

Speldhurst News



May 2022

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Welcome to May

Dear Readers,

A glorious spell of weather over Easter, as I edit, and thoughts of spring events, the fete in June and the flower, veg and craft show in September don't seem so far-fetched.

We are probably gearing up for this summer with more anticipation than ever. There are still reminders of real need - here and elsewhere - in this magazine though (pp 5 and 10).

And close to home - the chance to vote on 5th May, to support our Parish Council (p.12) and to get involved in your village magazine (p.4)!

Wishing you a happy May and the joys of spring in Speldhurst.

Abi Dawson

For the Speldhurst News Editors:

Sara Turner, Maria Turner & Abi Dawson

Please remember that copy for the **June edition** should be sent **before 10th May** to: speldhurst.news@gmail.com. Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred. Thank you.

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.

diary at a glance

May

Mondays Fortnightly	Bumps & Babes	p.4
Monday pm	Library	p.15
Sun 1st	Hospice in the Weald Walk	
Thurs 5th	TWBC elections	
Sat 7th	Penshurst Farmers Market	p.8
	Blackham Village Café & Market	p.6
	Tonbridge Music Club	p.9
Mon 9th	SPC full council meeting	p.13
Weds 11th	Praise & Play	p.4
	Community safety drop-in	p.13
Weds 25th	Praise & Play	p.4
Thurs 26th	Recreation Ground AGM	p.6

June

Sat 18th June	Speldhurst Village Fete	p.11
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Date for your diary

Sat 10th Sept	Flower, Veg & Craft Show	p.11
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News & Announcements

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

If you are looking for activities with your Under 5's in the village, here are two.

Bumps and Babes

Coffee mornings for new mums. It meets fortnightly on a Monday from 10.30 in members' homes. Do message Jenny if you have a child under 2, and are interested in joining this group.

Praise and Play

St Mary's Toddler Group meets fortnightly in the church from 9 - 10.30am. This group is suitable for all under 5's whether they can toddle or not.

We start with free play, then gather together for a story and some songs before we enjoy some refreshments.

We're there from 9am, but arrive when you can

This month we meet on Wednesday 11th May & Wednesday 25th May.

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

Speldhurst News: News

We are delighted to report that David Lamey has very kindly offered to take over the role of Speldhurst News Treasurer from Eric Roughley, with immediate effect.

Our heartfelt thanks and a big welcome to David, and equally sincere thanks to Eric for his huge amounts of hard work over the years. Welcome also to Vicki Pate who has joined the committee to help with distribution. Eric will continue to oversee advertising for the foreseeable future, but help on the magazine is still required - please contact Sara on 07950 031424, or Derek on 863135 if you have the odd hour to spare and would like to get involved.

Homes for Ukrainian Refugees



Several families in the village have already registered their willingness to house refugees and the Church Council has decided that it would be highly beneficial for us as a church to register our interest.

- For the refugees they would know they were going to a community with other Ukrainians
- Extended families could be homed in close proximity with one another
- Host families would be supported by the wider church community

If you would like to participate through St Marys, would you let me know if you

- Have already registered with the government website
- Would like to do so now we propose working as a group
- Cannot offer a room but could offer your support of a host family by providing lifts, occasional meals or meeting some of the other needs of our guests
- Can donate financially to a fund held by the church to meet the needs of either hosting families or their guests
- Can help me organise this – 2 heads are better than one.

Please email me on s.tegelaars@gmail.com

With thanks,
Stefanie Tegelaars

Speldhurst Walking Footballers

Men and women of all ages and abilities are welcome to join Speldhurst walking footballers. It's all about getting some gentle exercise and having fun. So, whether you have ever played football, or not, do come and join us.

We meet at 7pm at the all-weather pitch on Speldhurst rec on Tuesday evenings.

Please call Brian Shilling if you would like any further information: 07940 013135

Recreation Ground AGM

The AGM for the Recreation Ground will be held at 8pm on **Thursday 26th May** in the village hall. Anyone in the village, particularly users of the Rec, are warmly invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Ed Wesson
On behalf of the Committee

BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET

(first Saturday of every month except January)



SATURDAY 7 May 2022
10.00am – 12.30pm
BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL



Meet your friends at “The Stage” café, enjoy filter coffee, tea and a piece of delicious homemade cake or a warm sausage roll!

