

# *St. Peter's Ardingly*

## Parish Magazine

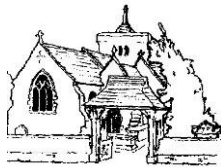
December 2023/January 2024



*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
Reader	John Witherington	892277
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	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
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**

**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 daily  
from 10am to 4pm for private prayer**

*See the following pages for full details of all this month's services*

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When you read the gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus you quickly see that there are angels everywhere in the Christmas story.



An angel turns up and informs a man called Zechariah that his elderly wife is going to have a baby boy - who would grow up to be John the Baptist. An angel then turns up to tell Mary that she's going to give birth to the Son of God. It is an angel who then turns up to tell her husband-to-be, Joseph, that his fiancée is pregnant as a result of the Holy Spirit and that he should go ahead and marry her anyway. Later on, it is an angel who warns Joseph to flee with Mary and the child to Egypt, because of the anger and threats of Herod.

It is an angel who turns up to tell the shepherds who were watching their flocks that a Saviour had been born in the little town of Bethlehem - and he's followed by a whole choir of angels singing God's praises. *"Hark the Herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king!"* Everywhere you look in the story of Jesus' birth, angels are found to be playing a critical role. Which tells us all something, I believe. It tells us that we need to listen to those angel voices and to all that they have to say, and to give them a place in our hearts warmest love this Christmas. Because theirs is a message of delivery but also of deliverance for us all.

The angels call us all to come to Bethlehem this Christmas and to behold the baby Jesus. To come and adore him. But in truth, angels are only messengers. They are messengers of God. So, it is actually he who calls us to come, to behold and to sing his Son's praises. To give him all the glory in the wonderful Christmas season.

In everything else that we have to do this Christmas let's try always to remember that and so to come. To come and adore the Son of God who came into the world to bring us light for our darkness, joy beyond measure, and life eternal.

With my prayers and warmest wishes to everyone for a peaceful, happy and Holy Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'John' in a cursive script.

## Services in DECEMBER 2023

*'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.*

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December      Carols and Christingle**

4. 45pm

*A service for all held around the oak tree in the village with Christmas music and carols, and the story of Christmas told through the CHRISTINGLE.*

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December      THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.00am

Psalm 80: 1 - 8; Mark 13: 24 - 37

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Psalm 80: 1 - 8; Mark 13: 24 - 37

**Morning Praise**

5.00pm

**Open to God: Darkness to Light**

*A service of Evening Prayer, and quiet reflection to celebrate the season of Advent.*

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December      THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.00am

Psalm 85: 8 - 13; Mark 1: 1 - 8

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Psalm 85: 8 - 13; Mark 1: 1 - 8

**Holy Communion [CW]**

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December      THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.00am

Psalm 126; John 1: 6 - 8 & 19 - 28

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Psalm 126; John 1: 6 - 8 & 19 - 28

**Morning Praise**

6.30pm

**Carols by Candlelight**

*A traditional service of readings, words, music, and carols for Christmas presented in a beautiful candle-lit church and followed by mince pies and mulled wine*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**(The 4th Sunday of Advent)**

9.30am

Psalm 89: 1 - 8; Luke 1: 26 - 38

**Holy Communion [CW]**

4.30pm

**A Crib and Carol service** for all the family.

*The message and meaning of Christmas, favourite carols, candles and fun!*

10.00pm

**A Christmas Celebration of Holy Communion**

(Midnight in Bethlehem!)

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

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

9.00am

*A traditional service of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning*

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

**Christmas Morning Praise**

**Morning Praise**

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

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**9.30am**

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

**Holy Communion [CW]**

*"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 2024

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

### **The Epiphany**

9.00am

**Morning Prayer [BCP]**

Psalm 72: 1 - 9; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

10.30am

**Morning Praise**

Psalm 72: 1 - 9; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

### **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Psalm 139: 1 – 14a; John 1: 43 - 51

10.30am

**Holy Communion [CW]**

Psalm 139: 1 – 14a; John 1: 43 - 51

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

### **The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Psalm 29; Mark 1: 9 - 11

10.30am

**Morning Praise**

Psalm 29; Mark 1: 9 - 11

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

### **The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Psalm 111; Mark 1: 21 - 28

10.30am

**Holy Communion [CW]**

**With prayer for healing and wholeness**

Psalm 111; Mark 1: 21 - 28

## ***NOTICEBOARD for December/January***

### **Meeting Point Coffee Mornings**

The Meeting Point Christmas Party will take place in Hapstead Small Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> December from 10.15 to 11.30. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc. Meeting Point dates in 2024 will be 8th and 22<sup>nd</sup> January.



