



Halloween images: Isi as Zombie Snow White  
And (Pumpkin) Olaf from Frozen  
thanks to Andy and Antonia for allowing us to print these

### MINSTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION

#### CHARITY SANTA DASH

Come along with Family and Friends  
To Walk, Stroll, Jog or Run 1 Mile  
Raising funds for  
THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION



**Sunday 4 December**  
**Recreation Ground,**  
**St Mildred's Road**

Starting from the Pavilion at 2.00pm  
Come dressed in Christmas themed costumes  
1 mile - twice around the perimeter  
of the Recreation Ground and Play Park  
Hot Homemade Soup and Drinks On Sale  
**FREE SANTA HAT FOR ALL ENTRANTS**  
Pick up your entry form from  
**ATTWELLS NEWSAGENTS**  
**GREENS OF MINSTER or MINSTER GARAGE**



### MINSTER CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION SELECTION DANCE

Girls over 13 and under 20?

Would you like to be a part of the Minster Carnival Court  
to meet new people and make new friends both  
in the Village and around Kent, as well as representing  
Minster in our French Twinning Village of Armbouts-Cappel?  
You can be assured of some great days out  
and some really interesting experiences that will see you as  
Ambassadors for Minster.

To be in with this chance of a lifetime just turn up  
on the evening, entry is free to anyone taking part.

Saturday 11th February 7.30pm, Minster Village Hall  
Admission for non-entrants is £4.00

Tea and Coffee available otherwise please bring your own drink

Interested? Then please contact Roy or Carol on 01843 821 705



E-mail :  
editorialteam@minstermatters.org.uk  
Find us on Google Hangouts  
MM Mobile: 07864 345 019



Electronic Copy, Podcast and Blog:  
http://www.minstermatters.uk  
Facebook: minstermatters247  
Twitter: Minster Matters



## **Welcome to the December 2016/January 2017 issue of Minster Matters**

The Editors accept all advertisements, articles and notices in good faith and actively

encourage the support of the local traders and services. However, we cannot be held

responsible for the quality of goods or services offered.

Please mention the magazine when

replying to advertisers.

The magazine and CD are published eleven times a year, at the beginning of each month,

from February to December, inclusive.

Views expressed herein are strictly those of their author and do not necessarily agree with

those of the Editor and/or the editorial team.

## MM Subscriptions

Copies of the Magazine or CD are now available on subscription to all non-

residents,

worldwide.

Payments are in advance

To a UK postal address :-

Single Issue £2.00

Annually (11 issues) £20.00

Costs to an overseas address are available on request, and we will be pleased to quote

for this service.

**Minster Parish Council**

Next meeting will be held on:

Tuesday 6 December @ 7pm in the  
Neighbourhood Centre

The first Meeting of 2017 will be held  
on Tuesday 10 January.

Members of the public are welcome to  
attend and can arrange to speak to the  
Council

through the Clerk or by requesting the  
Chairman before the start of the meeting.  
Copies

of the Agenda are available from the  
Clerk and are posted in the Library.  
Clerk to the

Council is Mrs Kyla Lamb and the Council Office is normally open from:-

9.30am - 12 noon weekdays; however due to commitments that require staff leaving the

office it is better to ring first to ensure the office is manned

tel: 821 339 fax: 825 869

Email:

[clerk@minsterparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@minsterparishcouncil.org.uk)

Parish Council Minutes are available on their website at

[www.minsterpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.minsterpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## **EDITORIAL**

Thank you to everyone who helps to make this magazine possible, have a good

Christmas!!

We wish a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all our

readers.

**Letter to the Editor Subject: Dropped Kerbs**

It may be thoughtless on the part of some motorists or they don't recognise them for

what they are?

I refer to the dropped kerbs, other than those giving access to homes or businesses,

they are of course provided for the disabled, partially-disabled and wheelchair users to

gain the pavement safely and as such should not be obstructed by the parking of

vehicles. Perhaps „No Parking" signs or

road markings maybe could be displayed  
on or

adjacent to each access.

I believe all those who read this, that  
need use of these, will be in agreement  
(I speak as

one of the „Halt and Lame"!) and that  
these comments will have a positive  
effect, will

they? I hope so.

*Name and address supplied*

**MOVEMBER UPDATE**

The moustache is growing rapidly and we have raised a total of £85 so far.

Many thanks

to all who have contributed. If you would still like to sponsor this project, please visit the

website:

<http://virginmoneygiving.com/KevinBuck>

All donations go straight to the Movember charity.

Thank you, Kevin

**THANET FAMILIES IN NEED**

**2016 Raising Smiles for Christmas**

## **Appeal**

Now collecting items for their 5th year of Christmas nominations - for those you feel

could do with a special gift, young or old with or without family in Thanet.

As in previous years they will also be helping those who right to the last minute still have

nothing and they will be working up until at least 9pm on Christmas Eve to achieve this.

