

St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine

December 2020/January 2021

**CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS**



*We would like to send our very best wishes to everyone
in the village and to all of those who read this magazine
for a very happy and holy Christmas
and for a peaceful New Year*



From John and Sally Crutchley



St Peter's Church, Ardingly

Who's Who at St Peter's

Rector	Revd John Crutchley	892332
Associate Priest	Revd Chris Sutton	07903 068366
Readers	John Witherington	892277
	Philip Kelly	892540
Wardens	Nigel Cheater	892769
	John Witherington	892277
Secretary to the PCC	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Treasurer	Jean Jeffery	415317
Organist	Jill Veasey	892442
Safeguarding Coordinator	Caroline Steer	892108
Church Centre Manager	Jill Veasey	892442
Church Centre Bookings	Carol Grossman	416707
Magazine Editor	Sue Laker	892117
Pastoral Care Authorised	Kathy James	891047
Lay Ministers	Sue Laker	892117

SUNDAY SERVICES (subject to lockdown arrangements)

9.00 am A traditional form of Holy Communion

10.30 am Morning Worship – our main service – see Services page

**The church is also open on Sundays and on Thursdays
from 10am to 4pm for private prayer**

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



There has been so much that has had to change this year already, and our celebration of Christmas will be no different. At the time of writing we are in our second lockdown which will hopefully have come to an end by early December, but who knows? And then I should imagine, the restrictions we have known for most of the year will be back, but will they be tougher or will it be possible for them to be safely loosened, at least a little, so as to allow us to celebrate Christmas in some of the ways that are familiar? Again, who knows? What I do know is that for my family as for so many others, in the village and across the country, the 'rule of six' will pose a huge problem at Christmas as will the current restrictions on visiting elderly and much-loved relatives in care homes.

And then there's the Christmas services. Sadly, this year the guidelines prevent us from having a gathering around the tree in the village to watch as the lights are switched on whilst we sing familiar Christmas carols. Neither can we have our usual service of 'Carols by Candlelight' with music and readings to remind us of the Christmas story. For me, saddest of all, is that we can't share the excitement and fun of our Christingle service on Christmas Eve. We just cannot safely accommodate in accordance with the guidelines the usual numbers who gather for these services. Each are important occasions, because each draw so many of us, from across the village, to share and to celebrate together as a community, the message of Christ's birth at Christmas.

And that gathering as a community to remember and celebrate Christmas really must not change. So, with prayers for fine weather, let me invite you all to join us at 4.00pm on Sunday 20th December on the Recreation Ground for a celebration of Christmas. There will be carols, a telling of the Christmas story, a chance to pray together for Christmas, for our families and for all of those across both country and world affected by the events of this year, and a chance, too, to think about light coming into darkness as we think about the message and meaning of the Christingle. This year we will have to ask you to bring your own Christingle, but we will put instructions on the church website and Facebook page in case

you're not familiar with how to assemble it. And if you (or maybe even one of your children!) fancy coming along dressed as one of the characters from the nativity, then why not! The idea is that this will be fun, that this will be a moment of shared joy, that this will draw us all together in a community celebration of Christmas.

Because whilst so much has changed this year, the message of joy that is at the heart of Christmas will never change. The Bible reminds us that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever'. This year has for so many been a time of stress and anxiety; of worry about health and safety; of unease and fear over job security; of mourning and tears over the loss of loved ones. But to all of us, the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas means there is help for us in our need whatever that need may be. There is rest for the weary and burdened whatever may be causing that weariness, or however heavy the burden may seem. The coming of Christ at Christmas means that God is in control of this confused world. He is in control and he is sovereign over both the wider world and our personal world alike and his plans and purposes are good, his sovereignty is real and his timing in everything is impeccable. As the apostle Paul has written: "when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman." And that time had certainly come. The world needed Jesus at his birth just as the world and each one of us continue to need him today, to need the light that shines in the darkness. Where we place our faith and our trust in him, Jesus is that light and he is with us in everything - hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow.