**VILLAGE LUNCH:** In Hapstead Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> December

### **FSW – TOYS FOR CHILDREN**

Once again we will be collecting presents/toys/vouchers for the children of families being supported by the Cuckfield Deanery support worker. Wrapping paper and cello tape are also very welcome.

Please bring items to the services on **Sunday 3rd December.**

Many thanks, Deb Ruse - FSW Cuckfield Deanery Rep.



### **HAPSTEAD HALL CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

This year's Fayre will take place on Saturday 2nd December 2023 from 2pm to 4.30pm.

Stalls of all types will be selling cards, gifts and other produce for Christmas and also fundraising for local organisations. Father Christmas will be making a visit! After the Fayre, at about 4.45pm, there will be Christmas Carols & Christingles under the tree, with mince pies and mulled wine. **DO PLAN TO COME!**

St Peter's Church will be having our usual Handmade & Homemade stall at the Fayre, so offers of goods to sell will be very welcome, as will offers to help set up and/or man the stall for an hour or so.



If you can help please contact Jill Veasey (892442) or Sue Laker (892117)  
Thank you!



## **POSTBOX in Church**



As in previous years, we will have our Christmas Postbox in church on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> December, and help with this will be much appreciated! Sorting will begin at 10.00am in the Church Centre that day.

Jill Veasey

## **ARDINGLY CHORAL SOCIETY**

Advent Carol Concert  
at 8pm in the College Chapel  
On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Vivaldi Gloria & carols  
In aid of St Peter & St James Hospice



## **ANGELS & URCHINS**

Our last morning before the Christmas holidays will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. We'll meet again on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## **Ardingly Evening W.I.**

Christmas Party December 21<sup>st</sup>. New members welcome (please let Deb know if you are new and would like to come - 892717).  
In January: a visit from the Lindfield Repair Café to talk about their work

## **Link to Hope Shoeboxes – Thank you!**



A very big 'Thank You' to all who supported the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal this Autumn. With some wonderful help from St Peter's Primary School we sent a total of 30 shoeboxes to the collection centre. The boxes are now on their way to Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

Sue Laker

## Bridging Ages Café at Ardingly College in 2024

From Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, the Bridging Ages Cafe will take place on **Friday's** from 1:30pm - 2:30pm in the Lower Library. Enjoy a free tea or coffee whilst chatting to the students, playing games or seeking help with any IT questions you might have.

Parking is available in the Visitors Car Park next to the venue, though transport can be provided. For more information contact Debbie Nicholson: Email: [debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com](mailto:debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com)  
Phone: 01444 893000

## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2024

Firstly a very big 'thank you' to the many people who contribute to the parish magazine during the year – to Ann Phillipson who proof reads it, the team at Ardingly College who print it for us, to Glynis Doerr who bundles and distributes all the magazines to the deliverers each month, and to all the deliverers who put them through our doors! **THANK YOU!**



Now it's the time of year when annual subscriptions become due. If you would like to have the magazine delivered to your door in 2024 (in Ardingly) the minimum subscription will be £3 (and grateful thanks go to all those who round it up to £5!). For those people who receive it by post, the subscription for next year will be £14.00.

Subscriptions can be delivered or posted to Sue Laker at 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN or to Michael Denman at 35 High Street, Ardingly. Cheques should be made payable to "St Peter's Church, Ardingly" please and if you need our bank details please let me know ([emails4sue@gmail.com](mailto:emails4sue@gmail.com)).

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

Sue Laker

## NEW YEAR WALK AND LUNCH

To mark the start of 2024 we are planning to have a meal at the Church Centre on Monday 1st January, as we have done for the past few years. George Ruse will (weather permitting) lead a walk for those who would like to work up an appetite and they will join the less active of us for lunch at about 1pm.



