Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

St. James the Great Elmsted



St. Mary The Virgin
Hastingleigh

March 2016

40p

THE UNITED WYE BENEFICE

Revd. Ravi Holy Priest-in-charge

The Vicarage, Wye

01233 812450

Ravi.Holv@wyebenefice.org.uk

Revd. Lorraine Lawrence **Associate Priest**

The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HP (with special responsibility

01233 750987 - 0789 4034409 For the parishes of Hastingleigh

lorraine lawrence@btinternet.com Elmsted, Petham & Waltham)

THE PARISH UPON THE HILL

01233 750327 Mrs Roz Bacon Churchwarden:

Mrs Daphne ten Hove 01227 700460

01233 750240 Mrs J Smallwood Hon. Secretary PCC:

PARISH WEBSITES

www.elmstedpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

www.hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mrs Sue Boxall 01233 750206 Editor

Quackers. The Street, Hastingleigh

Mrs Alison Shepherd 01233 750072 Advertising Manager

Little Gains Cottage, TN25 5JU

Closing date for material: 15th of the month prior to publishing

elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk via email

Please ensure all articles emailed are on A5 size please











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Evington Community Project



CLUB

There were no draws in January or February

1st Prize: No:

2nd Prize: No:

3rd Prize: No:

HASTINGLEIGH WITH ELMSTED W.I.

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 4th of February at the Evington Hall.

Twelve members attended our meeting.

Our speaker this month was Dr. David Mannion and his talk was entitled – 'Extra terrestrials – are you out there?' He had spoken to us before, and was just as entertaining again this time. He gave out more statistics than I could do justice to here, but I'll give you a couple – there are over 100 billion stars in our galaxy, over 100 billion galaxies in our universe and more stars in our universe than grains of sand on earth. We always enjoy listening to him.

The rest of the meeting was taken up with W.I. business, and discussing our May meal out.

The flower of the month competition was won by Mrs. Bowes and the competition was won by Mrs. Nixon.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday the 3rd of March at 7.30 p.m. in the Evington Hall, when our speaker will be Mrs. Margaret Hanlon, speaking to us about the Canterbury Oast Trust. Any new members will be made most welcome.

Fiona Steward

EVINGTON GARDENERS

Dr. Appleyard took a refreshingly different approach in his talk, 'Some reflections from South America', at the meeting in January. Instead of the usual slides accompanying a lecture, he showed a series of three short films he had shot, with pauses for discussion between each - a rather nice gesture as some members had visited the places featured. The first film, shot in Buenos Aires, showed some scenes of the artist area near the Port from where the tango dance originated with sailors and which was subsequently exported to Europe. The second was of the Iguazu Falls with some lovely scenes of boats sailing right under the spray of the Falls and scenes from a helicopter. The third, longer film showed scenes from both Cusco, the capital of the kingdom of the Incas, and Machu Picchu, a seat of learning, in Peru. From Cusco there were some amusing scenes of the making of animals out of clay which were designed in such a way and to make the sound of that particular bird or animal through water passing from one part of the pottery piece to another. There was also much interest in the architecture of Machu Picchu. The Incas were very good architects, designing their houses to withstand earthquakes and building them in local, dressed stone apparently without the use of mortar. Terraces of different sizes up the mountainside contained gardens, and plants growing included avocado, fuchsia, cocoa and datura which contains psychic compounds which the Priest used to take to generate hallucinations in their rituals. The King and the Priests controlled the population. It was a fascinating talk and much enjoyed by all.

By the time this appears members will also have enjoyed a talk about yew trees given by Martin Newcombe. The talk on 15th March, given by Roland Stevens, is entitled, 'The Greenhouse Story'. As always, everyone is welcome.

J.P.



WHIST DRIVE

Friday 11th March, 7pm

Everyone welcome £2 (inc light refreshments)

The Bowl Inn Easter Opening Times 2016



Good Friday 25th March Open all day from midday

Saturday 26th March Open all day from midday





Easter Sunday 27th March Open from midday until 9pm

Easter Monday 28th March Open from midday until 9pm





Tuesday 29th March Closed

Wednesday 30th March Open from 5pm



MICHAEL RUST

We have such a fine artist craftsman living in the midst of the village that I thought it was time to acknowledge some of Michael's more local achievements in wood and stone.