Produce for sale at the market include: Bread, free range eggs, pasties and other baked savouries, cakes, scones, preserves, wild bird food, pottery, local cheeses, plus other exciting goodies.

Blackham Village Hall is a registered charity whose sole purpose is to promote and maintain the hall for the enjoyment of and benefit of the community

Nature Watch

May is for me when things really get going in the natural world. Most of summer migrants will be here - Swallows, Nightingales and various Warblers - will we hear the cuckoo in Speldhurst this year? Early May is the best time to go out early and hear the dawn chorus. Shadwell woods and Bullingstone are good places to hear the birds singing and the Bluebells should still be flowering. Butterflies such as Orange Tip in grassland and Speckled Wood are around woodland edges and glades and both can be seen in gardens along with the Holly Blue. If a blue butterfly is seen flying along hedge and tree lines in gardens it will be a Holly Blue, the Common Blue is found in unimproved grassland. Holly trees with their evergreen prickly leaves is a food plant for the Holly Blue, the caterpillars eat the flowers in the first generation and the second generation eat the Ivy flowers in the autumn. The Holly has red Berries much loved by the Thrush family in winter. It is a very good hedging plant and will grow in shady corners. The wood is very white and even grained and can be stained to look like Ebony. When grown in a woodland it is often left by the woodsmen when coppicing as it was said to be unlucky to cut one down.

I made an early morning visit to Bough Beech reservoir and found a type of duck called a Garganey. This is a summer visitor and not common at Bough Beech. They come to breed in this country and like large marshy areas. The male has a striking white stripe on the head [see picture] and stopped at Bough Beech to have a rest and feed then carried on to its destination further up country.



Alan Ford



FARMERS' MARKET AT PENS HurST

Don't miss Penshurst Farmers' Market this May for the best local seasonal food and drink



**Saturday
7th May
2022**

**9.30 am
to
12.00 pm**

**Penshurst
Place Visitor
Car Park**



With spring getting into full swing, our hard-working local producers all move up a gear as they start to working on the bounty of the growing season ahead. An increasing selection of seasonal produce at its finest appears at the market as days lengthen and, with up to 30 stalls selling the finest food and drink, you'll be spoilt for choice.

With a bit of luck and some spring sunshine the first of the Kent asparagus should be available as we welcome back market regular, New Park Farm. Otherwise fish makes a good choice for lighter eating in May and is wonderful with asparagus. Wild seabass, lemon sole and halibut should all be good now.

It's the month to get into the garden and you can buy locally grown shrubs, perennials and new season's herbs from Low Wood Nursery and pretty-as-a-picture bunches of spring flowers from our new stall, The Meadow Flower Company. On the similar floral theme, local bees browsing on pollen-rich flowers provide the nectar for glorious honey from our Groombridge-based producer, Hendal Honey.

Parking is plentiful, free and close by and you can pick up snacks and drinks from the Porcupine Pantry at Penshurst Place.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

WWW.kfma.org.uk/penshurst

Tonbridge Music Club

The end of TMC's 59th season draws near, but there are still three more events to tempt you – and they're all very different! This short piece provides a 'taster' – please take a look at the Club's website (www.tmc.org.uk) for more information and to buy tickets.

Coming up first, on **Saturday 7 May at 3.00pm**, is an **interactive family concert with the young, dynamic Atéa Wind Quintet**, the foremost British wind quintet of their generation. They have performed around the UK and at some of best-known concert halls internationally. Their concert will be a 'whistle stop tour' of the wind quintet, demonstrating the instruments and repertoire, and with some fun audience participation. The concert will last about an hour and is recommended for ages 5+, but all ages are most welcome. The venue is the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Tonbridge.

On **Saturday 11 June at 7.30pm**, also at the Parish Church, TMC welcomes the fabulous French **Van Kuijk String Quartet** for an evening concert. The Quartet has won prizes both in the UK and at overseas international competitions. They were BBC New Generation artists from 2015-17. They will perform a wonderful programme of Mozart, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn quartets.

TMC's final event this season is a '**Totally Toddler**' concert, given by **Jessie Grimes on clarinet and Charis Hanning on piano**. This was originally scheduled for January but had to be postponed until **Friday 17 June**. It will take place at the **Tonbridge Baptist Church, Darenth Ave at 10.45am**. This will be an interactive concert lasting for around 40 minutes and is designed especially for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers. Children will be free to move around! Advance booking is advised due to limited capacity.

