

St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine

February 2024



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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

Love is one of the most overused words in the English language. We use it to refer to so many different things, so many different emotions and feelings of affection. These days love is such an elastic word that we stretch it to cover so many different things. We talk about how we "love" ice-cream, how we "love" a particular performer or style of music and of our "love" for a particular person. We have love letters, love songs and love stories. And people "get out of" a relationship because they are not "getting enough out of" the relationship. What they actually mean is that as with the ice-cream or the music or that performer, their "love" has been what they have been *receiving* from the other person.



But writing to the earliest Christians in Corinth St. Paul writes of a different understanding of love. He writes that this is what authentic love is like: *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."* And in his first letter St. John writes: *"This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to give our lives for our brothers and sisters!"*

The point is that true love is giving. True love is sacrificial and true love reaches out with commitment and action for the sake of others. In short, true love means giving another person what they need and not what they deserve. And this is just how it is with God. The message of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter is that God loves us so much that he gives us the mercy and forgiveness that we *need* rather than the condemnation that our refusal to acknowledge him actually *deserves*.

Throughout the world we see a quest for true love. That is because God, who is the source and the origin of authentic love, made us with a need and a hunger for love.

He made us that way so that we could respond in love to him and from that loving relationship love would flow out to other people. The self-giving love that St. Paul writes about is no humanly-achievable ideal. It is the very nature of God. It comes from God. And it begins to be expressed through us only as we come to him in faith and receive the self-giving love of his sacrifice for us in the cross of his Son Jesus Christ. This is the Gospel. This is the good news of God's great power and of the fulfilment of his eternally loving purpose.

As we begin again our Lenten journey to the cross why not join me to explore St Paul's greatest letter and summary of this good news, his letter to the Romans. Packed with treasure, it is all about faith and about the picture that our loving God has of life for us. I'm quite certain that it will be something that will make a lasting impact on *your* life.

With very best wishes.



EASTER LILIES

At Easter the flower team decorate the church with lilies and other flowers in memory of loved ones. If you would like to remember a family member or friend in this way please let Belinda (892368) know by 16th March so that she knows how many flowers to order. Lilies cost around £3-£4 each. A donation of between £5 and £20 will enable us to make the church look lovely.



Many thanks.

Services in February 2024

"Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the roads we are taking, to find the way back home, to rediscover the fundamental bond with God, on which everything depends."

Pope Francis

Sunday 4th February The Second Sunday before Lent

9.00am Psalm 37: 1 - 16; Matthew 5: 1 - 10

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am Psalm 37: 1 - 16; Matthew 5: 1 - 10

Morning Praise

5.00pm **Open to God**

A service of evening prayer and quiet reflection to end the day.

Sunday 11th February The Sunday Next before Lent

9.00am Psalm 86: 1 - 7; Matthew 6: 5 - 15

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am Psalm 86: 1 - 7; Matthew 6: 5 - 15

Holy Communion [CW]

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday

10.30am *...but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40: 31*

A service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent

Sunday 18th February The First Sunday of Lent

9.00am Psalm 25: 1- 9; Romans 16: 1 - 24

Holy Communion [BCP]

Romans: Greet the Family

10.30am Psalm 25: 1- 9; Romans 16: 1 - 24

Morning Praise

Sunday 25th February

The Second Sunday of Lent

9.00am HC

Holy Communion [BCP]

Psalm 22: 23 - 31; Romans 1: 16 - 17

Romans: The Power of the Gospel

10.30am

Holy Communion [CW]

with prayer for healing and wholeness

Psalm 22: 23 - 31; Romans 1: 16 - 17

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2024

Firstly a big 'thank you' to the many people who have already paid their 2024 subscriptions. If you have not yet paid and would like to receive the magazine throughout 2024 could you please put your subscription in an envelope with your name and address on it, and drop it in either to Sue Laker, 19 Ardings Close, or Michael Denman, 35 High Street, as soon as possible.



The minimum subscription for magazines which are delivered in Ardingly, or collected, is held at £3. This is only possible because many of you so kindly round up the amount to £5 ! Postal subscriptions for 2024 will be £14.00. Cheques should be made payable to

'St Peter's Church Ardingly' please. Many thanks, Sue

News from Gerry and Steve Burgess:

Gerry is coming to the end of her time as Priest-in-Charge in Amberley so, after 5 years there, she and Steve are moving to Dorset. Their new address from 14th February will be 8 Farringdon Close, Dorchester DT1 2BU. Their email address is unchanged. Also, congratulations go to Jonny and Beth, who have just had a baby boy, Christopher Kai (Kit) - a little brother for Clemmie and Sophia.

NOTICEBOARD for February

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

Meeting Point will take place in Hapstead Small Hall on 5th and 19th February from 10.15 to 11.30. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc.



Ardingly Evening W.I.

1st February: Chinese evening.

15th February: Talk on the Lindfield Coffee Works

More details from Deb Ruse (892717).

DEANERY SYNOD

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be at St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath, on 20th February. 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start. The meetings are open to all, not just the Deanery Representatives.

Ardingly History Society

At 7.45pm on Tuesday 20th February in Hapstead Hall

Mr Matthew Homewood will give a talk on

"Life as a Genealogist"

The VILLAGE LUNCH will be on 21st February. 12.30 for 1.00pm in Hapstead Hall. Tickets from the Village Shop.

ARDINGLY FILM NIGHT: Thursday 22nd February. Tickets from the Village Shop.

