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Edenbridge Parish News

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Tempus Fugit: it's a matter of time

What happened to last year? Did anybody see where it went? I'm sure I didn't.

What weird bit of our psychology is it that makes time go so slowly when we're young but increasingly fast as we get older? Here we are at the start of yet another New Year and many of us had barely got used to the old one.

Time of course should be but a part of our concern because like the world, and indeed the universe we inhabit, it is just a feature of creation. God created time just as he created matter.

God of course is all about eternity, that is to say the realm of the timeless. There is no time in heaven; in heaven stuff just is. It doesn't change or experience alteration, let alone decay, any more than God does.

Thing is, some people think heaven is just this world writ large where time still exists except that it has no end. Such folk talk about God not as *eternal* but as *everlasting*. So in heaven day succeeds day and so on, and so on.

I don't think I could cope with an everlasting heaven because in the end time just sets up boredom. I'd end up longing for it all to end just as I would if I were cursed with immortality in this world. In the end death saves us from insanity as it promises an end to the humdrum and the ordinary. No wonder St Francis called it his 'sister' in his Cantic of the Sun.

But eternity just is; it exists without passage of time, without alteration or change.

Aha! I hear you cry, what about all those hymns and prayers which talk about God as everlasting, you know, almighty and everlasting God, and all that?

Well some liturgists and poets come from the tradition that sees heaven as a dimension within time and others who are just aren't too good at philosophy and think *eternal* and *everlasting* are just the same, which they ain't.

So for *everlasting*, I suggest you read *eternal*.

So getting older means we're fast running out of time in two senses: our time here gets shorter by the day, and that is something of which we grow increasingly conscious as we get older; and two, the whole notion of time itself becomes less important as we contemplate the timelessness of eternity and life in the presence of him who, like his saints, is without change or decay.

Happy New Year!

Fr Stephen

Diocese of Rochester Diagrama Foundation home for good

Join us for a celebration of fostering and adoption

March 3, 2018, at 11.30am
Rochester Cathedral

The Right Reverend James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester, invites you to join him in celebration of the work undertaken by the Diocese of Rochester with charities Diagrama Foundation and Home for Good, in highlighting fostering and adoption and recognising life-changing work by volunteers and professionals in this field.

To find out more visit: homeforgood.org.uk/rochestercathedral

Let's find a 21st-century way of running our Traidcraft scheme

Edenbridge is proud to have had a Traidcraft representative since the charity was started in 1979.

Taking over from the Oliver family in 1984, young mums from ECC churches formed Edenbridge Area Traidcraft (EAT), providing stalls at churches, fetes, One World Week, and progressing in the 1990s to Pop-up Christmas shops and the monthly Box Scheme for regular orders.

Buying Traidcraft's chocolate short-breads, ginger biscuits, coffee, tea and loo rolls is part of our church's commitment to supporting Traidcraft, which helped Edenbridge become Kent's first Fair Trade Town in 2005.

Traidcraft was behind the creation of the Fair Trade mark, now a well-recognised symbol for ethical food shoppers. However, small scale craft workers, farmers and producers still need a market through the Traidcraft Catalogue, available



in all the churches, at BRIDGES, or by clicking the SHOP link at www.traidcraft.org.uk

Since 1984, people like you have bought £200,000 worth of goods through EAT, directly benefiting artisan craft workers and farmers all over the developing world.

This trade has enabled them to build schools, dig wells, improve health facilities, and earn a living wage so that their families can live sustainably in their rural communities. Out of the accumulated discounts from bulk orders, EAT has donated £15,000 to local charities such as ECT, BRIDGES, and nationally to Traidcraft Exchange for development work.

Don't let's allow the achievements of 37 years of commitment to 'Fighting Poverty Through Trade' be lost. EAT now urgently needs a Treasurer, some younger helpers – and a rethink of our local system of community purchasing that suits the 21st century! The Box Scheme is currently 'paused'! Gill Musgrove (tel: 865138) and Jean Gibbons (tel: 864529) are keen to hear ideas from you.