Every year they aim to raise as many as smiles as possible for the children,

adults and

elderly in Thanet nominated by themselves, other agencies, organisations, schools, clubs

and you the public.

You can help by donating: shoe boxes, toys, toiletries, gifts for all ages, slippers, hats,

scarves etc, wrapping paper and anything they can use to make up hampers: Tinned

ham, chicken, tuna, etc, biscuits and crackers, chocolates, Christmas pudding/tinned

pudding, juices and cordials.

Please take your donations to 70A Queen  
St, Ramsgate or ring Kerry Keating on  
07472

459 457

3

## **MINSTER ARMBOUTS CAPPEL TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

As predicted, the race night in the  
Village Hall was a successful event for  
us. The meal

was provided by O'Sheas bistro and  
some fun was had encouraging the

„horses" to pass

the finishing line, thanks to all involved.

A contingency of eleven crossed the Channel on Friday 11 November to support our

French friends during their Remembrance Day Service. The weather was thankfully kind

to us as their service is outside at their Memorial, however they did provide us with a

traditional Flemish meal afterwards. Thanks to the chef for his fine foods.

The support was reciprocated when five of our French friends came over on Sunday 13

November for our Services. They laid a blue wreath at the Memorial in the Cemetery

following the Church Service. The cornflower is representative of the French fallen in

battle.

The dedication of the new flagpole was also held on this day and the French gifted the

village with an Armbouts-Cappel flag.

Don't forget to come along to our Santa Dash on Sunday 4 December. Dress up if you

wish and be part of the fun. Entry forms are available from Attwell's Newsagents, Greens

of Minster and Minster Garage.

Following the 2 circuits of the Rec and play area, there is

the opportunity to purchase homemade soup and hot drinks in the pavilion. All proceeds

will go to our chosen charity this year, the British Heart Foundation.

It has been proposed to hold a Quiz on Saturday 18 February 2017, so keep that date

free and write it in your new diary or add it to your Google Calendar!!.

At this point, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the

year and we wish you all A Very Happy Christmas and A Healthy New Year.

## **MINSTER BOWLS CLUB**

The short-mat season is well under way and at present all three teams are in the middle

of their respective leagues.

The Christmas Dance will be held on Friday 9 December and Paul's Party Games will take

place on Sunday 18 December.

The second Short-Mat Open Day is scheduled for Sunday 15 January. Teams of four are

invited from businesses, clubs, pubs, or families. To find out more and obtain entry forms

please contact Brian Morphey - [brimaur26@gmail.com](mailto:brimaur26@gmail.com) or telephone 845 638.

*Brian Morphey, Hon. Secretary*

[www.minsterbowlsclub.org.uk](http://www.minsterbowlsclub.org.uk)

4

## **MINSTER W.I.**

On Tuesday 8 November President, Sarah Eaton-Brown, opened the 2016 Annual

Meeting and proceeded to organise the elections of Committee Members and Officers,

which all went smoothly. The election of a President was equally smooth as Sarah was

voted in for another year! Reports from the President, Secretary, and the new Treasurer

followed and were duly accepted by the meeting.

Returning to the future, Sarah outlined arrangements for the Christmas Party – 7pm

on Tuesday 13 December - which includes a Magician and a Sing Along together with,

of course, delicious food and drink!! There will be a table-top decoration competition on

the night. Carols at 7pm on Tuesday 20  
December at St Mary's Church Lych  
Gate –

another festive event to look forward to.

During refreshments (cheese and wine  
etc) the newly-elected Committee met in  
a side

room, while members set about yarn  
bombing (making more poppies, for  
decorating our

special tree in the Village), quizzing or  
just socializing. After a most enjoyable  
and

productive evening, Sarah brought

November's Meeting of Minster WI to a close. If you

think this WI could be for you, why not come to a monthly meeting in the New Year –

guests are always welcome – and see what you think. We can guarantee you will find

many things of interest – games evenings, darts, Walks, sunshine outings, monthly

speakers and outings etc etc – together with members of all ages to meet.

**DIARY DATES:**

Sunshine Outing Lunch – 12.30pm –  
Friday 2 December

Christmas Party (members only) – 7pm –  
Tuesday 13 December– Village Hall

First Meeting of 2017 –Tuesday 10  
January – 7.30pm Village Hall – all  
welcome

Come along to our New Members"  
Evening

Tuesday 10 January 7.30pm in the  
Village Hall

Our speaker will be Suzanne Kynaston  
from Wildwood who will be talking  
about the

brown bears which they rescued from Bulgaria. Wildwood is a Conservation Charity and

Wildlife Park based in Herne which is celebrating some big wins after receiving nationally

recognised Zoo awards.

We are a friendly group of ladies whose ages range from 40 to 80+!! There is always

lots going on - trips to places of interest, to the theatre, games evenings, monthly walks,

quizzes, craft, interesting speakers and

much more. So do come along and bring a friend!

We always have refreshments and a raffle at each meeting and the first meeting you visit

is free to attend.

