

Speldhurst News



February 2021

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Welcome - February



Dear Readers,

We are all hoping that 2021 will bring back some normality to our lives. The constancy of some elements of village life really do help: seeing a friendly face on a walk, being able to rely on a local shop and we hope having a village magazine, albeit online this month, that goes a little way towards this.

We really do appreciate your continued support and remember to send in any news, even if you think it isn't the 'usual' type of contribution - we are always on the look out for new ideas and opinions that will inspire and support us all, especially at the moment!

What is heartening this month, is noticing new growth in nature and feeling secure in the knowledge that those burgeoning daffodils will be flourishing into bright yellow blooms any time soon! See Rob Kyte's and Alan Ford's wonderful tips on horticulture and seasonal nature.

Whilst many clubs and events are not taking place, rest assured that plans are in place for when we can all dip our toes a little bit further into the water.

Until then, stay safe and well.

With our very best wishes.

Maria Turner, for the Editorial Team, Speldhurst News
(Abi Dawson, Maria Turner and Sara Turner)

Please remember that copy for the **March edition** should be sent by **10th February at the latest** to: speldhurst.news@gmail.com. Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred.

The SPELDHURST NEWS endeavours to include articles in addition to village, church and chapel news. These are taken in good faith and without prejudice, therefore the committee will not be held responsible for the accuracy of the content, nor will it be held responsible for any work or treatment received from the advertisers. Readers should satisfy themselves of advertisers' abilities before accepting a job quotation or undertaking a course of treatment. All articles & inclusions should be sent as a word document attachment. The editors reserve the right to amend submissions where they feel it is appropriate.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's on in Speldhurst for the Under 5's in February

As I write we are back in lockdown but the first signs of spring are peeking up in my garden, and the roll out of a vaccine is a reality for the most vulnerable amongst us. So even though we are being urged to stay at home once again, there is hope on the horizon.

Like everything else, our under 5's activities are seriously curtailed at the moment but following the success of the Posada trail in December we set up a 'Follow the star trail' in January.

We will be planning something similar in February to give you a fun focus for one of your daily walks. Look out for Jenny's monthly email or on the St Mary's or the Speldhurst Community Facebook pages for more details.

Meanwhile if you are new to the village and have pre-school children, or know someone in that position, do get in touch with Jenny on 01892 541200 or 07891318123 or at jenny50fitz@gmail.com so she can involve you in the little things we are able to do at the moment.

Symptom-free Covid-19 testing in Tunbridge Wells

If you are symptom-free and want to book a Covid-19 test at the Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall testing centre, you can do so via

<https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

It's quick and easy - test results are available in just 30 minutes. If you are out and about regularly for work or essential travel, it is recommended that you get yourself tested every two weeks.

Speldhurst Parish Council

Penshurst Choral Society Continues To Lift The Spirits Virtually

Throughout the dark months of autumn and winter Tuesday evenings have been special for members of Penshurst Choral Society. At 8pm we wait in anticipation in studies, kitchens or spare rooms for our Zoom app to leap into life for our weekly rehearsal with Musical Director Joe Tobin.

We have never met Joe in the flesh – he conducts us from his bedroom in London after taking on the choir during the pandemic, but each week he leads us in a few warmups, some classics and a lot of laughter to keep us singing together. About an hour is enough on screen, but afterwards Joe joins us when we are “sent” randomly to virtual “breakout rooms” to socialise. This has been a new way of making music for us all. Many of us felt technically challenged, but most members have risen to it, and have “met” members of the community that they hadn’t known before.

If you are free on Tuesday evenings and would like to sing with us take a look at <https://penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk>, find us on Facebook or call Mary Symes 07776 188194 to find out more. There’s no need to live in the Penshurst area – the wonders of the Worldwide Web enable us to sing with friends near and far!

No auditions, lots of learning aids and no-one will hear you sing for the moment, except perhaps the cat....

Come along!

Christine Terry



Tea on the Rec

Please do look at our Facebook page for updates as to when we can return to the Church.

Claire & Lel

Lovely words from Ann Lovering...

Surprise!

A shoebox on my doorstep.

Carefully covered in festive wrapping paper.

Inside, a tangerine, a Christmas pud

Some homemade damson jam, sweets and biscuits.

A book that promises to change my life.

(Is it too late? I am 84!)

The kindness of neighbours.

WELCOME TO SPELDHURST

A Very Warm Welcome to

Tamara Knight and husband Tim, who now live on Southfields with 2 year old daughter, Lucia and dog, Toby.



