

THE STOCKBURY & SOUTH GREEN OBSERVER

'In the Garden of England'

	March	'18	Diary
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All events at the Memorial Hall unless otherwise stated		March 10 Dialy				
Fri 2nd Dancing Club 8.00 - 10.30pm Sat 3rd 3rd Sun 4th Dog Club - Field 10.00 - 11.00am Mon 5th Private Booking Comm. Room 7.00 - 9.00pm Tues 6th Bowls 2.00 - 4.00pm Wed 7th Pilates 9.30 - 10.30am Harrow AGM 7.30 - 9.30pm Thurs 8th Bowls 7.30 - 9.30pm Fri 9th Dancing Club 8.00 - 10.30pm Sound - 10.30pm Sat 10th 10th <td< th=""><th>l</th><th></th><th></th><th></th><th></th></td<>	l					
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St Mary Magdalene Church News

Some of you may heard that we are proposing yet more building work at the Church. It does not seem that long since we took the last lot of scaffolding down! As a congregation we are very aware that as well as being the centre for Christian worship for the village we are also the custodians of a building which has stood since the 10th century and we have a responsibility to make sure of its future, not only preserved as an ancient building but as a valuable resource for generations to come in Stockbury.

At the moment investigations are taking place and if all goes to plan we plan to start work either in Autumn 18 or Spring 19, depending on weather conditions. The work will continue the stabilising of the building which we have been undertaking in the last few years. The bell tower requires attention on the inside, at the moment we cannot ring the bells as plaster rains down on the heads of the ringers. The main entrance porch is in very poor condition and will require a lot of attention. There has been movement in the arches inside the building and both the north and south transepts need concrete plaster removing and lime plaster replacing it. We need to treat those areas of medieval woodwork where woodworm has taken hold and there is work to do on some of the medieval glass. Finally, we are proposing to have the Church connected to a water supply and install a toilet in the north transept, which will enhance the use of the Church and in the summer months will allow it to be used by groups wishing to have a place to meet for retreats and such like.

Of course, all this does not come cheap. We have secured a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund, which although generous will not cover the full cost of the work, at the moment rough estimates are that we shall be £50k short. We are writing off for other grants and are hoping to top this up with fund raising, but this is a huge amount to raise for such a tiny congregation.

As I said we are very aware that we are just the custodians for this time and part of the conditions of a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund **Cont'd**

Tomsett Kent Vehicle Maintenance and Mot Centre Repairs • Mots • Hybrid • Electric Servicing • Air Conditioning • Brakes We Mot... Cars Vans Motorbikes Motorhomes Minibuses Quads Tomsett Kent Planting Now offering HYBRID Servicing and Repair

MONDAY – FRIDAY 8am – 5pm SATURDAY 8am – 12 noon

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www.stockbury.org.uk

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Stockbury Observer!

Cont'd ...

is that we produce educational material for visitors of all ages and abilities.

We are planning some exhibitions of the social/ ecclesiastical/national events during the history of the Church and will back these up with material people can take away with them. If anyone is able to help us with any copies of material they might have, particularly the little booklet about the Church produced in the late 90's by the Buxton's we would be very grateful.

Contrary to popular belief, the Church is not rich. For the first time in many years in 2017 we did not end up with a deficit budget. We have some money ring fenced in the building fund but our day to day expenses, diocesan quota, insurance all has to be paid for from our budget. Our biggest expenses are the quota, used to pay incumbents, pay pensions train new priests and the insurance. At present we only pay 50% of the premium and get 50% cover. That cost was £2,644 in 2017 and will rise in 2018. Full insurance would be double that, the quote came to £4,530 in 2017 and every day running costs for 2017 were approximately an extra £2,500.

