling of sharing a carol or two in a church service, with lit candles, maybe; and the sense that something special is literally just around the corner?

Maybe you come to the extraordinarily intimate and profound late-night Christmas services in church? You've had a nice meal, perhaps been out to friends or the pub, then shrug into your coats and wander round to that place with the big spire and the candles and the men and women in flowing robes. To listen to the Christmas story one more time - possibly it reveals something to you that you had never thought of before? And, of course, there are the Carols; the wonderful, traditional, meaningful hymns of hope and love and joy.

### Love

Maybe for some, of course, Christmas does not hold such things. Perhaps it means another special day spent with no-one around, or spent with strangers. Christmas then is a time of feeling most alone. But, we need to remember, that no-one need be alone at Christmas, because, for others, Christmas means popping round and saying hello to family, friends and neighbours. For others it can mean taking time out to be with the elderly, the isolated, the infirm. One only has to ask. You see, for many, Christmas day is filled with a special kind of love. A love found in going to visit someone or even to help prepare and serve Christmas lunch for others.

### Joy

Then, on The day, The Big Day, The Special Day, there are the church services and the Christmas films and shows on TV, or a sumptuous Christmas concert on the radio. And, of course, there are the presents: the joy and the excitement of tearing off the wrapping paper. And there's the laughter when someone didn't get quite the right gift for someone else.. Not to mention the Christmas meal - seven times more than we would normally eat. And after? The fun and frivolity of that special day of people in paper hats hunched around those brightly-coloured board games.

So... what is your favourite part of Christmas?

Mine is knowing that all this was started, had its basis in a mystery. The mystery of God coming to share our lives in the form of a little child, and bringing with him all that Hope, and Love, and Joy.



## **RIVERHEAD INFANTS SCHOOL**

What an incredible year it has been. One of which memories are made. There has been so much to celebrate and make us proud from the Diamond Jubilee to the 2012 Olympics.

The Diamond Jubilee saw us exploring the role of the Queen and building an understanding of the passing of time. For the culmination of our learning we held a street party to which members of the community were invited to join us. The children so ably entertained with singing and maypole dancing before sharing their feast. One of our visitors proudly wore the ribbons in her hair which she had worn at the Queen's coronation.

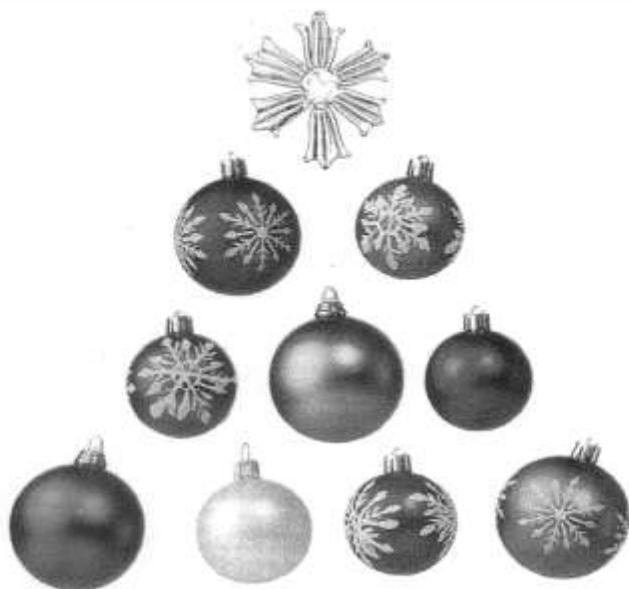
The 2012 Olympics and the opportunity to participate in different sports and to meet inspiring athletes had a lasting effect upon the children. Throughout the summer they learnt of the PRIDE values and the need to strive and not give up. They also learnt to value the contributions of others, including the athletes and the games makers. The impact of it all was evident into September when I was watching three children working together in Golden Time. They had cut a long thin strip of paper and joined the end to make a circle. To this they had attached a golden disk cut from shiny paper. When asked what they were doing they replied "Making Gold Awards for first place at the Paralympics". They went on to say they were going to play 'the Olympics', and that they wanted to be Ellie Simmonds. What a proud and touching moment it was in a school that prides itself on its inclusive values.

We have together passed on to our children the values of being active and participant member of our communities, including the desire to give as well as receive.

