



Dates for your Diary: Christmas Events

November

Sunday 30th – 4pm – Advent Evensong

December:-

Saturday 13th – 2pm – Merry Movie and Mince Pie Melee at the Lads' Club

Sunday 14th – 4pm – Lessons and carols at Pedlinge

Friday 19th – 7pm – Benefice Christmas party at the Lads' Club

Sunday 21st – 3pm – Lessons and carols at Saltwood

Sunday 21st – 6pm – Carols at the Castle – Lympne

Wednesday 24th - 3pm – Traditional Crib Service at Saltwood (and at the same time, a contemporary Crib Service at Lympne)

Wednesday 24th – 7pm – Blue Christmas at Lympne church

Wednesday 24th - 11.30pm – Midnight mass at Saltwood church

Thursday 25th - Christmas Day Hooba family Communion at Saltwood church

January

Sunday 11th - 4pm – Bonfire and bangers at Saltwood church

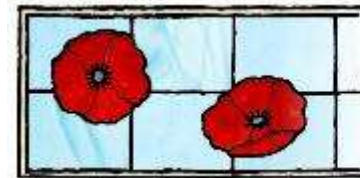
Finishing with a Smile ... There are two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning!"



50p (or £5 per annum)

SALTWOOD PARISH MAGAZINE

Saltwood and Lympne benefice



November
2025

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Parish magazine: Beth Lewsey 01303 264577

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ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER MAGAZINE

If you have any items for the December edition of the magazine, please forward to Beth Lewsey, by the **24th November** by email if possible, to: parishmagazine@saltwoodchurch.org or deliver to 20 Castle Avenue. (Tel 01303 264577).

*N.B. Copies of the parish magazine can be found under the tab 'Newsletters' on our website: lympneandsaltwoodchurches.org.uk
The 'e' version may contain extra material, so it's always worth a look!*



Castle Green WI

<https://castlegreenwi.org.uk/>

President Christine Farquhar welcomed thirty-five members and one visitor to the October meeting.

Kay was thanked for the flowers and coffee hostesses Caroline, Nicky and Julie were also thanked. The record of the last meeting was approved and signed.

Christine drew our attention to the various flyers and other information about Federation events etc. The committee are busy organising the programme for 26/27 and would welcome any suggestions for future speakers.

Sub-Groups. The subgroups all met in October except the Gardening Group (November 18th) and the Patchwork Group (November 4th) Please see our website for details.

Christmas Lunch at Sotirios November 26th. The balance (BT or cheques only) to Wendy Richards and menu choices to Julia Clark by November 14th meeting.

After coffee, biscuits and chatting, we welcomed Richard Andrews whose talk was entitled Everyday IT for Castle Green WI. Back in 2020 when we were all in lockdown Richard got Castle Green WI up and running on Zoom before most other WIs. We held our monthly meetings and even had a cookery competition! Richard took us through all the things that we come across in our daily use of IT in a clear manner and later answered questions. This was an informative and interesting talk. Christine F gave the vote of thanks. The tables were then quickly re-arranged for members to enjoy a lunch of leek and potato soup (with added nutmeg) and rolls. Our thanks goes to those who organised and served the lunch.

The next meeting will be on **November 14th** when we will “having a go” at the following crafts. Bookmarks, Tea light jar decoration, Form -A-Line cards, A Snowman, Paper Angels or a Father Christmas. Please see our website for details

Margaret Alcock

Folkestone Choral Society

Conductor: Lucy Gove
Orchestra Leader: Stelios Chatziiosifidis

Bach Magnificat Haydn Nelson Mass Bach Orchestral Suite No 3

Saturday 1st November
at 3.00pm
Holy Trinity Church
Sandgate Road, Folkestone

Tickets £15 - under 18's no charge
Brandon's Music Shop 55 High St. Hythe - 01303 264429
On the door & Choral Society Members
Online: wegottickets.com



Charity No: 275075
www.folkestonechoralsociety.org

A Letter from the Rector

Dear All

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the significance of remembrance and gratitude. This month, we prepare to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our freedoms, particularly on Remembrance Sunday, 9th November. As we reflect on their bravery, let us also take a moment to appreciate the little things that people do for us every day.