So, this Christmas let's try, despite all that is going on around us, to celebrate with joy the One who stepped into time and space to be with us and to bring us to Himself both now and for all eternity. My hope and prayer are that every one of you will put your trust in Jesus Christ this festive season and that you will all enjoy a merry and peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Yours in His service,



Services in DECEMBER 2020

*'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever.'
(Hebrews 13: 8) In the season of Advent we remember Christ's
Incarnation over two thousand years ago. We yearn for and
welcome Christ's presence in our lives today. And we look forward
to the future coming of Christ in glory.*

Sunday 6th December

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a; Mark 1: 1 - 8

10.30am

Morning Praise

Mark 1: 1 - 8

5.00pm

(on-line service)

Open to God: Darkness to Light

A 'Zoom' service of readings, prayer, and quiet reflection to celebrate the season of Advent. A 'Zoom' invitation for any who wish to join this on-line service will be available on the Church website.

Sunday 13th December

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24;
John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28

10.30am

Holy Communion [CW]

John 1: 6- 8, 19 - 28

Sunday 20th December

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

Romans 16: 25 - 27; Luke 1: 26 - 38

10.30am

Morning Praise

Luke 1: 26 - 38

4. 00pm

A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

A service for all held on The Recreation Ground with Christmas music and carols, the story of Christmas and the message and meaning of the CHRISTINGLE.

Thursday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

11.00pm
Holy Communion

A Christmas Celebration of Holy Communion

A quiet and reflective candle-lit service for the beginning of Christmas

Friday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am
Holy Communion [BCP]

Isaiah 9: 2 - 7; Luke 2: 1 - 14
A traditional service of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning

10.30am
Morning Praise

Christmas Morning Praise
A service of Christmas Carols and Christmas Praise to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour and Lord

Sunday 27th December The First Sunday of Christmas

9.30am
Holy Communion [CW]

Galatians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 2: 15: - 21

"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us....Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives." [Benedict XVI]

Services in JANUARY 2021

Sunday 3rd January

The Epiphany

9.00am

Morning Prayer

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14; John 1: 10 – 18

10.30am

Morning Praise

Ephesians 1: 3 – 14; John 1: 10 – 18

Sunday 10th January

The First Sunday of Epiphany – The Baptism of Christ

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

Acts 19: 1 – 7; John 1: 29 – 34

10.30am

Holy Communion [CW]

John 1: 29 – 34

Sunday 17th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

Revelation 5: 1 – 10; John 1: 43 – 51

10.30am

Morning Praise

John 1: 43 – 51

Sunday 24th January

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

Revelation 19: 6 – 10; John 2: 1 – 11

10.30am

Holy Communion [CW] *With prayer for healing and wholeness*

John 2: 1 – 11

Sunday 31st January

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

Holy Communion [BCP]

Revelation 12: 1 – 5a; Mark 1: 21 – 28

10.30am

Morning Praise

Mark 1: 21 – 28

NOTICES

Link to Hope Shoeboxes



A very big 'Thank You' to all who supported the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal this Autumn. With the help of St Peter's Primary School and the ladies at Studio 5 we were able to send a total of 28 shoeboxes to the collection centre! The boxes are now on their way to Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine. Sue Laker

POSTBOX in Church



As in previous years, we will have our Christmas Postbox in church on 5th, 12th and 19th December. You are welcome to post in it your Ardingly village cards but please no cards for outside the village! There will be a small box for donations towards the service and the total raised will be given to a local charity. Deliveries will be made on Monday 21st December, and help with this will be much appreciated! Lockdown permitting, socially distanced sorting will begin at 10.00am in the Church Centre that day. Please let me know if you can help. Thank you! Jill Veasey (892442)

Christmas gifts for FSW

We usually have a 'Toy Sunday' in December when you are invited to donate gifts of toys and other gifts for children, gift cards, wrapping paper and sellotape, so that at Christmas they can be given to families within our Deanery who are supported by Caroline Steer and FSW. If you are able to help, please phone Caroline on 07887 524059 to arrange collection/delivery of any donations. Each family supported locally will be given a Christmas Hamper, so any items towards making up a hamper would be very welcome too. If you would like to make an independent financial donation you can do so by following the link:

<https://www.familysupportwork.org/get-involved/donate/>

Thank you!

