THE VOICE

December 2025 and January 2026



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Editorial from the Church of the Good Shepherd

December 2025

Have you opened your advent calendar yet?

We all know that the advent calendar is the countdown to that big celebration on 25 December. No, not the arrival of Santa Claus! The arrival of the baby who grew into the most special man to have ever been born!

But did you know that 1 December is the beginning of the Christian year? My church diary starts on 1 December, just like your school diary starts in September and every other calendar and diary in the Western world starts on 1 January.

Advent, the beginning of the Christian year, is a time of preparation. We all know about preparations in December - decorations, presents, food and parties yet in some countries it's a time of fasting. A very different sort of preparation than in Western Christian culture.

Advent is also the time of waiting. We are waiting for the promise of God to be fulfilled with the arrival of His son. Any family who has waited for a new baby knows the anticipation, the excitement, maybe some fear and uncertainty in the days and weeks leading up to the big day.

As we count down the days by opening the doors on our advent calendar we eagerly anticipate what is behind that door. It used to be just a pretty picture relating to Christmas - an angel, a Christmas tree or a trumpet. I can remember when it changed to chocolate behind every door and now the adult versions may have beer, gin, skin products, perhaps the keys to a Ferrari (in my dreams). Every day takes us closer to the big day! When a baby arrives life changes for the family.

As you open each door of your advent calendar join me in a quiet word, a thank you to God, because we know we are waiting to celebrate the birth of the man who changed the world forever. The man who brought God's love to the world and set us all free. The baby we wait for every year didn't change just one family's life, he changed every families' lives.

If you want to know more or join with other people waiting and preparing for the arrival of Jesus, please get in touch or come to our church services in December and beyond. We may be waiting for a new vicar but the church is alive and ready to welcome you all.

Carole Simpson Churchwarden



Christmas Supper Quiz Saturday 13 December

6.30pm start



Tickets £15 supper included
Booking essential
Licensed Bar

A fun family event

Booking and dietary requirements call Carole 01732 883073 At the Church of the Good Shepherd

Church of the Good Shepherd Food Bank

Harvest Festival Thank you to everyone who arranged and donated to several generous Harvest Festival collections including Borough Green Primary School, Platt Primary School, St Mary's Church Platt, St George's Primary School Wrotham, Penshurst Church and Primary School and COGS.









Thank you so much to all the individuals who donate food or cash to the food bank. It really does make a big difference to those who we are supporting. Particular thanks to Marion at Long Meadow Farm for eggs and to Irene for collecting stuff that the supermarkets are about to throw away.

Donations of non-perishable goods may be left in the Church's porch (where there is a list of the items we need most) on any day - the Church is usually open 10am - 4pm. For any enquiries regarding our Food Bank please contact lan Simpson on **07801 135 460** or **foodbank.cogs@gmail.com**



Christmas donations before 21 December will be very welcome - thank you



Christmas at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Join us in celebrating the festive season:

November 29th Start getting ready with our Christmas Fair 10 - 1pm, then find us at the village

Christmas lights market.

November 30th 6pm Advent Carol Service where we hear again the ancient prophecies of Christ's birth and sing hymns.

December 4th 7.30pm Christmas wreath making workshop - decorate your door for the festive season.

December 13th 6.30pm Christmas Supper Quiz. A fun evening of food and festive facts for all the family.

December 21st 6.30pm Carol Service where we sing Christmas carols and hear again the Christmas story.

December 24th 4pm Crib Service where families come along to hear and sing the Christmas story. Don't forget your colouring competition entry (page 29)!

> 11.30pm Midnight Mass. Celebrate the birth of Jesus in a service of carols and communion.

10am All age Christmas Communion. A time to celebrate and worship Jesus's birth – and sing more Christmas carols!

All are welcome!

December 25th

J & F

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Notes from Borough Green Parish Council



The Council met at 7.30pm Monday 3rd November 2025 at the COGS Annexe. Matters raised included:

- Recreation Ground Pavilion Roof replacement is complete, just the new cupola and clock to go in now. We hope to start the disabled access ramp shortly, with the main works starting in the Spring.
- Declaration of Town Status We have been getting a good response, online, email and lots of paper slips. They will be counted and declared in public at our January meeting, and will inform the Formal Vote by Members.
- TMBC's Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation started 10 November until 2 January 2026, and has been extended to include the Christmas holiday. There will be a series of Public Meetings across the Borough in that period, with Borough Green Village Hall scheduled for 28 November at 7.30.

