

The Parish of September 2010 Burham & Wouldham



Rector: Rev' Jennie Bradshaw

The Rectory, 266 Rochester Rd, Burham, Kent. ME1 3RJ. Tel: 01634 666862

View the Magazine online: www.burhamvillage.com

www.wouldhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

WHO TO CONTACT

The Rector	Rev Jennie Bradshaw Tel: 01634 666862
Church Wardens	Mrs Gwen Worcester. Tel. 01634 672060 Mrs Marie Rayner. Tel. 01634 681873
Baptisms	Mrs Gwen Worcester. Tel. 01634 672060
Prayer requests	Mr Rod Murr. Tel: 01634 868075
Weddings	Rev Jennie Bradshaw Tel: 01634 666862
Funerals (also Internment of Ashes & Permission for Churchyard Memorials)	Mr John Lloyd. Tel. 01634 863345
Church Treasurer	Mrs Janet Parris Tel: 01634 669872
Church Secretary	Mrs Heather Lloyd. Tel. 01634 863345
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Mary Davis. Tel. 01634 869650
Methodist Minister	Rev. Clifford Newman
Burham Methodist Church Stewards	Mrs Eileen Smith 01634 867022 Mrs Joyce Brown 01634 864413



Donations are always gratefully received for flowers for the Churches.

Contact:

Wouldham, All Saints Church: Catherine Gore, Ringshill Farm. Tel: 404742

Burham Methodist Church: Eileen Smith, 23 Church St. Tel: 867022

Dear Friends



Jennie writes.....

It is a warm July morning and I've just returned from walking Bobbie over the Burham Downs carrying a small worm in my hand. It lay dehydrated and exhausted before me on the dry chalky track, so I gathered it up saying: 'I'm going to try to keep you safe just like God tries to keep me safe when I let him'. And that was the problem, the 'letting' bit ... for the worm hadn't asked me to save him and because he found my hand hot and most uncomfortable he repeatedly tried to wriggle free and save himself, but saving himself would have meant falling back onto the parched soil where certain death by roasting or as bird food awaited him. So we struggled onward with each other; I in concerned care, he in fear and discomfort till the Rectory was reached and I bathed him in cool water and buried him in soft compost safe and saved. In just the same way, God, our Father, wants to keep each one of us safe both in earthly life and eternally, but like the little worm, we are often ignorant or distrustful of his loving concern.

How can anyone come to know and trust God's love for them? That's the particular work of the Church. In fact it's the only reason for the Church existing, to help people know and trust God's love.

One popular way of doing just that is by running an Alpha course for the local community. Alpha courses have been run across the UK for some while now and you may have seen their advertisements—a man holding a large ? in which the dot looks like a sausage. Whether or not it is a sausage I'm not sure, but it would be appropriate for 'supper together' is an important part of each session. Why? Because you really can't be a Christian alone, but only in fellowship with Jesus and his followers, and eating together is an excellent way of experiencing that.

More about the Alpha Course that is coming to these villages in next month's magazine.

Yours, Jennie

HARVEST THANKSGIVING, ALL SAINTS WOULDHAM

Saturday 2nd October

6.30pm Harvest Supper

All Saints, Wouldham

Sunday 3rd October

10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Service

All Saints, Wouldham

All Saints Church will be open on Saturday 2nd October for villagers to leave gifts of food which will be handed on to the Quakers and Salvation Army for their work with the poor and destitute in the Medway towns. Preserved and dried foods are the most useful to them but fresh produce that keeps, such as potatoes and apples, is also most acceptable.

This is an exciting moment in the Church with lots of developments, both in the Church itself and its activities.