Visit the Minster WI website at [www.minsterthanetwi.org.uk](http://www.minsterthanetwi.org.uk)

5

## **HOUSING IN MINSTER - THE FUTURE ?**

Well there we have it! The Thanet District Council has published the

revisions to the

Draft Local Plan. (See agenda items for  
TDC Extraordinary Overview and  
Scrutiny

Meeting for the 21st November 2016)

This very weighty document will be  
presented and probably voted on at a  
Council

meeting on 21st November and will  
include the provision of 3000 houses on  
the site of

Manston Airport, mainly within the  
Parish of Minster.

For those residents who took the trouble to respond to TDC's request for views

concerning the Draft Local Plan you may be disappointed to discover that not one of the

1306 objections to the development of land west of Tothill Street Minster had any

impact on the Council's decision. The land is destined for a 250+ housing estate and is

actively being worked on by Savills, on behalf of St. Johns College Cambridge and a local

farmer, the land owners.

Just as a reality check, KCC figures indicate this size of development will spawn upwards

of 350 vehicles, 600 plus residents and has one road access to the top of Tothill Street.

Yes, there is a need for more housing, particularly affordable, for persons hoping to

remain in or return to the local area.

The development of villages should be in accordance with historical growth rate and the

rural nature of them and at a pace that will not overburden local services. The current

feeding frenzy of developers is contrary to this.

Rapid expansion, such as that proposed, will not be accompanied by the necessary

improvement of services and infrastructure, despite the assertions of TDC.

Large housing estates attached to villages will not, in themselves, add to the cohesion of

the community and will serve only to enrich developers or provide London Councils with

a means of reducing their housing lists. E.g Howe Barracks at Canterbury.

It is interesting to note also that St. Johns College, Cambridge has large agricultural land

holdings in Thanet which it wishes to concrete over and yet, according to its 2015

accounts, has a net worth of 690 million pounds. It is not unreasonable to conclude that

its concerns do not lie with the residents of Thanet.

Within the revision documents published by TDC, and available on the web, there is a

report contemplating a future new settlement of a 68 hectare site encompassing the

area of Way Hill, Wayborough Hill, The Lanes and Hengest Way. (Annex 6 Pages 906-

937). This site is four times the size of the land west of Tothill Street.

Is this the future of the Parish of Minster

in Thanet?

Name and address supplied.

## **OFFCUMDUNS**

Offcumduns (a Clog Side you may have seen at Late Night Shopping or in Broadstairs)

have had a makeover! They now practise in St Nicholas at Manor Hall on

a Tuesday from 8 to 10pm. This is a new side in effect and dancing a different style

(Border) - so „big sticks" are in. They are aiming to bring the spring back into

dancing and

be ready to dance on St George's Day 2017. Come and see us if you've ever thought

about joining a side as a dancer or musician.

6

**Reading helpers needed in Minster!**

**Inspire a child to read...**

One in six children across Kent leaves primary school unable to read competently and

unfortunately it is a problem that has been getting worse. Many of them come from

disadvantaged backgrounds and do not have the opportunity to read at home.

Additionally, with 30 children in a classroom, there's often limited opportunity for

individual attention.

Beanstalk is searching for members of the community in Minster and the surrounding

area to help in local primary schools. Could you spare 90 minutes twice a

week to make

a difference to a child in your local area?

Beanstalk is a national literacy charity that transforms children's life chances by

supporting volunteers to work in primary schools with children who have fallen behind

with their reading.

Schools can ask Beanstalk for help when they have a pupil that is either struggling with

their reading or disinterested in reading. A Beanstalk volunteer will then work in the

school as a Reading Helper. They spend 30 minutes 1-to-1 with the child twice a week

and try to bring the joy into reading, by reading fun books together, chatting and playing

games. Very importantly, Beanstalk sessions are meant to be very different from normal

school and are relaxed, informal and fun.

If you have a passion for reading and can

share this with a child then do please  
contact

us. Full training and support is provided.

To find out more about volunteering as a  
Reading Helpers in primary schools in  
the

Minster area contact the Ashford office  
on 01233 637645 or apply via the  
website

[www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk](http://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk).

**MINSTER PLAYHOUSE PROMPT  
CORNER**

**Panto 2016**

Our Pantomime this year is that old favourite, Cinderella. It is suitable for all the family,

and like all our pantos it is good clean fun with jokes and comedy for all ages.

It will run from Wednesday 30 November to Saturday 3 December with performances

each night at 7.30pm and with two Matinees on Saturday at 10.30am and 3.00pm.

Tickets are £8 per adult and £4 for sixteens-and-under. Bring your children or

grandchildren along to join the fun!