Let's find a way to take Edenbridge Area Traidcraft into its next phase of life.

Sue Oldfield





This happy bunch of souls from Edenbridge Parish Church visited the new Westerham Brewery in December in an attempt to drink it dry. Further attempts are planned says organiser Kim Maynard

‘We will remember them’ exhibition at Eden Valley

The Eden Valley Museum will open for the 2018 season on 1 February with a major new exhibition commemorating the end of World War One.

It is the culmination of more than four years research into the stories of Eden Valley families whose lives were changed forever by one of the deadliest conflicts in human history. Following on from the ‘Till the Boys Come Home’ exhibition in 2014, the ‘We will remember them’ exhibition records the names of those who lost their lives, the stories of those who survived and the impact on their families and loved ones. It focusses especially on the period of the Armistice in 1918 and the Peace Celebrations that followed in 1919.

All villages of the Eden Valley are represented and the museum would like to thank the various village representatives and other individuals who have provided stories and other memorabilia for the exhibition, from as far and wide as Belgium, Canada and Australia.

The ‘We will remember them’ exhibition will run until June 2019 over the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Peace Treaty at Versailles on 28 June 1919.



Girls from the Edenbridge tannery on Armistice Day 1918

Guest display

During February and March the exhibition will be complemented with a guest display of Bruce Bairnsfather pottery and postcards featuring ‘Old Bill’, a curmudgeonly soldier with trademark walrus moustache and balaclava bringing a touch of humour through cartoons to the grim conditions being suffered by so many in the trenches.

Artists of the First World War

The opening event for 2018 comprises a talk by art historian Martin Heard on ‘Artists of the First World War – The Triumph of the Avant-Garde’. Martin studied History of Art at Manchester University and spent three years in the editorial

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► department of a fine art publishing company. Since retiring he has devoted his time to researching Art Historical periods and other subjects that have garnered his interest. It's on 31 January at 2pm in Rickards Hall, behind the museum. Tickets £6 (£5 for museum members) are on sale at Le Grys Estate Agents in Edenbridge High Street.



Reporting incidents can help the community

The recent meeting of Edenbridge Partners And Community Together (PACT) raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour in the town. It was clear that incidents were not being reported to the police at the time, so they were not recorded and therefore do not form part of the statistics that could generate a stronger police presence in Edenbridge.

The police urge all incidents (no matter how small) to be reported together with any evidence. At the moment Edenbridge is considered very low priority.

Attendance at the police surgery held at the Eden Centre is also poor, which could result in the abandonment of these meetings. Incidents should be reported to the police by calling 101 or the Community Safety Unit at 01732 227377.

Barbara's sleeping rough pays off

Barbara Mitchell's night of sleeping rough on 7 December with her Year Ten pupils raised a total of £300 on behalf of Tunbridge Wells Churches Winter Shelter.

Carole's mince pies raise £245

The annual Christmas sale of mince pies – a total of 41 dozen! – by Carole and John Webster raised £245. Of this, £25 was donated to the dog rescue centre that helped a

good friend of theirs, and £220 was donated to Edenbridge Church for Ian Skipper to purchase music and materials for the newly-formed junior choir.

You can support youth work in Edenbridge

Eden Christian Trust is looking for a secretary who is interested in youth work and wants to see it developed in Edenbridge. The ECT meetings are held bi-monthly. Contact Graham Brown (Chairman and Trustee) by email at gra.val@virgin.net

Diary dates

Sunday 7 January

9.30am Eucharist, Epiphany of the Lord B
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 14 January

9.30am Eucharist, Epiphanytide II B
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 21 January

9.30am Eucharist, Sunday in Unity Octave
6.30pm ECC Epiphanytide Carols

Sunday 28 January

9.30am Eucharist, Epiphanytide IV B
6.30pm Evensong

Saturday 3 February

Coffee morning at church 10am-noon

Sunday 4 February

9.30am Eucharist, Candlemas
6.30pm Evensong

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