The meal is free but donations are welcomed and the proceeds will be shared between Old Jeshwang and IMARA.

If you would like to come to the meal please contact Deb Ruse (892717) - preferably *before* Christmas! Offers of help with transport would be very welcome. Please speak to George for details of the walk.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Deb & George Ruse ([Deb\\_ruse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Deb_ruse@hotmail.co.uk))

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## REPAIR CAFÉ DATES

### LINDFIELD

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
10am - 1pm

REPAIR CAFE

United Reformed Church, 52 High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HL

### FOREST ROW - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ. 10am-1.00pm

*NB. There is no Repair Café in December*

### TURNERS HILL & CRAWLEY DOWN – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January

10am – 12pm

The Haven Centre, Hophurst Lane, Crawley Down, RH10 4LJ

*NB. There is no Repair Café in December*

# *Music & Mince Pies*



**ARDINGLY**  
College



World Ready

**Wednesday 6th December 11.00 AM**

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For the Senior Citizens of Ardingly.  
Join musicians from Ardingly College  
for individual and group performances

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Transport starting at 10:35am from  
Turnpike Court, followed by the Village  
Hall and Priceholme

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RSVP for attendance & transport  
01444 893 900  
[office@ardingly.com](mailto:office@ardingly.com)  
Admission Free, All Welcome

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Recital Room, Music Department  
Ardingly College  
RH17 6SQ

## Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association

We held our Annual General Meeting at the Church Centre on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October. It was an Open Meeting and we were very pleased to welcome some of our sponsors and other interested parties to hear what we have achieved in the past twelve months and also our plans for the future.

While enjoying some light refreshments we were able to share that our financial position is sufficiently healthy that we had recently purchased some much-needed laboratory equipment to enable the Clinic to undergo a wider range of medical tests both for the benefit of own patients but also to provide these services to other clinics lacking such sophisticated equipment.

David Ogilvie, who had designed and overseen the original building, brought along his plans for the required extension to the Clinic, to provide an additional Delivery Suite and explained that we are now awaiting competitive quotations for the work to be undertaken.

I announced that Peggy Guggenheim, who for many years had acted as our Treasurer, had stood down at the end of our financial



year and we had appointed Tom Hughes as her replacement. Unfortunately, Peggy was unable to attend the AGM so, immediately after the meeting, Pat and I went to see her and presented her with an especially painted plate (pictured), depicting the Clinic, bearing the flags of the U.K. and The Gambia and inscribed 'Thank You, Peggy' to show our appreciation of all her hard work for AOJA.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Pat for providing refreshments for the occasion.

Lynn Wilson

CPAS are patrons of St Peter's. Their work is all about helping churches in the UK and Ireland reach out to the men, women and children in their communities with the life-changing good news of Jesus Christ. Their work includes developing leaders and arranging School Ventures.

Kat Taylor, Children and Families' Worker at Christ Church Moreton (Chester diocese), led on a School Venture. She explains how School Ventures are impacting her job: 'Shortly after I began my role as a Children and Families' Worker, I decided to serve on the Wirral School Venture. Before I knew it, I was in an astronaut suit on a stage in front of 50 children talking about the Trinity!



'School Ventures have helped me to develop the skills I really needed for my role at Christ Church Moreton, as well as drastically improving the relationship with our local school. Before the residential I didn't really feel like I had a place at the school, but now I have an Ethos Group and the children help me with my school assemblies. School

Ventures have helped me earn my place.

'I've since served on two further School Ventures, and I've seen incredible transformations in some of the children. The highlight for me is always seeing the children switch on to a revelation of who God is and how much he loves them.

'These residential really are something special. It's not like being at school or even at Sunday school for the children. We get to be fully immersed with them from when they wake up until they go to sleep, as they learn about the gospel and process it all. I just love how we get to go through such a long journey with the children in such a short space of time.

'When we become Christians we have a choice – whether we want to be part of God's story, or just our own. When we choose to be part of God's story, it means we're part of what he's doing. And he's doing wondrous things through CPAS, Ventures and Falcons, and School Ventures. It's incredible to be part of it all.'

## **40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE**

### **NEW PREMISES:**

St Catherine's Hospice has been marking its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and will soon be moving to brand-new premises at Pease Pottage.

