interesting and stirred many memories. Photos are on the website. Wendy R gave the vote of thanks.

The next meeting will be on December 11th which will include, mince pies, mulled wine, a special raffle and "much more"!

Margaret Alcock

Finishing with a Smile

In class little Jamie drew a picture of his favourite Christmas carol, Silent Night. His Sunday School teacher noted: "I see the manger with baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the star, and the shepherds, and three wise men. But who is the overweight man in the corner?"

Jamie replied: "That's round John Virgin."



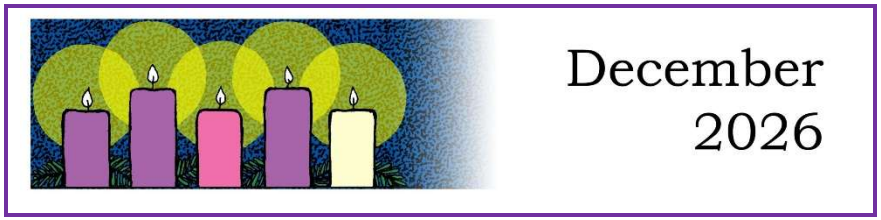
50p



(or £5 per annum)

SALTWOOD PARISH MAGAZINE

Saltwood and Lympne benefice



Useful Contacts:
Rector - Rev Barry Knott: Telephone: 01303 883243

email: rector@saltwoodchurch.org

Church website: www.lympneandsaltwoodchurches.org.uk

Parish Pastoral Support: 0300 030 1330

Children & Families Ministry (including weddings and baptisms) – Christine Clover:

Telephone: 0300 030 1662

email: christineclover@lympneandsaltwoodchurches.uk

Lads' Club Bookings: Jan Heard 01303 266945

email: jan.entendu@gmail.com

Parish magazine: Beth Lewsey 01303 264577
email: bethlewsey@hotmail.com

ITEMS FOR THE JANUARY MAGAZINE

If you have any items for the January edition of the magazine, please forward to Beth Lewsey, by the **24th December (but preferably before that!)** 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-seven members and one guest to our November meeting. The record of the last meeting was approved and signed.

Coffee hostesses Mandy E, Julie M and Romany C were thanked as were Sue C on the sales table and Diane T for the raffle. Dee M-P was thanked for the flower arrangement.

On Remembrance Sunday Sarah Hatchard laid the wreath on behalf of members during the service at Saltwood War Memorial.

The Treasurer gave a short financial report.

East Kent Federation. Sue Cox and Carol Kenny have been nominated for the annual Rose Bowl Award for their work in starting the Gardening Group.

NFWI. The resolutions for next year's NFWI Annual Meeting have been published and will be discussed in the New Year.

Sub-groups. Please see website for details.

Members were invited to put their names forward for the special £100.00 Christmas Educational Bursary which will be drawn at the December meeting.

After coffee, cake and chat our fellow member Dawn Neale led us through the world of fashion using photographs of members wearing outfits that had a special significance for them. Dawn also showed a short film of the impact "fast fashion" has on the environment. Dawn's presentation was

Britain! Andrew told us that, incredibly, Google Earth had taken a photo of the field just after the sword was found. This revealed disturbed earth that coincided with Robert Goodfellow's recollection of the sword's location, so this helped enormously when choosing an excavation site. The dig was led by Professor Duncan Sayer of the University of Central Lancashire. The hollow where the sword had lain was found, and a gold pendant, known as a bracteate, was also discovered in the cemetery. Maybe it had belonged to a woman and was a treasured keepsake; we just do not know.

So why is our title the 'Lord of the Ring Sword?' Andrew told us that the owner must have been a high-status person as the sword hilt was crafted with silver-gilt fittings and intricate decoration and inlay. It had a ring attached to the pommel, which was uncommon and may have been added after the sword's creation. It is speculated that rings of this nature could have represented a bond, an oath of allegiance or have been given as a gift, as described in Beowulf, an Old English poem. The sword was X-rayed, revealing metal that had been hammered and twisted to create a beautiful herringbone pattern. It was still in its leather scabbard, etched with chevrons, and lined with fur (possibly beaver) which helped protect the blade with its natural oils. It was a work of art but, nevertheless, a lethal weapon of war, to be used in combat on the ground or on horseback.

