

# COLLIER STREET NEWS

October 2020



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# COLLIER STREET

## PAPER DELIVERY

There is a paper delivery service to the village at around 6am every morning. It is supplied by Jackie's News Limited based in Tenterden, they can be contacted on 01580 763183. Cost of delivery is £3.51 a week.

**Rubbish, food waste and small electrical items**

12th and 26th October

**Recycling, food waste and textiles**

5th and 19th October

Please check [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk) for more information.

**COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL HAVE A NEW**

**WEBSITE:**

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

## **PCSO NICOLA MORRIS**

If you are worried about crime and antisocial behaviour in your area, I am the local Police Community Support Officer for **Collier Street, Laddingford and Yalding.**

If you would like to talk to me, please ring - **Mobile: 07870163411 / Non-emergency: 101**

There is a very successful Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Collier Street involving over 100 residents.

However there are many more households within the Parish who are currently not involved in the scheme. If you would like to be part of the NHW scheme and receive notifications of any suspicious activity or crime then please send your email address to Barbara Grandi at:

[barbaragrandi@aol.com](mailto:barbaragrandi@aol.com)



**The Collier Street News Parish Magazine would like to thank Mr Simon Hill for helping us get the news out to our village over the last six years.**

**Your contribution has been greatly appreciated.**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We would love to hear from you with information, ideas or anything you may feel relevant to the magazine and our village. Maybe a photo taken in the village, or something you would like to share, or write us a letter. Or please send us a picture of your pet for 'cute pet of the month'.

Without your contributions there would not be a magazine, so please send to  
**editorparishmag@mail.com**

**FLY TIPPING AND POTHOLES**

Did you know that anyone can report pot holes or fly tipping in the village.

Please go to the Maidstone Borough Council website and click on the "Report It" tab.



**CUTE PET OF THE MONTH - GEORGE**



**WHEELCHAIR AVAILABLE**

FOR BORROWING ON SHORT-TERM BASIS

FOLDS FLAT

NOT SELF-PROPELLING

PHONE SUE 01892 730393

(picture not actual chair)



**LOCAL BABYSITTERS**

- Lucy Anderson 730244 - Weekdays and weekends
- Rosie Ridd 730816 - During term time Friday and Saturday evenings only
- Edward Simmonds 730306 - Any time in Holidays, own transport
- Victoria Simmonds 730306 - Anytime , own transport
- Nancy Murdoch 730433 - Anytime
- Jonny Bentley - 730252
- Georgie Barham - 730247





## CHURCH INFORMATION

### SEPTEMBER 2020

#### CHURCH ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

##### Tea & Coffee :

4th October—Mrs Head

11th and 18th October—Mrs Lerwill & Mrs Doctor

25th October—Mrs Guillum-Scott

##### Brass Cleaning and Altar Flowers

Mrs Lerwill

#### **St. Peter & St. Paul, Yalding**

with Junior Church on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays

Wednesday's	10.00am	Said Communion
1st, 2nd, 3rd Sunday	09.30am	Holy Communion
4th Sunday	09.30am	Breakfast
	10.00am	All Age Worship
5th Sunday	09.30am	Family Communion

#### **St. Margaret's, Collier Street**

Every Sunday	11.00am	Holy Communion
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#### **St. Mary's, Laddingford**

2nd Sunday	09.00am	Morning Worship
4th Sunday	09.00am	Morning Communion

#### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

<b>Churchwardens</b>	Rachel West	01622 872278	<a href="mailto:rachel.west@ymail.com">rachel.west@ymail.com</a>
	Joanna Doctor	01892 730489	<a href="mailto:josoar@aol.com">josoar@aol.com</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Sue Crompton	01622 814182	<a href="mailto:office@yaldingchurches.co.uk">office@yaldingchurches.co.uk</a>
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Vicky George		<a href="mailto:brivick@aol.com">brivick@aol.com</a>
<b>Safe Guarding</b>	Sue Crompton	01622 814182	<a href="mailto:office@yaldingchurches.co.uk">office@yaldingchurches.co.uk</a>

## Margaret Tate reflects on 1 Kings 17:1-24

When something serious happens to you, who do you turn to? What is your anchor in life? When I was told I had lung cancer, I was shocked and felt as if my world had fallen apart! How would you feel?

I entered Guy's Hospital and the surgeon came and spoke to me before the operation and explained how serious it was; that my left lung would have to be removed and there was the possibility I might die. I prayed with her for God's guidance on the operation.

A few days later when I was beginning to recover I did my daily Bible reading, 1 Kings 17:1-24. "Lord my God let this boy's life return to him," I read, and God said to me "Let your life return to you."

After Elijah had spoken to Ahab, he was called to solitude. "When we cannot be useful we must be patient, and when we cannot work we must sit quietly before him." (F.F. Bruce, biblical scholar).

I spent a lot of 2019 in hospital or at home very inactive. God was teaching me patience. In his letter, James reminds us "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (James 1:2-3). When the going was tough I had to constantly remind myself of God's promise to me.

What unlikely caterers were appointed to care for Elijah! He drank from the brook and ravens (birds regarded as unclean – Leviticus 11:15) fed him morning and evening. He did not question where the food came from, he was fed and was thankful. As Paul tells us in Colossians 3:15 "As God's chosen people ... let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts ... and be thankful." And a very unlikely neighbour offered to do my weekly shop.

Have our supplies run out? We are rich beyond measure compared with many other parts of the world! They cannot even wash their hands in clean water, let alone for 20 seconds. The widow of Zarephath was very humble and generous even though she had nothing, yet she provided for Elijah first. She had good reason to think the Lord was blessing her. But in the midst of her peace and prosperity the death of her child came as a surprise to her.