- 1) The position of P.C.C. Secretary (Parochial Church Council Secretary) will become vacant next March owing to the retirement of the present occupant, Mrs. Heather Lloyd.
The Council is seeking a replacement for Heather in good time for the AG.M. (Annual General Meeting) next Spring. The post is voluntary and requires a person with at least some secretarial ability and I.T. skills. It involves taking minutes, preparing paperwork for meetings and dealing with correspondence. Anyone who feels they would like to serve the church in this way is invited to contact Heather (01634-863345 or email j.t.lloyd@btinternet.com) and have a chat about the job over a cup of tea! Or contact the Rector (01634-666962 or email: jenniebradshaw@mypostoffice.co.uk).
- 2) A volunteer is required to assist and eventually take over from John Lloyd in the work of allocating locations for grave plots in Wouldham Churchyard and in Burham St. Mary's Churchyard. This work is not particularly demanding of time but involves some record keeping and contact with bereaved families and Funeral Directors. If you are interested, the first contact should be made to the Rector (details as above).

Both are rewarding posts and involve the life of the villages and its people.

SEPTEMBER

Church of England Services



Saturday 4th September

1.00pm Wedding of Magdalena & Robert. All Saints, Wouldham

Sunday 5th September

10.30am Family Service & Baptism of All Saints, Wouldham
Maisy & Oscar

Thursday 9th September

3.15pm Thursday Church Wouldham School

Sunday 12th September

10.30am Holy Communion All Saints, Wouldham

Thursday 16th September

11.00am Holy Communion Winchester House

Sunday 19th September

10.30am 'Messy Church' Burham Community Centre
1.00pm Baptism of Thomas All Saints, Wouldham

Friday 24th September

am Burham School Harvest Service Burham Methodist Church

Sunday 26th September

10.30pm Holy Communion, All Saints, Wouldham

NATIONWIDE

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

COME ALONG TO THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

10.30—11.30am,

Friday, 24th September

All Saints Church, Wouldham



TALK OVER THE CHURCHYARD WALL

The past few years as a gardener have been very special as I have had the good fortune of being around nature whilst doing my job. Throughout the year I see plants, flowers and insects and can observe the effects of the seasons and of rain, snow and sun on the nature around me.

The birds join me in my work. I see them displaying, nesting and feeding and hear their various calls. All of these things bring me great joy and since April this year I have also had the opportunity to see the vast array of wildlife in our churchyards at St Mary's Burham and All Saints Wouldham as I endeavour to keep these looking cared for.

I would like to tell you what I have seen so you too can share these wonderful things on our doorstep.

In Burham churchyard there are numerous species of wild flowers, colourful and fragrant even if a little rampant at times! These are a few of the wild flowers that have been present from April to now, Marjoram, Daisies, Mallow, Vipers Bugloss, Violets, Scabious and Creeping Cinquefoil. There is also an array of different grasses.

These of course all encourage bees, insects and butterflies. I have seen a Burnett's Moth, grasshoppers, crickets and rabbits a plenty, as well as having a close encounter with a wasp's nest.

I am a keen ornithologist and fortunately can identify birds by song as well as sight. I heard a nightingale sing late in the day and have seen Greenfinches, Jackdaws, green and great Spotted Woodpeckers, Whitethroats, Blackcaps, Robins, Song Thrushes, Blackbirds, Goldfinches and Chaffinches. I have regular fly-pasts by Kestrels and Sparrow hawks as well.

The churchyards are quiet tranquil places where time can be spent reflecting on things and remembering loved ones. They also offer the chance for our communities to conserve and promote wildlife and provide the opportunity for our youngsters to learn about these issues. My intention is to work in our churchyards both with you the people of our villages, and a charity called 'God's Acre' to create sacred spaces for peace and well-being for visiting families and the resident wildlife.

Find out more: <http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>

Dennis Worcester

THE CHURCHYARDS

At it's meeting on the 7th July, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) expressed its view that the Churchyards would be greatly improved if a "headstone and attached vase only" policy was adopted where burials are concerned. The Churchyards are, of course, the property of the Diocese of Rochester, but are managed by the PCC, which exercises certain rights and authority over them. The Diocese issues overall regulations governing the Churchyards, a copy of which can be obtained on request from:

Jennie Bradshaw, The Rectory, Burham or

John Lloyd, 40 Downsvew, Burham.