Speldhurst Association of Men

All activities remain cancelled until further notice. We look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we can.

Brian Tasker



FARMERS' MARKET AT PENS Hurst

Don't miss February's Penshurst Farmers Market for the very best local seasonal food and drink around



9.30 am
to
12.00 pm

*Penshurst
Place Visitor
Car Park*



The days are still short but spring really is around the corner so get out and make the most of the light with a visit to our February market. With over 20 regular stalls back after a new year break, there's lots to try and buy. If it's comfort eating you're after, we've got plenty of choice from home-made cakes and pies to cuts of grass-fed beef and lamb or wild venison perfect for slow cooking. The cold seas around the south coast means this is the best time to buy locally-caught fish and seafood now at their peak. Everything is grown, picked or made locally for the market by our talented, hard-working stallholders.

Don't forget to bring your kitchen knives and garden tools to be sharpened by our Knife Ninja ready for the new season in the garden; buy new season's flowering spring bulbs and shrubs from Low Wood Nursery to get into the ground now.

To ensure we keep everyone safe during lockdown, our Covid - ready one way system will be in place and we ask you to come prepared to shop alone and queue to enter. We encourage you to wear a mask if appropriate. Parking is plentiful, free and close by.

Find us on Facebook

Find us on Twitter and Instagram

www.kfma.org.uk/penshurst



SAVE THE DATE!
SPELDHURST FETE 2021 – SATURDAY 19TH JUNE

The Fete Committee are really hoping that we will be able to hold the Fete this year. It may not be in the same format as normal, we may need to be socially distanced, but we really hope we can get together as a village.

Please put the date in your diaries and cross your fingers that we will be able to do something.

More information to follow as we get more of an idea about what we may be allowed to do!!

Stay safe everyone and we really hope to see you in June.

The Fete Committee

Speldhurst Team of Action, Response & Support (S.T.A.R.S.)

Email: speldhurstcommunitygroup@gmail.com *

As we write, lockdown is upon us, and with the possibility of further restrictions this winter, we wanted to let you know that the Speldhurst team of action and response (S.T.A.R.s) are available once more. The Coordinators for each area have not changed and their numbers can be found on the map.

Just to remind you that S.T.A.R.s volunteers drop off shopping, collect prescriptions, post letters and more. We chat regularly on the phone to residents who've now been self-isolating for some time and we've even delivered lawn mower petrol! No doubt we'll find new ways to make peoples' lives easier over time. We're strict about social distancing measures and try to make delivering provisions part of essential trips outside. We let you know by phone or text when we've left shopping or prescriptions on your doorstep and wash our hands before we visit.

* As well as S.T.A.R.S correspondence this email is used for other community-related matters and will continue to exist following lockdown.

Foundsbridge
Claire Fox
07789 408848



S.T.A.R.S. in your area



Barden Road (Speldhurst Community Shop -
Bidborough T-junction)
Vicky Moran 07939 428119

Furzeffeld Avenue
Lynsay Bischoff;
07775 826894



Stockland Green Road
Katie Harle
01892 861794
07990 970652



Barden Road
(The Old Post Office -
Speldhurst Community Shop),
Cobhams, Turley Cottages &
St Mary's Lane
Emma Montgomery
07956 324863



Speldhurst Pharmacy
Lel Brown
07748 505136



Northfields &
Southfields
Polly Wood
07909 993439



Penshurst Road
& Speldhurst Hill
Lucy Greenidge
07738 260841



Ferbies, Deneway & Roopers
Polly Moulton
07766 074327



Lower Green Road
Kate McAdams
07909 895207



Bullingstone Lane
Trish Hodgkinson
01892 864287
07590 332991



Langton Green Road
(up to but not including Burnt House Lane)
Louisa MacPherson 07977 577396



**So, if you're self-isolating and need support -
whoever you are - get in touch.**

**Call Polly on 07766 074327 with any questions, or
simply contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator for your
area directly. We hope to hear from you soon.**



As you're all aware, we're back in lockdown again.

We are only allowing 3 customers into the shop at any one time at the moment. Please always wear a face covering and respect your social distance in the shop.

The shop has been busy again from the start of lockdown. The Post Office is now busy with shopping returns from those Christmas presents that aren't quite right! If you have any questions, or an unsure about shopping returns, please ask the team. They are all very knowledgeable about the various ways of returning your goods. We can advise on labels and QR codes and can even print labels for you. We can also process daily banking for the high street banks.