"Did you come to remind me of my sin?" She asked. Do we need to be reminded that we are sinners saved by Grace? Yes, I do regularly. We all need to be reminded to come to the foot of the Cross and to look at our relationship with Jesus Christ, and to be disciplined in our times of daily Bible reading and prayer, and when we are able to come regularly to worship him.

One far greater than Elijah has come: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Christ's Resurrection is a guarantee of eternal life. Since having been given a new life after my operation, each new day is a blessing from God, and I give thanks for it and try to use it wisely. May you also be able to do the same.

"I know whom I have believed ... and am convinced he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day." (2 Timothy 1:12)

*Margaret Tate, July 2020 (Licensed Lay Minister emerita)*

## Woodpeckers- 'getting ready'



St Margaret's Church was booked for several different occasions in early September so the session on Saturday Sept 5<sup>th</sup> was used to make the entrance look at it's best. The site of an old tree stump had sunk and that needed refilling to keep the area next to the central path level and neat.

Most of the Woodpeckers volunteers spent their time on general tidying: Jo was concentrating on the memorial area at the side of the church where she was busy clearing the flower bed area, she hopes to plant this bed up to make it look much prettier for those who still come to remember their loved ones. Margaret tidied up the memorial rose bed to the right of the Church door while others concentrated on raking, ivy clearing and pruning.

Ann and Olly were focussed on the rest of the church building perimeter clearing away plants and soil that were collecting at the base of the structure, it sounded like an agricultural dig as Olly scraped away at the stonework with his trowel.

It was good to see Charlie back with his trusted broom as the gravestones needed a good clean. There wasn't much height to the grass but it was straggly so it looked a great deal neater once Stefan had been round on the mower. Dave did his usual great job going round both the graveyard and the cemetery with weedkiller.

We all came together when the table was brought out for the tea/coffee break and everyone chose their cake from the delicious choice of fruit cake, ginger cake or vanilla sponge. Some even had more than one slice!!



The Woodpeckers will be back on the first Saturday in October (the 3<sup>rd</sup>) so please come along and join in if you would like to help carry on the good work between 10am -12noon. We are bringing our own tools, our own cups and drinks but the cake is provided for everyone to help themselves thanks to the wonderful Pam.



## COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL



### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

## WE NEED YOUR URGENT FEEDBACK PLEASE

A comprehensive article appeared in the last issue of the Collier Street News, regrettably we had a disappointing response. The publication is still available on the parish website

<https://collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk>

Initially we need to establish

**A list of the projects and schemes you would like to see in the area.**

**The location of each project.**

**A brief description of each project.**

**A brief justification**

Please let us have your thoughts by emailing the Parish Clerk

[parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk)

We propose to gather your feedback and prepare a survey monkey/hard copy questionnaire to canvass further opinions prior to our next public consultation. We will then be able to cost the various ideas and priorities and bring together a Community Infrastructure Levy Plan to share with you.



## SCHOOL REPORT

St. Margaret's Primary welcomed back all of its pupils and their families on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020. Everyone was happy to be back in school and to begin a new academic year and although adjusting to the new "normal" has sometimes been a challenge, the children and staff have been wonderful at adapting to the changes.

It was fantastic to see the confident, excited faces of all the children returning even those returning after an extended period of time off due to lockdown measures and the phased return to school.

We have seen changes to classroom layouts, playtimes, lunchtimes and our routines to ensure we can all be COVID 19 safe and prevent the spread of the virus. Mr Ryan has introduced the children to a new way of collective worship by using Zoom. We have also had our very first Zoom celebration assembly in which children who have been trying their best in maths, English and being a good role model in their class are given a certificate to celebrate their efforts.

St. Margaret's Primary would like to extend a warm welcome to 16 new Reception children in Russet class who have been absolutely fantastic in their phased transition. They were not able to come into school and meet Miss O'Connor or Miss France before the summer and, as you can imagine, this was a very anxious and scary time for the children and staff. However, they have settled in beautifully after having 2 days of staying until midday, a week of staying until 1pm and a week of being full time. There have been very few tears and the children have adapted well to having to leave parents at the door, being independent and walking into class all by themselves. We are very impressed and proud of the resilience and confidence they have shown.



One of the children commented, "This school is much better than my preschool. It doesn't have these toys." (Action figures)

While another said, "I love it here because it has a tree house I can climb."

We have lots of tired but happy children who have been exploring their new environment, making friends with their peers; especially the Year 1's in Russet class, who are being very respectful, mature and good role models.

The children have been able to use the inside and outside areas of their classroom. They have met their new class mascot Rainbow Bear, enjoyed lots of creative work, explored outside and used the mud kitchen to create lots of delicacies! As well as enjoying small world and the bikes. They cannot wait to use the new sandpit built for us in the summer by Mr Collins.



We are looking forward to our next academic year at St. Margaret's, growing and working together with our children, families and the wider community after a very positive start to the year.

## “More Tea, Vicar?”

### A reflexion by Rachel Curley on her journey so far towards ordained ministry.

The book of Proverbs tells us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5). In November 2018 I put my trust fully into God’s hands, as I joined others at a diocesan vocations day. Without realising it at the time, I was starting my journey to ordained ministry.

The emotions that come with such a journey are intense, varied and at times confusing, especially as it’s one that not many know about until the right decisions and choices have been made, trusting in God is the only way to achieve this; you truly are in His hands. As Jesus said, “Trust in God still, and trust in me” (John 14:1).

Rightly so the vocational calling to ordained ministry is a strict process, and as the Church of England Ordinal states: “You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God.