Now we look forward to Christmas. The delights of the Nativity are upon us and we share the story together with friends and family who visit our school. This will be a time of receiving and of giving; giving memories to parents, grandparents and guests, and giving gifts to enrich the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Merry Christmas to you all from the children and staff at Riverhead Infants' School.

Heather Powell - Headteacher



ST. MARY'S RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

*Festival of*  
**Christmas Trees 2012**

**Saturday 8th December 10am - 5pm**

**Sunday 9th December 11am - 4pm**

**at St. Mary's Church, Riverhead**

Visit our fantastic display of Christmas trees ( all shapes and sizes) provided by local organisations and businesses

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All welcome, admission free, and refreshments available.

Contact Tel. 01732 453768 for more info or visit  
[www.stmaryriverhead.co.uk](http://www.stmaryriverhead.co.uk)

# Christmas Tree Festival

**8th and 9th December 2012**

After the success of last year's event with many local organisations taking part; we are holding another Festival of Christmas Trees, where many more local businesses and organisations will display their Christmas Trees within St Mary's for the public to see.

**We invite you to come and view the trees** - St Mary's Festival of Christmas Trees, between Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

Trees will be all sizes from 12 ins to 8 ft, artificial and natural, lit and unlit and be decorated in ways that display the spirit of Christmas combining with businesses and organisations illustrating their particular activity.

The Church will be open to the public from 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 11am to 4pm on Sunday. We will be serving refreshments in the Church during the opening times. The whole family is welcome. There will not be an entrance fee to view the trees. We will accept donations to support the work of the Church and Demelza House Hospice Care for Children.

It may inspire you before you decorate your own family tree or just get you in the mood for the Christmas Festivities! You will be most welcome at St Mary's!

## **Music and Choir**

New singers are always welcome in the Church Choir. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8-9 in the church, and the choir sings at the 9.30 Service on Sundays, except for the Family Service on the first Sunday of the month when there is an instrumental group [mainly school-age] which accompanies the hymns and songs.

Please phone Janet Sharp about singing or playing on 01732 452715.

# **Bradbourne Residents Association**

**It possibly appears that the Bradbourne Residents Association have not done a great deal of work during the year since they were reformed. This however is most definitely not the case.**

**Since the imposition of quite swinging charges for parking in the Harvester car park, problems of on street parking have arisen all over the area and we have made representations to the District Council on behalf of residents in the Bradbourne area especially Robyns Way and Betenson Avenue.**

**With regard to Bradbourne Lakes we have approached many contractors with a view to quoting for the major amount of work required to get the lakes back into something resembling their original condition. We have conducted an extensive survey of those who use the lakes and found to our satisfaction that a great number of people come not only locally but by car from places like Oxted, Westerham, Borough Green, Riverhead, Seal and Otford on a fairly regular basis stating that they find it a tranquil place to bring children and the elderly away from traffic and noise. Almost all remarked that they would certainly like to see dramatic improvement in the quality of the water and the state of the paths and were sad to see that due to the current neglect of the park , many varieties of birds (most especially swans) had disappeared.**

**We are currently in the first stage of applying for a Heritage Lottery Grant and it looks very much as though we would satisfy the criteria to qualify for one.**

**The Annual General Meeting is due to be held at Sevenoaks Town Council Chamber, Bradbourne Vale Road at 8.00pm on Tuesday 15th January 2013. You are only entitled to attend and vote if you are a member of the association but we would very much welcome new members. The more the membership the greater the power we can exert when applying for funding. If you would like to become a member please complete the form below and send it to the Membership Secretary who will arrange for your subscription of £2 for 2013 to be collected.**

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel. No.....

Email Address.....

To Mrs Margaret Nicholas, 26 Lambarde Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3HT  
Tel 01732 457324, Email: bradbournelakesres.ass@gmail.com

## Riverhead remembered

Reading of Margaret Nicholas' experience of a ghost in the Old Cottage in Chipstead Lane stirred up my memories.

I came to live in a small cottage, almost opposite The Old Farm in 1925 at just a few months old. I was born on the estate of Lord Amherst - my father worked for him driving his carriage. My parents lived, and I was born, in the Lodge which still stands where the gates to the original park were situated at the end of Lyndhurst Drive. There were very few cars and the most familiar mode of travel was a horse and cart

The Beehive Pub was in Chipstead Lane and every week the landlord would bring in the large barrels of beer on his cart ; his horse lived in the stable behind the pub. On Monday mornings, every one would make sure to shut their gates very early as the farmer from further up the lane, with his dogs, would run his sheep down the road on their way to the market which used to be held weekly opposite Sevenoaks station.