The purpose of the regulations is to ensure that the Churchyards are kept as peaceful gardens, in keeping with the Churches themselves.

Over recent years, it has become a matter of some concern that those tending the graves at All Saints, Wouldham and St. Mary's, Burham have not completely complied with the regulations, resulting in an unsatisfactory mixture of neglect on the one hand, and over elaboration on the other.

In order to fulfil its obligations, the PCC would like to begin a process of "tidying up", by encouraging families with buried loved ones to convert "their" plot to simple grass, which can more easily be kept neatly mown. This "tidying up" process will of course take time but has to begin somewhere, so as well as the possible conversion of existing graves as mentioned above, the PCC asks that all future grave plots are in compliance with this policy. In this way the Churchyards will become tidy and easily maintained for future generations.

Climate Change and the Environment Discussion Group.

The Aylesford group discussing climate Change and the Environment have met the new MP for Chatham & Aylesford, Tracey Crouch, and talked about various aspects of the current situation.

**The next meeting will be on
Monday, September 27th at 7.30pm
56 Mackenders lane, Eccles.**

We would be delighted to welcome anyone interested.
Phone Iris Neel; 01622 710634 if you would like further details.

BURHAM CHURCH (Methodist) Church St, Burham

SEPTEMBER

Sunday September 5th

No Service in Burham 4.0pm Service at Union Street Methodist Church.
This is a Welcome Service for the new Circuit Superintendent Rev. Clifford Newman

Sunday September 12th

10.30am Holy Communion led by Rev. Clifford Newman

Sunday September 19th

4.30pm Evening Service led by members of the Church

September 23rd

9.30am Burham CE Primary School's Harvest Service

26th September

10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving Service led by Monica Wilding

Everyone is most welcome at all our Services, some of which are formal especially when we have Holy Communion. Others are more informal when we worship using some modern songs and hymns. We have coffee and tea after each Service when we have the opportunity of chatting and getting to know each other. Transport is available if necessary for all services and other

activities. Please phone Trevor on 867022 if you need a lift. Or come to the weekly Afternoon Tea each Tuesday at 3.0pm or the monthly Country Lunch to be held on September 9th. ***Why not come and join us!!!!!!***

Many people from Burham and Wouldham joined in a United Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mary's Old Church on July 11th when Anglicans and Methodists were able to take part in a moving service. Members of the congregation were able to express their thankfulness in a few words and in choosing a hymn to reflect this.

On July 18th there was a service to say farewell to Rev. Chris Esgate who had been the Superintendent of our Maidstone Circuit and, who after some months was ill-health, has retired. to Whitstable. We shall be welcoming his successor, Rev. Clifford Newman on September 5th at a service in Union Street Methodist Church. He will be taking his first service in Burham on September 12th.

THANKSGIVING

This year we shall again be welcoming the school children from Burham for their Harvest Service on Thursday September 23rd when they will bring gifts to the Church. The Harvest Service on the following Sunday will be led by Monica Wilding. We shall be decorating the Church on Saturday September 25th and gifts can be brought to the Church in Burham on that day or left in the porch during the week. These gifts, together with those from the school will be sent to the Salvation Army to be distributed to the needy in the Medway area. It would therefore be helpful if your gifts are not perishable so that they can be used to make up food parcels.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Every Thursday September 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th	10.30 - 12 noon	Thursday Community Club *Hi Kent Hearing Aid Clinic on 16th September	Old School Community Centre Burham
Every Tuesday September 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th .	3.00— 4.30 pm	Join us every Tuesday afternoon for a cup of tea, cake, a quiz and friendship	Burham Methodist Church Hall
Wednesday 1st September	7.30pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting	All Saints Wouldham
Thursday 9th September	1.00pm	Country Lunch Anyone is welcome to come for good company, a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese followed by fruit pie, coffee & tea. Cost £2	Burham Methodist Church Hall
Friday Friday 17th September	3.30pm	House Group	12 Trafalgar Close
Tuesday 21st September	7.30pm	WI Meeting Heather Woodward: Life in the Nursery & Schoolroom. Competition— A Favourite Mug	Wouldham School Hall
Friday 24th September	10.30- 11.30am	Coffee Morning In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support	All Saints Wouldham

Parish Council Meetings:

Wouldham Tuesday 7th September, 7.30pm. Village Hall..