The first step for me once I realised that God might just be calling me was to speak with the Revd. Canon Pamela Ive who is the DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) at the Diocese of Rochester who arranged for me to meet with a Vocations officer. I spent time over the next few months talking through my life and my faith with the Revd. Will North and attending his church in Barming. During this time, I was asked to explain why I felt God was calling me. How do you answer that question? I had always wondered when people had said that they heard God speaking to them how they knew, and could that possibly happen. I admit now I wasn’t totally sure, however I can genuinely say that sitting there that Saturday afternoon in November 2018, I realised that was exactly what had happened: God had been speaking to me for a long time, it just took until that exact moment for me to realise that’s what it was. And the final question I was asked on the form that day, “What did I feel I was being called to do?” I found myself ticking the box for ordained ministry - in those few moments so much of my life made more sense than it ever had.

In January 2019 I was recommended to move forward to the next stage, which was to meet with a ADDO (Assistant Director of Ordinands) for me this would be Revd Tim Hatwell in Igtham (a name worth googling if you’re a fan of the film Love Actually!), I spent the following few months again discussing my faith, as well as the “five guiding principles” of the Church of England, and what it truly means to be ordained. Later on in the year, I was recommended to go to a BAP (Bishops Advisory Panel) and this is when the journey got very real!

The BAP process is very intense and to pass the educational part I needed to show that I was capable of training at a degree level, so in September 2019 I headed off to college, part time at St. Augustine’s College of Theology, a very scary part of the journey for someone who has been working since the day after leaving school, and having not set foot in a classroom for over 25 years! Again, my life was very much in God’s hands.

In February 2020 I set off for Ely in Cambridge, where seven strangers and I would spend time together, along with four advisors to establish if ordained ministry was really what God was calling us to. Before attending the BAP, references were needed from Fr. Paul, a lay person from our church, my employer, so obviously that was hard as I am self-employed, so this fell to one of my customers and from my College, as well as lots of paperwork from my Vocations Officer, ADDO and myself, including lots of questionnaires about my life, my work, my family, my friends and importantly my faith and also a 500 word written reflection.

Sitting in my room waiting for our welcome meeting I reflected on my life, the good and the bad, the sad and the happy, I thought about where I started my life journey with my Mum, Dad and brothers, the teenage me, the twenty and thirty-something me, and the cancer survivor me, and after a few tears, both for the happy and sad memories, I asked God to do something he has been doing my whole life, to guide me through this next phase, and that whatever He was calling me for, I would follow and trust in Him.

Those following days were a mixture of more emotions than I can explain, our lives were laid bare. The first evening we had a personal inventory test based on the criteria for selection, where we had to answer a multitude of questions in a limited amount of time, then we received our instructions about the pastoral letter.

All I can say about this moment was one of group left immediately to head to his room, and the remaining seven of us sat in silence for half an hour staring at a piece of paper.

We had two days to reply to the letter and this would become a large part of our assessment. We then, along with our assessors shared supper together; all mealtimes were shared as a group, where we had to ensure we moved around each meal and got to speak to all the assessors in turn. Later that first evening we shared in compline (night prayer) together before heading off to our rooms for bed, ready for a full day ahead.

The following two days consisted of a Vocational, a Pastoral and an Educational interview, with each person leaving each interview wide eyed and exhausted. And then the part I was most worried about, we had to give a presentation based on one of the criteria for selection. Firstly you give your timed presentation, then you facilitate and participate in a group discussion, and then end with summarising what had been discussed, this is done for all eight candidates and it was as important to join in the discussions for everyone both for their experience, and for yours as all the time we were being watched and assessed for our contributions.

The simple task of picking who went first was chosen by which chair you sat on and which playing card you received. As I picked up my card and saw the ace I really hoped it was ace high, but no, that wasn't the way it worked, and I was up first! My presentation title was based on Criterion F - Leadership and Collaboration: The Youth in our Church. I took a deep breath, smiled and in that moment my fears were unfounded, the whole presentation went well, and I have the amazing youth in our church and benefice to thank for that, as it seems when I talk about them and what we have achieved and what we do, my face lights up and the enthusiasm overflows.

Each night I went to bed exhausted, but happy to be where I was. The mornings and evenings were filled with worship, and with a very special ashing service on Ash Wednesday (and yes we did get pancakes the evening before!). Worship was just myself, and the eleven others, seven of whom were going through the same emotions as I was. I was also very conscious of the immense pressure on the four advisors as it was down to them to prayerfully determine if they thought God was truly calling us for ordained ministry, what a weight to bear!

I returned home to Yalding for what was to become a long few days of waiting, but on a calm Thursday afternoon, I answered a call from Bishop James of Rochester who asked me if I would train for ordained ministry. I'm sure I managed to get the words "yes please" out somewhere in between thanking him and resisting the urge to cry and shout in excitement - that came in the following moments where I shared my news with my Mum, my family and friends. And then, in true Yalding style, the rain came down, I put on my flood wardens high viz, and I continued on the path God has set for me, to be there for others, and to help and support those in need.

The decisions I have since made have been extremely big, and have been taken in discussion with my family, with my friends, with Fr Paul, and in prayer with God. I know my calling will mean leaving Yalding one day, something I never thought I would do. It will also mean giving up my business, DizRat, which I have run for nearly twenty years, and it will mean studying full-time, and forfeiting spending time with those I love. Some say this is a sacrifice, but I genuinely see this as a privilege. I will get to walk alongside people during their most emotional, important times of their lives, I will be able to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the stories of the Bible, and eventually I will have the honour of sharing the Lord's Supper with His people in Holy Communion. what a privilege that will be!

So, what's next for me, as I sit in my study reflecting on this journey? I am about to return to college, I am about to stand down from an extended reign as churchwarden, and I have now become an ordinand in God's Church. My days and weeks will now consist of attending classes, lectures, and language studies, essay writing, as well as shadowing Fr Paul and Revd. Lisa to build on what I have learnt as a churchwarden. I will then head to a placement in another parish, and then a curacy in yet another parish, with the whole process lasting several years with my ordination in the middle, firstly as a Deacon and then as a Priest. I will learn to study the Bible, how to preach, to take weddings, baptisms, and funerals, but one thing for sure is that as well as taking myself through this journey, I will be taking a little bit of our benefice with me wherever I go.