Deb Ruse, St. Peter's FSW Representative

Angels & Urchins dates

Our last morning before the Christmas holidays will be on Thursday 17th December. We'll meet again on Thursday 7th January 2020.

Jill Veasey



MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2021

It's the time of year when I must say a very big 'thank you' to the many people who contribute to the magazine during the year, to Ardingly College who print it for us, to Glynis Doerr who bundles and distributes all the magazines each month, and to all the deliverers who put them through our doors! **THANK YOU!**



It's also the time of year when annual subscriptions become due. This year was exceptional, of course, due to lockdown in the Spring and the closure of Ardingly College, so the March-September issues of the magazine could only be read on our website. Hopefully 2021 will be different and we will be able to produce hard copies consistently again.

If you would like to have the magazine delivered to your door (in Ardingly) the minimum subscription will be £3 (and grateful thanks go to all those who round it up to £5!). However, as it was not possible to post 5 issues of the 2020 magazine to those people who receive it by post, the subscription for 2021 will only be £6.50.

Subscriptions can be delivered or posted to Michael Denman at 35 High Street, Ardingly or to Sue Laker at 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN. Cheques should be made payable to "St Peter's Church, Ardingly" please.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas, and God's blessing in the New Year,

Sue Laker

ANGEL TREE UPDATE

Just to say a big thank you to all you generous people who have given me donations for Angel Tree. It is much appreciated! The application forms are now coming in from the prisoners and the next task is to match presents to children, get them wrapped up and sent off. I will let you know in the February magazine all that we have accomplished! Meanwhile we would value your prayers that all will go smoothly.

Adele

PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

We're having a great time at Pre-school and we enjoyed Halloween and Bonfire night. We would like to say thank you to everyone that got involved with our Halloween pumpkin trail. It was a big success, raising a total of £130 in much needed funds for the Pre-school! It was so lovely to see all the families out enjoying themselves at a safe distance while finding all the hidden pumpkins!



In Pre-school we have been playing with fire engine toys, and creating our own firework collages, as well as anything to do with trains. The staff have been busy planning for the weeks ahead, and we will be learning about Christmas, producing lots of Christmas related crafts and the children will be having their own Christmas party.

We have a few spaces available after Christmas, so please do get in touch if you would like to know more about Preschool and how we work rebecca@st-peters-preschool-ardingly.org



St Peter's Pre-School and Toddler Group
St Peter's Church Centre, Street Lane, Ardingly RH17 6UN
Charity Number 1022794 registered in England & Wales
Tel: 07969 890907

<http://www.st-peters-preschool-ardingly.org/>

CMS NEWS : HEATHER JOHNSTONE



Dear friends, I decided to delay writing my link letter until I had news on when I could return to Tanzania. Days turned into weeks and weeks into months and months into many months, but finally I am delighted to share that my work permit has been approved at long last! Praise the Lord. I must apply for a residence visa now which hopefully will be processed quickly (or at least more quickly than the work permit!). As of 1 October, international commercial travel recommenced for the first time since March, and my South African visa which was expiring on 31 October has been extended, so I am free to travel whenever I'm ready.

Tanzanian presidential elections take place on 28 October. My tentative plan is to spend a few days in Nairobi and then travel to Tanzania in early November (assuming my paperwork is in order by then!). Things are starting to happen, and as my vicar Sarah Guinness says, the timing seems to have been perfectly choreographed by God, which is so true and an image I love.

However, unfortunately the work permit is for one year only and my "final grant", which did deflate my euphoria significantly. Apparently, there is a new rule which caps work permits at five years and I have already had two two-year permits, hence the one year granted. Nevertheless, the labour ministry has said that at the end of the year Bishop George should write to the commissioner and they guarantee I will receive an exemption certificate and will be allowed to continue serving the Diocese of Mara.

I trust that God will continue choreographing the steps and moves in the ballet of my life and my ministry in Tanzania.

Our supporters dug deep and through generous donations we have been able to give every single Rehema employee (full-time or part-time, temporary or permanent) an investment of TZS 400,000. At a time when there is no work for our employees and no real idea when we might be able to re-open for trade, it was very important to be able to give everyone the opportunity to start their own small business so that they may provide for themselves and their families.