Burham Monday 27th September, 7.30pm, Old School Community
Centre.

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Working with you in Burham and Wouldham

by PCSO Julie Stoner

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team are planning to hold a

Community Engagement Day in the area on Saturday 9th October.

This will give local residents the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns that they have and to get crime reduction advice. Representatives from Kent Police, Russet Homes, Kent County Council Community Wardens and the Tonbridge and Malling Community Safety Partnership are looking forward to meeting lots of local people on the day.

Times and locations are as follows:

- ☐ Wouldham - Medway Inn car park 2pm-3pm
- ☐ Burham - Village Hall car park 3.30pm-4.30pm
- ☐ Eccles - Outside the Walnut Tree pub 4.30pm-5.30pm

We will also be using the event to give feedback on some of the activities we carried out earlier this year.

A 'Bag and Flag' day was held in Wouldham concentrating on the recreation ground area. This was a multi-agency event, including representatives from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and Kent Police. It's aim was to tackle the issue of owners failing to clean up after their dogs, and to offer advice and education regarding the problems it causes. Local people have told us that this is an area of concern for them and we will be monitoring the situation closely.

Throughout the summer months officers have been targeting nuisance vehicles being driven anti-socially on footpaths and on private land within the villages. This has included the areas of Bushy Woods in Burham, and Hill Road and Shoulder of Mutton Wood in Wouldham. Local neighbourhood officers have been joined by colleagues from the Kent Police motorcycle team to patrol these areas, issuing warnings or seizing vehicles whenever appropriate.

If you can't make it to the October event your team will also be holding some **local meetings in September:**

- **Tuesday 7 September 7pm-7.30pm Wouldham Village Hall**
- **Monday 27 September 7pm-7.30pm Burham Old School**

In an emergency, if life is in danger or a crime is in progress, call **999**.
For all non-urgent crime reports and enquiries call **01622 690690**.

The Heart of Kent Hospice Forthcoming Events 2010

Skydive, Sunday 5th September, Headcorn (other dates also available)

A sponsored 10,000 feet tandem free fall parachute jump. No experience is required as all training is given. If you raise £400 you can skydive for free. Please call our Corporate Fundraiser on 01622 790195 for more information and dates.

Teas and Trains, Sunday 12th September, Wayside, Hunton

A fun event for all the family. Take a trip by miniature train through the beautiful gardens, enjoy a cream tea and lots more. Tickets are £10 adults and £6 children. To book please call Fundraising and Marketing on 01622 790195.

Dragon Boat Race, Sunday 12th September, Bewl Water

A great family day out. 16 rowers and one drummer per team. Entry fee £300, £2,000 minimum sponsorship required (£120 sponsorship per team member). To book please call Fundraising and Marketing on 01622 790195.

Moonlit Walk, Saturday 18th September, Kings Hill

A 10 or 6 mile walk for ladies only, starting at 10pm from David Lloyd Leisure Club in Kings Hill. Entry fee £15. For more information or to register visit www.moonlitwalk.org.

Stately Home Boot Fair, Sunday 19th September, in the grounds of Leeds Castle

9.30 am - 2.30 pm. Over 100 sellers, prices vary from 5p to £500. Refreshments and family entertainment all day. To book please call Fundraising and Marketing on 01622 790195.

HUGS Group Quiz Night, Saturday 25 September, Capel Morris Centre, Hall Road, Aylesford

Starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 per person, with teams of 6 or 8 welcome. The price includes a Ploughmans supper, and there will be a bar and raffle available on the night. To book tickets please call Beryl Maybank on 01622 727632.