Chipstead Lane was at that time a road for two way traffic which included buses going up and down hourly. The residents were very much a community with everyone looking after one another; anyone who was ill or elderly had a friendly eye kept upon them. The needs of the community were amply served by the shops in the village; Caleb Smith the grocers was situated where Oakwood Beauty is now located. One bought biscuits from large tins by the pound, bacon , butter and cheese were sliced by request and wrapped in greaseproof paper. There was always a butcher where Batchelors is now, in those days it was Mr Challis. The jeweller was a dairy and on the corner opposite the church was Mr Millist who sold all manner of cigarettes and sweets (toffees, mints, jelly babies, pear drops and clove balls) from jars and wrapped them in paper twists.

The church had gates in the front and the churchyard stretched out to where the roundabout is now sited and the London Road, which was half its current width, contained another pub (The White Hart), a bakers, a greengrocers, a post office and yet another butchers. Situated where the second roundabout is now sited was the horses drinking fountain which sadly disappeared when the road was widened never to be seen again.

Doris Gosnold



## **TOTS AND TODDLERS**

Tots and Toddlers offers a warm welcome to all babies and preschoolers, their parents and carers. The group takes place in the Church Hall every Monday 1:45pm - 3:45pm. For more information please contact Diane Williams 01743 762434 or Doris Gosnold 01732 451892.



## **LITTLECOURT LUNCH CLUB**

St Mary's joins with the Christ Church URC and other local bodies to run this weekly lunch which takes place on Tuesdays at the URC Church Hall by Kippington Road. It enables the housebound elderly to meet for an excellent lunch and companionship and members are collected from home and delivered either by an Age Concern bus or by private car. There are some vacancies. If you are interested please ring Gill Smith on 01732 455993 or Deirdre Montanaro on 01732 455435.

## **CHURCH HALL**

Our Church Hall is used by the Church on a regular basis by our groups and after-service activities. However it is also available for hire for parties, meetings and classes. For more information about hiring the church hall for an event please use the following contact details:

Margaret Nicholas Tel: 01732 457324

Email: [magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk)

## NORTH WEST FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2012

### St Thomas's

- 02/12: 6.30pm Advent Carol Service  
24/12: 10.00pm Mass preceded by carols at 9.45  
25/12: Masses at 7.45, 9.00, 10.15 and 11.30am

### Sevenoaks URC

- 16/12: 6.30pm Carol Service at St John's hill, mince pies after  
24/12: 11.30pm Christmas Eve service at St John's Hill  
25/12: 10.00am Christmas Day family worship  
30/12: 10.30pm Service of praise - singing carols

### St Luke's

- 10/12: 7.00pm Community carol service  
16/12: 6.30pm Carol service  
20/12: 1.00pm Carol sing-a-long  
24/12: 4.00pm Christingle  
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist (The First Communion of Christmas)  
25/12: 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.15am Family Eucharist

### The Drive Methodist Church

- 09/12: 10.30am Gift service for all ages  
16/12: 6.30am Music for Christmas with carols  
(Sevenoaks & Tonbridge Concert Band)  
23/12: 6.30am Candle Light Carol Service for all ages  
24/12: 4.00am Christingle Service with young families in mind  
11.30pm Midnight Communion  
25/12: 10.30pm Christmas Celebration for all ages

### St Mary, Kippington

- 09/12: 5.00pm Christingle Service followed by lighting of tree  
and refreshments  
16/12: Services at 8am and 10.30am  
6.30pm Lessons & Carols  
23/12: 10.30am Carols, Songs of Praise  
3.00pm Children's Nativity Tableau.  
24/12: 11.30pm Midnight Communion  
25/12: 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
10.30am Family Service

### St Mary, Riverhead

- 02/12: 9.30am Advent Service  
23/12: 7.00pm Carol Service  
24/12: 2.30pm Christingle Service  
4.00pm Christingle Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass  
25/12: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am All-Age Parish Eucharist



# Rochester Cathedral



There is a lot happening at the Cathedral. A Grant has been applied for to repair the medieval roof of the Library, to provide disabled access to the Crypt, the oldest part of the church, and other exciting projects such as to be able to safely display some of the hidden treasures for visitors to see. Services take place daily as in our church and we are welcome to attend if we are visiting. It is well worth looking at the Cathedral website, perhaps visit during the school holidays near Christmas. The Crib is quite memorable for the children as it is quite a large scene, but do check in advance in case you are too early

The Cathedral Clergy and people pray for the parishes in the Diocese regularly and recently it was the turn of Riverhead with Dunton Green, our parish.