Our fresh fruit and veg comes in pretty much daily. If there is something you would like us to order for you, please let Jo-Anne and the team know. Or what about a weekly veg box? We can organise that for you too.

We have a new selection of the ever popular Kentish Mayde Pies in the freezer and also new flavours of delicious Yorkshire Provinder Soups. Just the ticket for these cold winter days.

On a January health kick? We have lots of beautiful dried fruits and nuts to keep those chocolate cravings at bay! (We have a lovely selection of chocolate too!)

Just getting through another day of homeschooling? Maybe a selection of our delicious cheese (Camembert, Brie, or a Goat's cheese?) with a warming glass of San Andreas Merlot may be a lovely evening treat.



Please remember to shop local and keep supporting our lovely village shop.

As always a huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers that keep the shop going through these difficult times.

Speldhurst Community
Group

Email speldhurstcommunitygroup@gmail.com if you need support or can volunteer



February at Speldhurst Village Hall

For obvious reasons we sadly do not have any events on at the hall at the moment. As soon as we are allowed we will be back! In the meantime we thought we would share some good memories. Who remembers this? Many thanks to Francis Booth for the picture!

SPELDHURST
VILLAGE HALL

SPELDHURST
Haggis, neeps and tatties for the club

By Jane Jardine
www.jardine@courier.co.uk

SPELDHURST had a distinctly Scottish feel last week when the village held a special Burns Night celebration.

More than 100 residents and friends turned up to a traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties (parsnips and potato) to help raise around £3,000 for the village's cricket and football clubs.

And it was a real community event, with the football club organising the bar and Tonbridge Grammar School sixth form students lending a hand with waitressing as part of the CAS (community activity service) requirement of their International Baccalaureate qualifications.

Burns Night

Francis Booth, who helped to set up the evening, said: "The Burns' Night event was the brainchild of Alison Harrison, the cricket club secretary, and she was well-supported by the excellent chefs, Phil Harrison and Paul Sigston and their kitchen staff.

"The football club organised a comprehensive bar service and the young waitresses were serving as part of their IB community work.

"A traditional menu of haggis, neeps and tatties was followed by a choice of main course and dessert and a massive cheese selection to finish.

"Many attendees were very impressed by the quality of the food, comparing it favourably with some of the best restaurants in town."

Guests dressed in kilts and tartan trousers and tables were decorated in Scottish flags, while a piper played before the haggis was served to the eager diners.

The £3,000 sum raised will go towards improving the facilities used by the village sports clubs, which are going from strength to strength in their respective leagues and cater for adults and more than 70 youngsters aged from seven to 15.

COMMUNITY WORK: Tonbridge Grammar School sixth formers

Memories

Dance Workshops

Footsteps Academy of Dance teach Ballet, Modern and Acrodance classes at the hall. While they are unable to teach in person, Footsteps have organised a series of live Zoom Workshops with top dance professionals. All are welcome to join, you do not have to be a Footsteps Member.

Saturday 6th February

Alice In Wonderland Workshop 10-11am

Join professional ballerina Samantha Rodulfo for this live zoom ballet workshop inspired by Alice In Wonderland. Ages 5-10 years

Swan Lake Workshop 11:15am -12:15pm

English National Ballet Dance Samantha Rodulfo leads this live zoom ballet workshop based on Swan Lake. Ages 11 plus

Wednesday 10th February

Tik Tok Workshop 4:30-5:30pm

Join professional dancer and choreographer Jonathan Mawson for this one off chance to learn all your favourite Tik Tok dances. Age 9 plus

Saturday 13th February

Matilda Workshop 10-11am

West End Star & Former Cast Member Sam Lathwood leads this fun musical workshop. Ages 5-10 years

Hairspray Workshop 11:15am-12:15pm

West End Star & Former Cast Member Sam Lathwood leads this fun musical workshop. Ages 11plus

Tickets for each workshop are £10 for a household. To book visit www.footsteps-dance.co.uk/workshops or contact Emma Armour on 07771 985711

For hall availability and bookings please go to our website:
www.speldhurstvillagehall.co.uk or contact Jenny Cooper on 07786 948952.

Nature Watch

Due to restrictions last year I used my moth lure [it sounds better than trap]. The lure is a box about 2ft/600mm cube and has an electric Mercury vapour 80 watt light bulb on the top. It is still not known why moths are drawn to this bulb it only works at night.

Egg boxes are scattered in the box and this gives a place for the moths to hide under as it gets light in the morning. Its best to get up early to check the contents and record the species and number found. This can take a while in the summer and any I don't know I photograph so later with the aid of books and the internet they can be named. In the UK there are 40 times more moths than butterflies and all are members of the order Lepidoptera.