5k Big Fun Run, Sunday 10th October, Mote Park, Maidstone

11 am start. Reduced charity entry fee - adults £8, children (5-18) and over 65 £5, under 5's free. Please visit www.bigfunrun.com to enter. Click on "entry info" and select The Heart of Kent Hospice as your official charity to get a reduced entry fee. Your details will then come through to us and you will be issued an official sponsorship form.

continued....

The JMW Trust Dinner & Dance, Saturday 23rd October 2010, Grange Moor Hotel, Maidstone

Annual dinner and dance hosted by The Johnathan Wenborn Trust. Arrive at 7.30 pm for 8pm start. £35 per person, or £300 for a table of ten. To make payments and reservations please visit www.justgiving.com/JMWdinnerdance. Alternatively contact Gavin Wenborn on 07545 171526 or email gavin@jmwtrust.com.

Charity Gig, Saturday 23rd October, Coxheath Village Hall

‘Miles From Next Door’ are back by popular demand. 7.30pm 11.30pm. £10.00 per ticket. Bring your own refreshments. To book please call Andrew or Vicky on 01622 753150 or email andrew.putley@gcornell.co.uk.

SHOE BOX APPEAL.

Shoeboxes are sent to E Europe for Christmas.

Some people have so little and things we take for granted can mean so much. Gifts are luxuries that can't be afforded. Please fill a shoe box with small gifts to bring joy this Christmas. Wrap a shoebox & lid separately. No food other than sweets. Note whether the gifts are for a: girl 3-7, girl 8-12, teenage girl, woman, elderly woman, boy 3-7, boy 8-12, teenage boy or man. Then attach the list to the outside of the box.

Please take your shoeboxes containing gifts to Doreen (864139) .

ASAP now please so that they can be shipped by Christmas

BLYSTHWOOD CARE APPEAL FOR YOUR HELP

Blythswood Care responds to requests for help locally and globally—demand for clothing, bedding, shoes, etc is currently exceeding what we can supply! We would be grateful if you would help us by passing the word around that we URGENTLY need more clothes, bedding, shoes etc. There is also a need for musical instruments for young people to learn, spectacles and empty spectacle cases, hearing aids, good quality pots & pans, crockery, cutlery — where appropriate in sets of four or more, personal CD or audio tape players, sports equipment for children's camps etc.

Contact Doreen & Malcolm Northover: 01634 864139



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Wouldham All Saints Church of England Primary School

Happy New Year!

We hope everyone has had an enjoyable, safe and healthy summer time and have lots of experiences to share. The weather has been fairly mixed with some fantastic times and we hope you all have been able to get out and enjoy yourselves.

School opens for all children from Year 1 to Year 6 on Thursday 2nd September and for Year R from Wednesday 8th. It is always exciting to start a new year and we look forward to everyone being keen and ready in their classrooms on that first morning. We have a slight change in structure with our Year 3 class being separate to others and named Caterpillar Class. We expect the children to be transformed into beautiful butterflies by the end of the year! Other classes remain the same.

‘Out of Africa’ is our theme title for Otter and Badger Classes and ‘Food Glorious Food’ is our theme for Caterpillar, Hedgehog and Owl. The children will be covering lots of things underneath these umbrella titles and we encourage families to get involved and be interested in all that we do. There will be class information sessions held the week beginning 13th September where parents can meet the class teacher and find out about ways of supporting your children. It is also a good opportunity to ask questions about class routines.

Swimming will start on Wednesday 8th September for children in Owl Class and Year 2. This will be a 12 week program but not including 15th September or 13th October.