Audrey Bernardi

## **New Caffe opens:-**

### **SUNDRIDGE**

Retro Caffe is the new addition to the Sevenoaks Garden Centre on the A25. With a warm and cosy atmosphere you will find a full range of baps, sandwiches, jacket potatoes, toasties, cakes and all day breakfasts. All types of coffee and tea are served. Loyalty cards are available and a 10% discount is given for your first visit. Open 9.00—5.00 Monday to Friday and 10.00—4.00 Saturday and Sunday

## My first Christmas in Heaven



I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below  
With tiny lights, like Heaven's stars reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away a tear  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear  
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart  
But I am not so far away. We really aren't apart

So be happy for me dear ones, you know I hold you dear.  
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year

I sent you each a special gift, from my heavenly home above.

I sent you each a memory of my undying love.  
After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold.  
It is always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,  
For I can't count the blessing or love He has for each of you.

So have a merry Christmas and wipe away that tear,  
Remember I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.



*Written by a 13 year old boy dying of Leukaemia  
who has since succumbed to his disease*

## The Memorial Gardens of St Mary's Church Riverhead

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Riverhead was consecrated in 1831 as a Chapel of Ease to Sevenoaks Parish Church. Built to a design by Decimus Burton on land donated by the Amherst and Lambarde families, it encompasses a large open Nave with no intruding pillars and a Chancel in Early English style added in 1886.

Outside the church is an extensive churchyard with many graves dating back to the early days of the church. Altogether there are 682 marked graves recorded on the Graveyard Locator Plan drawn up by North West Kent Family History Society.

By the mid-1970s, it became clear there was little space for further graves in the churchyard. Following a submission to the Privy Council, St Mary's Churchyard was Closed by Order of Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1978 with the stipulation that *"Burials shall be discontinued forthwith in St Mary's Churchyard ..."*, the only exception to this rule being ... *"that in any earthen grave now existing in said Churchyard, the burial may be allowed of the body of any member of the family of the person or persons heretofore buried in such grave, subject to ..."* there being sufficient space in the grave for the additional burial.

From that date, the only remaining provision for further burials in the churchyard was the interment of cremated remains (ashes) in the existing Garden of Rest, a small area of consecrated ground near the southern boundary of the churchyard. Here, burial plots are marked by ground level stone tablets bearing the name and lifetime dates of the deceased. By the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, this area was virtually full and, like the graveyard, it could no longer accommodate further burial plots. As a consequence, a new Memorial Garden was created on adjacent land that had in former years been part of the playing field behind Riverhead Infants School. This land was a gift of the developers who built a small cul-de-sac of houses known as Amherst Place to the south of the churchyard.

After more than three years of negotiation with the Diocese of Rochester, the plans for the new Garden were finally agreed, a Faculty (ie Diocesan Planning Permission) granted and the new Memorial Garden constructed. As one of the conditions for granting this Faculty, the placing of stone tablets, such as those that feature in the adjacent Garden of Rest, was no longer permitted. Some felt this a harsh condition but we were able to negotiate a compromise with the Diocese to permit the installation of two large York Stone Memorials on which the names and lifetime dates of people commemorated in that place could be incised.

The transformation of a rough plot of land, from a riot of weeds and briars to a beautiful garden with Indian limestone paved paths and attractive park benches, was

truly remarkable. The permitted Memorial Stones were duly installed and the lawn areas turfed and the new Garden was eventually consecrated and dedicated by the Bishop of Tonbridge on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006.

Planting of the new Garden continued with the addition of attractive shrubs, a couple of trees, lots of rose bushes, herbaceous plants and spring bulbs with a mixed country hedge to act as a foil against the wooden fence that borders the houses to the south of the Garden. Now, six years on it has matured into a tranquil and secluded place well suited to peaceful contemplation by visitors who wish to pause awhile to remember their loved ones buried there. To date, 29 names have been incised on the first Memorial Stone and the cremated remains of 30 persons have so far been interred. A few burials have taken place in the original Garden of Rest, but only where family members have been placed together in an existing plot.