Michael started his Studio in Tamley Lane in 1985 having farmed Court Lodge Farm in the valley surrounding the Church for some years previously. The farm had been owned by Commander and Lady Mary Findlay since 1949 and they converted it to organic agriculture. Michael became a tenant of the farm via The Soil Association and continued the organic tradition.

With a change in ownership Michael left the farm and was able to return to his first love, fine art. As he says on his web site 'The essence of craftsmanship is the conjunction of mind, eye and hand at the point of application to the material. Whilst not disparaging the use of machines for certain tasks the raison d'etre of the Studio lies in producing unique items by hand. Handwork involves what is known as 'the workmanship of risk'; every blow of the mallet and every stroke of the gouge, pencil or brush involves a myriad of co-ordinated actions, none of which can be guaranteed. However, the constant practice of work, guided by the mind, is able to produce a thing of beauty like no other'.

His craftsmanship in both wood and stone is exquisite as many of you who have seen the Joyful Madonna, which was commissioned by Father Michael Hinton as a gift for St Mary's Church, Dover, will agree. Another recent commission was for Chilham Castle where Tessa Wheeler wished to commemorate the life of a 350 year old oak tree that, due to infirmity, had to be felled. The main timbers were worked on by the estate workers to fashion a 12 metre long bench that is set in the sloping lawns of the Castle and Michael carved a series of stones telling the history of the tree and recording the roles of the staff in this historical event. In All Saints Church, Boughton Aluph you will find a wooden memorial created by Michael and the late John Ward to the men of Wye Fire Service who saved the church from fire during WWII. Also in All Saints is the memorial to the counter-tenor Alfred Deller created by Michael from green Cumbrian slate.

Nearer to home in St Mary's churchyard at Hastingleigh we have twelve superb commemorative stones designed and carved by Michael and sometimes including flowers and other symbols pertinent to the memory of those departed.

Above Wye Crown, cut originally in the chalk hillside, you will find the 1 tonne stone 'Floreat Wye' that was created as a Millennium commission together with the nearby compass rose set in the ground.

Do take a walk round Hastingleigh churchyard to see Michael's work – he does not sign his memorials for 'The worker is hidden in the workshop'. Inside the church there is the oak rood cross and font cover. The dove on the font cover is carved from yew wood saved from the 1000 year old trees that came down in the hurricane of 1987.

RB

Wine Clasting Event

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PENSTOCK Barn, East Brabourne, TN25 5LL ~ for 7.30pm

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TICKETS: £35 26 PLACES ONLY. Call Sue on 01227 700009 (INCLUDING CHEESE & NIBBLES) HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BODSHAM SCHOOL

MY PARACHUTE JUMP

It's been postponed 3 times due to fog, gale force winds, and a flooded runway!

Rescheduled for 13th March.

The good news is that there is now over £1000 in the kitty that's been raised for breast cancer.

If anyone should like to donate www.doitfircharity.com/robyngardener.

Thank you for all the donations raised so far.

Fingers crossed if happens in March

Robyn Gardener

LONDON MARATHON

I am running the London Marathon in April in aid of Marie Curie whose nurses make it possible for people living with a terminal illness to be cared for at home in their final days, as well as providing invaluable support to families. The Marie Curie nurses were a huge help to our family whilst Dad was ill. Having had this first-hand experience, I would be enormously grateful for any sponsorship to enable us to support such a worthy charity. The marathon is going to be quite a challenge for a non-runner but training is going well in and around Newcastle and I have now reached 10 miles.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you would like to support Marie Curie, please visit our fundraising page.

Eleanor Thrupp http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/ThruppLiddle

EVINGTON HALL COMMITTEE

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Jumble sale at the end of January by donations of jumble and helping to set up before the event and also on the day. A sum of £496.60 was raised for hall funds. SB

PANCAKE PARTY

Thank you to all who cooked for and supported the pancake party on Shrove Tuesday. £155 was raised for Water Aid.