Please see www.tmc.org.uk for further details or phone 01732 364204 if you have any queries.

We hope to see you at one of these events!



Speldhurst Sourdough

As many of us have been wanting to help and support those affected by the conflict in the Ukraine, I have decided to put together Speldhurst Sourdough to support this appeal.

If anyone would like to purchase a freshly baked Speldhurst Sourdough loaf (granary or white) to support Ukraine, please get in touch by emailing me: speldhurstsourdough@gmail.com (48 hr notice please). I can deliver within the village, however outside of Speldhurst will have to be agreed, so do contact me to arrange.

All donations will go to [#CookForUkraine](#), a charity raising funds needed to aid children & families in Ukraine, via the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sara-turner12>

Saturday 18th June

SPELDHURST VILLAGE FETE

For all the village to
come together again:

BBQ, Cakes, Ice-creams, Bands, Rock
Choir, Dogs, Grand Draw, Nerf Corner,
Bar, Stalls, Entertainment, Bouncy
Castles, Activities and more...

TICKETS COMING SOON...



11AM - 5PM

Late Night Party: 7pm - 11pm

WHAT CAN WE DO?



We recently held our Annual Parish Meeting. We advertised this around the village, in our newsletter and website news alerts, and on Facebook.

Our key speaker was Kent Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott, and the overall theme of our meeting was community safety, something we know is an issue for residents.

Those who attended fed back that the meeting was informative and enjoyable, not least because it offered an opportunity to chat to Councillors about what they were doing to improve the quality of life in our parish.

What we did find though, was that the meeting was not widely attended by residents under the age of 45. While the risk of covid, and work and family commitments are all likely to be factors, sadly, this age bracket has always been under-represented at parish meetings.

And yet we know from reading posts in the Speldhurst Facebook group that those of you in this age group are actually highly engaged

in all areas of community life. So, as we are here to serve you, we'd love you to tell us: HOW CAN WE REACH YOU?

In fact, we want to hear from all residents: HOW CAN WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU BETTER? Our contact details are opposite; do get in touch.

REMINDER TO SIGN UP FOR NEWS ALERTS

Talking of communication, have you visited our website, www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk lately? Did you know you can sign up for news alerts? We only share information that's relevant to you (like important road closures, public consultations affecting planning and public transport issues, or the latest community safety drop-in dates) so we won't clog up your inbox. We also share this info. on Facebook; follow 'Speldhurst Parish Council' if you haven't already.

BIODIVERSITY IN ROOPERS

You will notice that an area of grass in the centre of 'Pocket Park', opposite Little Court Care Home in Roopers, has been left uncut. This will be cultivated as an area of biodiversity as part of a campaign led by our Environment Working Group. The key message here is that the grass is not just being left to grow in an untidy mess but will be studied and looked after to encourage as much biodiversity in the area as possible. Many thanks to the residents whose homes overlook pocket park, who have given our plans their full support.

We have a little funding, so look out for bat boxes and insect hotels too. Wildlife expert Alan Ford also plans to hold sessions showing residents what they can do in their own gardens. More info to follow.

USEFUL INFORMATION – SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Visit www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/news/ukraine to find out more.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Full Council Meeting: 7.30pm Mon. 9th May, Palmer room, Langton Green village hall. *We reserve the right to ask you to book a seat in advance.*

Community Safety drop-in: 12-2.00pm Weds. 11th May, Langton Green village hall. With Crime Prevention Officer Miles Booth & PCSO Gemma Gilbert.

(SPC Contact details on p.14)

HOW TO CONTACT THE COUNCIL OFFICE

Call the Clerk, Katie Neve on 01892 862927/07760 769513 or email clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

For helpful information, visit www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk and sign up for news alerts, or follow us on Facebook as 'Speldhurst Parish Council'.

News from TWBCllr Matthew Sankey

Six months have almost passed since I won the by-election in November and you know what they say, time flies by when you're having fun.