Finally, we are eternally grateful to the small band of dedicated gardeners who quietly get on with tending and caring for both Memorial Gardens, by mowing the grassed areas, pruning back overgrown shrubs, keeping the borders weed-free and the paths swept. The Gardens will continue to provide a restful place, both for the living and for those remembered there who have passed on to a better place.



## RIVERHEAD PARISH COUNCIL



### The Parkland

During the summer many improvements have been made in the village and the Riverhead Parkland was no exception. Thanks to a generous grant of some £1 0,000 from the Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust we were able to carry out the reinforcing of the dam at the bridge and remove the Alder trees whose roots were invading and causing leakage making the bridge unstable. At the same time much planting was undertaken and the old and rotting fencing removed and partially renewed on the hill.

Councillor Isabelle Mercer renovated the old village sign and with the help of a couple of local firefighters the new sign was erected at the St Mary's Drive entrance. We hope that in time we can do something similar at the other two entrances.

We know how much the Parkland is appreciated, but of course it requires constant maintenance and improvements, and whilst contractors are hired for the bigger jobs, councillors and a few volunteers generously give their time and effort on a regular basis. To this end we organise a work party every second Tuesday of the month at 9.30am and would like to see more local people involved. Just a couple of hours work can make a big difference! Please contact either myself or Clive Himsworth at the Parish Council or just turn up! All are welcome!

Cllr John Ward



# Knole Academy



Harvest at Knole

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Here at Knole Academy, we aim to nurture high achieving and caring young people who will develop into good citizens. This year has seen a new introduction to the academy in the form of two grammar stream classes in Year 7. This has been highly successful and the students are enjoying their new school. One boy has said he has "the best of both worlds" as he is being stretched academically but he also has all the benefits which Knole Academy offers.

As well as a creative curriculum, (all students have a lesson of dance, music and drama and two of art in years 7, 8 and 9), and many dance music and drama productions, our students have been actively involved in raising money for charity.

Our Room to Read fund is now at £9,000. We aim to raise £3,000 more so that we can build a library in a school in Zambia. We have had support from the Rotary Club to set up an Interact Club which is the charity arm of the academy.

Harvest was celebrated by each tutor group decorating a box and donating groceries to be distributed to the elderly in the community. As you can imagine, being an expressive arts college, the boxes were both imaginative, innovative and of a very high standard. Our Harvest Festivals were led by Revd Martin Booth, the new vicar at St Mary's Riverhead.

On Sunday the choir will be singing at St Peter's, Newenden in a Remembrance Day concert to raise funds for the church. This is following a successful choir tour to Pontoise last month. Pontoise is twinned with Sevenoaks.

Our students are always happy to help others and this is a very important aspect of the work we do here at Knole academy.

Mary Boyle

Principal

## Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union at St. Mary's meets at 2pm in the church hall on the second Wednesday of each month except August. It is open to both members and non-members and men are welcome.

The Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union also organises events during the year which can include Quiet Days, Wave of Prayer, Fundraising activities.

To find out more please ring Karen Forster-Pearce on 01732 451396 or June Mooney on 01732 464277. There is further information to be found on the website [www.rochestermothersunion.co.uk](http://www.rochestermothersunion.co.uk) and you can subscribe to an E-Newsletter at [jjmothersunion@googlemail.com](mailto:jjmothersunion@googlemail.com) or [hsl@talktalk.net](mailto:hsl@talktalk.net)

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## *The Children's Society*

*We are keen and regular supporters of the Children's Society which provides help and comfort for children in desperate need. To help please contact Margaret Holman 01732 450408.*

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## ADVERTISING

It is our wish that this magazine grows into a quarterly publication that comes to represent the whole of the Riverhead and Dunton Green community. This is however reliant on the support of local individuals and businesses. If you are interested in advertising in this publication, have ideas for topics to include that affect our area or are members of a local association that would to be included then please contact us: [magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:magnicholas@tiscali.co.uk)

## CONTACTS

Vicar Revd. Martin Booth

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01732 455736 & [stmaryriverhead@aol.com](mailto:stmaryriverhead@aol.com)

Churchwardens: Diane Williams 01732 762434 [dineywills@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dineywills@tiscali.co.uk)

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Church Website:

[www.stmaryriverhead.co.uk](http://www.stmaryriverhead.co.uk)

FOR A FULL LIST OF CONTACTS PLEASE SEE THE  
CHURCH WEBSITE