I am hearing wonderful success stories of their various endeavours but of course not everyone is going to be successful as an entrepreneur and some have been struggling to feed their families. We have arranged for regular food assistance for those who are falling through the cracks.

Mostly we supply 40kg of maize meal which people use to make the Tanzanian staple, ugali. Furthermore, we have been able to be quite productive and have achieved a lot despite everything.

- We built a house for a young woman who was the victim of domestic abuse. Her husband used to regularly beat her and their children. She is now out of that toxic environment and she and the children are safe in their new home. The husband is living elsewhere with a second wife.
- We built toilets for the church community at a nearby village.
- Carpenters are currently making an additional 10 desks and 30 chairs for the nursery school at Nyambeshi.
- We enabled the church in Mkiringo to finish concreting their floor and buy chairs to use instead of using makeshift benches made from branches of trees that had been cobbled together.



I have kept myself busy in South Africa while waiting for the opportunity to return to Tanzania and have been volunteering for a fantastic project called 'Ladles of Love'. Danny, the founder, was determined to create a new kind of soup kitchen powered by love and offering comfort to fellow humans who have temporarily lost their way, which is something I fully subscribe to. Prior to lockdown, Ladles was serving soup and sandwiches to 200 needy people in Cape

Town every week. As the need has multiplied due to the economic fallout caused by the global pandemic, the project has grown exponentially and is now working with more than 110 NGOs (who each support a further 250 beneficiaries of their own) and supply food to numerous soup kitchens and shelters. They have served 6,300,000 meals since lockdown started.

It is often mistakenly called 'Ladies of Love', but as Danny said on International Women's Day, he is happy with that mistake as the project is blessed with a team of strong, capable women with big hearts and incredible energy who make up more than 80 per cent of the volunteers. I am privileged to have played a small part in this great project, making sandwiches and boiled eggs twice a week, and driving for them three times a week.

I recently watched the film Pili, directed by Leanne Welham, and was blown away with how very true to life the film is. If you'd like to see what life is like for many Tanzanian women in rural Tanzania, this film is worth watching. It is available to buy or rent on Amazon or BFI Player.

Heather

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## **FSW update**

Dear Friends,



I am writing this on the first day of the second lockdown, which means further worries for our families. Although things may be easier by having the schools still open, there has been a great deal of worry about how to cope now that we are in the colder, darker weather when opportunities to get out are limited. Our practitioners are still providing their usual service and are still able to meet individual family members in a public space if a face-to-face meeting is vital. We will approach this lockdown in the same way we have approached all the challenges this year – with determination to continue our core work and make sure that our families are getting as much help as we can give them.

Some of you may be wondering about Christmas, which is rapidly approaching. We won't be able to hold our usual Christmas parties but we will still be distributing gifts to all the children we support, and families will still be receiving Christmas hampers.

*[Please contact Caroline Steer for information about these 892108]*

With the cold weather having arrived, fuel bills are a real worry for most of our families. If anybody in receipt of a winter fuel payment feels able to donate this to us so that we can help families who aren't eligible for this support, then we would be extremely grateful.

Thank you for all your continued support and prayers as we navigate these difficult times.

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**

Advent  
in  
Ardingly

**St. Peter's Church**

## ***Welcome to the Advent in Ardingly Trail***

There are 24 Advent windows hidden in homes, shops and buildings around the village.

Each day in December one window will be turned round to reveal part of the story of Christmas.

There is a letter in a star on each window which will become visible on its day in Advent. Once you have collected all the letters, fill in the code box to reveal the hidden message.



Can't find today's window?  
Then check out our website and  
Facebook pages for clues.



Advent  
in  
Ardingly

**St. Peter's Church**

## ***Welcome to the Advent in Ardingly Trail***



*Full details and clues on each day's Advent picture can be found at  
[www.ardinglychurch.org.uk](http://www.ardinglychurch.org.uk)*

*And on our Facebook page—follow us at Ardingly Church*



# A CHRISTMAS POEM

*(author unknown)*

*If you look for me at Christmas  
You won't need a special star -  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.*

*You may not be aware of me  
Amid the celebrations -  
You'll have to look beyond the stores  
And all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment  
From your list of things to do,  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,  
You're the reason that I came.  
And you'll find me in the stillness  
As I'm whispering your name.*

*Jesus*



## THE 'BIG SLEEP OUT' AND HOMELESSNESS

As Winter arrives and the weather gets colder and wetter the plight of the homeless is even more serious.