"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me."(John 10:37) Amen.

Rachel Curley

**YALDING POST OFFICE - MOST LOVED POST OFFICE IN KENT 2016 /17/18/19/20**

**OUR PRODUCTS, LOCALLY SOURCED, LOCALLY SOLD**

**October 2020**

I have had some communication with Post Office Ltd (POL) concerning our possible closure next March. Whilst the Gov't has said nothing officially to POL it is their thinking that, because the notification period is now too short, the subsidy will continue for a while at least. (Not really much help in the grand scheme of things, but better than nothing) Meanwhile Brexit negotiations with the EU have raised a problem too. If the Brexit agreement includes tying in with the EU industry subsidy rules then our subsidy will cease on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This is because the Gov't has to officially request permission to subsidise any industry and the process takes a year to confirm. The Gov't has made no such request for Post Office subsidy. Our little branch and some 500 others in the country are affected by this problem. If the Gov't and POL allow the current subsidy to cease our wages will plummet to further below the National Minimum Wage to such a degree we may well be paying to keep ourselves open. We are too small to rely on the retail side of the business to subsidise the Post Office side (as most other branches do). Closure will be the only option. I'm not sure how anyone can help us in such a situation. Only 6 months left to sort it out.

**The Post Office Horizon Scandal.** You may be aware that Post Office Ltd (POL) lost a court case last December where it was proved that, despite numerous denials, the Post Office's Horizon computer system was very much less robust than it should have been, leading to some 900 Sub Postmasters being prosecuted for theft and false accounting when many thousands of pounds vanished from their accounts. POL knew that Horizon was not safe, yet continued to prosecute Postmasters leading to imprisonment, suicide, financial ruin and reputational loss for many. Yalding Post Office has been similarly affected, thankfully only with minor shortages... To see what we are talking about go online and look up **Nick Wallis Post Office.**

**The Coronavirus emergency.** I fully intend to remain open as normal until such time as any of our household fall victim to the disease or the Gov't decrees otherwise. All normal services are available. We are operating a strict entry system into the shop. Only one customer (or more if members of the same household) allowed in the shop at any one time and face masks to be worn.. Please queue responsibly outside following Gov't guidelines. **PLEASE STAY SAFE.**

**Postman Paul moves on...** Postie Paul Kelly has transferred to another job within Royal Mail. He has some health problems that makes walking difficult. Cheryl is doing his round and temps are doing hers until a replacement is confirmed. You may recall that the village got together on Facebook to get Paul his job back after Royal Mail unfairly sacked him in 2018. So thank you Yalding and thank you Paul...we will miss you.

**Bakery.** Due to restrictions on movement we are increasing our daily bakery order from Coxheath bakery. Please place orders with us before 5.00pm the day before and we will do our utmost to fulfil them. Our alternative supplier of pastries has broken his leg and is currently unable to produce his wonderful croissants etc for the time being.

**Vulnerable persons cash withdrawals.** We are happy to allow 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to undertake financial transactions for vulnerable or isolating people. We require a confirmation letter from the customer and ID from the 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

New stamps sets this month are the **Rupert the Bear and Beautiful Bugs** collections. Other Philately products in stock or can be ordered on request.

All kinds of Post Office savings, insurance and investments, telephone and Broadband services available. Post Office Classic Travel Insurance cannot be arranged in branch at present due to a technical problem, but you can collect literature and contact details from us.

**Foreign Currencies.** We still have a stock of Euros and US Dollars...minimal demand at the moment of course. POL have informed us that credit on Travel Money Cards can be encashed at all branches in UK currency.

Your Post Office offers free cash withdrawals with most debit cards, pay bills, top up gas and electricity cards and keys, pay in cheques and cash to most banks using your debit card. We do Health Lottery, phone Top-Ups, Fishing licences and Moneygram. And, of course...we sell stamps and send parcels and letters all over the world.

Bakery items fresh every day, cold drinks, Helen's fantastic biscuits, Annette's gluten free selection (on hold due to self-isolation) unique greetings cards by local artists, Yalding honey, Joan's jams, Bit Spicy curry mixes, hand-made fabric items, stationery, Yalding mugs, fresh eggs from local chickens, Loddington Farm fruit juices, Oakapple Farm fresh produce.....All in stock now. As well as a large stock of locally made face masks, bags and scrunchies...all moneys to the Yalding Surgery fund to pay for some new vital equipment.

**The Post Office Gift Card is an ideal gift for that person hard to buy for....These can be used at pretty much every major retailer in the UK. See us for details.**

Our opening hours are 9.00am to 1.00pm. 2.00pm to 5.30pm. Closed on Sundays.

Early closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays (12.30pm Saturdays).

Many thanks for your wonderful support for Kent's Most Loved Post Office.... Telephone...01622 814327

Look us up on our Facebook page and website. [www.yaldingpostoffice.weebly.co.uk](http://www.yaldingpostoffice.weebly.co.uk)

## Collier Street Ramblings: *'hopping history*

On our way back from Knox Bridge in mid-September we passed the hop shed down Sherenden Lane, just south of Marden Beech, and were delighted to see the team in action stripping the hop bines. A tractor with trailer laden with hop bines came towards us as it headed towards the shed and the pungent sweet aroma of hops filled the air. It warms one's heart to see that there are still a few traditional hop gardens in the area. When we first moved here 25 years ago there were many hop gardens in Collier Street and Crow Plain Oast, on the corner of Jarmons Lane, was still used to dry off the hops. It is a shame that the demand for specific hops and issues with disease made the growing of hops financially unviable in the locality.