BOROUGH GREEN GARDEN CITY 59830 2000 HOUSES OUR RED LINE DEMANDS

- RELIEF ROAD It is vital that the Road is built in its entirety before a single house is approved.
- **TRAFFIC** We already suffer horrendous traffic, 20,000 vehicles per day (DfT), driven by over-development.
- **SEWAGE** The new BGGC Sewage System MUST pick up the flows from lightham, Wrotham and North Borough Green that currently use our collapsing 1928 system through the heart of Borough Green and Platt.
- QUARRYING We have suffered 150 years of ragstone, sand and clay extraction, brick and block manufacture, and landfill. This government has now reneged on the promise of Restoration, reclassifying it as GREY BELT.
- NATIONAL LANDSCAPES (AONB) National Landscape law requires Planning Authorities to "Protect and Enhance" not just the NL/AONB, but the views into and out of the NL/AONB. The setting of the AONB is just as important. The views of our North Downs, and the views of our valley from the North Downs, are a crucial rural landscape.
- LANDFILL METHANE & SUBSIDENCE Much of the land within the BGGC is Historic Landfill. We already have three estates built on landfills, they will all suffer from methane and subsidence.
- CONSULTATION RESPONSES BGGC quote site number 59830 2000 houses
- Email: localplan@tmbc.gov.uk Deadline 2 January 2026
- Online: Local plan Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council (www.tmbc.gov.uk/localplan)

(Continued on page 11)

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The editorial committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our distributors, contributors, advertisers and readers a Happy Christmas and successful New Year. Thanks to everyone for their support during the year.



Advertising

Any commercial bodies or people offering services who wish to advertise should contact **Chris Atkins** email **chris.atkins1952@gmail.com** or phone **01732 366615** about rates and availability of spaces.

If you have something you want to sell, a caravan or cottage you want to let for holidays etc then contact Margaret Jeffery. The cost of such personal notices are just $\pounds 2$ per issue.

The views expressed in articles are not necessarily those of the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team cannot accept responsibility for wrong information received, or mistakes that occur in publication. The Editorial Team cannot accept responsibility for any delay in distribution. Publication of advertisements does not imply any form of recommendation. All articles in this magazine are covered by copyright and permission must be obtained before reproducing them in any format.

The total print run of the magazine is over 2000 copies and it is also available to read on the COGS, BG Community and Parish Council websites.

Thanks

Thank you to the Borough Green Parish Council for their generous grant and to all our advertisers for their financial support which makes the production of this magazine possible. Also thank you to all our distributors who get the Voice to every house in the village.

Articles for the next magazine

The Voice is your community magazine and it relies on the people of Borough Green to make it as interesting as possible. Organisations, clubs and individuals are welcome to submit articles on their activities and subjects likely to be of interest to the village.

The deadline for articles for the next magazine will be **Tuesday 13 January** and these should be sent to the address below. The next magazine will cover **February** so if you have any events planned for that month and you would like them to appear in the diary section please send to:-

m-jeffery@talktalk.net

01732 883978

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- Christmas Lights Switch-on Festival will be on Saturday 29 November
 High Street closed 12 noon until 7pm.
- 4x4 Santa Santa will be visiting Platt and Borough Green again on Friday 19 December.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 1 December 2025** at 19.30 in the COGS Annexe. The agenda will include a period for public contributions and questions.

Council Contacts

Chairman mike.taylor@boroughgreen.gov.uk 01732 882880 Clerk clerk@boroughgreen.gov.uk 07568 536405 Full minutes are posted at MINUTES | mysite (boroughgreen.gov.uk)



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19 DECEMBER 5pm PLATT & BOROUGH GREEN

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PLATT MEMORIAL HALL	17.30
JNCT CROW HILL / CROW HILL ROAD	17.40
JNCT NORMANHURST ROAD / BROCKWAY	17.50
MORGAN GARAGE	18.00
HIGH STREET CAR PARK	18.10
JNCT McDERMOTT ROAD / HARRISON ROAD	18.20
JNCT ISLES QUARRY ROAD / NISBETT DRIVE	18.30
JNCT WYATT CLOSE / STALEYS ROAD	18.40
WESTERN ROAD CAR PARK	18.50
FAIRFIELD ROAD LOOP	19.00
JNCT THE AVENUE / THE CRESCENT	19.10
JNCT WYE ROAD / ANNETTS HALL	19.20

Please note we will stop for <u>any</u> groups of children we see along the route so all timings are approximate. There will be advance vehicles ahead of Santa's convoy, ensuring children are aware of Santa's location. We look forward to seeing you.