Join us as we gather to remember and honour the fallen heroes of our armed forces at 10am at Saltwood Church, and 10:50am at both Saltwood Green and Lympe War Memorial. We will have special services featuring readings, hymns, and reflections. We encourage everyone to wear a poppy as a symbol of remembrance. We will observe a moment of silence at 11:00am.

In our busy lives, it's easy to overlook the small acts of kindness that surround us. This month, let's focus on gratitude for the everyday gestures that enrich our lives:

Think about our neighbours. A simple smile or a word of thanks can brighten someone's day. Consider taking a moment to express your appreciation for those around you.

Give a thought to all the volunteers in our community. Many of our church activities rely on the dedication of volunteers. Whether it's setting up for services, organising events, or simply lending a listening ear, let's acknowledge their hard work and commitment.

Consider acts of kindness. Small acts, like holding the door open, sharing a cup of tea, or offering a compliment, can create a ripple effect of positivity in our community. Let's challenge ourselves to perform at least one act of kindness each week.

As we move towards Advent, we will begin our preparations for the upcoming season with our Advent Evensong at Saltwood, on Sunday 30th November at 4pm. See our weekly newsletter or the list of dates in this monthly newsletter for the dates of all our festive services and events.

This month let's take time to reflect on the sacrifices made by many and the small blessings that enrich our daily lives. As we remember, let us also commit to expressing gratitude to those who serve us, whether in our church community or beyond.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church and community. We look forward to seeing you this November as we honour the past and embrace the present with grateful hearts.

Blessings,

Rev Barry



When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away your ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.

– Corrie ten Boom

Trench 1 revealed a wall, 2 floor tiles, a post hole, Roman pottery sherds and coins. Lead and slag was found too indicating the possible presence of a small industrial unit. Trench 2 contained part of a 3 vessel cremation burial including a Samian ware dish c.AD145-185, also hobnails from a pair of Roman boots or shoes. Trench 3 produced around 60 coins mainly from the early 4th century AD, box flue tile fragments and animal bones. A Stone Age axe head was found too during a field walk near Oathill cottages indicating how long humans may have inhabited this area, possibly due to the nearby supply of water from springs along the escarpment.

2023/2024 Excavations on the edge of the escarpment revealed the lower part of a dressed stone wall, 1.9 metres wide. Due to its size and position overlooking Romney Marsh and the Channel it is likely to be part of a defensive structure but no one investigated until SHAL's dig. The excavations produced building materials, pottery, glass, bones, metal and coins. Analysis of these and around 600 coins, discovered by our 3 detectorists, is in progress.

Treasure! Our most exciting find - a 1st century AD Roman foot lamp - was found by Neil Green. It is the only one of its kind from excavations done in the UK. After analysis by the British Museum and signing off by a Coroner, the foot lamp was officially declared treasure! We hope it will be displayed in the British Museum. A professional report is in progress.

Thanks to the Owens and the Hurleys for allowing digs on their land.

The Future includes more investigations of the defensive structure, searching for a road from Stutfall to Canterbury, and more research on how Carausius and Alectus are associated with Lympe.

Next meeting – 7.30 pm on 18th November 2025 at the Harry Margary Hall, Lympe - "Talk on the Royal Military Canal by Michael Steed." If you would like to become a member of SHAL please email Rosemary Stutchbury at rosemary@stutchbury.myzen.co.uk.

SHAL: Studying History and Archaeology in Lympne

Lympne History and Archaeology: The Story So Far - A talk by Guy Topham

Guy Topham gave an excellent presentation about SHAL over the years with Peter Murphy providing a seamless display of photos and a video to accompany Guy's talk. Guy reminded us that Lympne is steeped in history and archaeology to explore. Here are some highlights:

2014-2016 - Stutfall Fort - The archaeologist Malcolm Davies acknowledged with thanks SHAL's and Kent Archaeological Society's (KAS's) assistance in carrying out resistivity and magnetometry surveys and other field work. Stutfall Fort covered around 9 acres and was built with blocks from earlier buildings, including an altar stone. The fort, often known today as Stutfall Castle, was built c. 275 AD and was one of the Saxon shore forts. Malcolm Davies' report on his excavations of Stutfall Fort can be obtained from the KAS's website.