The hospice has cared for thousands of loved ones at Malthouse Road in Crawley, and in October visitors were able to drop in, write in a memory book and take time to reflect. To mark this momentous year and pay tribute to the last 4 decades of care, a time capsule has been buried in the reflective garden of the new hospice.

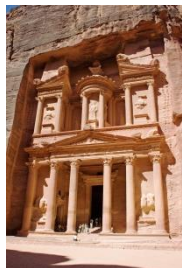
The new building on Grace Holland Avenue, in the heart of the Woodgate development, is larger and has 24 beds. It will be opening to patients at the start of December and has been funded solely through donations from supporters of St Catherine's.

The project has been 10 years in the making and the larger premises will make it possible for the hospice to help more people who are facing the end of their lives and to support more families.

### **FUNDRAISING:**

Amongst their Christmas fundraising activities St Catherine's are offering to wrap Christmas gifts and decorate them in Crawley's County Mall, in return for a donation. The hospice has also partnered with JustHelping and will collect old Christmas trees in exchange for a donation.

Christmas cards can be purchased from the St Catherine's shop in Haywards Heath and from their website: [www.stch.org.uk](http://www.stch.org.uk)



In 2024 a team will be leading a week's trek in Jordan, following an ancient Bedouin migration route to Petra. Trekkers will cover up to 10 miles a day and walk through stony desert landscapes and across mountainous rocky terrain, being rewarded with stunning views of some of Jordan's most spectacular natural scenery.

## FSW November 2023 update

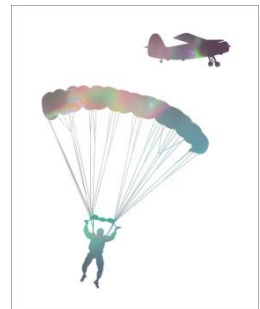
Dear Friends,



We are in one of our busiest times of the year at the moment, as we juggle the many needs of our families as well as all the preparations for Advent and Christmas. Parties are planned, hamper packing dates are scheduled and we are getting daily calls from churches and other organisations asking what gifts would be most appropriate this year. Thank you to everybody who is supporting us this year with food, presents, financial donations or by volunteering – we are incredibly grateful.

Away from the festive planning, things remain very difficult for our families with the increased energy costs over the winter months contributing to financial problems. We are very grateful to anybody who is supporting our 'Share the Warmth' winter fuel campaign, which makes a huge difference to these families who are struggling. There are still very long waiting lists for specialist services such as SEN support for children or access to mental health professionals, so our practitioners are really vital sources of support to families in these circumstances.

Funding continues to be challenging, with so many charities seeking support from grant funders and individual donors alike. We really do value all the support we receive from churches and their congregations as well as local groups including Rotary and Lions clubs. We are planning a skydive for 2024, so if there are any thrillseekers out there who think they might like to join us, do get in touch with the fundraising team on 01273 041401 or by email [fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk).



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

## PRE SCHOOL NEWS

We have continued to enjoy Autumn Term and have spent a lot of time outside, in spite of the rain, making the most of the beautiful area we are lucky enough to be in. We have also enjoyed a visit to St Peter's Primary school to visit their fantastic library and the children have had a great time looking at the different selection of books and listening to stories.



In the upcoming weeks we are looking forward to starting to celebrate Christmas and will be creating some special gifts for our loved ones, reading stories and talking about what the celebrations mean to us and our families, as well as practising some special songs for an end of term performance for our parents.

Preschool is currently looking for a new manager so please do get in touch if you know anyone who has the skills and qualifications, and may be interested in the role. We also have a few spaces available for 2, 3 and 4 year olds from January.



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/>**

## ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY

It's not often we encourage people to wear odd socks but, in the middle of November, we actually ask our pupils to do just that! Odd Socks Day marks the beginning of Anti Bullying Week, a nationwide initiative that St



Peter's joins. Our school values include respect, and spreading kindness is very important to us all in the school community. Being able to deal with bullying is a key lesson, as well as understanding that it is not acceptable to bully others. One helpful acronym that we use with the children is S T O P - definition of bullying:

Several Times On Purpose and, what we can do about it: Start Telling Other People.