We know that money is scare at the moment and people do not have a lot to spare, however if anyone is willing to help we would be very grateful, however small the donation. If everyone in the village could afford 5op a week it would make a huge difference. One way many of you have supported us over the last few years is the Monthly Draw which while costing £10 per ticket per year, gives you a chance of winning some of your money back. It is the time of year for renewals and there is a form at the back of The Observer should anyone wish to purchase new/more tickets. (I've already got mine! - Ed)

If anyone wants to ask anything more please do get in touch and remember we are there for the village. We are open most Sundays for worship (unless the weather defeats us) and always welcome newcomers

God Bless



St Mary Magdalene Church Stockbury



The services in March are as follows:

4th March - 3.00pm - Communion 11th March - 3.00pm Mothering Sunday service 18th March - 3.00pm - Communion 25th March - 3.00pm - Evensong Palm Sunday

Please note - if there is severe weather e.g snow, services may be cancelled. If in doubt, check with Liz Cox.

Anyone wishing to visit the church can obtain the key from the village shop.

Penny Stevens - PCC Secretary

Details of the range of services held within the benefice of the six parishes, to which Stockbury belongs, can be found on the parishes' website www.thesix.org.uk or contact the Rev'd Liz Cox

For baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact The Rev'd Liz Cox on 01795 844241

St Augustine's RC, Deanwood Drive Rainham

Mass Times Weekdays 9.30 am Saturday 10.00 am and 6.00 pm Sunday 9.30 am and 11.00 am

Cockett's Corner Ditty

A Road Safety Hint

Before driving on the A249 Always spend a little time

Listening to the local radio Will tell you when its safe to go

It's only best to make a dash After the usual daily crash!

Graham Seymour Electrical

To All My Friends And Customers

I wish to advise you that after a career in electronics, IT design and over the past 7 years providing electrical services for the local community, I am now retiring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom, your trust and the friendships that have been made.

I hope these friendships will continue.

Graham Seymour

AWARD WINNING M B Farms

Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Post Office Hours

Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri: 9.00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

National Lottery Now Available

Web: http://www.mbfarms.co.uk



STOCKBURY COMMUNITY BUS

Mondays - Sittingbourne Tuesdays - Maidstone

Thursdays - Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre (Savacentre) Pickups from 9:30 a.m. close to where you live. Give us a try!

FANCY DRESS COSTUMES FOR SALE



We have a large collection of X-hire costumes for adults and children in a wide range of themes.

Packet Costumes & Accessories also available to buy at bargain prices!

For all enquiries call Wendy on 01795 841775



Patrik Says

Dear Residents

Is that another month gone by? After weeks of rain, which we urgently need to replenish our reservoirs, the sun comes out and the plants and birds present the first signs of spring. At this rate it'll be summer and The World-Cup soon. (seems more like mid winter at the moment! - Ed)

- Oh yes, and the Maidstone Budget is looming!

Needless to say that another £800,000 will be ploughed into the Maidstone Museum, as usual. A subsidy of £10 per visitor. As mentioned last month, Park & Ride subsidies will be doubled and of course, since Central Government raised the cap on Council Tax increases, staff scream out for and will get a good pay-rise.

Car parking spaces to staff at Maidstone House are £450 per year. A bit rich perhaps that Officers are advising us to increase parking charges to encourage Park & Ride and outlying car parks whilst enjoying the cheapest private parking in the most central location! I flag this not to necessarily suggest we increase the cost to staff but to say NO to making parking less affordable to the public.

I hope that I have your mandate to vote against the proposed budget.

I may have mentioned before that MBC withdrew £10k annual funding for the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership last year. This organisation is a delivery partner for over half of the actions identified in the Council's adopted Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan. Without going into too much technical detail, for every £1 invested into the Partnership, Maidstone would receive a return of £8. Not only do I question the wisdom of this decision but I also wonder why the funding of the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership in our area was withdrawn, when the MBC payments to the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership remain unchanged.

I will raise this question at Full Council on 28 February.

(PS: I'm trying really hard not to rant this month and I purposely did not mention the leading Party.)

On a more positive note:

Although fly-tipping and antisocial littering out of motor-vehicles is always going on, I noted that most lanes across the North Downs are pretty clean of rubbish. I think that this may partially be due to Lesley Jones, Maidstone's new Cleaning Manager, who visited Stockbury not too long ago. - A big thank you!