Grave goods and skeletons are adding greatly to our knowledge of the people who lived in the area before us, for example a stone mould with remnants of metal, found in a woman's grave, suggests that women may have been involved in metalworking, an activity usually associated with men. One skeleton was of a young man with a twisted spine (maybe a condition like scoliosis) buried with a shield and sword. This leads us to speculate how he may have been regarded by the community and to wonder what his burial tells us about his status There will be another dig in 2027, making further use of technology including magnetometry and other geophysical techniques, together with DNA analysis of the recovered skeletons.

Andrew concluded by suggesting that we may be able to learn more about these people than any other population in Kent. We will be able to tell their stories and bring these 'forgotten' men and women back into the human fold. What a wonderful sentiment to end on.

SHAL's next talk is on 19th January, 2027. Email our chair for details: r.stutchbury1@gmail.com

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear All,

As December arrives, the days grow even shorter and the evenings draw in. Advent meets us in this season of waiting and preparation, reminding us that even in the darkness, light is coming.

The Christmas story begins in a world that knew uncertainty, hardship and fear. Into that darkness came the hope of a child, Jesus, the light of the world. Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness, to make room for that hope, and to look for signs of God's light in our homes, our community and the lives of those around us.

There are many ways to share in this season at church, whether you come every week or haven't joined us for a while. Alongside our regular worship, we'll be gathering for additional Advent and Christmas events and services. These offer space to sing familiar carols, hear the story afresh, enjoy time together and prepare for Christmas in a thoughtful, welcoming way. You are warmly invited to come along, and to bring family, friends or neighbours.

Some services will be joyful and full of celebration; others may offer a quieter space for reflection. However you are feeling this December, there is room for you. You don't need to know what to do or say: simply come as you are. Our church community is here to welcome you.

Advent is also a time to notice where light is needed. A kind word, a shared meal, a listening ear or a small act of generosity can help bring warmth and hope to someone else. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, may we carry his light into the places where people feel lonely, anxious or forgotten.

Please keep an eye on our church notices for dates and times of the additional events and services. You should have received a card through

your door listing all our Christmas services and events. You will find them in this magazine too. We would love to see you there. And if you know someone who might appreciate an invitation, please bring them along.

May this Advent be a season of hope, peace and renewed expectation for us all. As we wait for the coming of Jesus, may his light shine in the darkness, and may the darkness not overcome it.

Have a very blessed Christmas.

Rev Barry



Lympne Fellowship

LYMPNE FELLOWSHIP WISHES EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

First of all, our thanks go to Rosemarie Hoad who, at our November meeting, lead us with great patience through the process of making a Wise Owl Christmas decoration. We all enjoyed the process and came away feeling a sense of achievement and pride.

Now, as we are into the Festive Season, we look forward to our Christmas Party with games, bring & share buffet and Secret Santa – always a fun and social time to end what has been, as always, an eventful year.

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 our group, please contact **Jill Page on 07846 819693.**

STUDYING HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN LYMPNE (SHAL)

Talk and Presentation by Dr Andrew Richardson FSA: 'The Lord of the Ring Sword – Recent Discoveries at an Anglo-Saxon Cemetery in East Kent'.

What a fabulous treat we had this evening, listening to Dr Andrew Richardson's talk on the Anglo-Saxon sword and the extraordinary good fortune of its discovery in 2021 on Stowting Parish Field. Kent has over two hundred Anglo-Saxon cemeteries and burial sites. Finds over the years include swords, spearheads, jewellery, buckles, ivory and precious stones, some items originating from lands far overseas. One cemetery was excavated by the Reverend Wrench in Stowting in 1844, after road improvements uncovered it. More than thirty burials were found in the chalk, along with weapons, beads, pots and bowls. Further investigations by John Brent in 1866 and 1868 and Charles Brent in 1881 brought the total to approximately sixty-six graves. Stowting Parish Field yielded more of its hidden past in 2021 when father and son, Tony and Robert Goodfellow, were metal-detecting and found one of the best-preserved high-status sixth century Anglo-Saxon swords ever found in

Lympne Church Coffee Morning



SATURDAY 12th December - 10.30am - 12.30pm

Get into the spirit of Christmas

Mulled wine, refreshments, festive cakes & savoury bakes

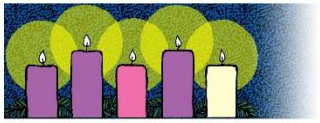


Well-behaved dogs welcome.