We are in the middle of a very busy half term. Of course, we have Christmas preparations to consider. As a Church School, our nativity play, performed by reception and KS1 pupils, is an important part of our learning about Jesus Christ and his birth. We have been learning about God's creation too! A visit by a real bee keeper, with his bee keeper's outfit and an empty hive was very exciting and helped us to understand where honey came from.

As usual, our pupils have been able to enjoy visits to different places and also visits from other experts, like the bee keeper. Wakehurst is always welcoming and popular; visits from the local fire brigade, including getting inside an actual fire engine, can prove to be the highlight of the day. Sport is an important part of learning and the recent NEARS Cross Country proved to be very successful for St Peter's - well done to all who took part!

What a busy, eventful and exciting time we are having at school.



Kathy James



## Raise valuable funds for St. Peter's Church while doing your Christmas shopping.

### Online shopping and raising funds for St. Peter's Church

*Many of us now use online shopping for both our day-to-day essentials and for those important items with the convenience of items delivered to our doors. As online shopping is likely to remain important to us all why not take the opportunity to raise valuable funds for St. Peter's Church at the same time.*



St. Peter's Church are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us raise funds, at no cost to you, just for shopping! Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Sainsburys, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more are included in this scheme. This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying.

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up. To get started just sign up to support us at

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), and select St. Peter's Church, Ardingly.



## Need a helping hand?

Serving the community in simple ways  
If you have a problem there are people willing to help



## AT YOUR SERVICE

Call 892442 or 892307

A community project managed by St Peter's Church

## NOT TOO SERIOUSLY

As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patient's wrists.



Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn't eat bananas.

Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came marching towards me, demanding, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"

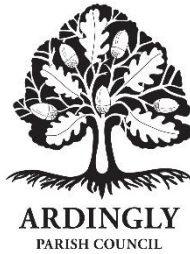


Q: Which side of the turkey has the most feathers?

A: The outside.

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.





## **ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL**

As focus shifts to the holidays we think of how grateful we are for peace. We can make plans and look forward to celebrations when others are faced with only uncertainty. We hope during this period we as a village can come together and offer a helping hand to those in our own community who are struggling.

Our thanks goes out to all of the village organisations which are already working hard to achieve this. Should anyone need help or know of someone who needs support, please do contact the Parish Clerk, Lee Dunkley. He will be re-establishing the Parish Clerk Surgeries in Hapstead Hall on Wednesdays from 2pm-4pm. He will be there November 22nd and 29th so please do drop in and welcome him. He will then start the weekly surgeries as of January 17th. We have also reinstated the Parish Clerk phone number which is 01444 220 499.

We, in turn, are hoping to share some joy with our annual Christingle service provided by St. Peter's Church, with carols and the lighting of our oak tree on 2nd December at 4:45pm following the Hapstead Hall Christmas Fair. It is always a festive day and we hope to see you all there!

All of us on the Ardingly Parish Council would like to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season!

Margaret Meldrum, Parish Council Chair

# Advent in Ardingly



Advent is a season of expectation and preparation as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ.

During December watch as a nativity scene grows under the Advent Tree, telling the wonderful Story in the period of waiting up to Christmas.

If you would like to join in by adding a character, building or animal to the Advent Scene, please speak to Jane or Nigel.





## AROUND THE VILLAGE

### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Ardingly remembered the fallen last month and knitted/crocheted poppies adorned benches and posts all around the village. Labels were attached, naming those who lost their lives in the two world wars. New this year was the poppy arrangement on the High Street Post Box.



The weather stayed dry for the Service of Remembrance on the recreation ground, where wreaths were laid and the uniformed brigades carried their flags. The church was once again decorated with a beautiful cascade of poppies created by the WI ladies and other residents.

### Rubbish and Recycling Collections over Christmas/New Year

In recent years I have been able to put the revised dates of Christmas/New Year rubbish and recycling collections in the magazine. However, at the time of going to press Mid Sussex District Council had not yet agreed the dates. (Sue)

### Recycling at Sainsbury's

It's a shame that Sainsbury's have removed the big green textile and shoe recycling bins. They have also moved the plastic bag recycling tubs inside the shop. This is apparently because people were putting a lot of rubbish in the bins when they were outside – including nappies.