Two significant characters sometimes associated with Romans in Lympne are Carausius and Alectus.

2017 - Shepway Cross was cleaned and restored by SHAL. Erected at the top of Lympne Hill in 1923 on the site of the ancient Court of Shepway (or Shipway) it was unveiled by the Archbishop of Canterbury. A video of the ceremony is obtainable from British Pathé News.

2018 - Magnetometry and resistivity done on fields near Shepway Cross were overseen by the archaeologist Richard Taylor and these showed interesting areas for investigation.

2022 - Informed by results of the 2018 research, 3 trenches were dug and the excavations overseen by Richard. To everyone's delight a Roman roadside settlement was found.

Diary – St Peter and St Paul



November
2025



Sunday 2nd <i>All Saints Day</i>	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
	09.45	Bubble Church in the Lads' Club
	09.40	Prayer Meeting in the Lady Chapel (and each following Sunday)
	10.00	Holy Communion
	15.00	All Souls Service of Commemoration for the Departed
Monday 3rd	14.00	Monday Chats in the Lads' Club - and each following Monday
Tuesday 4th	N.B.	Our Rector's day off – and each following Tuesday
Wednesday 5th	10 – 11.30	Toddler Group in the Lads' Club – and each following Wednesday
	14.00	Afternoon Prayer Groups at 34 Harpwood Lane
Thursday 6th	18.00-19.00	Bell Ringing Practice – and each following Thursday
	19.00	Choir Practice – and each following Thursday
Friday 7th	N.B.	Carol Eastell's day off – and each following Friday
	09.00	Prayer Group in the Church – and each following Friday

Sunday 9th <i>3rd before Advent</i>	09.00	Holy Communion BCP at Pedlinge
	10.00	Holy Communion <i>followed by:-</i> Act of Remembrance on the Green
Saturday 15th	10.30	Creative Arts Day at Lymppne
	15.45	Messy Church at the Lads' Club
Sunday 16th <i>2nd before Advent</i>	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00	Holy Communion - and Sunday Club in the Lads' Club
Saturday 22nd	10.30	Coffee Morning at Lymppne
Sunday 23rd <i>Sunday next before Advent</i>	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00	Hooba Family Service
Wednesday 26th	14.00	Cinema Club in the Lads' Club
Sunday 30th <i>Advent 1</i>	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
	10.00	Benefice service of Holy Communion
	16.00	Advent Evensong at Saltwood (and Christingle Service at Lymppne)



From The Parish Records

We welcome into the family of the Church:

Hannah Luckett, who was baptised on
12th October

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, LYMPNE

Coffee Morning



SATURDAY 22nd November

10.30 am - 12.30pm

- *Join us for coffee, cake & savoury bakes*
- *Take a break while out for that walk (well-behaved dogs welcome)*
- *Catch up with old friends and new*

**Proceeds to maintenance of the church plus
a donation to the month's nominated charity**

Guide Dogs
Folkstone & Hythe District

Mondays 19:30-21:30 - Bell ringing Practice (each week)

Friday mornings (every other week) - Home Group - Speak to Monica or Peter

Saturday mornings 10:30 - 12:30 Eco group working churchyard (when dry)

N.B. - The monthly evening 'Hope' meetings will be paused for a few months (with darker evenings), and we will reconsider options for April 2026.