Hedge Rows & Pavements

I picked up a post on Facebook about the state of some of our paths, and how the hedgerows have overgrown, making the path narrower than intended and dangerous for users. You can mark these on the KCC website and a team will come out and deal with the hedge and reinstate the path at its full width - what they will also do is present the owner of the hedge with an invoice for that work. Thankfully I was able to intervene and politely inform the owner of the hedge that it had over grown and was affecting the path and that it should really be cut back - the very next week the hedge was cut back and the path was back to its former glory saving both KCC and the hedge owner valuable time & money.

If you know of something that needs fixing or is overgrown, report it to me and I'll get on the case using common sense to resolve it.

The garden bins have been collected - Hurrah

Ok so not the most exciting news, but after a long hiatus our garden bins are being collected. There is the rather awkward conversation to be had about why we had to pay the firm an extra £100,000. Rest assured I have already started probing for a satisfactory answer. I am also still reporting broken and damaged bins - is yours broken?

Planning: The Local Plan

For those who don't know, The Local Plan is the backbone of the borough's planning policy, it's this that guides the planning officers and committees when they make their decisions. Unfortunately, we currently do not have one and this new one is very late. Not having a Local Plan means planning decisions fall back to national policy which is why we have seen some planning applications approved that we all agree shouldn't have gone through, but the department's hands are tied. The new Local Plan is currently at Stage 2 and it is hoped that it will be completed in due course.

Your Borough Councillors

	Contact Details	Re-Election Date
Cllr Matthew Sankey (Alliance)	07881 674 310 matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2022
Cllr Lucy Willis (Alliance)	07958 634 185 lucy.willis@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2023
Cllr Harry Allen (Conservative)	07523 005 178 harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2025

Matthew Sankey - May 2022



Speldhurst Library is open

Come and visit us at the Village Hall
on Monday afternoons
between 2pm and 5pm





SPELDHURST'S EST. SHOP 2019

Call us on 863158

With spring in full effect we have all your daily essentials ready for early picnics. Our cheese selection is particularly lovely at the moment. What about a wedge of Scrumpy Sussex on a door step of Groombridge Granary? We have celery and apple too!



The Tunbridge Wells Flower Co. have been visiting the Shop with their beautiful bouquets of spring flowers. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for recent deliveries.

Did you know the shop stocks a selection of dairy alternative milks?...



Don't forget that the Post Office offers a whole host of services, not just post, parcels and cash withdrawals. We sell travel insurance and preloaded currency cards for your holiday money. You can order currency on the Post Office website and pick it up from Speldhurst too. Our Post Office is a vital resource for our community. Every time you use the Post Office it generates revenue to help to keep both the shop and the Post Office running. Every transaction helps! If there is something you would like to see stocked in the shop, please let us know. We'd be happy to get it in for you if we can.

Do you have marketing experience and could spare a couple of hours every month? We are looking for someone to join the shop committee. Please contact Edward (Edward.b.pinnell@gmail.com) if you can help.

Would you like to volunteer at the shop? Please contact Jo Eames on 07896 932716.

Lynsay Bischoff



Postbox topper - April 2022

Image courtesy of
Debbie Moon

SPELDHURST VILLAGE HALL

Parties!

With the warmer weather on its way and several Bank Holidays coming up, why not book your next party at the Hall. Not only do we play host to children's parties but we are also available for grown-up events. You can sip cocktails on the decking, book one of our caterers to enchant your taste buds, and hire a band or DJ and dance the night away.

Workshops!

We are hoping to host some creative workshops over the Spring and Summer in the evenings. If you are a local creative who wants to give a class please get in touch. These will initially be one-off, 2 – 3 hour classes to give students an introduction into your craft.

Help Needed!

The Hall would love to hear from you if you are looking for a few hours paid work a week. This would suit someone retired who wants to potter and keep busy. Whilst we get contractors in to do the big jobs, we need a handyman / lady to help with day-to-day maintenance.



As always, contact Sam Van Niekerk on 07894 903979 or speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com if you need to get in touch.

May events at Bore Place, Chiddingstone

(all events can be booked online at www.boreplace.org/whatson)

ID Walk: Reptiles on Saturday 7th May (9:30am – 1:00pm)

Price: Adult £8.00, Child £6.00 Survey the reptiles found at Bore Place and learn ID skills to recognise UK native species such as slow worm, common lizard and great crested newts and where to look for these species. The walk will be led by Heather Clayson, the Citizen Science and Nature Programmes Coordinator at Bore Place. This session is suitable for beginners as well as enthusiasts!