## Ardingly Connected Together

To quote a rather old pop song - It's Christmas!!! Well, not quite, but the ACT group is getting ready to add to the Christmas celebrations and, hopefully, spread some joy around the village.



With the help of our friends at Ardingly College, we will be delivering provisions and some Christmas goodies to families who need a little support at this time. We have managed to do this for the last few years and we are really grateful to everyone who has helped us fill and complete the deliveries. Do get in touch if you know of someone (or you yourself) who could do with some help.

Of course, Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Carol Singing!



We shall be arranging 'visits' of carollers to various parts of the village to serenade you all! Nearer the time, a list of times, dates and locations will be displayed on notice boards, at the village stores and on Facebook. Do please come and join in the singing and/or come and listen. We MAY even have mince pies....

We are planning on a pre-Christmas 'social' at the Ardingly Inn so that we can have a meet and greet evening on 12 December. Free nibbles! Do come along and join us for a festive chat.

Last but not least, get those decorations up! Let's see houses sparkling with lights and making people smile. Again, there will be a (small!) prize for the best decorated home - Hett Close, Monks Meadow, College Road and The Close have all made the shortlist in the last couple of years. Let's see who tops the lot this year!!

Kathy James

## CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS

How could you LOVE  
creatures of shame,  
defying your word,  
defiling your name?

How could you LEAVE  
your heavenly throne,  
descending to earth  
to make us your own?

How could you LIVE  
here, in Mary's womb;  
perfect boy, man,  
from manger to tomb?

O Jesus, the Christ,  
incarnate Word,  
crucified, risen,  
my Saviour and Lord

Christmas reminders -  
grace, mercy abound  
to this desperate sinner  
so lost but now found!

By Dave Veerman



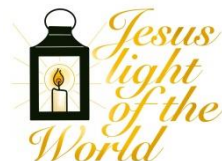
# Parish Register

There are no entries in the Parish Register this month.

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*Almighty Father,*

*Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world. Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.*



*Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred – and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.*

*Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will always shine in the darkness and the darkness will never be able to extinguish it.*

*Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always. Amen*

*(from a prayer by Daphne Kitching)*

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## **Flower Rota**

1<sup>st</sup> December: Pat & Sheila (Advent)  
15<sup>th</sup> December: All flower arrangers and  
Helpers (Candle decorations)  
22<sup>nd</sup> December: All flower arrangers please  
(Christmas)  
5<sup>th</sup> January: All flower arrangers please  
19<sup>th</sup> January: Jean



## **Meeting Point Rota**

December 11<sup>th</sup> - All (Christmas Party – Set up from 9.15 am)  
8<sup>th</sup> January: George & Deb and Sue  
22<sup>nd</sup> January: Belinda and Alison

## **Brass Cleaning Rota**

16<sup>th</sup> December: Geoff Chittenden and Caroline Rich

## General Information

**ANGELS & URCHINS:** At St Peter's Centre on Thursdays, 9-11.00 during term time. Contact Jill Veasey (892442) or Jane Taylor Cheater (892769).

**BELL RINGING:** If you are interested in joining the team of bell ringers please contact Lynn Wilson (892113)

**BIBLE READING NOTES:** Regular reading helps us to grow as Christians. Bible Reading Fellowship notes are available from Glynis Doerr (892431). Email: [glynismdoerr@gmail.com](mailto:glynismdoerr@gmail.com)

**BOOKS** can be borrowed from the back of church, free of charge

**BRASS CLEANING:** Help with brass cleaning is always welcome. Contact Adele Collins (892189)

**BRASS RUBBING:** Appointments may be made via the Churchwardens (John 892277 or Nigel 892769). Fee: £10.00

**FLOWERS:** Belinda Maclean (892368) is always glad to hear from anyone who would like to arrange/give flowers for the decoration of the church.

**GIVING:** Special weekly or monthly envelopes or bankers' order forms are available from Jean Jeffery (415317). It is also possible to donate on our website. 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. Cheques should be made out to *St Peter's Church, Ardingly* and please email the editor if you need our bank details.