Back in the mid 2000s the Collier Street Orchard Group produced some calendars with many nostalgic photographs of the Parish and I have used some of these, together with the information that accompanied them, to share some of the images of hopping in the area in past times.

The top right picture shows families stopping for lunch during a busy day hop picking at Martin's Farm in 1928.



As you can see the whole family would come, usually from the East End of London, to enjoy a working summer holiday hop picking in Kent. The photograph shows many women and children, they often had babes in arms too. Sometimes the men would only join them at weekends if they still had a job during the week in London. It was eagerly anticipated as a summer holiday to get away from the 'smoke' of the city where it was said: "even the birds coughed"! They came on special hopper trains, or lorries that were sent to pick them up.

There were lots of hopper huts on the farms at Bockingfold, Church Farm, Martins Farm, Brandenbury, Moat Farm, Den Farm, Spitzbrook, Crow Plain, Jarmons Farm, Chequer Tree Farm and Brook Farm. The remains of some of these huts can still be seen in some of the fields. Built in blocks, they were very small, some were brick built but many were made of corrugated iron and wood. Mattresses were often filled with hay and a whole family would sleep in the tiny huts with the flickering light provided by an oil lamp. Often they shared washing and cooking facilities, preparing meals outside or in a communal cooking hut. The families would bring their own saucepans etc and make the huts as homely as possible, some even put up wallpaper.



Lorries would be loaded with the filled hop pockets after drying and they took them to the train stations or directly to the many breweries in the area. The photograph shows one of the lorries operated by Phillips of Marden. The hop pockets had the names of the farm printed on them so that the breweries knew which farms the hops had come from.

You can find out lots more information about hopping in Kent by visiting Marden Library or by going to the Museum of Kent Life at Sandling where they still grow, pick and dry hops every year and they have an interesting exhibition, their website is also worth a visit.

## TIME TO APPLY FOR THE YALDING EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The **Yalding Educational Foundation** has existed for many years and its purpose is to encourage the education of the children and young people of our local community. This objective is achieved by firstly sponsoring Spoken English Competitions in the primary schools of **YALDING, LADDINGFORD** and **COLLIER STREET**, each year (although, sadly this year Covid 19 has prevented this from happening). Secondly by providing funding, when funds allow, for each school to take the older pupils on a 'cultural or educational experience'.

Thirdly, **SCHOLARSHIPS** are provided to assist in the **HIGHER EDUCATION** of former pupils of these local primary schools. The scholarships are available for several years of a University or College course. To qualify, students must have attended one of the three above mentioned primary schools for a minimum of two years. If you qualify please take the time to apply.

**APPLICATIONS** in respect of the academic year 2020/21 are now invited by **LETTER** only to the Clerk to the Foundation, Gary Atkins at Hawthorns, Laddingford, ME18 6BP. Applicants should state which primary school they attended and when, brief details of the University or College course they will follow, and their home and term time address.

**Applications must be signed by the applicant.** If an email address is included, applicants will receive an acknowledgement on receipt of their application and a date by which the trustees will be assessing applications so that awards can be paid. To qualify, **ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2020** (this is later than normal to take into account any problems that may be caused by the Covid 19 outbreak).



## YALDING FOOD BANK

***Donations of food may be left at the church Monday to Friday between 11am and 2pm. Please place any donations on the white benches in the church porch. If you wish to go into church during these times for private prayer, there is track and tracing in place and someone will be there to explain this to you; this is not required if you are just leaving donations in the porch.***

***If you wish to donate but are unable to do so during these times, please call or text Rachel on 07814 750500.***

***Thank you to everybody who has donated either food or cash and to Angela, Rachel and their volunteers for their support.***





## VOLUNTEERS

**Sean Randell has requested volunteers wishing to join the group initially follow the following the procedure please: -**

1. Firstly type **<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org>** into a web browser.
2. Click on the **[Register]** tab.
3. Then to the left, click on **[Join Existing Group]**.
4. Choose **[Kent]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
5. Choose **[YA Maidstone]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
6. Now choose **[Collier Street Speedwatch Group]** from the pull down and click **[Continue]**.
7. Finally complete their details in the registration form and follow the emailed instructions.

This Allows Kent Community Speedwatch to Coordinate.



## COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF KIND RESIDENTS IN THE VILLAGE WHO HAVE OFFERED TO HELP ANYONE WHO IS SELF-ISOLATING OR NEEDS HELP DURING THIS CRISIS**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMEONE TO COLLECT SHOPPING, MEDICINE OR TO WALK YOUR DOG PLEASE CONTACT EITHER:**

**DAVID GOFF: 01892 730512**

**BARBARA GRANDI: 01892 730376**

**MARGARET ASHWORTH: 01892 730323**

**AND THEY WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP**

**PLEASE DO ASK FOR HELP!**

# Jacqui Bakes

## Coconut & Raspberry Loaf

This loaf is delicious, once iced it needs to be eaten that day as the icing will become granular, don't worry I doubt it will last longer ! As a little extra I've included a very easy fudge recipe, my niece Ellie is a massive fan of Percy Pig, even at 20 she still loves a Percy, oink oink!

### Ingredients

175g butter  
50g desiccated coconut  
175g caster sugar  
3 medium eggs  
175g self raising flour  
150g raspberries

### For the icing

15g coconut flakes  
1 medium egg white  
175g caster sugar  
Pinch cream of tartar  
1 tsp Malibu  
Freeze dried raspberries to decorate



### **Method**

Preheat oven to 180 degrees, grease & line a 900g loaf tin.  
Toast desiccated coconut in oven for 2 mins. Set aside.  
Beat butter & sugar until light & fluffy, slowly add eggs, beating well.  
Fold in flour & toasted coconut, gently fold in raspberries.  
Pour into prepared tin & bake for 5 mins until an inserted skewer comes out clean.  
Leave to cool completely.  
Meanwhile toast the coconut flakes for 2 mins.  
Prepare icing as follows, whisk egg white, sugar, cream of tartar & 2tbsp water together with an electric whisk, place over a pan of simmering water, keep whisking until the mixture is thick & the sugar has dissolved. Whisk in Malibu.  
Spread over cake. Sprinkle with toasted coconut flakes & freeze dried raspberries.