The Box office is open on: 07501 894  
381 or email:

[info@minsterplayhouse.co.uk](mailto:info@minsterplayhouse.co.uk)

**If you haven't been to one of our  
Pantomimes before, they are cheerful,  
funny, boo the**

**baddie, cheer the hero, proper village  
pantos in a relaxed setting– do come  
along and**

**enjoy a brief but happy break from  
real life!**

## **Our May Play 2017**

Our May production next year is another of David Tristram's very funny comedies, and

we will be holding auditions for this play on Wednesday 11 January in the Bell Inn,

Minster at 7.30pm. A list of audition pieces and a link to the script can be found on our

website.

We welcome new people, so if you would like to join us and audition for a part or to help

with any other aspect of production please come along on that night and talk to us.

Or, if you have play that you would like to direct, or would be interested in joining in the

fun of putting on our productions do get in touch.

Please let us know your feedback – if we know what you like to watch and want to see

we will always do our best to provide it.

[www.minsterplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.minsterplayhouse.co.uk)

# HEALTHWATCH KENT

Do you have caring responsibilities for a member of your family or a friend?

If so, we would like to hear if you have been offered a Care Assessment and what your

experiences of the process have been? If you were not aware that you were entitled to a

Care Assessment, please let us know

All Carers are entitled to a Care Assessment. That should be an independent

assessment of your care and supports needs. This assessment then forms the basis of

your care and support plan for you, the carer.

We've heard from many carers across Kent about their experiences of Care

Assessments. Now we want to hear from more carers so we can help improve the system

for more carers in the future.

Please encourage your carers to share their experience with us. Or can you share it on

their behalf? You will be helping to improve the system for other carers in the future.

Feedback can be shared in a number of ways:

Complete our short online survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B3T7>

Email us at [info@healthwatchkent.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchkent.co.uk) and tell us your experiences

Share your experience on the phone by calling us for FREE on 0808 801 0102

We can post you a questionnaire – just call or email us your address.

We can come and talk to you at home or visit your group. Ring us on 0808 801 0102 to

organise a visit or email us at:

[info@healthwatchkent.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchkent.co.uk)

Everything you tell us will be in confidence and your personal details will not be shared

with any other organisation and destroyed on completion of the project.

8

**Age UK Thanet**

## **It is that time again**

The evenings are drawing in and the clocks have gone back. Some of us are excitedly

planning for Christmas and the festive season. The winter clothes are out of the

wardrobe and the heating is switched on. It is a good time to service the boiler and to get

heating systems checked.

At Age UK we help our clients survive the winter months, offering a range of services.

We deliver hot freshly cooked meals to an older person's home, we organise befrienders

to visit to offer friendship and companionship to those who are unable to go out. Our

Information and Advice service can help with benefit checks and we can assist with

benefit form filling, claiming additional income to reduce the worry of not being able to

afford to keep warm in winter.

Our centre is always a warm welcoming

place to visit, to meet new people to  
make

friends and to have a good time. We  
organise a range of activities and a  
freshly prepared

lunch, so there is something for everyone  
to enjoy.

We can only help the way we do because  
we have a team of volunteers, who assist  
us

in a variety of ways. They help with  
delivering meals, befriending, assisting  
with activities

or serving refreshments in our Day

Centre and helping in our charity shop  
(which raises

vital income to support the work that we  
do). If you have a little time to spare and  
would

like to find out about volunteering with  
us, please contact Gill Ball on 07735  
556 811 or

email [agecorecruiter@btinternet.com](mailto:agecorecruiter@btinternet.com). If  
you would like to find out more about  
our

services please contact the centre  
directly on 01843 226 244.

.

## **Minster Parish Council Meeting**

### **1st November - Summary of Key Points**

Chairman Bob Grove announced the resignation of Cllr. Gerry Glover; he was thanked

for his many years of public service.

The Community Warden reported that a multi-agency meeting has taken place to try

and resolve the neighbourhood problems in Brockman"s Close.

He also reported that recent tensions in the Skate Park were diffused by Cllr. Day and

Police; it is hoped that all can share this facility amicably.

County Cllr. Latchford paid tribute to Gerry Glover and wished him well.

He then explained that the new speed limit on the Thanet Way is due to subsidence; it

will cost approx. £6m to resolve.

He is happy to report that he has contributed £8k to CCTV systems in the villages and

considers this a good contribution to community safety. He reminded everyone that

his community grant is likely to be reduced in the next election period. This linked to

the challenge for KCC of balancing the budget; there was a gap of £80m but they

have already identified savings of £75m so now need to find savings of a further £5m

which is not easy.

Cllr. Latchford spoke well of the activities of the British Legion and the

## Twinning

Association and commended joint working with Birchington.

District Cllr. Crow-Brown reported that TDC are contributing £45k to a winter shelter

scheme to assist rough sleepers, commencing on 1st December.

TDC have sent an Inspector to examine the old MOD Fuel Depot site in Spitfire Way

re: dumping and fly tipping. The owner has been given advice.

Cllr Crow- Brown has asked that the TDC Enforcement Team are to attend the village

more regularly to address issues of parking on yellow lines.