Lympne Fellowship

Last month we enjoyed a lively and enthusiastic session of book recommendations and discussion of our reading habits and preferences. Some recommendations included:

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett - a huge and absorbing tale of the building of a cathedral

At Home in Mitford by Jan Karon - a comfort-blanket read with characters you get to know and love

The Surgeon of Crowthorne by Simon Winchester - a non-fiction book about the origins of the dictionary

Salt on your Tongue by Charlotte Runcie - tales of women and the sea

The Instrumentalist by Harriet Constable - a fictional historical delight

That's just a handful. Also popular were works by Anne Youngson, Neil Oliver, Anton Du Beke and Susan Sallis, along with crime novels by Rob Rinder, Richard Coles, Ann Cleves and Richard Osman.

Our next meeting, on **Thursday 11th November**, will be our Christmas Craft session led by Rosemarie Hoad.

Lympne Fellowship normally meets at 1.15pm in the Harry Margary Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month, with a programme of interesting and informative talks and activities.

For further information about the group, please contact **Jill Page on 07846 819693**.

A Prayer for the month of November

Heavenly Father,
Here we are in November –
the month of short, dark
days. A dreary, difficult
month, unless you have a
birthday! Lord, it seems as if
the world is permanently in
November at the moment.
So much is so difficult for so
many people, through no
fault of their own. And it
seems to go on and on.

Lord, would You bring your
healing light into the world's
darkness. Bring
transformation, compassion
and a softening into the
hearts of those with
responsibility for the conflict
and the suffering, that they
might work for peace for all
people. We know that
nothing is impossible for you,
Lord, so we pray in faith –
and in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

(By Daphne Kitching)



INTERCESSIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Today we pray especially for.....



- 1 Those who live in Turnpike Hill, Britten Close and Spanton Crescent
- 2 Those who mourn the death of a loved one
- 3 St Mary the Virgin Elham
- 4 Those who minister in our residential homes
- 5 Those who maintain our community
- 6 Those who live in Rectory Lane and Victoria Place
- 7 Sunday Club
- 8 Hythe Community Sponsorship
- 9 Our local GPs
- 10 Bishop Sarah, as she awaits her installation as the next Archbishop of Canterbury
- 11 Those who live in Old London Road, Redbrooks Way, Summer Close and Sunny Bank
- 12 Those unable to attend church, thinking particularly of those known to you
- 13 The homeless, thinking particularly of those known to you
- 14 Brockhill Park Performing Arts College – staff and pupils
- 15 St Martin's Cheriton, All Soul's Cheriton and St Nicholas Newington
- 16 Those who live in Grange Road and School Road
- 17 The Church Army
- 18 Those who seek Christ
- 19 Residential and nursing homes – their staff and residents
- 20 Sidesmen and welcomers
- 21 Those who live in Castle Avenue, Lookers Lane and Quarry Road
- 22 Those who represent us – in parish, district and county councils and in Parliament
- 23 Those who help lead our worship
- 24 Those parts of the world suffering from natural disasters and all those seeking to relieve the suffering these cause
- 25 St Leonard's Hythe, St Michael's Anglican and Methodist Centre and Holy Cross Palmarsh
- 26 Those who live in Brockhill Road and Seaton Avenue

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, LYMPNE



Services & Events in November

Sunday 2nd Nov	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 9th Nov	10:50am Family Service Starts next to the War Memorial
Sunday 16th Nov	11am Morning Worship
Sunday 23rd Nov	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 30th Nov	10am Benefice Communion at Saltwood 4pm Christingle Service at Lympe 4pm Advent Evensong at Saltwood

Looking Ahead:

Saturday 15th November - Christmas Creative Arts Day
 Sunday 14th December - 11am - Family Nativity Service
 Sunday 21st December 6pm - Carols at the Castle
 Christmas Eve 24th - 3pm Crib Service (in Lympe church as well as at Saltwood)
 Christmas Eve 24th - 7pm Blue Christmas Service at Lympe
 Midnight service this year will just be at Saltwood.

Regular Events:

Mondays 12:-30-1pm (every other week) - Prayer Meeting
 Mondays 5pm (every other week) - Home Group - Speak to Valerie or Rachel

Blue Christmas Service

As plans for Christmas services are announced a few people are asking about the Blue Christmas Service.