In October many people, including celebrities and bishops, participated in a "Big Sleep Out" to raise awareness of homelessness and raise funds for charities. It has become an annual event and would normally take place in public places (in 2017 the Bishop of Chichester, Rt Rev Martin Warner, took part!). This year, due to Covid restrictions, the event was held in people's gardens or homes.

Two local charities working to support the homeless are Open House in Crawley and Off the Fence in Brighton.

### OPEN HOUSE

The staff at Open House in Crawley are getting ready for Christmas. As always, they are running a **Reverse Advent Calendar**. Every day, instead of taking something out of an Advent Calendar, you put an item in, to help the homeless or disadvantaged. The items are put into a box and dropped off at Open House. The staff are also preparing to feed dozens of people on Christmas Day.



### Crawley Open House statistics over the last full year:

Almost 16,000 visits to the Day Centre

1,328 food parcels given out

3,563 hours worked by volunteers

25,935 client contacts through the Day Centre, health advice and resettlement teams

182 hostel residents accommodated

The charity has also just announced the completion of the second stage of their redevelopment plans. Following the extension to the front of the hostel and day centre, they have now finished the conversion of upstairs offices into 8 flatlets. The 8 single rooms, arranged in 4 pairs, each share a self-contained bathroom pod and all share a communal kitchen and lounge area.

The rooms will provide the opportunity for residents to stay for a longer period of time than those who are living in the hostel accommodation. This provides an opportunity for a period of stability and growth where individuals can continue to receive



support and help to more fully address issues that they may have faced in the past.

## **OFF THE FENCE, BRIGHTON**

In 1993, CEO Paul Young responded to the question, “When are Christians going to get off the fence and do something about social poverty?” This was when he and his wife, Wendy, made the decision to go out into the streets of Brighton and Hove to help the most marginalized and vulnerable in the city.



Since then poverty has increased nationwide and Off The Fence has grown with it, helping people back to fulfilling and independent lives. They now operate across three main areas: homelessness, women at risk and schools & youth. They provide short and long-term solutions through 2 day centres, 3 outreach vans and 15 local schools. This work is supported by just over 150 trained volunteers, staff and interns.

**Project Antifreeze** provides food, hot drinks, sleeping bags and hygiene items to the homeless through evening outreach teams and a day centre on Portland Road. The charity also offers the support which service users need to find accommodation and keep it. Their aim is to help clients thrive, not just survive.

**Gateway Women’s Centre** provides a welcoming, safe space for women going through a time of crisis or emotional difficulty. Trained staff are available to listen in a confidential and caring environment. Providing important support services as well as fun, community and friendship, the charity offers opportunities for women to improve self-confidence, develop life skills, build resilience and reduce isolation.

The **Schools Team** work currently works in 15 primary and secondary schools across the Brighton & Hove area, delivering weekly clubs, workshops and 1-1 support, as well as pioneering prayer and reflection spaces.

*Off the Fence is one of the charities regularly supported by St Peter’s Church during the Christmas season.*

## IDEAS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

1. Buy your Christmas tree from a local retailer and check that it has FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) or Soil Association certification. That means that it will have been grown sustainably. You could also buy a pot-grown tree to plant later.



2. Make your own indoor decorations or wreath using holly, ivy and other leaves, cones, grasses and berries (wear gloves when touching ivy as it can cause skin irritation).

3. Make your own Christmas tree decorations using coloured card, or plain card which you could decorate with eco-glitter or water-colour paint.

4. Use LED fairy lights, which consume less energy.

5. **Make your own Christmas cards.**

6. Consider wrapping your gifts with reusable wrapping materials and decorate them with a sprig of holly instead of using throwaway tags and ribbons. Remember, shiny or glittery paper is not recyclable.