## Jacqui Bakes

### Percy Mallow Fudge

#### Ingredients

200g condensed milk  
300g white chocolate, broken into pieces  
50g Percy Pig dessert sauce  
Pink food colouring  
60g mini marshmallows  
Jazzy sprinkles  
Bag of Percy pigs to decorate



#### Method

Line a small baking tin. In a large pan, melt condensed milk & white chocolate together until smooth, remove from heat.

Add Percy Pig dessert sauce & a few drops of pink food colouring and stir. Next, stir in mini marshmallows.

Pour into lined tin, scatter with jazzy sprinkle, place Percy Pigs on top, spacing them so you can cut fudge into cubes.

Allow to set in fridge, once chill cut into cubes. Voila, Percy fudge. Eat & Enjoy!

Mr Scott, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner has asked me to share this Road Safety and Enforcement survey with residents of Kent:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/apccsaferoads>

It aims to gauge views on road safety across the country and what traffic law enforcement may look like in future. We would like as many people across all parishes to get their views heard.

Would you be so kind as to take part in the survey.



COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL



## COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

### VACANCY



## BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

### **Who is allowed to stand?**

Anyone who is over 18, subject to a short list of disqualifications (available from Electoral Registration), can become a Parish Councillor, provided they live within the Parish, or within 3 miles of the Parish boundary. Alternatively, they are eligible if they are on the Electoral Register in the relevant Parish, own Property within that Parish, or have their principal place of employment within the Parish. Once elected, members normally serve for 4 years.

### **What is a Parish Council?**

A Parish Council is the most Local unit of Local Government and can carry out a large number of functions and duties.

Collier Street Parish Council carries out a range of services. One of the most important roles carried out by parishes is to act as an advocate and representative of the interests of local people. Parish Councils are regularly consulted on major issues by the Borough Council and County Council and by other public bodies. Parish Councils are also an important part of the Planning process and it is illegal to determine a Planning Application without consulting the relevant Parish Council. It is likely that the powers and duties of Parish Councils will increase over the next few years. As a lead councillor, in a field that would interest you, being available to attend meetings during the daytime would be most advantageous. There are training opportunities to help you develop in the role.

The parish council meet on a monthly basis [not August or December] either face to face or during the current situation via Zoom.

If you feel you that you could act as an advocate and represent the interests of local people please do not hesitate to contact The Clerk to the Council at [parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@collierstreetparishcouncil.co.uk)

## COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL



### DO YOU WANT SUPERFAST BROADBAND?

Everyday life relies more and more on using the Internet, including for many people their everyday work. Collier Street has a very slow broadband speed and unfortunately, there are no immediate plans from Openreach to expand to Superfast Broadband in the near future. So, what options are open to us?

Kent County Council have a “Broadband Voucher Scheme” – details can be found <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/broadband/broadband-voucher-schemes/kent-broadband-top-up-voucher>

Where there is a potential subsidy to obtain fibre broadband to the premises (FTTP), which enables very high connection speeds (up to 1Gbps). In order for the scheme to be viable, there needs to be a community group that needs to sign up together to apply for the funding. The more that sign up, the better for everyone.

At this stage, you will not be committing to anything by expressing an interest in the partnership scheme, so if you wish to be included, please email with a subject heading [alaric.i.r.turner@gmail.com](mailto:alaric.i.r.turner@gmail.com) “FTTP Interest” giving your full name, address and telephone number. The details will be entered into the Openreach system so that they can generate an indicative estimate for the works. Your information will not be shared with any other party and only be used for the sole purpose of registering an interest in the scheme mentioned above.

### LADIES ONLY WALKING GROUP IN YALDING

A small number of ladies, (including some from Collier Street) led by Jill Smith, take to the footpaths around Yalding most mornings. Lockdown stopped the group meeting for a few months but they are now back and enjoying their regular exercise whilst having a good natter.

Occasionally they finish with a cup of tea at Yalding Tea Rooms— well it is well deserved!



## **NOTES OF A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING OF COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS ACT [2020] - Monday 14th September 2020 commencing at 6.00pm**

**In attendance:** Chairman Cllr D Goff; Cllr S Barham; Cllr D Papas; Cllr A Papas; [later in the evening] Cllr S Sandy; Cllr D Sealey; County Cllr Eric Hotson; Parish Clerk/RFO Alan Crocker; 2 members of the public

**POLICE REPORT - PCSO Nicola Morris:** Parish Council Monthly Update System currently down for a crime search so unable to brief on the crime figures. Crime has been exceptionally low within the area  
There have been a few push bikes stolen from Marden train station – I am aware of 4 – some Collier Street residents do cycle to the train station and have been affected. British Transport Police are dealing.  
I have been in contact with Speed Watch volunteers and we have started to get numerous calls about the concerns – I have flagged this up and we are looking at dates to get out to do speed checks  
We have been doing visits to residents who have received several letters from our speed watch team regarding their speed

We have been doing quarantine follow ups in the area – persons returning from abroad – details passed to us from Home Office

### **Minutes of the Virtual Planning and Finance Meeting on 16th August 2020**

The meeting unanimously agreed that the minutes represented an accurate recording of the said meeting.