It is simply a service designed for people who are “feeling blue” and find continual mention of the “joy of Christmas” difficult. It is sometimes also known as “Longest Night Service”.

Intended to offer honesty and compassion instead of cheery jingles. Reflecting that Christ’s light comes into darkness and offers hope.

Helpful for many people - people worried about the future, people who are grieving, people supporting someone who is struggling or those wanting an alternative to ‘Christmas joy’.



- 27 The armed forces and their families
- 28 The Folkestone Rainbow Centre
- 29 Those coping with debt and unemployment, thinking particularly of those known to you
- 30 Those who live in Blue House Lane, Sandy Lane & the A20, Saltwood

PRAYER MINISTRY on Sundays at Saltwood



Every Sunday, at the end of the morning service at Saltwood, there is an opportunity for anyone to receive prayer, with two members of our Prayer Ministry Team.

If you are concerned for someone in your family, a friend or a worrying situation, we would be honoured to pray with you. You will not be asked any invasive questions, and your request is always treated in complete confidence. We trust you will find these prayers bring you the Lord's blessings - as many people have already experienced. We look forward to welcoming you in prayer.

Saltwood Church Pastoral Group

*'And let us look out for one another to provoke love and good works'
(Hebrews 10:24)*

Our Pastoral Group meets monthly to seek ways of offering support to those who are going through difficult or challenging times. If you know someone you are concerned about, or if you have concerns yourself, please contact us. You will always find a friendly voice and a listening ear at the end of the line.

Caring for others is at the heart of Christian life and you can help us by being our eyes and ears, letting us know of anyone who is in need.

Contacts: 01303 266454

01303 883243



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Hello everyone, I hope those of you with children at school have enjoyed a relaxing and well deserved half-term break, or did you find it stressful?

Well, here's the answer! Come and join us to relax and unwind on Thursday evenings 7pm-8pm. If you don't want to sing you can just come and listen; bring the children too if it's not too late for them. You'd be most welcome. There are so many benefits from singing with a choir, far too many to list here, but first and foremost, it makes you happy; also builds confidence; good for physical and mental health; and my favourite - you get to sing fabulous hymns, and anthems (last Sunday 19th Oct we sang Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus); not forgetting carols at Christmas with descants! Just the best way ever, not only to relax and unwind, it's also energising at the same time. So give it some thought, Again, those of you with teenagers will need no reminding that the mock GCSE weeks are here and you will need all the stress-busting help you can get!

We are rehearsing now for our All Souls Service on 2nd November in the afternoon, where we remember our departed loved ones. Do come along and join in with our peaceful hour of hymns, anthems and prayers. Rehearsals continue throughout November for our Advent Evensong Service on 30th, again in the afternoon, and looking ahead to the Christmas season there will be the Carol Service on 21st December with the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

As a choir, we welcome feedback and would really like to know your thoughts, ideas, suggestions etc, so please come along to our practices and see what we do, you will be most welcome.

Fran Dyer

From Rachel Cornish and Chris Laker (Wardens at Lympne):

Churchyard update.

Lympne has a new multistorey hotel! A variety of accommodation styles ranging from penthouse suites furnished with drilled wood, to ground floor step-free access rooms with plenty of warm bedding.



And following the success of the event in the summer, A Christmas themed Creative Art day is planned in the middle of November:



It seemed to me that we were honouring Father God and also each other in our church family. Together we can make a difference. Just a thought.

From John Campbell: -

First, about coffee after the service.

We're blessed with plenty of space between the Lady Chapel and the font, yet somehow, we end up crowding round the coffee table like bees round a honeypot. The first few people collect their cups, turn to greet a friend, and before you know it there's a cheerful but rather immovable wall of conversation — and those still queuing have to weave their way through with full cups and anxious expressions! Could I gently ask that, once you've collected your coffee, you move away from the serving table and fill the space beyond it? It would make life easier for everyone, and we'd have the pleasure of using more of that open area for our after-service chats.

Second, a word about prayer.