For more details please contact Sue Butterfill on suebutterfill556@gmail.com or 07757 494621



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St Joseph's Catholic Church Services over Christmas period

Christmas Eve Carols from 9.30pm and Mass at 10pm Christmas Day 9:30am Mass





Borough Green Baptist Church Services over Christmas period

Sunday 21 December 10:30am Carol Service
Christmas Eve 5.15pm Carols round the Christmas Tree
Christmas Day 10:30am Morning Service







Opening hours

Xmas Eve 9am - 1pm Xmas Day CLOSED Boxing DayCLOSED Saturday 27th9am - 1pm

Sunday 28thCLOSED Monday 29th9am - 1pm

Tuesday 30th9am - 1pm Wednesday 31st Dec 9am - 1pm

Thursday 1st Jan. CLOSED Friday 2nd Jan., 9am - 5pm



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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BURIAL OF ASHES Julie Hart

We offer our condolences to all those recently bereaved.



Thanks

Tony Redgrove sadly passed away on 12 August aged 95. His family would like to thank everyone who sent kind messages of condolence; they were very much appreciated. (Apologies for incorrect name in last month's edition.)

Monday Minis Toddler Time

Play and socialising for pre-school children and their grown ups. **Mondays 8 December and 12 & 26 January** 10 to 12 noon in COGS annexe. No charge, just a donation for tea and coffee please.



Games, Tea & Chat

On Mondays 8 December (Christmas Party) and 5 & 19 January at 2 - 4pm in the annexe to the Church of the Good Shepherd. Come and enjoy board games, tea and a chat. Plenty of room for new folk so, if you are wondering whether it's for you, do get in touch and ask for more information or just turn up at 2.00.

Contact Elaine Almond on 886440 or etalmond@aol.com

Cinema at COGS



Wednesday 17 December and 21 January 2pm in the Church of the Good Shepherd. Please check the Church's noticeboard for these months' presentations. All are welcome so come for an afternoon of free entertainment. Refreshments available during the interval.

Events in the Village for the months of December and January

(Plus Library events, Lunch Club and Saturday Open House - see page 18)

November

- 28 BGVH Public meeting on TMBC Local Plan 7.30
- 29 COGS Christmas Fair 10.00 to 1.00
 BG CHRISTMAS MARKET and LIGHTS SWITCH ON 2.00 onwards³



December

- **1** BG Parish Council COGS Annexe 7.30
- 4 SJCC 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration COGS Wreath making 7.30 (Bookings only)
- **5** BG Primary School Clean and tidy up session 2.00 to 4.00
- **7** SJCC Mass 9.30
 - COGS All-Age Worship 10.00
 - BGBC Service 10.30
 - Bash the Trash BGVH 11.30 to 12.30
- 8 Toddler Time COGS Annexe 10.00 to 12.00
 Games, Tea and Chat (Christmas Party) COGS Annexe 2.00 to 4.00
 BGVH u3a meeting 2.00
- 10 Sticky Fingers BGBC 10.00 to 11.15 COGS Welham Jones Christmas Memorial Service 6.30
- 11 SJCC 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration BGVH Heart of Kent Hospice Charity Sale 2.00 to 4.00
- 13 COGS Christmas Supper Quiz 6.30
- 14 SJCC Mass 9.30
 - COGS Holy Communion Rev Brian Stephenson 10.00 BGBC Service 10.30
- 17 COGS Film Afternoon 2.00
- **18** SJCC 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration
- **19** Santa 4x4 5.00 onwards (see page 11)
- 21 COGS Breakfast Church 9.00
 - SJCC Mass 9.30
 - BGBC Carol Service 10.30
 - COGS Carol Service 6.30
- 24 COGS Crib Service 4.00
 - BGBC Carols round the Christmas Tree 5.15
 - SJCC Carols from 9.30 and Mass at 10pm
 - COGS Midnight Mass 11.30
- 25 SJCC Mass 9.30
 - COGS All Age Christmas Communion 10.00
 - BGBC Christmas Service 10.30
- **28** SJCC Mass 9.30
 - COGS Worship 10.00
 - BGBC Service 10.30