7. Swap sticky tape for string or ribbon which can be used again
8. Either plant your Christmas tree in the garden or take it to a recycling centre when it's no longer needed.
9. If you have lots of left-overs after Boxing Day the BBC Good Food leftovers website has lots of ideas about what to do with them!

*Sources: BBC, Green People UK, Friends of the Earth*

Q: What's the name of the new Tom Cruise eco-thriller?

A: Mission Compostable!

## ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY



Being at school can be very exciting and it's no exception for the pupils at St Peter's C.E. Primary School. Every day holds something new and exciting and some have extra-special moments! Swallow class were lucky to have a visit from actor and historian Marcus Dilly to tell them about being an ARP warden in World War 2. However, it wasn't a question of 'telling', it was acting out with drama and full participation.



Marcus also spent time with Cuckoo class but this time, he was a marauding Viking! Children became Vikings too, helping him overcome the Anglo-Saxons with suitable bloodcurdling shouts! All these moments are the things that memories are made of.

Talking of making memories, Greenfinch class have been doing some of that too! At the beginning of November, they were lucky enough to go on a hunt for the Gruffalo. If you didn't know, the Gruffalo has been seen in Wakehurst Place this year.... Children spent a lot of energy creating the Gruffalo, complete with wart, claws, tusks and jaws.





All of our usual school life has carried on as well. We've had our collective worship, generally via Zoom technology but the Revd Crutchley has also visited individual classrooms. Zoom is helpful, too, in allowing parents to be able to meet the teachers for parental consultation meetings. The meetings may be virtual but parents will be able to see highlights from the children's work.

As I write this, we are moving towards Christmas. Our normal Reception/key stage 1 nativity has been curtailed by COVID restrictions. However, this does not mean that the nativity is cancelled! Plans are already afoot to make sure that this important part of our school and community life will still go ahead. Happy Christmas, everyone!



Kathy James



**VIRTUAL**  
**QUIZ**  
in aid of **FSW**

Thursday  
17 December 20  
6.30pm

**£10 entry fee**  
per team

Register with  
[melissa@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:melissa@familysupportwork.org.uk)  
07935 208 583

## Need a helping hand?

Serving the community in simple ways

If you have a problem or need a lift somewhere there are people willing to help



## AT YOUR SERVICE

Call 892442 or 892307

A community project managed by St Peter's Church



## **Ardingly Parish Council**

It has been a strange year for us all! The Parish Council has continued to meet every month, although, rather than meeting face-to-face, we have continued to use a virtual platform. Village residents have been able to access the meetings too by getting a code from the Parish Clerk to give access. We are delighted that a significant number of residents have managed to join these meetings.

Of course, discussions on the potential housing development on the showground continued until we were able to prepare and submit a response. A copy of this response is available on the Council website, [www.ardingly.org.uk](http://www.ardingly.org.uk). Alongside the work on this issue, Councillors have continued with their normal areas of work, reviewing planning applications, ensuring work continues in maintaining the structural aspects of the village etc. The loss of Post Office facilities in the village continues to be a concern and we have contacted the Post Office authorities to see what alternatives might be possible.

It was good to see the Act of Remembrance 'service' take place in the village on the recreation ground and we were pleased to be able to work with St Peter's Church to facilitate this important event. As I write this, talks are ongoing to see how we will be able to work with the church and many others so that Christmas Joy is still shared within our lovely village!

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and healthy new year.

Derek Stutchbury, Chair of Ardingly Parish Council

## A MESSAGE FROM ROSINA TRUDEL:

Thank you very much to everyone for your prayers, love, gifts and kindness at the time of Norman's death. Norman had a wonderful funeral service, taken by John Crutchley, and is now at peace and suffering no more.

Lots of love, and thank you to all once again,  
ROSINA TRUDEL

## WASTE & RECYCLING DAY CHANGES

Waste and recycling collection days will change for 2 weeks over the Christmas and New Year period. The 'festive' collection days are as follows:



| Normal collection date | Festive collection date |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday 21 December     | Saturday 19 December    |
| Tuesday 22 December    | Monday 21 December      |
| Wednesday 23 December  | Tuesday 22 December     |
| Thursday 24 December   | Wednesday 23 December   |
| Friday 25 December     | Thursday 24 December    |
| Monday 28 December     | No change               |
| Tuesday 29 December    | No change               |
| Wednesday 30 December  | No change               |
| Thursday 31 December   | No change               |
| Friday 1 January 2021  | Saturday 2 January      |

## NOT TOO SERIOUSLY ....

A father and his son were looking at a nativity scene in a London gallery. It was Titian's world-famous painting of the scene at Bethlehem. The boy said, "Dad, why is the baby lying on a pile of straw in a cattle trough?"