RB & DT

IN THE GARDEN

March is one of the busiest months when the garden needs tidying up ready for the coming season when plants begin to grow. Some plants may be in flower and should be left until flowering is over before pruning etc. for the rest it is important that you prepare them and the ground for the season to come.

If you have not pruned shrubs, now is the time to do it before the new growth begins. There are many techniques but the basic idea is to encourage the plant to grow and produce a structure to control the plant to your requirements. If left to their own devices many plants will become congested encouraging weak growth and dominating the other plants around them. For example, this is the time of year for pruning some flowering shrubs and fruit trees. Shrubs like Hydrangeas, particularly the 'mop head' variety, need last year's flower heads cut off. Cutting back to an outward facing bud, 1-2 buds from the base of last years' new growth will stimulate fresh growth and open the plant to air movement within it. Removal of weak growths which are unlikely to flower will concentrate the growth of the plant to the flowering stalks you want.

The same applies to fruit trees particularly soft fruit like gooseberries where they will simply develop a mass of branches making it impossible and sometimes painful to pick the fruit. Some fruit are more difficult like apples where there are varieties that fruit on spurs and are suitable for winter pruning and those that fruit on the tips of the branches are better pruned in the summer.

When you cut away parts of the plant or pick the fruit you are taking away nutrients and this is the time to feed the plants with a general fertilizer to ensure good growth in the coming summer.

It is the time for seed planting. In the garden many of the vegetable seeds can be planted directly into the ground. Dig and weed an area to be planted and plant early varieties of carrots, peas, beans lettuce etc. making sure the spacing suits the plants. Where support is required make sure you take this into account.

With the flowering plants you can sow many seeds if you have the space or alternatively wait a while and buy plug plants which enables you to delay planting until conditions are warmer. These should be planted on into larger pots to allow them to continue to develop before planting them out. Look for robust plants, not those that are long and etiolated. Keep them in a high light environment until you plant them out.

SB

Evington Community Project

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Evington Community Project will be held in the Evington Hall on Monday 7th March at 7.30 pm.

ALL WELCOME

Pat Wood and family would like to thank family and friends for messages of condolence, flowers and donations in memory of Peter who passed away at home on 22nd January 2016. Thank you to everyone who came to his funeral at St James the Great, Elmsted. It was a great support to see so many people there.

St. Mary's Hastingleigh St. James' Elmsted Mar 5th Mrs Pell Mrs London Mar 12th Mrs Boxall, Mrs Boxall Ms Flitney Mar 19th Mrs Bowes

Mrs Healy

Mrs Denny

CHURCH FLOWER & CLEANING ROTA

Mrs Helmer

Mar 26th

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE PARISH UPON THE HILL - March 2016

Monday 7 th - 21 st	10-11am: Tots and Tales at Elmsted (see below)		
Sunday 6 th	9.30am CLUSTER MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE at Petham		
Fourth Sunday of Lent	11.00am MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE at Hastingleigh		
	8.00am Holy Communion BCP at Waltham		
Sunday 13 th Fifth Sunday of	10.00am Messy Church at Bodsham		
Lent	11.00am Communion Service at Petham		
	9.30am Holy Communion at Waltham		
Sunday 20 th Palm Sunday	11.00am Holy Communion at Hastingleigh 11.00am Family Service in Petham		
	5.00pm Evensong at Elmsted		
Friday 25 th Good Friday	10.00am Easter Garden making at Waltham 10.00am Easter Garden making at Petham 12 noon Stations of the Cross at Elmsted 2.00pm Third Hour led meditation & prayer at Petham		
Saturday 26th	6.30pm Service of Light at Hastingleigh		
Easter Eve			
Sunday 27th	9.30am Holy Communion at Waltham		
Sunday 27 th EASTER DAY	11.00am Holy Communion at Hastingleigh 11.00am Holy Communion with egg hunt at Petham		

Gervice of Light: Gaturday, 26th March: to be followed by Hot Cross Buns, hot chocolate and marsh mallows. A service with candles and sparklers! Great fun for families! Tots and Tales: a free group for 0-4 year-olds and their grown-ups. All welcome: do come along! We have stories, craft, singing and fun! Plus tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. Every Monday, 10-11am at Elmsted Church, except Bank Holiday.