January

- SJCC No Mass
- 4 SJCC - Mass - 9.30

COGS - All-Age Worship - 10.00

BGBC - Service - 10.30

Bash the Trash - BGVH - 11.30 to 12.30

- 5 Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00 BG Parish Council - COGS Annexe - 7.30
- SJCC Mass (The Epiphany of the Lord) 6.00pm 6
- 8 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration
- 11 SJCC - Mass - 9.30

COGS - Celebration of the Church's 120th Anniversary -Worship and Children's Church - 10.00

BGBC - Service - 10.30

- 12 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00 BGVH - u3a meeting - 2.00
- 15 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration
- 18 COGS - Breakfast Church - 9.00 SJCC - Mass - 9.30

BGBC - Service - 10.30

- 19 Games, Tea and Chat - COGS Annexe - 2.00 to 4.00
- 21 COGS - Film Afternoon - 2.00
- SJCC 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration 22
- 25 SJCC - Mass - 9.30 COGS - Holy Communion and Children's Church - 10.00 BGBC - Service - 10.30
- 26 Toddler Time - COGS Annexe - 10.00 to 12.00
- 29 SJCC - 10.00 Mass followed by Adoration

Note: COGS Services maybe be subject to change in the interregnum.

Abbreviations

COGS Church of the Good Shepherd BGBC Borough Green Baptist Church SJCC St Joseph's Catholic Church BGVH Borough Green Village Hall

Contacting the Church of the Good Shepherd



In the absence of a Vicar:

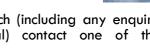
If you need to speak to someone from the church (including any enquiry about a wedding, a baptism or a funeral) contact one of the churchwardens -

Julie (885437) or Carole (07542 442 140).

If you have a enquiry about burial of ashes contact Elaine (886440).

COGS website www.cogsonline.co.uk





BOROUGH GREEN LIBRARY

The library is open – with a wide range of services, from free access to books, computers, WiFi and information on the hire of music, audio books and films. Opening hours are

10 - 1 and 2 - 5 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9 - 1 on Saturday.

<u>Ancestry</u> - Monday 10.00 - 12.00 need to book an appointment <u>Natty Stitchers</u> - Monday 10.00 -12.00

TLC Bookworms (second Monday of each month) 2.15 - 3.30

Scrabble - Tuesday 2.15 - 4.15

Coffee & Chat - Thursday 10.15 - 12.15

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Time - Friday 10.15 - 10.45

Friday 2 Book Club (second Friday of each month) 2.15 - 4.15

For more advice please call the library on 03000 413 131 or email **boroughgreenlibrary@kent.gov.uk** where staff will be able to help.

We look forward to seeing you.

DIGITAL is working to improve digital inclusion and capabilities. The next event is on **Friday 5 December** at 11.00 - 1.00. To book a session and find out more please visit www.digitalkent.uk or call 0300 0410950.

Clinics for sound support for deaf and hard of hearing people - no clinic in December and January date yet to be confirmed.





Borough Green Lunch Club

The club runs from 10.00 until 1.00 on both Thursday and Friday in the Village Hall, providing friendship, fun and food. Spaces available. We are able to provide transport if mobility is a problem.

For further information contact Pauline on 07503 156 713.

Saturday Open House

Fancy a cuppa, cake and some conversation?

Pop in. Everyone Welcome. No Charge

No Agenda Just Community

10-12 Every Saturday @ COGS Church of the Good Shepherd,

nurch of the Good Shepherd Quarry Hill Road

Tom Tugendhat MP's Column

Until Thursday 2 January 2026 Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council are consulting on its draft Local Plan. This is the document which sets out where houses should be built in our community, until the 2040s.