Children in Year 6 may well be taking 11plus tests which happen in school on 14th and 15th September for the Kent test and Saturday 25th for the Medway test. Good luck to all those taking these! This is also the time of year for parents to look at secondary schools and make decisions about which secondary school you would prefer. This is always a difficult time and we wish you peace and success throughout the whole process!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 2 nd	Start of school year.
Wednesday 8 th	First swimming session for Yr2 & Owls
Tuesday 13 th & Weds 14 th	Kent Eleven Plus testing
Monday 20 th	Everybody Writes Day
Wednesday 22 nd	Year R start full time
Saturday 25 th	Medway 11plus test

Visit www.wouldham.kent.sch.uk or call 861434 for more information.

PARISH NEWS

Baptisms

Ben Richard Spice 25.07.10
Isabella Marie Asbury 29-08-10
Mitchell Cade 29-08-10
Iona Mary Cade-Parnell 29-08-10

Choir Practice

Practices are held on
Thursdays at
Wouldham Church.
New juniors 7pm
Juniors 7pm—8pm
Seniors 7.30pm—9pm.
New members are always welcome:
Roger Pick – 01634 842360



Prescriptions

If you are unable to collect your prescriptions and live in the Parish of Burham & Wouldham, the Church offers a collection service. Contact Heather Lloyd; 01634 863345

Volunteers collecting these prescriptions need a minimum of 24 hours notice

ALLOTMENTS IN WOULDHAM

CONTACT ANDY MARR:
01634 683786

Halls for Hire

(Please do not telephone after 8.0pm)

Burham Methodist Church Hall –
01634 864139

Burham Old School Community Centre – 01634 863322

Burham Village Hall –
01634 867669

Wouldham Village Hall –
01634 867452

Burham Scout Hut (for youth) -
01634 863322

Bulky Refuse Collection

*TMBC Helpline 01732 876147 or:
www.tmbc.gov.uk*

Wouldham - 4th September
Village Car Park, Knowle Rd,
8.0am – 9.0am.

Burham – 11th September
Village Hall Car Park,
8.0am – 9.0am

Eccles – 4th & 18th September
Bull Lane lay-by, 8.0am – 9.0am

Do not leave waste unattended at the collection sites or in advance of the waste vehicle arriving.

The Fleur De Lys Demolition And Planning Application

There is considerable concern in Burham over the proposed plans for the Fleur de Lys site where the pub has been demolished and an application submitted to Tonbridge a Malling Borough Council for the building of 12 Houses. Also residents of Wouldham who have to drive through Burham regularly may be affected if the development leads to further congestion caused by parked cars. This application should be considered by the Council's Planning Committee on Thursday 30th September at 7:30pm.

Dave Davis, one of our Borough Councillors, has arranged a public meeting at **7:30pm on Monday 6th September, Burham Community Centre** to update people on the plans and to ensure their feelings are made clear. You can see the Application Search Form on the TMBC Web site at :

http://publicaccess.tmbc.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx

Into the Application Reference TM/ box, type "10/01437/OA" (without the quotation marks and where the last two letters are 'O' for 'Oscar' and A for 'Alpha') and press the search button.

Whilst you should be able to submit comments on the application form on this site it may be easier to e-mail: *Robin.Gilbert@tmbc.gov.uk* or write to:

The Planning Department, TMBC, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4LZ

THANKYOU

I would like to thank my relatives, neighbours and friends for all their help and kindness to me, also the lovely cards with their kind thoughts and prayers and get-well messages sent to me during my stay in Maidstone Hospital and then at the Poplars Nursing Home whose staff were so kind to me. Thank you all.
Best wishes, Joyce Brown

WOULDHAM PHOTO EXHIBITION

The 'Old Wouldham Group' apologise for having to cancel the September exhibition due to circumstances beyond their control.