He reported a successful visit to Thanet by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

District Cllr. Gregory updated the meeting on the Local Plan which he said was due to

be published in January 2017; public consultation will then take place and comments

will be taken into account. The draft

plan is then forwarded to the Planning Inspector

who will come to Thanet and hold a public enquiry. The process will probably be

completed by July, 2017.

A five-year supply of housing will be designated in the plan so this can be used to

address the many developments seeking approval in the area.

Unfortunately, the Manston site cannot appear in the plan as the DCO is still pending.

Chairman Bob Grove proposed a letter of thanks to Cllr. Glover and all agreed.

At the recent Parish Forum TDC confirmed that they are still pleased to send funding

to the parishes to help carry on their local work. He also confirmed that the five-year

housing plan will be in place very soon.

He reminded everyone of the Firework display on Friday 4th November at the

Recreation Ground, and of the Service of Remembrance on 13th, which will be

followed by the dedication of the new village flagpole. There will also be the first

hoisting of the village flag at 10.15am on Tuesday 15th by local school children.

Don't forget, all welcome to help with litter picking on the last Sunday of the month.

10

The Clerk reported that the funding for the youth club ceases at the end of November,

and staff at „Step Ahead" will be made redundant, so the club cannot continue

unless

another source of funding is found; she will explore other options.

KCC have said that they will not replace the Minster Village sign, knocked down in a

road traffic incident, as it is too costly. We will be pursuing this!

Cllr Quittenden presented the minutes of the Highways Committee meeting including

the recommendation from KCC that the „One Way system" in the Butts Field estate

does not need to be made into a formal system and that any local issues can be eased

by altering yellow lines and improving signage.

Cllr. Day presented the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting.

Members were asked to complete a survey on Policing and Criminal Justice in Kent and

Medway.

Cllr. Gimes reported that a meeting of the volunteers for the Community Emergency

Plan was well attended and thanked all those who had come forward. Speakers

included the Senior Resilience Officer from KCC. He congratulated the village on the

number & range of volunteers and offered to attend and carry out training in the

future.

The meeting considered a request for funding for the Winter Wonderland event on

18th December; as much as they welcomed the event in aid of McMillan

Nurses, it

was felt that we could not support one charity event without supporting the many

others that take place, and this would not be an appropriate use of public funds.

However, visitor parking would be welcome in the area of the all-weather pitch.

Nominations were sought for the Community Awards Scheme 2017; the Chair

suggested the gentleman who has provided the walking bus for school

children along

Tothill St. for many years and this was agreed by all.

Cllr Gimes reminded the meeting of the School Open Day on 23rd November.

Cllr. Quittenden reported that the Twinning Association Race Night was a great success,

and that members would be attending the Remembrance Service in France on 11th

November. The AGM is on 18th November. Don't forget the Santa Dash on 4th Dec!

## **PATIENT LIAISON GROUP**

### **A BIG THANK YOU**

We would like to thank all our patients and friends for their generosity and kindness in

donating so many prizes for our raffle and tombola that was held at our Christmas

Bazaar, and also, to all those who have supported us by purchasing raffle tickets and

making such a wonderful selection of

cakes. As this newsletter went to press before our

Bazaar had taken place, and for those who were not able to attend, a full list of prize

winners will be displayed on our notice board in the surgery. Wherever possible, all prize

winners will be contacted directly and invited to attend an official presentation. A full

report will be published in the New Year.

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

# ARRANGEMENTS

Please note the surgery"s revised open/closed arrangements over the Christmas period:

Normal opening up to and including Friday 23 December.

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Tuesday 27 December - Closed all day.

Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 and Friday 30 December - Normal opening.

Monday 2 January - Closed all day.

Tuesday 3 January onwards - Normal opening.

Should you need to see a Doctor during times when the surgery is closed, please call the

NHS 111 Service via the normal surgery number 821333 where you can be

automatically transferred, or you can call direct on 111 to receive non-urgent

confidential health advice and information for you and your family. For urgent/life

threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.

**REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS**

Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you throughout the holiday

period and that all “Repeat Prescription Requests” are submitted in good time to allow

for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various pharmacies, and

remember to check your local pharmacy"s opening times as well. As a result you may

submit your request up to 10 days in advance, but by Monday 19 December at the latest

to guarantee receiving them before Christmas. Obviously, we appreciate that “urgent”

prescriptions may still be needed anytime. Also, if your “Medication Review” is due

during this period please ensure you make an appointment in good time to avoid further

unnecessary delays.

If you have any concerns please contact the surgery direct on 821333.

**NEW INFORMATION SYSTEM**

We are pleased to announce that a new system has been installed in the waiting room,

which will be of great benefit to patients. This provides vital information on health

related issues, local activities and appointment notifications, and can be continually

updated when necessary.

## “WALK FOR LIFE” ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

The surgery is launching this programme in January. We are inviting people to

join us in a

walk around the area for about an hour,  
with the aim of meeting people and  
becoming

12

more active. The first walk is planned  
for Thursday 12 January at 10.30,  
weather

permitting of course! Further details will  
be announced in our January newsletter  
and if

anyone is interested in joining the group  
please contact the surgery.