The task for the Council is so much harder than ever before. That's because the Government have increased the housing target for TMBC by around 34%, instructing our Council to find land for nearly 20,000 new homes across this period. I feel for TMBC who have been given no choice and have pushed back against the Government on these housing targets given the constraints on infrastructure. I did not support these changes in Parliament and have voted against the Government on its planning policy, including the new 'grey belt' definition. When I joined with other MPs to prevent towns and villages being able to merge by protecting the land between them, the Government voted against this.

Grey belt is an especially challenging policy for our area because it effectively takes all land immediately adjacent to towns and villages out of the green belt if it meets the 'golden rules' which most developers say their land is able to.

In our community it means that much of the land of the Borough Green Gardens development has been put forward again. This would still be the largest allocation within the draft Local Plan, although no development would be permitted until a relief road for the A25 is built. It shows why our input into this consultation is especially important now.

It is therefore critical we have our say directly to TMBC before the consultation closes on **2 January 2026**. I have created a dedicated page on my website with all the information, including links on how to respond. You can visit this at www.tomtugendhat.org.uk/localplan

Please do share your thoughts with me and, crucially, with the Council too. You can also share your views with me as follows

tom.tugendhat.mp@parliament.uk
01732 441563 130 Vale Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1SP
Social Media - @tomtugendhat

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL - LOCAL PLAN

Details of how to see the draft Local Plan and participate in the public consultation online are provided elsewhere in the magazine (page 7 and above). Paper copies of the Local Plan are available at council offices.

Two areas in Borough Green are identified for housing development:-

Borough Green Gardens - from Nepicar roundabout to Dark Hill roundabout to north of village. 2,000 houses in the Local Plan period (up to 2042) with a further 1,000 beyond that.

Land south and west of Tillmans off Crouch Lane - 50 houses.

A further round of consultation is scheduled for July - September 2026 with the final version of the Local Plan due to be submitted to Ministers by 12 December 2026.

Margaret and Richard Jeffery







Borough Green Village Hall A Busy Autumn of Progress and Community

It's been all go at the Village Hall this month, with lots of work going on to ensure we remain compliant and continue to uphold the high standards our community deserves.

We're delighted to announce that we've secured grants totalling £1,375 which will help towards replacing the front doors. We have now appointed a contractor and work will start shortly. We have also secured a much larger grant of £8,000 which will enable us to bring forward our plan to modernise the ladies' toilets and create a separate disabled toilet, improving access for all our users.

After a year of exploring every option to find a new home for the short mat bowls left by Borodara, we're pleased to report that they've found the right place. They are now with Spadework, where they'll be used with their dementia group and trainees. It's good to know they'll continue to be enjoyed.

It was lovely to see the Scout Group back at the Village Hall recently as they gathered before their parade to Church on Remembrance Sunday, a reminder of the hall's role at the heart of our village.

As we approach the end of another year for the Village Hall, there's still much work to be done. We're always looking for new committee members who can spare just one evening a month and come along with ideas and enthusiasm. If you'd like to get involved in supporting the hall, we'd love to hear from you.



Bryan Rawlins, Chair Tel: 01732 646040 boroughgreenvillagehall@gmail.com www.boroughgreenvillagehall.co.uk

🕇 Borough Green & Wrotham u3a

This is just a reminder that Borough Green and Wrotham u3a monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 2pm in Borough Green Village Hall, with tea, coffee, and biscuits. Parking/disabled access available.

At our meeting on **8 December** we will have Sleepwalk - a group of talented retired musicians who will play favourite hits from the 1960s - 1980s to get us into festive party spirit.

On **12 January** we will welcome Philip Waite, a retired RAF Police Sergeant who served in the UK and Germany on worldwide RAF operations, a special squadron undertaking royal and ministerial visits, and VIP and ceremonial duties.

We look forward to welcoming existing and new members, and guests (£5). Parking is free for village hall users, so please remember to register your car in the village hall lobby when you arrive.

For further information, or to join your local u3a, please contact: info@bgwu3a.org.uk or visit our website https://bgw.u3asite.uk



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lorraine.pearce@kingsleybond.co.uk

Reuse Shop at Allington Household Waste Recycling Centre

This initiative is designed to help residents recycle, donate and

bag a bargain. The shop sells good quality, pre-loved items at affordable prices. The range of items goes from furniture and kitchenware through to toys and books. As well as items taken to Allington the shop is stocked with reusable items accepted at several other KCC HWRCs (including Sevenoaks and Swanley). A portion of the profits from the shop will go towards local charities with the rest reinvested into the service to

Kent County Council



support the expansion of KCC's reuse initiatives across the county.