**It has been re-scheduled for
30th & 31st October**

COACH OUTING

THURSFORD CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

£44 per person. More information & to book: Dot—Tel: 01634 685706

INDOOR BOOT FAIR

Saturday 23rd October, 10.00am—3.00pm

Burham Village Hall

Whatever the weather!! Tables just £10

Tracey Beechey 01634 685239 or Gwen 01634 672060

KEN'S QUIZ

7.30pm, 23rd October

BURHAM VILLAGE HALL

To book: Ken—01634 861858

PAMPER EVENING

6.30—10pm,

12th November

BURHAM VILLAGE HALL

More information:

Gwen - 01634672060

LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA RESEARCH

MAIDSTONE & MEDWAY FORGET ME NOT WALK

**SATURDAY 2ND OCTOBER. BEDGEBURY PINETUM
STARTS 10.00AM**

5KM WALK TO BEAT BLOOD CANCERS. ENTER NOW: forgetmenotwalks.com

RACE NIGHT

SATURDAY 16TH OCTOBER, BURHAM VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN 7.30PM. RACES START AT 8.00PM

HOT SUPPER—£7.00 ADULTS. £5.00 CHILDREN. (bring your own drinks)

To book: Dot- 01634 864642

'Strange Stories from Burham and Wouldham' by Neil Arnold

For several centuries records have existed that strange animals, as well as eerie ghosts, have inhabited the local villages. Locally, the 'ghost' of Blue Bell Hill has almost become a household name, although much of what is known about the tale is often connected to the fatal crash which took place in 1965 on the hill, which killed three women. However, local researcher Sean Tudor believes that one of the first ghost sightings of the so-called 'phantom hitch-hiker', took place in 1934. The ghostly figure was asked to be dropped off at Burham. She disappeared from the pillion of the motorcycle, leaving the witness stunned.

The local villages are also said to be prowled by a large, elusive black cat, which I have seen on three occasions. This animal is a black leopard, offspring of animals released during the 1960s which were once kept as novel pets. However, records date back to the 1500s of a slinking creature around Burham, Wouldham and Blue Bell Hill. Despite scepticism, reports continue and suggest that at least three species of large, exotic cat roam the outskirts, the other animals being lynx and puma.

I am a full-time researcher and author of MYSTERY ANIMALS OF THE BRITISH ISLES: KENT, and would like to hear from anyone who has had a peculiar sighting to speak of in the parish.

My phone number is 01634 819746, or please email at neil.arnold@live.com

DAY COACH TRIP TO BRIGHTON SATURDAY 23RD OCTOBER

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STEPHEN PEARCE writes about

GEORGE HICKS, Headmaster of Burham Boy's School 1901—1923

My grandmother, Ivy often mentioned her Uncle George, she would add,
“He was the Headmaster of Burham School!”

George was born in 1876 at 2 Bull Cottages, Bull Lane, Eccles. George's parents were Thomas and Persiana Hicks who had moved from Rye. Persiana is very unusual name and it ran through the family. Thomas was a fisherman in Rye but worked as a photographer by the time they moved to Belgrave St, Eccles. He also ran a newsagents and tobacconists from the same address. George had siblings; Thomas, Richard, Elizabeth and Isabel. It's believed that George went to Oxford University but I am unable to confirm this. George appears on an 1897 members list as secretary to the Eccles Cricket Club. In early 1901 he married Lily Jane Russell in Lewisham, the daughter of a Kent police constable. The newly wed George and Lily show then on the 1901 census to be living in Rochester Rd, Burham with George described as a 'schoolmaster'.

George was master of the Boys School (now the Community Centre) during the Great War. The teachers at the School were strict disciplinarians. Many of the boys taught by George in 1901 were in their late teens and early twenties in 1914. He must have known and had to cope with the loss of many of the men whose names appear on Burham War Memorial. The Boy's School was built in 1890 to take 152 boys and would have been a very tight squeeze to fit so many boys in. There were regular epidemics in the country at the time of whooping cough, diphtheria, polio and TB and no doubt the population of Burham suffered with these. The traditional 6 week school summer holiday was originally set so that the older children could help with the harvest and that is exactly what the children of Burham were expected to do.