### **Questions from members of the Public. Public adjournment.**

**To suspend meeting for any public statements for up to 15 minutes in total. Individual items should not be longer than 5 minutes. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings and raise any pertinent issues at this point**

Cllr Hotson [Kent County Council] was invited to present his report to the meeting at this stage.

He opened by offering a grant to the New Village Hall and agreed to discuss this matter with the Chairman in detail outside of this meeting.

He outlined central governments proposed new **Planning White Paper**. With the consultation deadline of the 1st October rapidly approaching there is extraordinarily little time for comment. Cllr Hotson promised to send the details of the figures for the South East the day after the meeting. Maidstone Borough Councils existing target was set at 1186 new homes and the proposal on the paper set the target for development at 1569 per annum a 33% increase. KCC will be responding. They feel that this target is not acceptable. Kent MPs are meeting this week and the local MP has a meeting with the Secretary of State. The governments manifesto promise was for 300,00 new builds; this paper proposes some 330,000 with the resultant adverse effect on the appropriate infrastructures. MBC Leader Martin Cox will be responding. South East Councils have already included the existing targets within their current plans.

The next item in his presentation concerned a **Devolution White Paper (08.09.2020)** requiring input, is the potential re-organisation of Local Government. The initial idea of an East West and North split was not progressed. He flagged up the potential great problems, in the near future, with parish councils' structures. Really need to discuss the implications of a Unitary Authority on Maidstone Borough and Dover District Councils, with overall power seen to move under the Unitary Authority and the appointment of a Mayor.

### **Correspondence and Action Points**

#### **Defibrillator Update-need to establish and confirm location prior to placing order.**

The Clerk was tasked with emailing The Rev Paul Filmer in an endeavour to seek confirmation that the diocese is happy with the defibrillator being temporarily affixed to the Church wall whilst the New Village Hall is built.

#### **Speedwatch Lead AP & DP**

Cllr Papas briefed the meeting and thanked both Victoria and Gillian, who attended the meeting remotely for being major contributors to the initiative. Speedwatch session have been carried out every week. Currently 7 volunteers have received training and regularly participate. Currently restricted to two sites. Have submitted a request for further sites to be approved and risk assessed. Speedwatch had operated today resulting in 19 offenders. Two sites were put forward. Outside Little Eton and the entrance to the farm opposite. The main offenders appear to be white van drivers. Cllr Papas agreed to forward statistics for publication. Our PCSO also caught several motorists driving in excess of 50 mph. Nicola is keen to receive details of any undesirable behaviour. Another cat was killed today and left in the layby. A plea from the team that something must be done. Additional initiatives need to be considered.

Involvement of Matthew Scott, Crime and Police Commissioner for Kent.

Mobile Speed Cameras – Alan Watson

Flashing Signage

Suggestions of possible pinch points [looking at costing] Could be a CIL consideration.

Consult with Jennie Watson, KCC Highways as to the possible locations and costs and the process we would have to follow.

#### **Traffic Surveys, Sheephurst Lane, Longend Lane Lead DS**

The meeting unanimously agreed, and the Clerk tasked with progressing the two traffic surveys in the 1st week of October and avoiding the upcoming half term.

#### **Coronavirus Update Lead DS**

It is very apparent that residents of the parish are working together and helping the very vulnerable. Fortunately, at present it is reported that in Maidstone the numbers appear to be 8 in every 100,000. A quarter of the National average

#### **The meeting touched on the current available CIL monies.**

The replies to date have been disappointing. Need to discuss

Other avenues for advertising

Précised version of the CSN insertion to encourage more replies.

Social Media

Rethink for October

## **Election of Vice Chair & Police Liaison Representative**

Proposed by Cllr D Goff and seconded by Cllr S Sandys and agreed unanimously that Cllr Andrew Papas, having agreed to stand, was thereby elected Vice Chairman. A further motion proposed by Cllr S Sandys and seconded by Cllr D Sealey was carried unanimously that he replaces Cllr Simon Hill as the Police Liaison representative for the parish.

## **Parish Magazine**

The Chairman attended a meeting with the two editors, Margaret Ashworth and Tracey Bentlett.

Following his resignation from the parish council Simon Hill will no longer publish the CSN at a reduced rate. The costings are £2800 to publish 320 copies. The magazine income is some £1635. A shortfall of some £1165. There is funding available for the publication to keep going until Spring 2021. The result of the survey carried out returned only a 16% response. There were various ideas ranging from, 'Not to produce any more' to endeavouring to raise funding by a suggested £10.00 per year direct debit donation which would cover the costings. In the interim further ideas would be considered. The printers of the Yalding magazine have been approached and would be able to produce the publication for a lesser amount than the magazine is currently paying. Other finance opportunities were discussed. The meeting attendees decided that they would progress things as they are now.

## **Flood Committee Report - Lead DG**

The IDB have investigated several parish issues and will visit the area very shortly.

**Recreation Field Report - Lead DG** The play equipment acquired under the **SIPA grant** has been installed in the play area. The safety fencing has been removed.

Marden Minors goal posts have been installed and the pitch marked out in readiness for the first home match this coming Sunday 20th September.

Highways - Jennie Watson the KCC Highways Coordinator has confirmed that the Jarmon's Lane junction has passed the appropriate test for safety. She has obtained details of the owners of the land where overgrown hedging is causing bad sight lines and will progress this issue.

There were several members of the attendant Councillors who were still most unhappy with the safety aspects of both junctions, at each end of Jarmon's, that need further investigating, especially as none of the houses are yet occupied on the Bentlett's Development which will vastly increase the traffic flow when the development is fully sold. Cllr Goff will revert to Jennie Watson and discuss the issues raised. Lead DG

At this point in the meeting Cllr Goff tasked The Clerk with starting a dialogue with **Matthew Scott the Crime and Police Commissioner for Kent**.

## **Accounts Reconciliation & Finance Reports**

Copy documents sent electronically to all members in advance of the meeting.