I even noticed MBC Teams cleaning the verges along the A249 in the middle of the day. What a difference that made! - Unfortunately the beauty was not to last very long.

Finally, the Parish Council was hoping to see Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner, at their Annual Assembly. Unfortunately Mr Scott's diary slot was already taken for that evening, however I have arranged a meeting with North Downs Community Representatives, a Stockbury Parish Councillor and the PCC early next month. Hopefully we may be able to arrange a meeting with Mr Scott and Stockbury residents later in the year.

PATRIK GARTEN MBC Councillor for North Downs Ward, including Stockbury

Electric Car Charging Arrives in Stockbury

The green energy revolution has arrived in Stockbury.

Wednesday 21st February marked the opening of its first public charging station for electric cars at Tomsett Kent MOT Centre.

The MOT Centre recently became certified in the repair and servicing of hybrid and electric vehicles and has installed a charging station which will be free for customers to use.

Owner Dave Tomsett is one of only a handful of level four-qualified mechanics in the country, allowing him to work on live electric vehicles.

He said: "The announcement of the 2040 UK ban on the sale of diesel and petrol vehicles has accelerated interest in electric vehicles."

"We're anticipating a lot of demand and we're proud to be offering a range of services to electric and hybrid vehicle owners in Stockbury and beyond."

The Stockbury business has invested thousands of pounds in training and tools for hybrid and electric vehicles including a specialist repair bay and in the future hopes to work with local schools and colleges to give apprentices and young people an introduction to hybrid and electric vehicles.



Oil Boiler Specialists

A big thank you to all my loyal customers. I have been doing a lot of training and readying my company for the new RHI launch and to this effect we can now offer you biomass boilers (log, pellet and woodchip) and thermal Solar panels.

All design and installs in-house this will allow you to gain the MCS payment from the government to cover the cost of installation.

I will still be the best oil technician I can be for you all and keep your oil boilers running at their best

Give me a call or email



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Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch

We are a Police registered Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Neighbourhood Watch is a way for communities to help themselves stay safe. We are volunteers who work in partnership with the police to:

- Distribute safety advice
- Help make sure that elderly and vulnerable residents are not targets to criminals
- Gather information to help police tackle local problems
- Alert residents when there is a particular crime problem in the area

Our aim is to help people protect themselves and their properties and to reduce the anxieties of becoming a victim of crime.

Please be vigilant and report suspicious characters or incidents to the police and also to your co-ordinator (details below).

Co-ordinators will cascade any information from the police or neighbours to members.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Emergency: 999 (crime in progress/life threatening)

Non-Emergency: 101

Rosemary (Ann) Ballard (*Co-ordinator*) (01622) 736331

Alternatively you may e-mail the Co-ordinator at:

stockbury-neighbourhood@outlook.com

Any ideas and views would be greatly welcomed at the above mentioned e-mail address.

If you know of any other residents who would like to receive information from Stockbury Neighbourhood Watch, then please ask them to either contact the Coordinator on the above telephone number or e-mail their details to the above mentioned e-mail address.



Mobile Library Dates
1st,15th & 29th March '18
At the Village Hall



Stockbury Gardeners

My wife managed to book a last-minute deal for a weekend break in the New Forest, I should have suspected why we went to Lymington because she had managed to find a hotel boasting none other than, a mini Monet's Garden; the famous and much acclaimed garden near to Paris is frequented by international visitors. The garden in Lymington has a planting layout very similar to the real one, including 8 giant rose arches, ponds and a replica "Monet" arched pedestrian bridge over a water lily covered pond. The area was laid out with borders and trees very

similar to the real garden. Sadly, we were not able to see the garden in its glory as the middle of February is not the best time, even if we have global warming. We will return.

Saturday 17th February. The day's itinerary read, visit one garden centre Nr Lymington, late PM same day, visit yet another garden centre. Lunch was an ice cream on the beach in a shirt watching children paddling in the sea. All I was thinking was, "I hope the folks at home have remembered to open and vent the greenhouse". (Oh, how romantic! - Ed)

Starting with 1st March, the Stockbury Gardeners have our very own Phil Johnson discussing his National Awards at the Sweet Pea Shows; he will also be updating us on his new nursery business venture. For those whom might like some specialist sweet pea plants, Phil will be bringing some with him.