An Evening with Dave Goulson – Saving Our Insects on Wednesday 11th May (7:00pm – 9:00pm)

Price: Adult £10.00, Child £8.00 In this fascinating, inspiring and hopeful talk, renowned author, bumble bee specialist and conservationist, Professor Dave Goulson will explain the reasons why insects are declining, as well as looking at the solutions for this crisis and what changes we can make in our own lives to help our insect populations recover.

Bat Walk on Friday 13th May (7:00pm – 9:30pm)

Price: Adult £8.00, Child £6.00 A nocturnal quest to see bats and their amazing aerial acrobatics and other night-time animals. You will be guided on a night walk around Bore Place farm, using bat detectors to listen out for bats as they leave their roosts and fly out to catch insects. The walk will be led by Lynne and Peter Flower.

Introduction to Keeping Chickens on Saturday 21st May (10:00am – 4:00pm)

Price: Adult £59.00 This informal course provides an excellent introduction to the popular hobby of poultry keeping. The course is designed for beginners - no previous hands-on experience or theoretical knowledge is required. Led by enthusiastic tutor John Shepherd, the course aims to cover all aspects of chicken husbandry so that you leave feeling confident about caring for your birds.

Introduction to Wild Food: Summer Foraging on Sunday 22nd May

(10:00am – 1:00pm) *Price: Adults £35.00* Explore the beautiful Bore Place estate with professional forager Gemma Hindi on a guided foraging walk. You will learn how to identify and use wild plants, trees and fungi for food.

Bore Place is an environmental NGO based in Chiddingstone, Kent. Visitors can park on-site and explore the stunning 500-acre organic farm with several walking routes to choose from.



~ Allotment News ~



All About Soil

One thing I have never done is to check my soil. A lot is written about this - particularly checking the acidity or alkalinity. The neutral point (and ideal for growing most vegetables) is 7, with 1-6 indicating an acid soil and 8-14 alkaline.

Apparently soil pH is important because...

1. pH is so important to plant growth because it determines the availability of almost all essential plant nutrients. At a soil pH of 6.5, the highest number of nutrients are available for plant use.
2. If the garden pH is too acidic, certain nutrients become less available, phosphorus in particular, while other nutrients, like aluminium and manganese, can become toxic. Acidic pH levels are also unwelcoming to beneficial soil bacteria.
3. Alkaline soils impede the availability of nutrients like iron, manganese, copper, zinc, and also phosphorous. Plants dependent on high levels of iron, evergreens in particular, perform poorly in alkaline soils.

But if that is too technical and if – like me – you are not quite into conducting soil analysis, apparently one of the first things we should do is to get down on our hands and knees and feel our soil. Getting our hands dirty is a good way to discover what type of soil we have.

If the earth feels loose and light and runs easily through the fingers, then we have a sandy soil. If it is heavy and damp and easily rolls into a ball in the hand, then it has a high clay content.

A basic understanding of how the soil works will help us to get the most out of our gardens. And here is an interesting factoid: No matter what the soil type, about 90% of its content is mineral (rock) and the remaining 10% is made up of organic matter (humus) plus air and water.

Rock?!? So that's where our mountains went!!

All soils consist of organic matter plus three mineral elements - sand clay and silt in varying proportions. Another way to easily see what makes up the

highest portion of the soil is to do a simple jar test.

Half fill a jam jar with water and then fill the remainder up with soil. Put the lid on and give it a good shake. Then leave it to settle for a day or two. The sediments from the soil should have formed layers, with sand at the bottom (with the heaviest particles), silt in the middle and clay at the top.

This way it can be seen which is the highest proportion.

Now I have never done this at the allotments. However, I am sure (nay convinced), after so long being worked by avid allotment holders - adding organic matter over a long period - that the soil is loamy. Generally on observation, it looks brown and appears to be crumbly in texture - particularly noticeable when digging.

Loamy soil is the gardeners ideal. Well balanced. High in organic material. Understanding our soil and building it up by adding manure, compost and other natural substances are apparently absolutely key to gardening - particularly organic.