### **01. BANK RECONCILIATION – August 2020**

Members unanimously approved the bank reconciliation.

### **02. RECONCILIATION STATEMENT – August 2020**

Cllr Goff will wet sign the reconciliation statement later.

### **03. RECORD OF PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS – August 2020**

Members unanimously approved the payments. There were no receipts for the month.

### **04. BUDGET REPORT**

Members unanimously approved the budget report and were asked to revert to The Clerk for any matters of clarification.

## **APPROVAL FOR SPENDS**

Members unanimously approved the payments as detailed.

**Village Hall – Lead** Cllrs. Goff; D.Papas; and A.Papas will meet to restart the process following the resignation of Simon Hill.

An advert will be placed on the CSN for Trustees. DG will progress this issue.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Sealey raised issue with the alleged illegal plane flying over the parish. The incident had been reported to our PCSO Nicola Morris who will progress the matter appropriately.

## **Matters for Discussion at the Next Meeting**

CIL Monies

**Date of Next Meetings** Next Virtual Full Council Meeting scheduled for **Monday 12th October 2020 commencing at 18.00hrs**. The agenda and the link are published on the Parish Website.

**Notes prepared by | ALAN CROCKER | Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council**

## USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

### CHURCH

Reverend Paul Kish 01622 814182  
Church Warden

Rachel West 01622 872278

### Sec to P.C.C.

Vicky George 01892 730239

### R.C Priest

Father Victor McLean 01580 211267

### KENT MESSENGER VILLAGE COLUMN

Jenny Scott jscott@callflow.uk 01892 459041

### PARISH MAGAZINE

#### Editor

Jacki Fogg 01892 730869

Emma Howard 01892 730245

Tracey Bentley (Advertising) 01892 730252

Email: [editorparishmag@mail.com](mailto:editorparishmag@mail.com)

### VILLAGE HALL

Chairman  
TBC

### HELPING HANDS

Margaret Ashworth 01892 730323  
(Age concern representative)

### SCHOOL

Headteacher Paul Ryan 01892 730264

### Chairman of Governors

Gareth Waterman TBC

### Friends of Collier Street School

Chair Person: Harriet Breslin

email [info@focss.org.uk](mailto:info@focss.org.uk)

### WOMANS INSTITUTE

Yalding President: Doreen Stanford 01622 813384

### Doctors Yalding Surgery

Dr Scott 01622 814380

### Marden Medical Centre

Drs Streeter, Potter, Morgan, Estall, DeCourcy

Hallinan & Wilford 01622 831257

### POLICE

PCSO Nicola Morris 07870163411

Non Emergency 101

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Barbara Grandi 01892 730376

### Paddock Wood Citizens Advice Bureau

08701 264856

### COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

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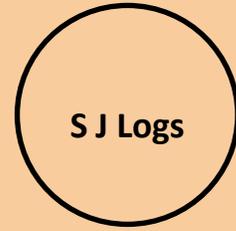


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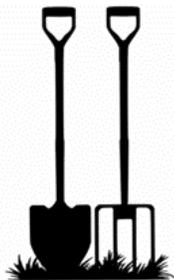
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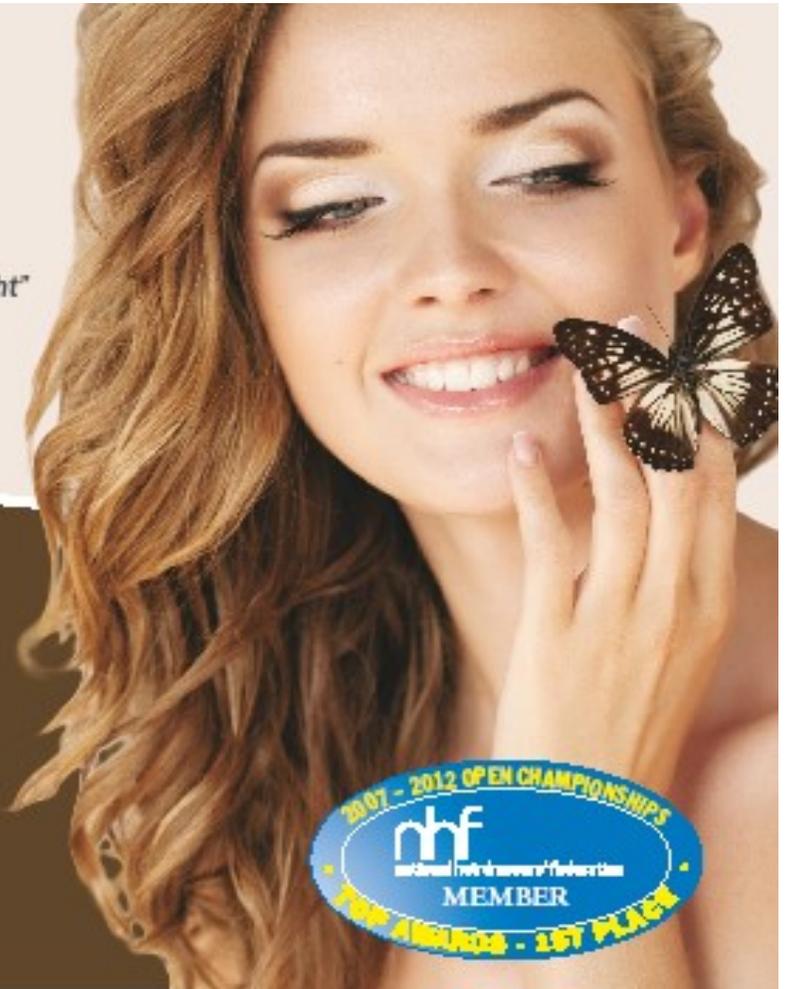
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