In most gardens 3-400 different moths can be found throughout over a period of years, so far I have named 225 during the last year. I put out the lure every week when the weather is dry and mild. Starting in April I had 4 moths the first night, in July the total was over 118 moths of 53 different species. My last night was the 11th November and 5 moths. With a warming climate new moths are gaining a foothold from Europe. A few are coming in on plants from a lot further afield like the Light Brown Apple moth from Australia which is now common.

The Box-tree Moth *Cydalima perspectalis* is a striking moth 40mm across the wings that was accidentally introduced to the UK originating from south-east Asia.



The larvae feed on various species of box and this is how it entered the country on imports of box. Where larval numbers are high it can disfigure ornamental Box hedgerows and topiary and can defoliate plants completely.

If you have ornamental box check for caterpillars from July onwards as the adults are on the wing from late June. First seen in Kent in 2007 I had my first one this summer in July and I expect to see a lot more in 2021. This is why we must buy plants and trees grown in Britain to prevent importing non-native insects and all the trouble they bring.

Alan Ford



~ ALLOTMENT NEWS ~



Garlic Fire Update

It has been estimated that if aphids were left unchecked by predators they would breed so successfully that by the end of just 1 year the earth would be almost two kilometres deep in them. Well...I don't know if that is true. But, how to control bug infestations is a challenge we all face in our gardens and on our allotments.

Whilst not everything that flies, crawls, creeps, slithers or grows into our plots is a problem, it is those that graze, chew, pierce, sap-suck or – in the case of my dog – sit on them that worry us most.

So I was pleased to see that some time after spraying with the garlic fire pesticide, the brussels seemed to be mostly clear of the white fly infestation. However, that wasn't the end of it. As November and early December progressed, my Brussels started to rot on the plant.

I've no idea what caused this. Did the white fly damage the outer leaves to the point that they died off and so started to rot? Did the garlic, chilli or washing-up liquid in the spray cause the rot? I'm not certain. However, another allotment holder with the same issue has led me to believe it was the white fly that caused the problem. So this year I'll be ever vigilant checking for white fly on my brussels.

History of Speldhurst Allotments

Our allotments are first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1909. The land together with the Recreation Ground was originally part of the Swaylands Estate in Penshurst which was owned by Mr George James Drummond, a wealthy banker and a partner of Drummonds Bank, with offices at Charing Cross, London. Mr Drummond apparently chose to buy Swaylands due to its proximity to Tonbridge railway station, from where he could commute by train to the bank's premises. Mr George James Drummond died in 1917.

In 1923 Mr George Henry Drummond (son) sold the two sections of allotment land to the Rev. J.H. Masters, the vicar of Speldhurst, for £200. Canon Masters bequeathed the land in trust to the Rector and Churchwardens as Trustees in his will dated in 1941. The allotments are governed by the Trustees according to the terms outlined by Canon Master's will. The Church later passed the Trusteeship to three Speldhurst residents who are independent of the Church. In 1964 the Allotments and the Recreation Ground were registered with The Charities Commission. Over the years, there have been numerous plottings and re-plottings of allotment areas. This both ongoing and dynamic, to the extent that at the time of writing, there are 58 plots. Costs incurred in 2020 were £391.22 – amounting to circa £7 per plot. When added to the annual rent, the total cost per plot for 2021 is £17 - offering excellent value for all the benefits that can be achieved. All financial surpluses go to the Recreation Ground our village amenity enjoyed by almost everyone who lives here and which arguably – with the current closure of the George & Dragon – is currently the heart, soul and focus of our community.



Speldhurst Allotment Holders & Gardeners Facebook Page

A Facebook page has been set up for the Speldhurst allotments and also for keen gardeners in and around the village. If you are interested and also on Facebook, please join. The purpose is to offer a source of news, views, sharing and caring about our horticultural hobbies.

And finally:

If you are interested in acquiring an allotment, please contact **Mark Oddy on 01892 862746**. If there is any topic you would like to address relating to matters gardening or horticultural, please send an email to kytehouse@stepex.co.uk. If you would like to submit something for this article, please also email it to kytehouse@stepex.co.uk.

Rob Kyte



Speldhurst CEP School



In normal times, the school takes part in numerous sporting competitions with local schools including Athletics, Cross Country, Football and Hockey, to name but a few. Unfortunately, for obvious reasons, we have been unable to do this and so, instead, each class has been concentrating on improving their skills in the classroom and have been recording their results throughout the term. Below are the “match reports” from three of our classes.