April sees yours truly and Rodney Gibson discussing and demonstrating old garden tools; if you have some in your shed and do not know what they are bring 'em along.

June has Paolo from Franchi Seeds, a very popular guy with the ladies, returning for the third time in as many years to demonstrate the methods of preserving produce, this is guaranteed to entertain you.

The July meeting has Dr Sarah Arnold, an eminent Entomologist, who will be presenting a talk on the importance of pollination and tricks that the insects play on plants.

Towards the end of the year Jean Griffin will be visiting us with a talk on more tails from the potting shed, the mid boggles. Jean is a regular on Radio Kent and will also be answering questions on gardens.

Other dates are planned and we are hoping that Jim Buttress of BBC fame, can be with us on one of these.

This month bush and hybrid tea roses are due for a haircut, by that I mean prune. Sow parsnips and carrots once

the wet and cold weather allows the soil to warm a little. Rake some lime into the soil if your soil is acidic. Chit potatoes ready for sowing in late March, early April. Pot up tomato seedlings in the warm greenhouse, shallots should be ready to plant out as soon as a dry day occurs.

Moles are really becoming a pest now as they are tunnelling in higher new ground to get away from the wet end of the garden. For those with a good memory, do you recall Jasper Carrot describing the best way of dealing with the furry beasts!!?

Robin update; - she or he is finally sitting on my hand feeding, clearly loving suet pellets; she regurgitated over my hand a rather chewed up spider (nice! - Ed) to eat what I assume are the tastier pellets.



By the time that you read this we will have a slot on The Harrow Pub's new notice board so keep an eye on updates, also if you fancy joining us there are details pinned to the board.

Chris Spree



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We provide a full service package which not only includes the supply and installation of your new kitchen or bathroom but also all of the associated plumbing and tiling, electrical installation, plastering, small building works and decoration.

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A family run business so our reputation is our guarantee Telephone 01622 616117

THE HARROW AT STOCKBURY

We are now Serving a Full Menu

Lunch and Dinner Tuesday to Saturday Sunday Lunch 12.00 to 4.00pm

We are now serving our new and improved menu with a new range of seasonal and locally sourced dishes

March's Events

Friday 2nd - Fish & Chip Night

Sunday 11th - Mother's Day Lunch - 3 Courses + a gift for Mum - £27 a head

Wednesday 28th - Quiz Night

WE WILL NOT BE SERVING EVENING MEALS ON THE 17TH OR 24TH

Opening Hours

Monday - Closed for now Tuesday - Thursday 12.00-23.00 Friday & Saturday 12.00-12.00am Sunday 11.30-21.00pm

Phone: 01795 843222



This month we read **The Dry** by **Jane Harper**. (The Sunday Times crime book of 2017.)

I must tell you straight away that this is a whodunit.... BUT a well-constructed and clever whodunit you just won't want to put down. From the very first chapter you are led into an atmospheric, intriguing web of suspicion which reaches out in all directions.

The story takes place in drought weary Kiewarra, Australia and begins immediately with a gruesome bang: the discovery of a murdered family and the apparent suicide of the supposed perpetrator, the father, Luke Hadler. And there you have it. What appears to be a cut and dried crime is slowly picked apart by Luke's childhood friend, a policeman from Melbourne, Aaron Falk, who returns originally just for the funeral. Although he intended only to be there for "eighteen hours at most" he and Luke had a secret in their youth which impacts on the crime and this, together with a firm request from Luke's father to attend means he stays. He and Raco the local cop begin to piece together the events leading up to the family's demise.

There are many teasing possibilities revealed as the story unravels; nothing is what it seems and the recovery of forgotten facts proves very intriguing. The rich descriptions of the oppressive heat, the dust and glare and frustrated drought-trapped farming community all add to the atmosphere giving us a feeling of being present at the time.

Without exception we all considered this book a great read and a breathless page-turner.