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

HOME FARM TRUST (Lympne Place)

Diary – St Peter and St Paul



December 2026



Tuesday 1st	N.B.	Our Rector's day off – *and each following Tuesday*
Wednesday 2nd	10 – 11.30	Toddler Group in the Lads' Club – *and on 9th, before the Christmas break*
	14.00	Afternoon Prayer Group at 34 Harpswood Lane
Thursday 3rd	18.00-19.00	Bell Ringing Practice – *and each following Thursday*
	19.00	Choir Practice – *and each following Thursday*
Friday 4th	09.00	Prayer Group in the Church – *and each following Friday*
Sunday 6th	08.00	Holy Communion BCP
Advent 2	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	'Blue Christmas' service at Lympne
Monday 7th	14.00	Monday Chats in the Lads' Club - *and each following Monday*
Tuesday 8th	19.00	Carols on the Green

Friday 11th	10.30	Funeral: Jean Murphy
Saturday 12th	10.30	Coffee Morning at Lympne
Sunday 13th *Advent 3*	10.00 16.00	Holy Communion Carols at Pedlinge
Wednesday 16th	14.00	Cinema Club in the Lads' Club
Saturday 19th	18.00	Carols at the Castle (Lympne)
Sunday 20th *Advent 4*	08.00 10.00 15.00	Holy Communion BCP Holy Communion Service of Lessons and Carols
Thursday 24th *Christmas Eve*	15.00 23.30	Traditional Crib Service Midnight Mass
Friday 25th *Christmas Day*	08.00 10.00	Holy Communion Family Christmas Service
Sunday 27th *Christmas 1*	11.00	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Lympne

ADVANCE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday January 10th, 4pm – Christingle with Bonfire and bangers



He who has no Christmas in his heart will never find Christmas under a tree.
- R. Smith

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, LYMPNE



Services & Events in December

Sunday 6th	11am Holy Communion
	3pm Blue Christmas Service
Saturday 12th	10.30am Coffee Morning
Sunday 13th	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday 20th	11am Christingle Carol Service
Thursday 24th	4pm Traditional Crib Service
Sunday 27th	11am Benefice Service of Holy Communion

Regular Events:

Mondays 12.30-1pm (every other week) - Prayer Meeting

Mondays 5pm (every other week) - Home Group - Speak to Valerie or Rachel

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)



Folkestone Choral Society



A Prayer for the month of DECEMBER



Father God,

We need Good News! The world is confusing and uncertain. Every day brings new worries and messages of wars and doom, in this world of power-crazy leaders and technology that threatens our existence. We need Good News!

And you have given us Good News. You sent Your Son, Jesus, to save us from our selfishness. Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus the Light in the darkness, the Light who has overcome the darkness once and for all. Jesus, Your gift at Christmas. Jesus, our Best News ever.

To all who receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God (John1:12). Help us to open our hearts, to receive Him afresh this Christmas and to know the assurance that we belong to you. Thank you, Father, for Jesus, for Christmas. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

INTERCESSIONS FOR DECEMBER



Today we pray especially for:

1 Those who live in Castle Road, Kiln Corner, The Close and Castle Crescent
2 Businesses in our parish
3 Our Toddler Groups
4 Those struggling with addiction, thinking particularly of those known to you
5 St Mary & St Ethelburga Lyminge, St Mary Postling and All Saints Stanford
6 Those who live in Cylinder Road and Freshfield Lane
7 Christian communities facing persecution
8 Our ministry team
9 Village community groups
10 Our own discipleship as a community of faith
11 Those who live in Fairlight Road and Harpswood Lane
12 John Campbell, , our Churchwarden, and the members of the PCC
13 Our local hospitals and their chaplaincy team
14 The King and the Royal Family
15 Those with physical and mental health needs and those who care for them, thinking particularly of those known to you
16 Our prayer groups
17 Those who live in New Road and The Coppice
18 Messy Church
19 Deanery Synod, its committees and officers
20 St Mary & St Eanswythe Folkestone, and St Peter Folkestone
21 Those who live in Tanners Hill, Tanners Hill Gardens and Deedes Close
22 Barry, our Rector
23 The bereaved and those who care for them, thinking particularly of those known to you
24 All those attending our Crib Service and Midnight mass tonight
25 Any who find it hard to be joyful today
26 Those who live on The Green, Old Saltwood Lane and Conway Close
27 St Luke Hawkinge and St Martin Acrise

And what does He ask of us in return? Simply that we believe Him and put our trust in what He has accomplished. There is nothing for us to earn, no standard of goodness we must first achieve, for Jesus Himself has met that standard through His perfect life and finished work upon the Cross. All He asks is that we believe in Him and receive what He has freely given. That is why the angel called His birth good news of great joy. From the glory of heaven to a manger in Bethlehem, and from that manger to the Cross and the empty tomb, all because God so loved the world.

Happy Christmas everyone.



But then the angel speaks. *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."* (Luke 2:10)

Here is something wonderful hidden in the original language. In verse 9, Luke describes the shepherds experiencing *great fear*. In verse 10, the angel announces *great joy*. The same Greek word for *great* appears in both expressions. Their great fear is answered by the promise of great joy. And what was this extraordinary news? *"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:11)

But now comes perhaps the most astonishing contrast of all. How would these shepherds recognise this Saviour? What sign would they be given? They would find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. Think about that for a moment. These men had just been overwhelmed by the glory of God. They had stood trembling before a heavenly messenger, surrounded by divine splendour, and soon the night would be filled with a multitude of the heavenly host praising God. Yet the object of all this heavenly celebration was a newborn child, lying in an animal's feeding trough. The glory of heaven was announcing a baby!

And this was no ordinary baby. This was the eternal Son of God, the One through whom all things were made, entering the world He had created. The One whose glory overwhelmed the shepherds had come among us in human flesh. As John would later write, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory."* (John 1:14)

Luke tells us that the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem, found Mary and Joseph and the Child, and then returned glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. What an extraordinary night it had been! They had begun it trembling before the glory of God and ended it rejoicing at the birth of their Saviour.

And here, surely, is the wonder of Christmas. The God whose glory overwhelms us has come into our world, not in terrifying splendour, but as a child whom ordinary people could relate to, approach, behold and love. But He came for a purpose far greater than His birth in Bethlehem. Jesus came to give His life upon the Cross, bearing the penalty for the sins of the world, and to rise again, so that everyone who believes in Him might be forgiven, reconciled to God and receive the free gift of eternal life.

28 Rose, Bishop of Dover and Darren, Archdeacon of Ashford
29 Folkestone Rainbow Centre
30 Your peace in the year to come



From The Parish Records

Our love and sympathy go to the family and friends of:

Andrew Beggs, whose funeral was on 10th November

Saltwood Church Pastoral Group

'And let us look out for one another to provoke love and good works'

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

WARDENS' CORNER

From John Campbell: -

Lessons and Carols – Sunday 20th December at 3.00 pm

Our traditional Service of Lessons and Carols will take place at St Peter and St Paul's, Saltwood, on Sunday 20th December at 3.00 pm. We shall be celebrating the wonderful story of Christmas together through the familiar readings and carols that we all know and love. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies, so do come ready to enjoy yourselves, meet friends and neighbours, and share in the joy and wonder of Christmas. Everyone is warmly welcome, and do bring your family and friends along too!

A Special Word of Appreciation for Our Rector

Have you had a good look at the *Hope in the Darkness* Christmas card, which sets out all the services taking place at Saltwood and Lympne between 29th November and 10th January? If you haven't, do take a moment to look at it, and particularly at the number and variety of services planned over those six weeks.