HOUSEGROUP —once a month on the Third Thursday of the month 7.30-9.00 ending promptly at 9.00pm at the home of Daphne ten Hove (For more information ring Eleni Grivellis 01233 812280)

MARCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 2nd	Coffee Morning	10.30am
	Singing	7.00pm
Thurs 3rd	W.I. Meeting	7.30pm
	(Page 12)	
Mon 7th	ECP Annual General Meeting	7.30pm
	(Page 19)	
Tues 8th	Hastingleigh Parish Council Meeting	7.45pm
Wed 9th	Singing	7.00pm
Thurs 10th	Elmsted Parish Council Meeting	7.30pm
Fri 11th	Whist Drive	7.00pm
	(Page 13)	
Sun 13th	Footpath Walk	2.00pm
Tues 15th	Gardeners Society Meeting	7.30pm
	(Page 13)	
Wed 16th	Singing	7.00pm
Sat 19th	Bodsham School Wine Tasting	7.30pm
	Penstock Barn	
	(Page 16)	
Wed 23rd	Singing	7.00pm

Note: All events in Evington Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Parent & Toddler Group meet every Tuesday - 9.30am

Mobile Library every Wednesday 10.55am - 11.20am

Art Group meet on Thursdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

The Lorry Way Down (update to Beginning Feb 2016).

Those of you that know Jac and me, will also know that we are not "city folk", in fact we would normally go out of our way to avoid a city (especially an African City). But we absolutely loved Capetown! We knew that camping in the city was going to be impossible, and we also knew that driving into, and parking in Capetown in our trusty Leyland DAF truck was going to be difficult at best. So we found a site approx. 20km outside the city, and hired a car for 5 days, the total cost of this car including delivery and collection from the campsite was about £80.00 (it was a no-brainer).

It also meant that I had a rest from the driving for a few days and Jac chauffeured me about (we did 600km in that little car). Capetown is a very modern, clean and fairly safe city (especially by African standards), and you can buy anything there. Virtually all the high street labels from the UK are there (if you've got the money). And the variety of food and drink on offer is eye watering (again if you've got the money, we are on a tight budget you know). Whilst we were there, the English Cricket supporters were in town (the Barmy Army), and it was amazing to see so many English in one place, and so well behaved.

Whilst we had the car we also explored the "Southern Suburbs", these are the areas south of Capetown, all the way down to the Cape of Good Hope. These smaller towns are very affluent, and so unlike the rest of Africa (indeed most of South Africa too), but we enjoyed the few days we had there, stopping for coffee, or lunch, in some beautiful places overlooking the sea. After returning the Hyundai Accent hire car (well them collecting it actually), we set off easterly along the coast, but first there was the small matter of a bit of wine tasting in Stellenbosch. We have a friend called Kate, who works in the wine industry, who recommended visiting Jordan's Winery (she had just agreed a deal for them to supply British Airways first class with wine). Now after 10 months on the road we aren't really too worried usually about turning up to places in our truck, but as we entered the gates to Jordan's and we both glimpsed at each other clothes (shorts and sandals), we did wonder what sort of welcome we would receive. Well, it was a great day, we each had six different wines to taste, we then had an incredible lunch, and we were treated as well as anyone there, (it was a weekend, and everyone else was dressed very smartly, and the carpark was packed with posh cars). It was a day we won't forget in a hurry, and excellent value for money (apart from we ended up buying eight bottles of their quite expensive wine).

From Stellenbosch we dropped down to the coast, and hugged it all the way to Cape L'Agulhas, which is the most southerly point on the African mainland. On the way we stopped at Betty's Bay, and there we watched the penguins on the rocks for hours on end.

Jac's had previously seen a place called De Hoop Nature Reserve

which offered camping, and so we headed for there. We ended up staying about five nights here, it really is a hidden treasure. It offers so much, from mountain biking, walking, beaches (stunning beaches), boat trips and a great restaurant. We really enjoyed this place and would recommend it to anyone.