"Well, son," explained the father, "They were poor, and they couldn't afford anything better."

The boy looked puzzled. "Then how could they afford to have their picture painted by such an expensive artist?"

## **I Corinthians 13, Christmas Version**

*If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.*

*If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.*

*If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.*

*If I decorate the tree with shimmering baubles and crocheted snowflakes, attend myriad festive parties and sing in the choir, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.*

*Love stops the cooking to hug the child.*

*Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.*

*Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.*

*Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.*

*Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.*

*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never fails.*

*Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.*

*But giving the gift of love will endure.*

(Author Unknown )



## AROUND THE VILLAGE

### College Road Post Box

Residents can no longer post their letters and cards in the Post Box near Lodgelands – it has suddenly been removed and there is just a large hole where it used to be. I have been advised by Royal Mail that there are no plans to replace the box *“as there are already sufficient alternatives in the area”*.



### SMALL ELECTRICALS COLLECTION

From 23<sup>rd</sup> November we will be able to have unwanted small electrical items collected when our black bins are emptied. There is a long list of items which can be accepted (eg. toasters, hairdryers, radios, clocks, torches, smoke detectors and cameras) and the full list can be obtained by calling 01444 477440 or found on the MSDC website: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/small-electrical-collections/>



Batteries must be removed and the items should be placed in a plastic bag no bigger than 35 x 40 cms (not a black bag), tied at the neck and placed alongside the black bin on collection day.

The following batteries can also be collected: 6V, D, C, AA, AAA, 9V, button and mobile phone batteries. These must be placed in a separate bag, tied and placed beside the black bin.



# Parish Register

There are no entries in the parish register for the past month.

## A PRAYER FOR DECEMBER:

Father God,  
When your precious Son became a tiny baby in  
a stable in Bethlehem, in poverty and  
simplicity, you changed our world.  
As we imagine those surroundings, we join with  
the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and  
praise.  
We thank you for our material lives, praise you  
for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our  
eternal life. Amen.



**2021**

| JANUARY                                                                             | FEBRUARY                                                                            | MARCH                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28          | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 |
| APRIL                                                                               | MAY                                                                                 | JUNE                                                                                |
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| JULY                                                                                | AUGUST                                                                              | SEPTEMBER                                                                           |
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| OCTOBER                                                                             | NOVEMBER                                                                            | DECEMBER                                                                            |
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## A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:

Dear Heavenly Father,  
As the New Year begins, help us to find space  
to hear your voice.  
May we listen and be changed.  
Help us to see the beauty in your creation.  
May we recognise the love that surrounds us.  
Help us to find peace in the busyness of life.  
May we rest in you and be renewed.  
Strengthen us, Lord, to share your love with the  
world. Amen.

*(a Lee Abbey prayer)*

## **General Information**

**BIBLE READING NOTES:** Regular reading helps us to grow as Christians.

Bible Reading Fellowship notes are available from Margaret Dale (892252).

**CHURCH CENTRE:** Hire of Centre, crockery, cutlery and chairs: contact

Carol Grossman 416707

**GIVING:** Special weekly or monthly envelopes or bankers' order forms are available from Jean Jeffery (415317). Anyone paying income tax or capital gains tax is encouraged to sign a Gift Aid declaration which would enable the church to claim tax (currently 25 %) on all their giving. Please make cheques out to St Peter's Church, Ardingly.

**MAGAZINE:** Annual Subscription £3.00. Can be delivered or posted (if posted, the cost is £12.50 per annum). **MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Sue Laker, 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN (892117). Please submit items for inclusion by noon on the Saturday before the penultimate Sunday in the month. Email to: [emails4sue@gmail.com](mailto:emails4sue@gmail.com)

**TRANSPORT:** If you require transport to church, or if you could provide it for others, please contact Jill Veasey on 892442 or Jonathan Summers on 892307.