Score – 9 Ann Rich

(Sounds such an intriguing read, I've downloaded my copy already! - Ed)

Stockbury Easter Egg Hunt Stockbury Village Orchard

Join us for the first Stockbury Village
Easter Egg Hunt
With Face painting, raffle, tea, coffee and
cakes to purchase on the day



All children must be accompanied by an adult
Appropriate footwear is advised
There are parts of the orchard which are uneven

This event will go ahead no matter the weather

For more information find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/StockburyEggHunt/



195,000 English National Concessionary Travel Scheme passes in Kent will expire on 31 March 2018 and cannot be used on buses after that date.

DON'T WORRY -WE'LL BE IN TOUCH

If you have used your bus pass on a Kent bus in the past year, we will send you your new bus pass by the middle of March 2018.

If you haven't been able to use your bus pass in the past year, you will receive a letter from us during January or February 2018 explaining how you can renew your bus pass if you still want it.

MOVED HOUSE?

If you have moved house since getting your current bus pass and you haven't told us, make sure you let us know so that your new bus pass arrives at the right place.





NG \$45 \$35 \$25
FROM \$65 \$10 by consultation by consultation
FROM \$55 \$45 \$35 \$10 \$45 \$35/\$40 \$50

£55



Saturday 6th May - 9.30am - 1.30pm
Plant Sale/Church Preserves/Cake Stall

Saturday 19th May - 7.30pm FUN QUIZ in aid of Stockbury Church

Saturday 6th October -7.30pm FUN QUIZ in aid of Stockbury Church

Saturday 1st December Christmas Fayre - 10 - 1pm

All events take place in Stockbury Village Hall

Look out for posters and more information.



Based in Stockbury/Home visits available

Perm

The Harrow Petanque Open Evening

Looking forward to the end of winter? Interested in visiting the Inns of Kent? Enjoy good company and outdoor exercise?

Then why not join The Harrow Petanque Team!

Now that The Harrow has reopened we are looking for new players

If you are interested why not come along and through a few boules on the piste to see if it's your cup of tea (or whatever other tipple you prefer!)

Come along and see what's on offer Tuesday 13th March

Festivities will start at 7pm

If you require further information or are unable to make it on the night Please contact Tina Jacobs on 01795 484453 or Alan Cooke on 07920 844157

No Experience Necessary All Ages Welcome

Look forward to seeing you on the 13th March

Free Small Ads

We are trialling a "Small Ads" section for Stockbury Parish residents to sell, redundant or unwanted items in good condition. If you have any such items, please send the details to stockburyobserver@gmail.com and they will be advertised for free in The Observer for **one month only**.

We accept no responsibility for the quality of the items advertised for sale or the handling of payment between buyer and vendor.

BARGAIN!

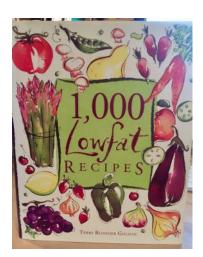
FOLDING bike for sale Microshift 6 gear Good tyres Almost new helmet included £40 O.N.O.



Text or ring 07718 070807

FOR SALE

1,000 LowFat Recipe cookbook 600+ pages NEVER used, in excellent condition FREE to a good home!



Ring 01622 884551

Observer Deadline!

If you would like to advertise or have item included in next months Observer, we must receive it no later than

Monday 26th March, 2018

Please email your contributions to **stockburyobserver@gmail.com**

Calling All Advertisers

Our annual rates for advertising are very reasonable and have remained unchanged for the 6th consecutive year:

£85 for a half page or £55 for a quarter page

Our advertising year starts in June and new adverts for less than 12 months duration will be charged on a pro-rata basis. Rates for ads smaller than a quarter page will be given on application.

If you would like to take out an ad, please email stockburyobserver@gmail.com The editor will confirm receipt and an invoice will be sent along with details of how to pay.

If you are a new customer, please also attach your ad, preferable in MS Word or Powerpoint. Please bear in mind when designing your ad that large solid blocks of colour may not look so good in the black and white paper edition of The Observer, despite looking good for our online edition.