But now it was time to head back north to Namibia to meet our friends James and Nicky (who were flying out from the UK to meet us), so we decided to go a different route rather than the shorter route that would have meant retracing our steps (and where's the fun in that?). During this epic 2,000km drive back we camped in a disused railway station, met a baby baboon wearing a nappy, encountered some epic storms, and stopped at a perfectly preserved Victorian Hotel for a coffee in the middle of nowhere! It was a very hectic week of driving, during which again we met some lovely people, but eventually we arrived at Urban Camp in the Namibian capital of Windhoek. This is a great campsite, owned and run by a German, and it really is in the heart of the city. So after spending a few days here, doing some shopping in the various Malls, and catching up with fellow overland truck owner Paul, who we previously met on the Orange River (please see the link to his very amusing blog on lorrywaydown.com but remember he is over 70 years old and can get away with a lot more than we can). Paul had us in stitches one day when he was moaning that as a 70-year-old male, he has become completely invisible to the opposite sex, to prove this he got up from the table and proceeded to walk around the tiny swimming pool, literally stepping over the young German girls clad in their tiniest of swim wear, not one of these girls looked, or even tutted at Paul! Theory proven I guess!

Paul really is one of life's characters, and we really hope we will bump

into him again during our travels.

A couple of days before James and Nicky were due to arrive, we decided to camp where they were due to spend their first night with us, it was again in a Nature Reserve, this time about 25km west of the city. The day before we were due to meet them at the airport we decided to get up very early and set off on a long walk up in the hills (3.5 hours). It was on this walk that we had our first encounter with a Black Mamba snake. We knew that there was a high risk of encountering a snake, but we weren't banking on it being one of the world's deadliest snakes. We were walking up a very rocky steep slope when we heard rustling in a shrub next to the path, the huge Mamba then, luckily, shot out of the bush away from us, stopping for a second to pick its head up, turned round, looked at us, and then decided thankfully for the easy route away from us. Phew, that seriously got the heart rate going. We

decided not to tell James and Nicky about our encounter, as Nicky was already convinced that there were going to be snakes and scorpions around every corner!

We then spent 10 days in the company of these two dentists, that had no experience of Africa, camping, cooking outside, wild animals, dirt roads, etc, but I think they had a great time, sleeping in their roof tent, sweating buckets, and washing outside.

James has kindly written a post that I have published on lorrywaydown.com and if you want to read what they thought of

Namibia, please take the time to read it and view James's

photographs.

We are now back in our favourite town of Swakopmund, on the Atlantic coast it is much cooler (daytime max is about 25c and nighttime low is about 17c), we have Colonel K booked into the same garage (truck spa) as last time for a service and a few minor repairs (small hole in exhaust). And while here, we are trying to sort out a Carnet de Passage, so we can continue on with our travels (our current one expires at beginning of May). The problem is that the only company that issues the CDP in the UK is the RAC, and they decided at the end of 2015, that it was no longer profitable (or prestigious enough I think), so as of the 1st January 2016, they have ceased to operate as issuing company!!!! Our only hope is convincing the German ADAC to issue our UK registered vehicle with a German Carnet de Passage (all without us going to Germany). We will be gutted if we have to cut short our trip because of this!

Watch this space, and please keep all your fingers and toes crossed

for us.

You can view our full blog and lots of photos at www.lorrywaydown.com

We hope everyone back home in Hastingleigh and Elmsted are well, and thanks to those that have taken the time to email us, it's always

great to hear from home.

Vince and Jacqui Martin jacmart5@icloud.com we would love to hear from you (new email address).





MAGIC EVENING WITH ETIENNE PRADIER

Wye Village Hall 7.00 AND 9.00 pm Tuesday 8 March

Famous magician Etienne Pradier of the Magic Circle will entertain us to an evening of tricks and surprises

Entrance £12, under 16: £10

Cash Bar

10% off food on the night at the Tickled Trout for ticketholders

Tickets from Ticketyboo

PETER WOOD 21.12.1924 - 22.01.2016

Peter Wood was born in Petham on 21st December 1924. When he was 10 months old the family moved to Ittinge Farm where he spent the rest of his life.

