

...and the Lord said let there be broadband

by Nick Lillitos
nlillitos@thekmggroup.co.uk

This could be the church with the fastest telecommunications in England, according to Goudhurst vicar Hugh Nelson.

The 12th century place of worship in Back Lane has just been put on the broadband super highway – enabling access to its rural residents.

At speeds of 1GB per second the local community can now use this service in their own homes because of the high tower's signal reception.

Without the building, service would have been virtually impossible to deliver, with telecom providers focusing on urban areas.

The Rev Nelson said: "On a clear day from the top of the tower it's been said you can see Canary Wharf in one direction and Hastings in the other.

"We struck a good partnership with Call Flow Solutions, a Kent-based telecoms company to get

superfast broadband into villages."

To celebrate the link-up the whole congregation accessed the site through their phones and tablets during Sunday service.

"This is good news for local people," said Mr Nelson.

"It means we can now do things we never could before in the church, for example a christening we'll be having in October.

"The godfather is in Australia and won't be able to attend, but with Skype he'll have the opportunity to participate in real time.

"It also gives us the opportunity to screen live Sunday services, particularly for those who can't attend because they are ill."

He added: "St Mary's is a beautiful church with a long distinguished past and now it has communication facilities fit for the 21st century."

Local businessman and resident Lorne Mitchell said: "This is a wonderful collaboration between the church, and the local community. It will benefit everyone."



THE WORD IS OUT THERE: The Rev Hugh Nelson, of St Mary's church, Goudhurst

Picture: John Westthrop FM2712426

Beware of bogus email

Kent Trading Standards is warning of an email purporting to be from Tesco Rewards Department.

It is from online@tesco.co.uk and states that the recipient has been randomly chosen to receive a £500 Tesco voucher reward.

This is believed to be a phishing email where consumers are asked for their bank or credit card details, which may then be used for fraudulent purposes.

If you receive such an email, be wary of clicking on any attached links. Advice on how to identify genuine messages is available at www.tesco.com/clubcard/email-security.

To report any concerns you have call 08454 040506.

Council just a click away

Coxheath residents can interact with their parish council on a much more personal level than before.

A Twitter account called @coxheathcouncil and a Facebook profile called Coxheath Parish Council has been set up for people to share concerns with their councillors and receive updates on local news and events.

They were created by Coxheath parish councillor Jonathan Cornish, who said: "Part of the challenges faced by the council is to effectively communicate and listen to the busy and diverse community we work hard to support.

"We have bridged gaps to reach parts of our community that might previously not have