This is a great opportunity to promote your business as The Observer is delivered to every household within the Parish of Stockbury as well as having an online presence.

It's never too late to advertise in The Stockbury Observer!

Stockbury Parish Council Minutes

The minutes for our Parish Council meeting will be approved at the following meeting and will then be published on www.stockbury.org.uk within 5 days of the meeting at which they are approved.

Useful Contact Information

Church Matters St. Mary Magdalene	Revd Liz Cox - elizabeth.cox448@btinternet.com	01795 435184
Community Bus	Booking Line	07551 454702
Cricket Club	Tom Bulbrook - th.bul2@yahoo.com	07780 440526
Crimestoppers	(Confidential)	0800 55511
Dancing Club	Brian Crisp	01634 231886
Dog Club	Mick Bingham	01795 842480
Electricity Problems		0800 7838866
Environment Agency	Incident Hotline	0800 807060
Fly Tipping & Waste Collection	Including bulky items	01622 602162
Gardeners	stockburygardeners@live.com	
Golf Society	Jeff Hall	01795 843296
Hall Bookings	Sue Porter	01795 843715
Kent County Councillor	Shellina Prendergast shellina.prendergast@kent.gov.uk	
Maidstone BC Councillor	Patrik Garten - patrikgarten@maidstone.gov.uk	01622 807907
MB Farms Stores & Post Office		01795 842401
Member of Parliament Faversham & Mid Kent Ward	Helen Whately - helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk	
Neighbourhood Watch	Ann Ballard	01622 736331
Not So Young Club	Rosemary Leonard	01634 232672
Parish Council	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Petanque Club	Tina Jacobs	07743 910185
Photographic Club	Tim Arnold - timarnold@btinternet.com	01795 843049
Police	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	999 101
Police Community Support Officers for Stockbury	Ryan Waring - <u>5872@kent.pnn.police.uk</u> Dave Rowley - <u>59079@kent.pnn.police.uk</u>	07969 584213 07772 226097
Public Footpaths & Bridleway	Reporting issues with westprow@kent.gov.uk	03000 417171
Roads, Potholes, etc	(manned 24hrs) - <u>www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem</u>	03000 418181
RSPCA		0300 1234999
Short Mat Bowls	Tony or Angela Russell	01795 842738
South East Water	Emergency Only Non-Emergency	0333 000 0365 0333 000 3330
Stockbury Observer - Editor	stockburyobserver@gmail.com	
The Harrow Public House	stockburypub@gmail.com	01795 843222
WI	Brenda Mace	01622 884746

STOCKBURY CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW APPLICATION FORM

a) posted back to you or b) le	ng your draw number(s) to be: Ift at MB Farms Post office for you to collect (delete as appropriate)	
NAME		
ADDRESS		
	POST CODE	
TEL NO:	EMAIL:	
NUMBER OF TICKETS REQU	UIREDNUMBERED (leave blank)	
PAYMENT ENCLOSED (£10	EACH) CASH / CHEQUE (Cheques to Stockbury Church PCC)	
DATE	SIGNED	
Please return entry form & payn Lane, Bapchild, Sittingbourne, K	nent to either Angela Brown at MB Farms Post Office or Emma Charlesworth, 10 Hemps Tent, ME9 9BH	tead
STOCKBUR	TO BE RETURNED TO (after numbers have been allocated by the organ) Y CHURCH MONTHLY DRAW APPLICATION FORM	
Do you want this form showing	ng your draw number(s) to be: ft at MB Farms Post office for you to collect (delete as appropriate)	
NAME		
ADDRESS		
	POST CODE	
TEL NO:	EMAIL:	
NUMBER OF TICKETS REQU	UIREDNUMBERED (leave blank)	
PAYMENT ENCLOSED (£10	EACH)CASH / CHEQUE (Cheques to Stockbury Church PCC)	
DATE	SIGNED	
Please return entry form & paym	nent to either Angela Brown at MB Farms Post Office or Emma Charlesworth, 10 Hemps	tead

 $Lane, Bapchild, Sitting bourne, Kent, ME9\ 9BH$