The children in Bramley Class have been developing their volleyball skills this term and put on a thrilling display in our end of term tournament. The scores below showed just how closely contested each game was and the results really could have gone either way. Congratulations to Hever house who were crowned the winners! The important thing was though that, at the end of it all, we had all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and there were lots of smiles to be seen!

Mr Vale-Taylor



Crispin Class put their athletic skills to the test last term, competing in a virtual inter-school competition over six disciplines, including a shuttle run, the high jump and the (exhausting!) speed bounce. Although Speldhurst School pupils missed out on a podium place, they put their all into their endeavours and performed brilliantly.

As well as competing against other schools, Crispin Class pupils recorded their scores at the beginning and then at the end of this term in the hope of showing the most improvement across the year group.



I'm delighted to say that our winners not only received medals but, in keeping with our Ancient Greek topic this term, we had a full Olympic-style podium ceremony - complete with National Anthem - and everyone received a certificate for their superb efforts. Congratulations and very well done!

Mrs Moss

Last term, in Russet Class, we did dodgeball for PE. We learnt all the different techniques from how to throw properly, how to catch and how to dodge. We put all of these skills together to play matches and an inter-house game. All houses competed and the final scores were: Hever 0, Rochester 3, Leeds 6 and Bodiam 9.



Also this term we danced. We were in groups and made a street dance routine, consisting of a handshake motif, individual breakdances, toprock, tutting and final poses. At the end of term, we performed our finished dances in front of the class and they were filmed. It was really fun and we learnt a lot.

The Year 6 House Captains



CENSUS 2021

TWBC have asked us to share details about Census 2021. This will happen on 21st March, and as the census website tells us, your participation is vital:

"The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The census is unique. There's simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. All kinds of organisations, from local authorities to charities, use the information to help provide the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. Without the census, it would be much more difficult to do this. By taking part, you'll be helping make sure you and your community get the services needed now and in the future."

Further information to follow in our March news, but in the meantime, you can read more at www.census.gov.uk.

STAY SAFE IN 2021

We'd really like to help you protect yourself from online scams and doorstep criminals in 2021. Without scaremongering, we're keen to raise awareness of the growing number of scams – often Covid-19 related and very plausible – doing the rounds in Kent. Visit the 'Report It' page on our website, www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk, to find information on how to report a crime, together with community policing updates and newsletters that are really useful in helping us all stay one step ahead of scammers.



A NEW COUNCILLOR AT SPC

Trevor Myles was co-opted as a Councillor at our December meeting. Trevor is already an active member of the community in Old Groombridge, where he has lived for 7 years, and will now co-ordinate our footpath maintenance volunteers in Old Groombridge too, which is excellent news.

Read more about Trevor at www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk under 'The Parish Council' tab.

PUBLIC MEETINGS & OFFICE HOURS

We continue to hold public Zoom meetings and our next Full Council Meeting will take place on 1st February. See meeting agendas for joining instructions on our website or contact us for help.

With lockdown in place, staff are homeworking, and the office is closed. However, we're only a phone call or email away so do get in touch.

To contact SPC, please call the Clerk, Chris May on 07760769513* or email clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

Visit www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk for more info about SPC or find us on Facebook as 'Speldhurst Parish Council'

**Staff are currently unable to check for messages on our office landline number*

Northfield's Living Advent Calendar 2020

Thanks to Becky Leeves for coming up with this wonderfully 'bright' idea! Bringing a little bit of joy and goodwill to Northfields.





Speldhurst Cookbook

A recipe from my Italian grandmother, remembered with great fondness. The directions are not very specific as it has been handed down through the generations.

Maria Turner

Nonna Maria's Cake

300 grams of white rice

3 eggs

200 grams of sugar

2 cups of milk

One or two teaspoons of Cointreau (optional)

One teaspoon of vanilla

One tablespoon of melted butter

One tablespoon of lemon juice

A lot of lemon rind

Boil the rice until tender. Add the milk to make a cream. In a bowl, whisk the eggs, then add everything else. Add to the pan of rice. Put into an oven dish. Cook for about 20 minutes, at around 170-200c. It is ready when it has browned on top.



If you have a treasured recipe, please share.

RICKY'S (CHAPEL) COMMENT

I received this in a Christmas Card and felt it worth sharing.

NOT GROWING OLD!