George and Lily had one child, Phyllis Mary Hicks who was born in 1912 and then married in 1940. She is remembered in the village. Entries in the Kelly's Directories and Kent Messenger from 1901—1922 show the family to be living at Ivan House, Burham. George died at home in 1923 aged 47 years as a result of an asthma attack complicated by bronchitis. Lily lived another 49 years and died aged 94 in 1972 in Chatham. George is still remembered by some older residents of Burham, perhaps not directly, but as the teacher who taught their parents. None of my family today have personal memories of George but he is remembered for his part in shaping the lives of many of the young men of Burham in the first quarter of the 20th Century.

Stephen Pearce, Maidstone. - great, great nephew of George Hicks

With thanks to Ray Sturgeon & G Mills for supplying information.

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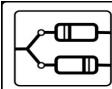
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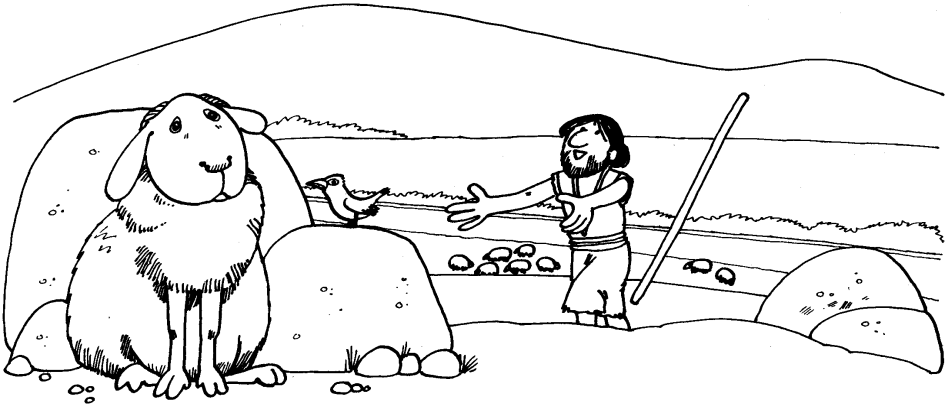
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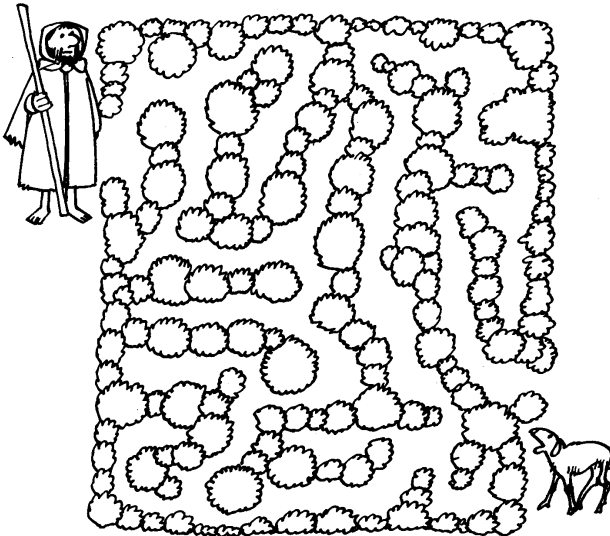
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The lost sheep



He will go to look
for the one that
wandered off (Matthew 18:12)

Help the shepherd find the lamb



Look up John 1:17. Who brought
grace and truth? _____

Word search

F	R	U	O	V	A	F	D	R	S
O	K	I	N	T	O	G	R	E	H
N	E	I	S	U	R	L	A	R	E
D	H	O	N	A	V	R	H	E	P
O	L	D	C	D	C	E	P	Y	H
G	A	E	C	H	N	R	E	A	E
D	M	K	I	N	D	E	H	R	R
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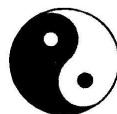
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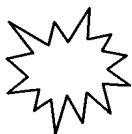
The Golden Eagle



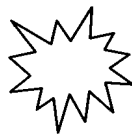
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Items for inclusion by the 10th of the preceding month