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY SURVEY

Last month patient's responses to  
"Would you recommend our Practice"  
were as follows:

Extremely likely/likely - 89%;

Extremely unlikely/unlikely - 7%;

Unsure/don't know - 4%

## MISSED APPOINTMENTS - HOW ABOUT A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

Last month the total figure was under  
100 – thank you!

44 patients did not attend their doctor's  
appointment and 50 patients did not

attend

their nurse"s appointment so that still 94 missed and wasted appointments.

However THIS is NOT SO GOOD: 66 patients made appointments for either a Flu

Vaccination or an Intranasal Spray and did not attend - UNBELIEVABLE!!

So a plea to all our patients throughout the villages and surrounding areas, make your

New Year"s Resolution - "Don"t need it? Cancel it!" It"s so easy by phone, text or online -

Just do it!

## SURGERY TRAINING DAYS

Please note that the surgery will be closed from midday onwards on both Thursday 26

January and Wednesday 22 February.

## PATIENT GROUP MEETING

If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting or require further

information on any of the above, then please contact either Ken Self on 821200 or

Jeanne Lawrence on 821049 or email  
kenself@me.com.

And finally we would like to wish all of  
our patients and friends

**A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and A  
VERY HEALTHY NEW YEAR**

13

**CHRISTMAS IS A LONELY TIME**

A poem by Lydia Horneff of Minster

For All Those Left Behind

Our loved ones now that rest in peace

Their souls in God"s hand to keep

We miss you all more than words can  
say

And ask the Lord why he took you away

We cast our minds to Christmas"s past

When we laughed and were merry and  
gay

Then came that dreadful day

When without a word you went away

Yet the time will come soon

When we will be together again

And all the tears and heartaches of the  
past

Will just pass away

And then we can say Merry Christmas

My darling I am here with you

Forever and a day

Lydia says „I have written this poem for  
everyone, I hope you like it"

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL**

**GARDEN/GARAGE SALE**

11 High Street, Minster

9.00am to 4.00pm

Saturday 3 December

**MINSTER BELLS CHRISTMAS  
FAYRE**

Sunday 4 December

Old Schools 10am to 4pm

Santa Claus will be attending!!

**MINSTER TWINNING  
ASSOCIATION SANTA DASH**

Recreation Ground 2pm on Sunday 4  
December in aid of British Heart  
Foundation

Come and Run, Jog or Walk a mile, free Santa Hat for all entrants. Homemade Soup and

drinks on sale. Entry forms available from Greens, Attwells or Minster Garage

14

## **MINSTER ABBEY LIVE NATIVITY**

Wednesday 7 December 1.30pm

Starting at the Abbey Tower and moving on to Parkminster

Come and join in the celebration – dress up as part of the Nativity Scene

Carols, Live Music and Refreshments –  
Donations for the „Children of the Holy  
Land" and

„Looking Ahead"

## **Minster Primary School Christmas Fair**

Friday 9 December 3.30pm – 5.00pm

Santa"s Grotto Laser Tag Glitter Tattoos  
Stalls

Tombola BBQ Raffle Sweets/Cakes  
Games

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT with a  
BELL theme**

Saturday 10 December 7.30pm St  
Mary's Church, Minster

Cantate Chamber Choir plus Minster  
Handbell Ringers

Admission Free – Refreshments

Donations to be split between the Bell  
and Organ funds

## **ST LUCY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Minster Abbey Sunday 11 December at  
11am

Proceeds to „Aid to the Church in  
Need"to support their valuable work in  
the Middle East

# **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

## **SNOWDOWN COLLIERY BAND**

Village Hall - Sunday 11 December  
2.15pm

Admission £3 Children free

Come along and sing your favourite  
carols

Father Christmas may make an  
appearance

## **CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND**

At the Old Vicarage, St Mildreds Road

Sunday 18 December at 3pm in aid of  
Macmillan Nurses

Come and see Santa and his Reindeer

**MINSTER & MONKTON  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**December Meeting**

Wednesday 21 December

Village Hall 7.30pm

Christmas Social (Members only)

No meetings in January or February

# **TRASH & TREASURE SALE**

St Nicholas Church, St Nicholas-at-Wade

Saturday 11 February 2017 9.30am to 12noon

# **MINSTER & MONKTON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CLUB**

Royal British Legion, 61 Augustine Road

EVERY WEDNESDAY 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Come and join us for a game of Bingo

ALL MEMBERS and bona-fide guests  
welcome

Phone Pat on 822 622

## **AMBER'S ADVICE**

There are two kinds of people in this  
world: those who do the work and those  
who take

the credit. Try to be in the first group;  
there is much less competition.