Each Sunday two members of our after-service prayer team sit quietly in the sanctuary by the altar. They're there for anyone who would like prayer — whether for themselves or someone else. Some make good use of this, but many who could benefit never come forward. Perhaps it's embarrassment, perhaps a sense of self-sufficiency, or a feeling that their concern is too small or too personal. Yet this is a God-given gift: a moment of quiet ministry, one to another, in absolute confidence. Nothing is ever shared outside the prayer itself, and the team are truly unshockable, and never will they judge you.

There have been some wonderful answers to prayer — blessings that have surprised and delighted us, reminders of just how faithful God is when we take our concerns to Him. He wants to be involved in the smallest details of our lives as well as in the great crises. Nothing is too trivial for God, and nothing is too great that He cannot help. So please do come. You won't be sorry.



Saltwood Cinema Club

on Wednesday 26th November

at 2pm in the Lads' Club

BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND

Charles, an eccentric lottery winner, lives a solitary life on a remote island and harbours a dream of reuniting his favourite musicians, McGwyer Mortimer. To his surprise, the bandmates and former lovers accept his invitation and travel to **Wallis Island** for a private show at his home.

Cost £5 per person to include tea and cake

All proceeds to the Lads' Club Funds

From the Parish Magazine – NOVEMBER 2005

Thanks were given to all who had helped at the annual Autumn Fair, ending with this **'Recipe for a Good Autumn Fair'**

1. Wear your nearly new apron
2. Take nine varied stalls
3. Sprinkle with interesting objects
4. Shake in bric-a-brac and a raffle
5. Blend with a friendly supportive feeling
6. Add plenty of jams, cakes and chutneys
7. Mix with numerous fresh green plants
8. Colour with books, toys and handicrafts
9. Flavour with lots of rashers of bacon
10. Pour in large amounts of tea and coffee
11. Strengthen with a perfectly cohesive team
12. Serve quickly to a large number of visitors

Before the delights of harvest are forgotten, Roger Martin shares:

THE GARDENERS HYMN

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all*

But what we never mention,
Though gardeners know it's true
Is when He made the goodies,
He made the baddies too!

*Refrain: All things spray - and swattable,
disasters great and small
All things paraquatable,
the Lord God made them all*

The greenfly on the roses,
The maggots on our peas
Manure that fills our noses,
He also gave us these
Refrain All things spray - and swattable

The fungus on the goose-gogs,
The club root on the greens
The slugs that eat the lettuce,
and chew our aubergines
Refrain All things spray - and swattable

The drought that kills the fuchsias,
The frost that nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
The blight that hits the spuds
(Refrain All things spray - and swattable)

WARDENS' CORNER

From Carol Eastell: -

We would like to have a small table in the church which would fit in the corner beside the light sofa. This would be to put the prayer tree on and space for a cup of coffee – that sort of thing. So with that in mind and before we launch out to buy one, we thought it would be worth checking to see if any of you had got one going spare

Monday Chats

We are hoping to have a Christmas Lunch at the Castle pub in Saltwood, so have provisionally booked for Monday 15 December. The landlady was very enthusiastic. They have a new chef, so lunches at The Castle will hopefully be just the job for us all, especially Seniors when I think on Wednesdays, we get a special price! Perhaps it is worth being old after all! The Christmas lunch being offered to us is £18.99 so if you are interested, let me know (07795100441).

They are not quite open for lunches yet as they are awaiting the arrival of a new oven. Anyway, let Carol know if any of you are interested. (07795100441).

The 15th will be our last meeting before Christmas but we will be getting together again on Monday 5 January.

Prayer

Afternoon Prayer is at Penny's home, 34 Harpswood Lane, as usual on Wednesday 5 November at 2 pm. It would be so nice if you could join us in prayer and fellowship.

I know some of you have said the 24 hour prayer was put out at short notice, but it was necessary for several reasons and it was wonderful that so many of us could come together in prayer. Hopefully next time we will be able to have more time and be better organised. I think my view of the prayer day was that even if we were praying away from the church we were praying together as a church family bonded in prayer.