Ittinge had been purchased by Peter's grandfather from the Evington Estate when it was broken up in 1916. Initially the farm was let out to tenants but Peter's father Henry took it on in 1925. At that time there was no made-up road and no running water or electricity. Drinking water was taken from an underground tank that collected rain from the roof. Hot water was provided by a copper and the only source of heating was an open fire.

In the 1920s and 1930s Ittinge was a general farm. Three quarters of the land was pasture on which sheep were kept. A few bullocks were kept in the yard over winter and when fat, the bullocks and lambs would be driven on foot to market at Lyminge or Stelling Minnis. Some wheat and oats were grown along with kale and turnips. The family kept a house cow for milk and butter, a couple of sows, 200 hens and 3 or 4 cart horses. Farming was hard work and poorly paid and the family supplemented their income by taking paying guests from London and Margate. Peter helped on the farm from an early age. When he was 9 years old his Grandfather gave him his first shotgun, a .410 and from the age of 9 he would be sent out to shoot rabbits for the table or to sell.

Peter went to Bodsham School. He used to walk with his elder brother, Norman and other children from the area. Later he used to cycle. It is said that he petrified people in Bodsham as he hurtled down School Hill on his bike and round the corner at Evington with little regard to anyone else on the road. He enjoyed playing cricket and later played for Evington on the old ground by Evington Park Farm. His school days ended when he was 14 and he left to work full time on the family farm.

War broke out just a few months after Peter finished school. Farming was a reserved occupation and the country was short of food. Until 1940 all of the work at Ittinge had been done using horses and Peter had to be up at 6am every morning to look after them with Norman. In 1940 the family invested in their first tractor and 1942 saw the start of dairy farming at Ittinge. Mains water had been promised in 1942 but it did not arrive until 1943. This made a big difference to the farm since it was now possible to keep cattle in large numbers and Peter no longer had to fetch water in churns from Dean Farm. The link between Ittinge and Dean went beyond collecting water. The Francesconi family arrived at Dean soon after the Wood family came to Ittinge and the families have remained good friends and neighbours ever since, always helping each other when needed.

At the age of 16, Peter joined the Home Guard and he had a wealth of stories from those years with one of his proudest being his winning a cup for rifle shooting against a number of NCOs and Officers. Some of the stories put one very much in mind of Dad's Army; travelling in a cattle truck to Reculver for training, motorbike despatch

riding from Bridge to Lyminge, guarding the railway at Westenhanger. During the war there was a search light based on the farm and one winter of heavy snow the army lorry could not get through the lanes and the soldiers made a sledge and borrowed a carthorse from the farm. After dark they would walk up to the Stone Street to collect rations and petrol. Peter or his brother would go with them to lead the horse. The soldiers and sometimes sailors would help out on the farm and land girls travelled round the countryside making thatch mats to cover the stacks of corn. Peter recalled watching the German bombers coming over in waves during the battle of Britain. In February 1941 a hurricane crashed a few yards from the farmhouse and on another occasion an American pilot parachuted into an adjacent field.

Peter met Pat Lewis at a dance in Waltham in the early 1950s. They were married in 1956 and had two daughters, Julie and Carol.

By the 1950s the dairy herd had expanded and the family were milking around 40 pedigree Ayrshire cows. More mechanisation was introduced. In 1954 they bought a baler and in 1956, a second hand tractor-drawn combine harvester. This was followed by a self propelled Massey Harris combine which Peter drove. At this time and throughout the 1960s and early 1970s the farm employed a student who would have the job of working on the back of the combine to fill the sacks of corn. The dust was phenomenal and Peter would finish each day black from head to foot. Harvest was an exciting time in spite of the hard work and the family would enjoy picnics in the fields and the children would enjoy riding on the combine.

The cold winter of 1963 stuck firmly in Peter's mind. For weeks he had to take the milk churns by tractor and small trailer to the Stone Street for collection as the roads were impassable for the milk-lorry.

In 1976, the family decided to give up the dairy herd and moved to fatten beef cattle alongside their arable farm business. The herd at times was 200 strong and they would be selling 100 fat cattle each year.

In the mid 1990s the problems with BSE saw the price of beef plummet and in February 1999 Peter and his brother decided it was time to retire.