Residents can book appointments to use the Allington HWRC for recycling, waste disposal and to donate items via

www.kent.gov.uk/allingtonhwrc.

but no booking is needed just to browse the shop.

PARISH ALLIANCE SHOPPER BUSES



MONDAYS ROUTE 70

10.00 Wrotham Square, 10.05 Borough Green Station, 10.11 Platt, Wrotham Heath, Offham, West Malling, Leybourne Chase, East Malling to Larkfield. Returning from Tesco at 12.45.

FRIDAYS ROUTE 58

9.30 Wrotham Square, 9.35 Borough Green Station, 9.38 Platt, Wrotham Heath, Addington, Trottiscliffe, Ryarsh, Birling, Leybourne, West Malling, East Malling to Larkfield and Maidstone. Returning from Maidstone at 1.00.



Tonbridge and Malling health walks are free, fun and friendly, perfect to help you get active, meet new people and improve mental health and wellbeing.

The Platt walk leaves from St Mary's Church steps at 10am on Mondays. To

attend a walk just come along 10 minutes before the starting time of the walk (no booking necessary). Outdoor clothing and footwear is advisable. The walk (may include hills) lasts for 60-90 minutes. Refreshments are served in the Church afterwards.





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Submission to Kent Friends of Trees Recreation Ground





The recreation ground was purchased in January 1934 for £420 from a local builder. The Memorial Pavilion was built in 1955 with a donation from the Women's Institute and a Government War Memorial Grant. The Woodland Walk was a piece of ancient woodland originally part of the Basted House Estate. Basted House was owned by the Monckton family who also owned Basted Paper Mill just south of the village. Mr Monckton donated the woodland to the parish which is why we have a Monckton Road dedicated in the 1960s. Two foot bridges were built across the Bourne and connecting paths run through the woodland creating a tranquil walk. The trees on the Pavilion side are protected by TPO.

Mike Taylor Borough Green Parish Council

IGHTHAM & DISTRICT GARDENERS' CLUB

We would like to introduce our club to you. We are a local gardening club who meet once a month in the evening at lghtham village hall. We specialise in talks which are all things gardening.

If you have recently taken up gardening as a hobby, or have a garden with shrubs and flowers and would like some advice on their care, why not come along and meet us. If you are new to the area and would like to meet up with local gardeners, we welcome you.

We are a friendly, sociable club with a wide age span, so you would feel at ease at one of our meetings. We have a question time at the end of our talks, tea and home made cake and a raffle.

Our membership is £15 per year and our meetings are an entertaining evening out, or just come as a visitor. We meet most months with the exception of January and December. We hold very successful seasonal shows with a variety of classes of fruit, vegetables and flowers with domestic and floral classes too, something for everyone.

We advertise each month during the season so keep a look out to see what's on, or contact the club secretary on 0779 900 2129

for more information.



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Are you planning on getting a real Christmas tree this year? Once the New Year arrives, you'll have to dispose of your tree, but don't worry — we can help you recycle it! Our dedicated volunteers will collect your real spruce, fir or pine trees on Friday 9, Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 January, right from your front gate or driveway! This convenient service means you won't have to endure the cold and we only ask for a suggested donation of £15 per tree.

Book now at www.hokh.org/event/christmas-tree-recycling-2026/ Help the environment by recycling your tree with Heart of Kent Hospice, a community initiative.



Join us for a magical evening of music and community spirit as Rock Choir brings the joy of the season to life in a special Christmas concert at 6-7.30pm on **Sunday 7 December** at Mote Hall, Mote Avenue, Maidstone, ME15 7RN. Whether you're a fan of feelgood music or simply want to support local hospice care,

this is a night not to be missed. Tickets (adults £15, children £5, family £35) can be booked at https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/ChristmasConcert25.