The living, organic matter in the soil is the crucial component. And the more organic matter, the better quality is the soil. Which is why our allotments are so great. With circa 100 years of being worked over by the allotment holders before us, our soil is just about as good as it could get.

There are billions upon billions of living organisms in our soil. From earthworms to miniscule bacteria. And they thrive on the organic matter that is added to the soil.

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.



Care home turns the clock back for an afternoon of vintage fun

1940s Tea Dance held at residents' request

Birchwood House Care Home recently turned the clocks back for an afternoon of vintage 1940s fun at the request of its residents. The event was marked by fabulous vintage-styled live entertainment, historically-themed displays, and nostalgic taste of wartime Britain.

The 1940s-inspired Tea Dance, which took place on the afternoon of 24th March, saw the stunning former manor home transformed with decorations that allowed residents to relive history and included a backdrop of Union Jacks, retro sweets, and propaganda newspapers.

From the music and the films to the fashion in vogue, the 1940s



was one of the most memorable decades in history. The staff at Birchwood House, embraced their characters and dressed in 'dapper' outfits to fit in with the theme. The nostalgic playlist of

live singer 'Vintage Ruby' - who provided a touch of 1940s glamour and sang top hits from this era - allowed the residents to dance the afternoon away and experience a taste of days gone by.

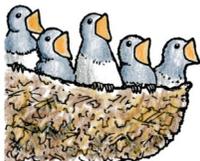
The tables were dressed to recreate the sights and sounds of the fabulous 40s and residents dined on a 1940s-inspired 'afternoon tea' buffet, all of which were prepared by the care home chef, Elia. On hand were propaganda newspapers, whilst themed games and activities were also on offer for those who wanted to get involved.

Birchwood House hosts a number of events throughout the year and has managed to continue to successfully run these throughout the pandemic, including a Medieval-themed summer party and Mad Hatter's Tea party. Each event is meticulously planned with the residents at the heart of all they do. The theme for this event was specifically chosen by the residents at Birchwood House and is extremely sentimental allowing them to turn the clock back to wartime Britain.

Claire Tye, deputy manager of Birchwood House, comments: "The 1940s Tea Dance afternoon was selected by the residents themselves this year. For many of the residents this was like turning the clocks back to their early, happiest memories.

"Everybody looked absolutely fantastic and Vintage Ruby was incredible. Most of the residents were up on their feet dancing away to the sounds of the 1940's."





May 2022



1st May

- 10 am Communion
10 am Online Worship available via
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

8th May

- 8 am Traditional Holy Communion (1662)
10 am Morning Worship

15th May

- 10 am Morning Worship with Baptism
10 am Online Worship available via
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

22nd May

- 10 am Communion

29th May

- 10 am All-Age Worship
10 am Online Worship available via
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>
6 pm Evensong



Interment of Ashes

24th March Susan Thomas

**The Church Office can be contacted on 861187 or
speldhurst.church@btopenworld.com**

Normal office hours: 9 am to 12.30 pm

See our website: www.speldhurstchurch.org

St Mary's Facebook page:

facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/

A Letter from St Mary's



May 2022

Dear Friends,

I won't be writing in our magazine for a little while as I am about to start a sabbatical that covers all of May, June and July. I'm really grateful to the wider church that encourages its ministers periodically to take time out of the normal run of life in order to have space to learn, reflect and be renewed. This is my third sabbatical and each one has helped and changed me quite significantly. I wonder what will happen this time? I'll let you know when I return. Meanwhile, our church will continue to function (if not flourish); you can make contact on 861187 or speld-hurst.church@btopenworld.com

I suppose that the world has had a sort of sabbatical in recent years. The pandemic has made us all step out of our normal pattern of life. It's changed the way that we see ourselves and community and challenged many of our assumptions – that work needs to only take place in offices for instance. Covid certainly hasn't gone away, and in fact, it looks as if it is something that we will be living with for the rest of time, along with frequent inoculations. The terrible war in Ukraine has also challenged us to see the world differently and to respond with generosity. I have been so impressed with how local people have engaged with the situation.

My prayer in the months ahead is that we can continue to be kind towards one another and especially towards those who are most vulnerable (why has our government, alone in Europe, insisted on a visa system for Ukrainians seeking safety?) and also that we learn from seeing the world differently.

Douglas

SPELDHURST VILLAGE CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

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