**HOME GROUPS** meet for bible study, prayer and fellowship on various afternoons/evenings of the week. New members are always very welcome. Contact: John Witherington (892277)

**MAGAZINE:** 2024 Annual Subscription £3.00. Can be delivered or posted (if posted the cost is £14.00 per annum). **MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Sue Laker, 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN (892117). Please submit items for inclusion by Friday before the penultimate Sunday in the month. Email to: [emails4sue@gmail.com](mailto:emails4sue@gmail.com)

**ST PETER'S CENTRE:** Hire of Centre, crockery, cutlery and chairs: contact Carol Grossman 416707

**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.

## PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2023



*"The Lord is near to all who call on him."  
(Psalm 145 v 18)*

- 1 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 2 IMARA: Belinda, travelling back from Uganda today
- 3 Advent Sunday.** May God's light shine in all dark places
- 4 The Advent Trail around the village
- 5 Those who are struggling financially this winter
- 6 Our Prime Minister and government and all MPs
- 7 Our Churchwardens, John and Nigel, and Home Group leaders
- 8 AOJA and its work in The Gambia
- 9 The NHS: its staff, its needs and its future
- 10** Church Services today. May God speak through his word
- 11 Open House and Off the Fence, helping the homeless
- 12 Jill Veasey and the choir, preparing for the Carol Service
- 13 The Children's Society, supporting refugee and other UK children
- 14 King Charles and all the Royal Family
- 15 Ardingly Connected Together and the local foodbanks
- 16 Prison Fellowship. All who live and work in prisons
- 17** Our worship today and the Carol Service this evening
- 18 FSW and other organisations supporting families in need
- 19 Milan and Shusma and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
- 20 All who find the Christmas season difficult. All who are grieving
- 21 Safety for all who are travelling over the Christmas period
- 22 Salvation Army, Samaritans & Crisis, so busy at this time of year
- 23 All who will spend Christmas away from home
- 24** All the Christmas services and those who lead them
- 25 The Saviour is born!** Give thanks and praise
- 26 The emergency services, especially busy over Christmas and New Year
- 27 CPAS, supporting UK churches & clergy with training & resources
- 28 The Samara's Aid staff and volunteers and its work in Syria
- 29 All vulnerable people, especially the sick and housebound
- 30 Cross Channel migrants – pray for a fair and workable solution
- 31** Our services today. Praise God for the blessings of the past year

## PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY 2024

*"The Lord is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."  
(Psalm 100 v 5)*



- 1 Commit the New Year to God and pray his blessing on it
- 2 Pray for opportunities to share Jesus this year
- 3 Staff and pupils at our village schools as term begins again
- 4 Pray for peace where there is conflict, and for all world leaders
- 5 All in the Police Force and Justice system
- 6 Ardingly businesses, pubs and clubs
- 7** Our services today. Pray for new growth in Ardingly
- 8 Pray God's blessing on our church finances in 2024
- 9 Ardingly Parish Council and all its members
- 10 Heather Johnstone, empowering disadvantaged women and children in Tanzania
- 11 Young people: pray against the gangs, knife crime & drug culture
- 12 Friends and family who do not know Jesus
- 13 Climate Change and our care for the environment in 2024
- 14** Praise God for the gift of new life. Pray for our services today
- 15 All bishops & clergy. Chaplains in hospitals, prisons & the military
- 16 Ardingly Showground and Wakehurst
- 17 Bambi and Andreas and their work in South East Asia
- 18 Angels and Urchins – the babies, carers and helpers
- 19 Honesty & integrity for all in the media and in journalism
- 20 Carers and all who live with long-term illness or special needs
- 21** Our services today. Give thanks for our freedom to worship
- 22 Meeting Point. Belinda and all who help or attend
- 23 Tearfund, helping to relieve poverty around the world
- 24 Alison and Deb and the work of FSW
- 25 Refugees and aid workers, in the UK and around the world
- 26 Kathy, Sue and all who offer pastoral support
- 27 "At your Service" volunteers and all who are helped by them
- 28** Pray God's blessing on our worship and fellowship today
- 29 Christians suffering persecution for their faith
- 30 Local hospices & Care Homes. Adelaide and Sandy at Compton House
- 31 Praise God for his love, guidance and provision this past month

**Deadline for copy for the February magazine is  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January**