Sunday 14 December Leybourne Lakes

Join us for an unforgettable and festive event - the RBLI Rudolph Fun Run! Come along and celebrate the spirit of the season while supporting a great cause. This exciting

event aims to raise funds for the Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), an organisation dedicated to improving the lives of veterans and their families. Choose from a 5k chip timed route or a 2.5k family route: £20 per adult, £5 per child. One of a kind Rudolph medal for all finishers. Option to pre-buy Antlers & Red Nose for £5. For more information and to register go to https://rbli.co.uk/rbli-events/rudolphfunrun/

Christmas at Shipbourne Farmers Market



The market will be open every Thursday as usual up to and including Thursday 18 December. A special "pick up" market will take place on Monday 22 December from 8.30am to 10.30am, mainly for preorders of meat and vegetables but other stallholders may also attend.

The market will re-open on 15 January.

We are delighted to be welcoming an array of carol singers to the market in December. Shipbourne Primary School will sing on Thursday 11 December and the Tonbridge Community Choir will sing on 18 December.

SMALL NOTICES

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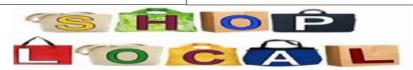


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The Village Hall

Potters Mede

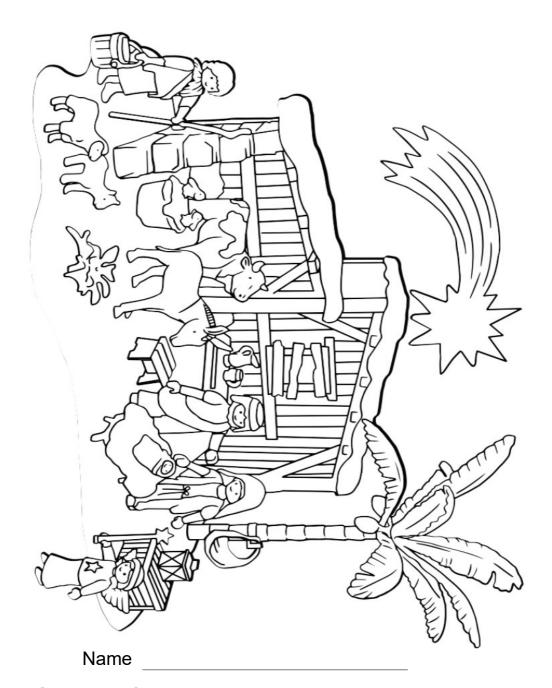
The Recreation Ground

The Fire Station

b) When premises are open

The Medical Centre **BG Primary School**

Fourways Dentists



Colouring Competition. Bring your completed entry to the Church of the Good Shepherd crib service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. A prize for the best entry – no upper age limit.

Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers

You don't have to be a Ramblers member to try up to three 'taster' walks with us. If you're new to our walks, please contact the walk leader to check that their walk will suit you. For details of these and other upcoming walks, including those for January, and walk leaders see our Facebook page at



www.facebook.com/groups/tonbridgeandmallingramblers or visit www.tonbridgeandmallingramblers.org.uk.

December	Route	Distance in miles
Thursday 4th	Circular walk from Godden Green through Godden Woods into Knole Park. If the weather allows we will take the outer perimeter route of the park, otherwise we will stick mainly to paths. Short break outside Knole House. Moderate difficulty.	5
Sunday 7th	A gentle walk around Mereworth and the Swanton Valley before Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers AGM.	3.5
Sunday 14th	Circular walk from Platt to Ightham Warren and Basted through woodland, farmland, orchards and quiet lanes with valley views across to the North Downs. The route is undulating and some sections are quite steep. Moderate difficulty; one stile.	6.5
Sunday 28th	Circular walk from Wateringbury along the Medway Valley towards Yalding and Nettlestead Green. We pass though the deer park on the Greensand Way and a steady climb passing Roydon Hall and onto Pizien Well. Mainly footpaths and some quiet lane walking. Moderate difficulty; five stiles.	6
Wednesday 3st	See out 2025 with a leisurely walk from Linton Church through parkland and along the Greensand Way passing Boughton Monchelsea Place. Only one short uphill section.	5
Walks usually start mid-morning. There's a short half-way break (bring refreshments)		

and we usually finish near a pub. Most walks are dog-friendly (see website).



Mill stream at Basted – 14 December walk

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