They say that I am growing old; I hear them tell it times untold
in language plain and bold. But I'm not growing old!
This frail old shell in which I dwell is growing old I know full well;
But I am not the shell!

What if my hair is turning grey? Grey hair is honourable they say.
And though my eyesight's growing dim, I still can see to follow Him
who sacrificed His life for me upon the tree at Calvary.

And who should care if times old plough has left deep furrows on my
brow? Another house – not made with hands – awaits me in the
Glory-land.

And though I'm feeble in my walk and though my tongue refuse to talk,
I still can watch and wait and pray, and though my hearing be not keen
as in the past it may have been, I still can hear my Saviour say, in whis-
pers soft, "I am the Way!"

The outer man (do all I can to lengthen out this life's short span) will per-
ish and return to dust – as everything in nature must. The inner man, the
Scriptures say, is growing stronger every day!

Then why should I be growing old if safe within the Master's fold?
Ere long my soul shall fly away and leave this tenement of clay, this robe
of flesh shall drop; but I shall rise to meet my Saviour in the skies – and
seize the everlasting prize, and after that we'll meet on streets of gold and
prove we are not growing old.

RICKY FAWCETT

DO JOIN US!



**Every Sunday at
10 am on YouTube**

Christian worship for the local
community. Details on St Mary's
Speldhurst Facebook page
and website





At the time of writing this our church building is closed for services but open for private prayer from 10 am to 3 pm on Sundays. However, guidance is constantly changing so please look on our website or Facebook page for further details.



Funeral and Burial in Churchyard

11th December David Cosmo Jenkins

The Church Office is currently closed to visitors but we can be contacted on 861187 or speldhurst.church@btopenworld.com
See our website: www.speldhurst.org/church
St Mary's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/100627001533494/posts/129621161967411/?d=n>

St. Mary's Church

1853



Sepia drawings of Kent churches
by William F. Saunders

A Letter from St Mary's

February 2021

Dear Friends,

Once again I am struggling to guess what life will be like by the time you read this. One certainty about February is that Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, the 17th.

Lent is a period of preparation before Easter. Some people choose to give up something at this time. If that's you then I'd like to remind you that Sundays are not part of Lent and encourage you to spend the time you might have used nibbling or drinking to do some reflection.

A great way for all of us to do that is by reading the psalms. If you do that you might be struck at how grumpy and complaining many of them are. Take for instance the beginning of Psalm 13:

*How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
How long will my enemy triumph over me?
Look on me and answer, Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,
and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,'
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.*

This is one of the Psalms of Lament, the largest grouping in that part of the Bible. If nothing else they remind us that all human experiences are present in God's community and that it is absolutely acceptable to tell him the way we feel. There's also a challenge: much as we might desire to always look on the bright side of life, sometimes life hits us with nastiness. Let's get real this Lent.

Douglas

PS I can be contacted at douglas.wren12@gmail.com or on 01892 862821 or at The Rectory, Southfields, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0PD

SPELDHURST VILLAGE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Age UK Lunch	Jan Mann	863931
Allotments	Mark Oddy	862746
Beavers	Jo Smith	518706
Bowls Club	Linda Boyd	512474
Bridge Club	Heather Hughes	863367
Brownies	Louise Scott	862972
Bumps and Babes	Jenny Fitzsimmons	541200
Chapel	Ricky Fawcett	863217
Cricket Club	Nick Coffin	07867 803121
Cubs	Karol Leeves	531104
Flower Show	Alan Ford	863276
Football: Speldhurst Rangers	Ollie Crees	07919467576
Footpaths Group	Rupert Milner	863255
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Mothers' Union	Christine Baker	540793
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Nursery School		860557
Parish Council: Chair	Neil Barrington-Johnson	863959
	Vice Chair	Dave Pate
	Parish Clerk	Chris May
		Richard Ellery
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Police Community Support Officer	Jay Burt	863404
	Jay.Burt@kent.police.uk	
Primary School	Stephanie Hayward	863044
Rainbows	Lucy Wild	07910 304691
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Speldhurst Association of Men	Brian Tasker	862301
Snooker Club	Glen Fuller	862213

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Village Fete: Chair	Lynsay Bischoff	864923
Village Hall	Jenny Cooper	07786 948952
Village Website	Miranda Hawkins	863601
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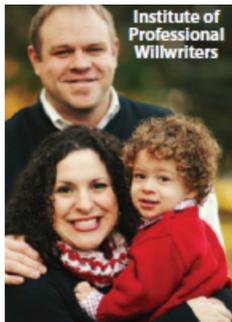
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