Now stop and think for a moment about what all that involves for Barry. Every service has to be thought through, planned and prepared. There are readings, prayers, music and arrangements to consider, people to organise and coordinate, and all the countless details that have to come together if everything is to run smoothly. And alongside all this, Barry continues to carry his normal responsibilities as our rector.

It is so easy for the rest of us simply to turn up on the day, enjoy the service and go home again, without giving much thought to all the work that has gone on beforehand. But none of it happens by itself, and I really do want us to appreciate just how much Barry puts into providing the Christmas programme that we all look forward to and enjoy.

Christmas Bible Gem

From Terror to Joy

An extraordinary encounter on a hillside outside Bethlehem

It is one of the most familiar scenes in the Christmas story. Shepherds are watching over their flocks at night when an angel appears and announces the birth of Jesus. We have heard it so often that we can almost picture the scene without thinking about it. But have we ever stopped to imagine what those shepherds actually experienced?

Luke tells us, *"Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."* (Luke 2:9)
Terrified! That is a remarkable word. What was it that frightened them so profoundly? The original Greek is even more striking. Literally translated, Luke writes, *"They feared a great fear."* It is an emphatic expression, characteristic of Hebrew ways of speaking, intended to convey the extraordinary intensity of their fear. These men were not merely startled. They were overwhelmed.

Try to put yourself in their place. You are out on the hillside in the darkness, surrounded by your sheep, familiar with the sounds and silences of the night. Suddenly, without warning, an angel of the Lord stands before you, and something even more extraordinary happens. The glory of the Lord shines all around you. Notice that Luke does not simply say that the angel was shining. He tells us that the glory of the Lord surrounded the shepherds themselves. The Greek word describes light shining all around someone. These men were suddenly enveloped in a manifestation of the glory of God. What must that have been like?

Throughout Scripture, encounters with divine glory produce extraordinary reactions. When Isaiah saw the Lord seated upon His throne, he cried, *"Woe is me, for I am undone!"* (Isaiah 6:5). When John encountered the risen Christ in His glory, he fell at His feet as though dead (Revelation 1:17). There is something about the holiness and majesty of God that overwhelms our ordinary human understanding. The shepherds were confronted by a reality infinitely greater than anything they had ever known, and their terror becomes entirely understandable.

In April 1898 Mr Nelson proposed that an extra lamp be placed between the school and Kiln Corner, and that it should be lit on dark nights. It was agreed that a decision should be deferred until winter.

In April 1904 it was decided that the lamps should be taken down, inspected and stored by Mr Gower. However, in June 1909 a letter was received from the Hythe and Sandgate Gas Co., stating the terms upon which they would undertake the lighting of the village.

In August 1910 the parish council agreed that an additional lamp should be placed at the top of Ivy Hill, at the entrance to Dark (Darkie) Lane in Sandling Road, at a cost of £3.13/6^{d}.

The lamps spent the summer months stored in a shed at The Firs on the village green, courtesy of the Chairman, Mr F. Willcocks. In September 1912 an agreement was reached with the Hythe and Sandgate Gas Co., whereby they will undertake the lighting of the oil lamps at 1/6^{d} each. They will also keep the lamps lit until 11:00 p.m. for the sum of 2/- per burner per season.

In the meantime, Mr Gower was instructed to erect the stored lamps by 1st October, in readiness for the coming winter.



© Barry C. Sansom 12.08.2020

So please, as we approach Christmas, remember to thank him for all that he does, and, even more importantly, **remember to pray for him**. Pray that the Lord will give him the energy, wisdom, inspiration and joy to carry through this demanding season, right through Christmas and the New Year, until he and Sarah can enjoy their well-earned holiday. We are blessed to have him, and I hope we never take that for granted.