Proposed by Garden Gang & Church estate management

One large cherry tree in the West felled. One lime tree in the lower North reduced.

Following frost damage to the brick work to the wall both sides of the lych-gate on the South/West had to be repointed and repaired by a professional. The remainder of the wall on the South side has been cleared of ivy/brambles etc. and further pointing has been completed by a member of the garden gang.

Metal work underneath the notice board, at the main entrance to the path leading to the lych-gate has been replaced.

Purchase of a new shed to replace the concrete shed at the bottom of the church yard. Hard standing and erection of shed - completed by garden gang.

Purchase of hedging to replace the hedging around the flood lights at the front of the church.

Donations Welcome!

I/We enclose a donation of..... (cheques payable to 'The Friends of Saltwood Churchyard')

Please tick the box if you would like to make this donation under Gift Aid allowing the Church to recover the income tax already paid.

☐

Signed.....

Address.....

Kindly send your donation to:

John Hall, Treasurer, 116 North Road, Hythe, CT21 5DY e-mail
johnhall.ba@outlook.com

Please tick this box if you require a receipt ☐

If you would prefer to donate by bank transfer, the account name is 'PCC of Saltwood, the number is 61710202 and the sort code **52-41-42**

The midges and mosquitoes,
The nettles and the weeds
The pigeons in the green stuff,
the sparrows on the seeds
Refrain All things spray - and swattable

The fly that gets the carrots,
The wasp that eats the plums
How black the gardener's outlook,
though green may be his thumbs!
Refrain All things spray - and swattable

But still we gardeners labour,
Midst vegetables and flowers
And pray what hits our neighbours,
will somehow bypass ours!

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all*



FRIENDS OF SALTWOOD CHURCHYARD



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2025

Dear Friend,

This year the Churchyard looked wonderful in Spring with the snowdrops, daffodils, primroses and cyclamen in full bloom, neat and tidy all through the summer and autumn, with many compliments received.

This reflects all the hard work put in by Des, Rita and all the team who have looked after the Churchyard throughout the year.

Our churchyard gang turn up regularly each Wednesday morning to look after the churchyard, have a chat, socialise and enjoy coffee and cake. We have also been joined during the Spring and Summer months by students from Brockhill School as part of our community engagement with the school.

New volunteers are always welcome. I would like to have listed all the work that the Garden Gang has achieved in 2024/2025 so a copy of their Annual Report is set out below. It is truly amazing what volunteers can achieve!

I have retired as Treasurer for The Friends and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support. My successor is John Hall

With best wishes, Laurie Maxfield,

Achieved by the volunteers 2024/2025

Removal of dead box hedges in the West, North and around all three flood lights at the front of the church.

New hedging has been planted around the floodlights. The area around the Remembrance garden has been levelled and the grass has grown. Primroses have been planted to come out in the Spring.

The fencing in the upper car park has been made good and a boundary bank created; this has stopped people walking directly from the footpath into the car park.

Drainage pipe dug underneath the compost area to prevent excess rain water collecting in the lower car park.

Church kitchen roof cleared of moss/lichen.

Water tank – rotten wood removed and replaced.

Since April 2025

Wood chippings put on exposed mud areas of older graves to suppress weeds. This task has been mainly completed by a team of volunteer students and their teacher from Brockhill Park School.

The large shed has been painted green.

Two large trees came down in high winds and had to be cut up, one narrowly missed the large shed.

Slabs beneath a bench in the lower North have been levelled and reinstated to accommodate a new bench.

Some iron posts underneath the notice board at the entrance to the church path have been replaced. Mowing/ hedge cutting. Yew hedge, that borders the farmer's field, cut twice a year. Servicing and maintenance of equipment done by Des.

Gutter maintenance.

Digging plots for interments.

Levelling graves where weather conditions have caused them to sink. It is important to note that the maintenance of graves/headstones is the responsibility of the families.

Weekly maintenance of the approach to the church done by Rita.