

## The 'prize' for losing Crockham Hill

'SEIME' is an acronym I'm having to get used to. It represents the diocesan consolation prize for losing Crockham Hill and stands for South East Initial Ministerial Education which, being interpreted, means in my case running seminar groups for newly ordained deacons, fresh out of College, from this October and doing likewise with them for their first two years as priests after that.

I have been given responsibility for six new deacons in the north-eastern chunk of the diocese and over the course of an academic year I will be conducting several seminar sessions and spending the odd weekend at Aylesford or similar. To these neophytes I represent one of many hoops they have to negotiate in order to be signed off as 'fit for practice' by the Bishop.

Should I and the rest of the team decide they aren't up to scratch then they are out on their ear, jobless and homeless too unfortunately. It's a lot tougher than in my day! Looking on the bright side, and assuming they bribe me sufficiently, they will get through and then have just one

year to find another job as a fully fledged vicar somewhere. Should they fail so to do then, once again, we kiss them goodbye. No job, no home, zilch. No more hanging on to curacies until the right job comes along!

So if you see a little less of me from here on in just remember these poor souls

and pray they don't meet me on a bad day. Three of them are ladies ...

All of this fairly draconian process is designed to supply the church with the best possible new clergy. It's a tough world out there and new priests have to be up to the job, fit for a working life in a world where these days the Church has to struggle to justify its existence.

I'm looking forward to

meeting some really interesting people who, having got through their pre-ordination Training Course before they get anywhere near me or a parish, should all be fine. It would be a terrible waste if they weren't!

*Fr Stephen Mitchell*



*Fr Stephen: one of many hoops the new deacons will have to negotiate*

### Look after your web site

Want to make sure your group's item on the church web site is correct? Contact Richard Cain at [ssppepcwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:ssppepcwebmaster@gmail.com)



*When Choir Director Fiona Henderson married Gerry Glidewell on Saturday 12 July the joyous occasion was uplifted by an extended programme of hymns and anthems provided by the combined choirs from Sss Peter & Paul and the Plaxtol Scholars. The celebrations continued with a reception at The Plough at Leigh where Bernard Oldfield's folk band led the square dancing. Thanks to Chris Jeffrey LRPS for the picture.*

### **Disabled access to St Peter & St Paul**

When old buildings such as the Church of St Peter & St Paul in Edenbridge were constructed several hundred years ago, access requirements were not a major consideration.

The Parish Church has good facilities for those with disabilities.

Entering through the west door, under the tower, requires neither steps nor a ramp. This door is open for all services: if you want to visit when a service is not in progress contact Pam Gadd in advance to arrange to be met and the door to be unlocked.

Once inside the church there is level access throughout, except to the Martin Chapel where there is one step. All altars are on a dais.

Pews have been removed to allow

wheelchair users to sit in the main body of the church: this is also appreciated by those who use other mobility aids or assistance dogs.

There is an access toilet in the choir vestry near the west door.

Light levels vary according to the time of day and contrast is not always possible for those with visual impairments; we are restricted by regulations because the church is 900 years old.

The church has an audio T loop for use during services.

The Church does not have its own car park, but blue badge holders can park for three hours on the single yellow lines in Church Street where there is one designated blue badge bay. There are three designated blue badge bays in Market Street car park.

Access to the church from the Market Street car park is level, while from Church Street there is a slight incline.





## Edenbridge Parish News

the Tonbridge deanery.

Rev Mark Brown is **Rural Dean** for the Tonbridge Deanery. Since our church AGM earlier this year, the **Lay representatives** for 2014-2017 are: Laurence Hood, Stuart Parrish, and me, Bernard Oldfield.

The representatives attend Deanery Synod meetings during the year, and report back to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) from those meetings. Deanery Synod representatives are automatically members of the PCC. Matters discussed or reports from General Synod are highlighted at the Deanery Synod meetings.

We are also in the **Archdeaconry of Tonbridge**, overseen by the Venerable Clive Mansell, **Archdeacon of Tonbridge**. The Archdeaconry covers West Kent from Burham and Wouldham (just south of Rochester) westwards to beyond

Westerham and **Edenbridge**, down to Tunbridge Wells and further south to Lamberhurst and Matfield, before coming eastward again through Yalding, Hunton, Coxheath and Barming on the western edge of Maidstone. There are over 100 churches in the Archdeaconry.

There are six deaneries in the Archdeaconry: Malling; Paddock Wood; Sevenoaks; Shoreham; **Tonbridge**; and Tunbridge Wells.

*Bernard Oldfield*

### Bridges calls for volunteers

The Bridges centre in Edenbridge High Street needs more volunteers to cover for the holiday period.

Call Mary Perrett (01732 868186) who says also that the centre requires extra volunteers for Mondays and Thursday. Just three to six hours each month would make a difference, she says.

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### Diary dates

#### Monday 4 August

Rochester Cathedral vigil service to mark 100 years since the outbreak of World War One

#### Monday 11 August

Departure of New Cross group to Isle of Man

#### Saturday 30 August

Trip to Portsmouth D-Day Museum

#### Saturday 6 September

Mexico 2015 fundraising quiz, St Paulinus, Marlpit Hill, from 7pm. Tickets £8 inc supper from Kim Maynard 01732 505724

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