

The **GOOD NEWS** paper

www.churchestogetherhernebay.org.uk

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Christian activity across the Herne Bay area

Street Pastors start their patrols



Street Pastors Christina, Barry and John (accompanied by observer David in the fluorescent jacket) patrol along Mortimer Street

Since the beginning of July, Street Pastors have been patrolling Herne Bay on a Friday evening from 7pm to midnight. Teams of five have been a highly visible presence to provide support to vulnerable people and those in distress.

The Pastors have been pleasantly surprised by how encouraging and responsive the public has been towards them.

It hasn't taken long for youngsters in the park or on the seafront, or drinkers in the many pubs to remember the unending supply of lollypops - an amusing start to a conversation that often leads



Prayer Pastors Rose, Maureen, Janet and Barbara at HQ - Herne Bay Baptist Church Friendship Centre

to them talking more seriously about their personal situation or their religious beliefs with one of the Pastors.

Behind the observable presence, and equally important, Prayer Pastor teams, stationed at the Friendship Centre, support their colleagues throughout the evening with prayers, hot drinks and edible goodies.

The Pastors, who are all volunteers, were commissioned at a packed service in Christchurch on 4th July. Friends, family and supporters watched the Street Pastors receive their caps from MP Sir Roger Gale, and Prayer Pastors receive badges from the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott.

The service was also attended by Lord Mayor of Canterbury Cllr Ann Taylor, Canterbury Division Commander Chief Inspector Mark Arnold, and Cllr Andrew Cook.

The scheme was facilitated by Churches Together in Herne Bay through Christchurch, Herne Bay Baptist, The Beacon, and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Alpha Course for Herne Bay

There is to be an Alpha course in Herne Bay in the Retreat Hall, Clarence Road, and is under the banner of Churches Together Herne Bay. The course starts on Thursday 18th September and all denominations are welcome. The course will be free and buffet food will be provided, also free of charge. The course will finish on 4th December, with an away day probably towards the end of October.

The Alpha Course has provoked a lot of interest over the years and is now established as the most popular world-wide course on Christianity.

Each week explores one particular topic of the Christian faith, which builds up into a composite whole at the end. The course is very sociable, lending itself to discussion and sharing between the

participants. There is normally an away day (or weekend) for a more intense time and discussion.

Nicky Gumbel is the pioneer of the Alpha course. He read law



at Cambridge and theology at Oxford, practised as a barrister, and is now Vicar of Holy Trinity

Brompton in London. He has written many best selling books about the Christian faith including *Alpha - Questions of Life and Searching Issues*. His is the voice and the face on the Alpha DVDs, which are used extensively in most of the courses.

For more information, or if you would like to participate, either as a helper, prayer partner or to go on the course, please contact Graham or Jan Meader on 01227 634955

Forthcoming Events

- 18 Sept - Alpha Course, Retreat Hall, 7.30pm
- 19 Sept - St Peter's Cricket Club vs Anglican XI (see above)
- 23 Sept - HBCT Forum Meeting, Church of Our Lady, 7.30pm
- 12 Oct - CTHB AGM, St Martin's Church, Herne, 4pm

Lady Mayoress' Charity - Fishing Competition plus crab catching competition

In aid of Air Ambulance, Catching Lives/Porchlight
21 September 9am-2pm Heron Angling Society
For more information call: 07730 211412 or 01227 361592

Herne Bay Alzheimer and Dementia Coffee Club

The Herne Bay Alzheimer and dementia coffee club meets on the second Monday in each month, from 2 pm. to 4 pm, at the coffee shop in Herne Bay Leisure Centre.

Anglicans to play Roman Catholics in charity cricket match

Anglican and Roman Catholic First XIs will face each other at the St Laurence ground in Canterbury on 19th September in a historic match to raise awareness of slavery and human trafficking.



Archbishop Justin Welby meets the Vatican First XI in Rome

The Twenty20 match starts at 4pm. Entry is free but there will be a bucket collection during the match. This will be raising funds for the Global Freedom Network, the joint Anglican-Roman Catholic anti-trafficking initiative launched in March.

The match will mark the culmination of the St Peter's Cricket Club 'Tour of Light' initiative, and follows a challenge laid down by the club's honorary president Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi to Archbishop Justin Welby, who will be at the match.

Harvest Festival – Support Herne Bay Food Bank

Is your church celebrating Harvest and asking for food donations? Would you be willing to support the Food Bank with collections of long-life and tinned food items?

Donations can be taken to Christchurch, William Street.

The **Good News** paper is published by Churches Together Herne Bay
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