A MESSAGE FROM CAROL

Wednesday 2 December at 2 pm is the **monthly prayer meeting** at the home of Penny Forsyth, 34 Harpswood Lane

Each Friday at 9 am **Short prayer meeting in Saltwood Church** - mostly for the Rev Barry and the upcoming Sunday Services in both churches plus any urgent needs

Monday 14 December **Monday Chats Christmas Lunch**

Also - Caroline Sandford who is the Head of **Activities at Saltwood Care Centre** is very interested in building relationships with local community groups. The idea behind it is to enrich the lives of the residents in the care home. Many of the residents so enjoy meeting people to chat and reminisce about the old days. There are also other activities such as music, quizzes, story-telling or craft work where we could collaborate, perhaps as a group or individually. This is an enjoyment which can work both ways and for some of us who may be looking for something worthwhile to contribute, here is a great opportunity!

It is most encouraging that the Care Centre are wanting to bring some enjoyment and pleasure into their residents' lives, and I feel it would be so lovely to come alongside and be a part of this initiative. Some of the Monday Chatterers have given positive feedback and if anyone would like to join us or who have any useful, polite suggestions it would be great to hear from you.
Carol (07795 100 441)
Caroline Sandford (01303 262421)



NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

I thought I'd begin this month with a little word teaser. Most of you will be familiar with Euphorbia, a very popular plant despite its poisonous sap. One variety is actually called 'Crown of Thorns'. What is less well known is the word Euphobia, which means a fear of hearing good news. Perhaps King Herod was the only one to suffer from it!

Which brings me nicely on to the subject of what is on all of our minds at the moment, whether we want it to be or not, Christmas. Less than one month away and it's impossible to slow down the sense of urgency we feel every day. We are bombarded with reminders for this, adverts for that, deals here there and everywhere, delivery by Christmas guaranteed! As was indeed, the baby Jesus. So has your countdown started, are you a last-minute person or a well in advance planner? Whichever you may be there is certain to be a fair amount of stress involved, and no matter how well organised you are, there are always going to be annoying little setbacks, but don't ever worry, they are all part of the fun of Christmas, which you will laugh about later! Or so they say! Just make sure you allow yourselves plenty of time to relax, and reserve 2 dates in your diary, one for our imminent Advent Evensong on 29th November at 3pm, ever popular, and with Tim Clark at the organ, and our annual service of Lessons and Carols on 20th December at 3pm, this time with Berkeley Hill at the organ.

These are definitely Not To Be Missed!

There lots of other carol services to be enjoyed, so please check the Church Christmas card for full details, but for now as I shall not be writing again until after the big day, I sincerely wish you all a very happy, warm and loving Christmas.

Fran Dyer

Sea View, however, may have been located near the brow of the hill in Bartholomew Lane, and the black gate provided a wider access next to the kissing-gate leading into the field opposite Saltwood Rectory (now Saltwood House). A later amendment suggested that this lamp should be placed nearer the entrance to the church. Unfortunately, Smith's house still remains unidentified.

The design of the six oil lamps was quite specific. They should be eight feet out of the ground and three feet below the ground. They were to have single burners of 1-3/8" in width, fitted with a wire guard, and be painted with three coats of paint. They should be the same height and size as the lamp outside the Castle Hotel. Tenders for the provision of the lamps were requested from four local tradesmen, and estimates were to be in by 3rd September.

September arrived and it was agreed that Mr Gower's (lowest) estimate of 51/- per lamp should be accepted. Samuel Gower came from Elham with his brother, Edwin, during the 1860s, and started a forge at what is now Forge Cottage. He operated as a blacksmith, builder and undertaker, also having workshops and a yard behind his house, next to the village pond. The Brickyard (now Old Saltwood Lane) earned its name from Mr Gower storing bricks in his yard.

So, it is quite likely that Mr Gower fabricated parts of the new lamps himself. However, it was not a simple matter of obtaining and erecting six oil lamps, there was also the question of administration and maintenance. The Clerk was instructed to write to Elham Rural District Council to request urban powers under the Public Health Act, in order that they might be appointed a parochial committee under the District Council, to provide public lighting in the parish.

There were also tenders to be sought for lighting, storing and supplying oil and wicks. From the middle of October until the middle of March the lamps were to be lit at 5:00 p.m. and put out at 10:30 p.m., and a small committee was set up to see that this was properly carried out. Once again Mr Gower seems to have been successful. In February 1898 he was paid the sum of 8/6d for lighting parish lamps.