## **TIGER' TIP**

Keep brown sugar soft by storing it with  
a couple of marshmallows

## ZAC'S MUSINGS

Well it has been a busy month for the old boy, he"s been dashing about doing something

or other with a large pole, lots of wooden „lego" bricks and some large pieces of gaily

coloured cloth - he even got his suit out of mothballs!! Then it was onto Christmas tree

lights and panicking over electric connections, but I understand it was all sorted in the

end.

After all that he was extremely calm  
putting this magazine together not at all  
like his

normal self!! Well now we get a month  
off so look out for us again in late  
January.

Happy Christmas.

16

## **Waiting for the truth and the light**

I wonder what you will remember this  
year for? Maybe there have been some  
significant

events in your life or the lives of those

around you. A couple of weeks ago at church we

took time to remember those loved ones who are no longer with us; and in the peace

many people came to light a candle – a sign of hope. A week later, many from the Village

and beyond gathered again on Remembrance Sunday as we remembered those who

have served and who serve today, who pay the ultimate price. Once again it was good to

see so many fill the church, and our thanks go to the Royal British Legion and the

Salvation Army for helping with this service.

2016, though, will be remembered for two votes which have caused uncertainty in both

our country and America. You may have read that the Oxford Dictionary has made the

word *post-truth* the new word for this year. This is defined as people being persuaded

not by truthful facts but by emotion. And sadly this is becoming quite common in our

culture. But with the coming of Christmas we can answer this.

As we prepare for Christmas, the Village enjoys the trees and lights, late night shopping,

Carols round the tree at the Lych Gate and hot mince pies! We celebrate at Christmas

the coming of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Jesus who is God's truth for humanity – in

Jesus" own words *I am the way, the truth and the light*. One of the highlights for me is the

primary school Christingle Service where all of KS2 light their Christingle candles in

church remembering Jesus the light of the world who came to show us what truth looks

like.

So during Advent, as we wait for Christmas, take a moment to pause and reflect on this

year and perhaps call to mind times and

places where your life has been lit up –  
and then

simply say thank you to God for these  
moments. And if there have been times  
of

difficulty, why not light a candle.

You are all invited to join us at St  
Mary's, The Salvation Army or the  
Abbey for our

services throughout December where we  
wait and share together the good news of

Christmas – and we hope to see many of  
you at the Lych Gate on December 20 for

## Carols Round the Tree!

My prayer for us all this Advent is that,  
as we prepare together, we find the  
space to find

something fresh and new that speaks to  
our hearts as we prepare to welcome  
Jesus, the

word of hope and truth into our world  
and our lives.

Richard Braddy – Vicar, St Mary's,  
Minster

Sunday 18 December

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Christingle, Lessons and  
Carols

A chance for us all to share the light of  
Christ with favourite carols and readings  
as we get

closer to Christmas

Tuesday 20 December

7.00pm Carols Around the Christmas  
Tree (Church Lych Gate)

Community Carols and readings with

The Salvation Army Band, Minster  
School Choir -

followed by mince pies for all!

Christmas Eve

4.30pm Christmas Special - A magical  
time for all ages re-telling the Christmas  
story

11.30pm Midnight Communion - 'Silent  
Night, Holy Night' we gather to  
celebrate the

start of Christmas

Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Day Family  
Communion - Unwrap the Christmas gift  
at this

service suitable for all ages

You are invited to join us at any of our  
services - bring family and friends to  
share with

St Mary's the joy of Christmas

## **CHURCH NEWS AND SERVICE TIMES**

**THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
RAMSGATE AND MINSTER**

Reverend Marcus Holden Telephone

592 071

Parish Office Saints Ethelbert &  
Gertrude Church 72 Hereson Road  
Ramsgate

Holy day of Obligation each Sunday at  
10.00am in Minster Abbey

## **MINSTER ABBEY**

[www.minsterabbeynuns.org](http://www.minsterabbeynuns.org)

The Abbey Chapel is open for prayer  
throughout the day

Lauds: 8.30am Mass 9.00am, Sunday  
10.00am Midday prayer 12.10pm

Vespers 6.00pm Compline 7.50pm  
(followed by Silent Prayer)

All our visitors, not only Christians but  
people of all faiths and spiritual  
tradition, all who

„truly seek God" (rule of St. Benedict)  
are warmly welcomed to join us in  
prayer, in our

beautiful monastic chapel.

18

**THE SALVATION ARMY MINSTER  
CORPS Church & Community Centre**

Present Local Contact: Roger Harding

tel: 821 543

Mondays 9.30am Bumps and Babies  
(Term time only) 2.15pm Friendship  
Club

Tuesdays 9.30am Parents and Toddlers  
(Term time only)

Wednesdays 2.00pm Home League

Thursdays 9.15am Prayer Group.

10.30am until 2.30pm Age UK Outreach

Sundays 10.30am Family Worship

**NEW OFFICERS AT MINSTER  
SALVATION ARMY**

Minster Salvation Army will welcome new leaders Lieutenants Luke and Katy Johnson

and their two children on Sunday 19 February at 10.30am.