**HOME GROUPS** meet for bible study, prayer and fellowship on various nights of the week in homes.

**ANGELS & URCHINS:** Thursdays 9-11.00 during term time. Contact Jill Veasey 892442

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October after the 10.30 service. Two new members of the PCC were elected – Gina Paul and Mervyn James.

# PRAYER DIARY JANUARY 2021

*"Do not be afraid, for I am with you"*  
(Isaiah 43 v 5)



1. Commit the New Year to God. Ask for his blessing on it
2. John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 3.** Our worship and the witness of the church in 2021
4. Chris Sutton; his interim ministry in Nuthurst & Mannings Heath
5. The Coronavirus situation at home & abroad
6. Our village schools starting a new term. Their staff & governors
7. Heather Johnstone & all who are helped by the Rehema project
8. Angels & Urchins and all who help and attend
9. Praise God for good health and pray for those who are ill
- 10.** Our services today. Pray for growth and that faith may increase
11. Pray for a fresh awakening in this country to God's love & care
12. Samara's Aid: safety for the teams and blessing for their work
13. Family relationships; pray for those who are struggling
14. St Peter's Centre and all who use it
15. Our home groups and their leaders. Give thanks for zoom!
16. The PCC, meeting today
- 17.** Pray God's blessing on our worship and fellowship today
18. Journalists and all who work in the media
19. Children with special needs and those who care for them
20. The new administration in the USA
21. All who do not have a home or enough to eat or drink
22. CPAS, helping churches & mission with training and resources
23. Old Jeshwang in the Gambia – its staff, patients and directors
- 24.** Today's services. Praise God for all that he is & all he has done
25. All who are lonely or who are bearing heavy burdens
26. The Police and all who maintain law and order
27. Our Parish Council and all its members
28. The Abia school in Uganda & the children supported by IMARA
29. Pray about the gang and drug culture in our cities
30. Thank God for all the blessings of the past month
- 31.** Our services today. Praise God that he loves us, knows us and hears us.

**The deadline for the February magazine  
is noon on Saturday 23rd January**

# PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER 2020



*"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Psalm 121 v 2)*

1. John and Sally Crutchley and their family
2. Our Prime Minister and government, dealing with the pandemic and post-Brexit arrangements
3. Chris Sutton; his interim ministry in Nuthurst & Mannings Heath
4. The Advent Trail around the village; pray for safety and fun
5. The church family, especially folk who have struggled with lockdown
- 6.** Christian services today: the light of Christ
7. Bible Society and its work in the UK and overseas
8. Our Churchwardens and Readers, Nigel, John and Phil
9. Our local hospices, MacMillan and Marie Curie nurses
10. The homeless & the work of Open House, Off The Fence, Crisis and Shelter
11. The Queen and all the members of the Royal Family
12. All who work in the NHS and care for others
- 13.** All who tell of the message of God's love; pray for those who hear it
14. Places which have suffered extreme weather or natural disasters
15. Pray for peace wherever there is conflict & for all world leaders
16. Caroline Steer & Deb Ruse, supporting FSW families in many ways
17. Refugees and migrants around the world; the communities they live in
18. All who are anxious and those with poor mental health
19. The Salvation Army & Samaritans, so busy at this time of year
- 20.** Praise God for the Christmas message of hope & all it means
21. Foodbanks and other organisations helping people in need
22. All who will experience difficulty this Christmas
23. Prisoners, Service men and women and others spending Christmas away from their families and home
24. Pray for all the Christmas services and those who lead them
25. **The Saviour is born!** Give thanks & praise God for His great love
26. Those who are grieving or have lost a loved one this year
- 27.** Give thanks for the church in Ardingly and pray for today's services
28. All Christians who cannot worship freely or who are persecuted
29. All our village volunteers who have supported others in 2020
30. Give thanks for all that has made life easier in this very unusual year
31. Praise God that his love never changes and for helping us through the past year

**The deadline for the February magazine  
is noon on Saturday 23rd January**