Continuing our series of Saltwood history:-

STRIKE A LIGHT

'OIL-POWERED STREET LIGHTING COMES TO SALTWOOD'



An early lamp standard on Saltwood village green

Imagine nipping out to the pub on a dark and moonless winter night 130 years ago. No friendly glow from a streetlamp to light your way. You may have been lucky and had your own lamp or lantern, but if you had nothing, the outside world must have seemed an impenetrable abyss of blackness.

The first attempt to shine some light on the streets of Saltwood came by way of Saltwood Parish Council. In April 1896 Mr Fuller proposed that a small committee be formed to look into the cost of providing seven or eight oil lamps for lighting the parish.

By August 1896, locations for six oil lamps had been agreed. One should be erected in the middle of the village green, one opposite Smith's house, one opposite Sea View, one about the middle of the Brickyard, one opposite Victoria Place, and one at the black gate. Fortunately, most of these positions are still easily identifiable today.

A way to give more to Saltwood church (without spending more)

Our clever church treasurer has come across a UK fundraising platform that gives good causes donations from purchases made by supporters. Some of us at Saltwood church have already signed up and it really is simple.

You download the app and allow 'Easyfundraising' to track your online shopping. If you register your credit and debit cards, they will even search through payments you have made both on and offline to identify qualifying expenditure. Retailers in the scheme include Tesco, Waitrose, Boots, eBay, Etsy, B&Q, Premier Inn – all sorts of businesses selling food, drink, travel and more.

It's the retailers who give the donation and in turn, Easyfundraising sends out emails urging us to shop with them. But the real attraction of this scheme is that you don't need to change your buying habits or buy anything extra.

Easyfundraising also runs free to enter competitions where your cause can win a donation and be entered into a draw for a bigger prize. They also encourage you to spread the word about the scheme on social media for more entries into the draw.

Collectively, we have already raised over £50. If more of us join, then this could be a welcome boost to church funds.

The best way to join is to ask our Rector, Barry Knott or our treasurer, John Hall to sign you up via their app when you next see them. This way we can then benefit from a referral donation but you can sign up directly and choose St Peter and St Paul's Church, Saltwood as your cause. Do give it a try.

Susan Carey



Saltwood Cinema Club

on Wednesday 16th December

at 2pm in the Lads' Club

CODA

CODA follows Ruby, the only hearing member of her deaf family, balancing her vital role in their fishing business with a newfound passion for singing. Encouraged by her choir director, she glimpses a path toward her dreams, yet must navigate the pull between familial duty and personal ambition.

Cost £5 per person to include tea and cake

All proceeds to the Lads' Club Funds

From the Parish Magazine – DECEMBER 2006

TWENTY YEARS AGO … All the Christmas events and services that you would expect were taking place, including:
An Advent family service on the 3rd at 10.30, then Full Choral Evensong at 4.30pm *(Sound familiar? – Some traditions are worth keeping!)*
That evening the SOS youth group were performing a panto entitled 'A Lad in a Manger'
11th all were invited to Carols with the Animals at Brockhill
12th – Carols on the Green with the Salvation Army *(Another long-standing tradition)*
24th – this was the first year that the blessing of the Crib invited all the children take part, dressing as angels, shepherds, animals or Kings.
No rest for the Rector after three Christmas Day services, as he had a wedding to perform on the 27th!

Sherlock Holmes' Christmas Casebook



3pm Saturday 12 December

Saltwood Village Hall

Acclaimed theatre company 'Don't Go Into the Cellar' bring their one-man production of ***Sherlock Holmes' Christmas Casebook*** to Saltwood Village Hall.

Based on 'The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle first published in 1892, this story is set at Christmas with the great detective on the trail of a stolen gem.

Expect to be intrigued and entertained.

Tickets £10 adult £5 for children (suitable for 11 years and above). Go to saltwoodvillagehall.co.uk or our Facebook page to make a booking.

Also at the Village Hall later that day:

At 7pm the Castle Hotel are presenting a **CHRISTMAS TALENT SHOW**

Tickets on sale at the Castle Hotel: £10 per adult to include mulled wine and mince pie (Children £5)