It would be good to see as many people there as possible.

## **Christmas Services at Minster Salvation Army**

Sunday 18 December 5.30pm Family Carol Service

Christmas Day 10.30am Family Service

Everyone Welcome

# **ST MARY MAGDALENE MONKTON SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

4

10.15am Holy Communion (CW)

11 10.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

18 6.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

24 For Midnight Communion see St  
Mary's Minster

25 10.00am Christmas Holy Communion  
(CW)

# **JANUARY 2017**

1

10.15am Holy Communion (CW)

8

10.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

15 10.15am United Covenant &  
Communion Service with Methodists

22 4.00pm

Seamark Service - worship for all at  
Monkton School

29 10:30am Benefice Celebration

Service at Minster with Bishop Trevor

**Something new for Monkton**

**Seamark – look in, look up, look out -  
Worship for all**

**4.00pm Sunday 22 January Monkton  
Primary School Hall**

Then each Fourth Sunday of the month

Accessible worship for all the  
community

Come and try this new service

45 minutes to learn more together about  
Jesus with singing, activities and prayer

followed by simple food and drink.

**come and see**

Info: Richard Braddy | 821250 |  
info@wantsumchurches.org

19

## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, MINSTER SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

Reverend Richard Braddy Tel: 821 250

4

9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Praise & Gift Service

6.30pm

Evensong

11 9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Communion

18 9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Christingles, Lessons & Carols

24 Christmas Eve

4.30pm

Christmas Special- suitable for families  
of all ages

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

25 Christmas Day

10.00am Christmas Family Communion

**JANUARY 2017**

1

9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Praise

8

9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Communion

15 9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Worship

17 7.30pm

Prayers at the Close of Day Service for

# Week of Prayer

for Christian Unity with Christians  
Together in Minster

22 9.00am

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am Family Communion

29 10.30am Benefice Celebration  
Service at Minster with Bishop Trevor

## **Wednesday Mornings at St Mary's**

10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)  
followed by refreshments

## **Holy Communion at Home**

is available for anyone who is unable to access Minster or Monkton Church

Telephone 821 250 or 822 428

20

## **TWAM Wantsum Benefice Gift Services**

Last year the Wantsum Benefice Gift Services provided 118 scholar packs for Tools with

a Mission (TWAM) plus a donation of £390.

This was, again, a very generous response to this worthwhile initiative and we're pleased

to repeat our support this year.

In Africa and other areas around the world there are many schools that have little or no

reading or writing material. Sometimes the only person with a book or writing material is

the teacher. Twam works with schools to provide suitable textbooks, and with our help

would like to provide individual

„Scholar Packs" for each child to help with their learning.

How does it work? Plastic document wallets are supplied by TWAM ~ these are

available in advance from the churches ~ and we are asked to fill them with the

following new items and bring them along to the Gift Service on Sunday 4 December at

Minster, Monkton and St Nicholas or Sunday 11 December at Chislet:

A4 Writing Pad

Pack of Pencils and Biro Pens

Pack of Colouring Pencils, not felt tip

Geometry Set. i.e. ruler, protractor and square.

Rubber and Pencil Sharpener

Small Calculator

From mid-November you will be able to order a pre-filled scholar pack

from the churchwardens at which time full details and price will be available.

If, instead of filling a wallet you prefer to make a financial contribution to this

initiative,

special envelopes will be available. We are advised that the cost of packaging, shipping

and distributing each wallet is about £2.

Any further information can be sought from Sally Willins: Thanet 822 428

21

## **CONTACTING YOUR DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

TDC Villages

District Councillor Bob Grove

Bob is available to speak to residents by appointment.

Please ring 07711 774 262 or contact him via the Parish Office on 821 339

Email: [cldr-bob.grove@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:cldr-bob.grove@thanet.gov.uk)

District Councillor Derek Crow-Brown  
Tel: 821 449

Email: [cldr-derek.crow-brown@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:cldr-derek.crow-brown@thanet.gov.uk)

District Councillor Ken Gregory Tel:  
822 368 or 07850 233 359

Email: [cldr-ken.gregory@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:cldr-ken.gregory@thanet.gov.uk)

County

County Councillor Roger Latchford OBE

Tel: 01843 841 956 or email:  
[roger.latchford@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.latchford@kent.gov.uk)

Contacting your MP: Sir Roger Gale MP

Roger holds regular advice surgeries for appointments and advice on urgent problems:

Tel: 01843 848 588 (a.m. from 10.00)  
Fax: 01843 844 856 (24-hour)

Web:

[www.rogergale.co.uk](http://www.rogergale.co.uk) Email:

galerj@parliament.uk

Write:

HOUSE OF COMMONS, London,  
SW1A 0AA

Thanks for listening - Your readers this  
month were

-----  
-----

Musical interludes supplied courtesy of

Brenda Saker, Daryl Booth and Richard  
Spendlove MBE