Retirement allowed Peter more time for gardening, a bit of rough shooting and wood-cutting which was a pursuit he particularly enjoyed. As he put a log on the fire he could almost always tell you where and when it was cut! Peter had been more or less house-bound for the last few months of his life but retained a keen interest in farming locally. He had started his farming life when farming was labour intensive and horses and steam were the main sources of power. He saw huge changes over his life watching the small farms reduce in number as machinery became bigger and more sophisticated.

Peter died peacefully on 22nd January 2016 in the house which he loved and which had been his home for more than 90 years. He was buried in Elmsted Churchyard on 4th February 2016.

WYE BENEFICE

Giving up or giving out?

Lent is often seen as a time of self denial, abstinence, and retreating from the world..... a time of *giving up*. Like others, in the past I've tried *giving up* chocolate or alcohol for 40 days. But I question whether it's actually changed me or the world for the better?

So this year I'm trying something different. I'm challenging myself and you, to think of Lent as a time of *giving out*? Why not *give out* a few sparks of understanding to those who differ from us? We could consciously decide to open up a conversation with someone we find difficult. Or take on something we've wanted to do but haven't because it was too risky or outside our comfort zone? Maybe we could challenge our ways of thinking by openly exploring our attitudes to sexual orientation, another religion, climate change or human migration. Are the views we hold the truth, or just our own personal preference or opinion?

Then for those of us who have time on our hands, there's *giving out* in prayer. The prayers of grandparents and aunts and uncles have held together many families through joyful and difficult times of life. And how much the world needs our prayers as we see and hear horrific stories of suffering on TV and radio. Prayer is about being connected in a deeper way with the world and people around us. One of the most joyful and alive people I've ever met is a Benedictine solitary who's *given out* his life in prayer, by being attentive to God's word in him, for his community and the wider world.

Giving out is about resetting our parameters. It's about realising that our journey of life intersects with many others and is part of a much bigger journey. As we follow the journey of Christ to the cross we're reminded that he literally gave out his life to share our human condition with all its joys and suffering. The way we live our lives matters – it's shaping the world's destiny. The outcome of every action, thought or word becomes sewn into the universe, whether for good or for worse. There's a challenging thought!

The mystic Hildegard of Bingen sums it up like this, 'humankind, full of creative possibilities, is God's work and we are called to co-create'. May we know the joy and hope of the risen Christ as we journey together this Easter and beyond.

Linda Cross

WYE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Modifications to the Appointment System at Wye Surgery
When patients telephone the surgery, they will have the following options:-

Book a routine future appointment with a GP/Nurse Practitioner of their choice (up to two weeks in advance). If all routine appointments with the chosen GP/Nurse Practitioner have gone, patients will either be asked to phone back when more appointments are on the system or will be offered an appointment with an alternative GP/Nurse Practitioner. The number of routine appointments available for pre-booking is dependent on the number of GPs/Nurse Practitioner working and may differ from day to day.

Book a telephone consultation with a GP/Nurse Practitioner of their choice, providing they are available that day. These telephone consultations are not bookable in advance.

Book an urgent telephone consultation with the duty doctor who will triage your call and, if necessary will arrange for you to be seen by one of the clinical team. These appointments are strictly for one, new problem which requires attention on that day. The reception team may ask some questions in order to establish the urgency of the call. The duty doctor will return the patients call usually within the hour.

Patients who work long hours or are unable to telephone the surgery during the day can either ask someone else to make an appointment for them or use Patient Access (see below). Calls are taken up until 5.30pm but to stand the best chance of getting a routine appointment with a specified doctor it is best to phone early in the day.

For prescription queries, the patients will be referred to the dispensary team

Urgent requests for children under 5 years of age will be seen by the nurse practitioner as soon as possible. These appointments do not need to be triaged first and are bookable by the reception team.

In addition, patients are able to register under the Patient Access Scheme and this will enable them to book appointments on line as well as view selected entries of their medical records. Please contact the surgery in order to start the registration process.

Wye Surgery has already recruited a new GP, Dr Raquel Xavier who will work three days a week, and is in the process of recruiting another.

The AGM of the PPG will be held in early April. Please watch out for the date.

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Park House and we want you to get involved.

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