A Date for your Diaries:

15th March: FSW Spring Supper at Wivelsfield Village Hall

MORE THANK YOUs ...

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the church stall at the Christmas Fair. We raised £115 for church funds.

Thank you to everyone who has passed on their used ink cartridges for recycling. About 40 were posted off in December and these have generated a donation of £26.40 for Traidcraft.



Thank you to Ardingly Connected Together for once again brightening up Christmas for lots of the Seniors in the village with a chocolate orange! Also to the Primary School children and 1st Ardingly Cubs for their cheery Christmas cards.

A big '**Thank you**' to the choir for all their hard work, and to Simon who played the organ on 17th December for our Carols by Candlelight. The church was beautifully decorated and it all looked and sounded really good. Lots of people made appreciative comments about it, so well done! Jill Veasey



A big **Thank you** is owed to Pam Newnham for making 36 new large candles for St. Peter's Church. Pam melted down many old halves of large white candles. We were all invited to save our old Pringle tubes to be used as moulds. She spent many months making these large candles

and saved the church hundreds of pounds. Our Carols by candlelight service on 17th December was beautiful and all our Christmas services with the addition of flowers and a large Christmas tree donated by Goddenwick Farm. Pat Wilson



CHRISTMAS POSTBOX in Church



Thank you to all who helped with the sorting and delivering of cards around the village at Christmas. The total raised was £117.00 and this will be given to charity.

Jill Veasey

New Year's Day walk and lunch

On New Year's Day, despite very soggy weather, nine of us set out to follow George and Nick (his friend) around footpaths, roads and the Scrase Bridge Reserve for three and a half miles to work up an appetite, so we could do justice to the meal being prepared for us at the Church Centre. Many thanks to Deb and her two "elves", namely Teresa and Margaret (who toiled in the kitchen), for a lovely lunch which was enjoyed by ourselves and about 20 other people. Donations of £150 were taken and the total was split between AOJA and IMARA Uganda. Thank you, Deb and George, for organising a very enjoyable start to the New Year.

Jill Veasey





IMARA-UGANDA EDUCATION FUND

What a year of excitement and challenges 2023 has been for the charity! As I write, work is progressing on the finishing touches of phase one of the secondary school for the blind and other learners. This school, right next to the primary school, will make such a difference to the future hopes and prospects of visually impaired children in the Lira area of northern Uganda. Everyone is very excited about it, not least the children.

I visited Uganda in late November last year. The flights were challenging. My cases, some containing Braille machines and books, were left off the flight out, and on the return journey connecting flights failed to connect, resulting in half a night in a hotel in Istanbul courtesy of Turkish Airlines. Apart from this, the trip was all I could have hoped for. I was so afraid that, because my journey to Lira was delayed while I retrieved the luggage from Entebbe Airport, I would miss seeing our blind children who had arrived at the office to meet me, and I was still an 8 hour journey away. All the parents, bless them, brought the children back a few days later, and it was a joy to spend time with them.



The visit to the new school site was an occasion for a welcome of songs and speeches at the primary school, a formal tour of the new secondary school, and the cutting of a tape.

This was not a formal opening. That is still to come with more speeches, songs and tapes to cut. On the day of my tour of the school, at supper with the Bishop, he told us with a wicked grin on his face, that he had



managed to sneak over to the site unseen one day and wander around on his own. I secretly wished I could have done the same!



The Ugandan welcome, however, is second to none and I really did appreciate the effort that had been put into making my visit memorable. The building is coming on really well and I was most impressed by what has been achieved in only 7 months.

A lovely day was spent at a primary school about a one hour journey from Lira. A unit for the visually impaired had been created

by a teacher who is himself totally blind. Again we were made to feel so welcome. The children entertained us with song. These children, too, will join the new school for their secondary education and they are so excited about it.



There is one very special lady I visit on every trip to Uganda. Our driver skilfully drove us down a deeply rutted track with years of rubbish embedded in the soil and piles of rubbish on either side. Ketty's little home is at the end of the track. Its surrounds are cleanly swept and we are welcomed into a dark little room with tables covered in embroidered and lace cloths. Prayers are said on our arrival, and later we share a simple meal of biscuits and soda, and again as we leave. Ketty reminds me so much of the widow in the Bible story of the widow's mite, such is her generosity. Her husband's house and much of his land was taken from her when he died because a widow has no rights. One of her four sons died and another is diabetic. Ketty's youngest son was one of the first children we supported in 2009 and last year he completed a diploma course in civil engineering.

After a few days in Lira we returned to Kampala fighting our way through the busy traffic and arriving late in the evening. The following day I attended the graduation ceremony of a girl, Eva, whom I have sponsored since she was 12 years old. Now she has a first class honours degree in civil engineering and the promise of a job for a year with a Dutch firm in Uganda providing sustainable housing wherever it is required in the country. What a difference the opportunity of an education can make in bringing hope to young people otherwise destined to a life of extreme poverty and hardship.

A huge thank you to all those of you who have supported the work of this local charity over the years and have made such a difference to the lives of many deserving children. And thank you to those of you who have bought bricks on our website donor wall (www.imara-ugandaeducationfund.org) and supported the building of the new school for the blind. It is our plan to continue with the building by adding a hall, a library, Braille library and 2 computer rooms this year. If you would like to help make a difference to the lives of some of the poorest children in Uganda, please visit the website or talk to me on 01444 892368.

Belinda

FSW Fundraising Concert

In aid of Family Support Work

Come and hear the wonderful

CHOIR & KO

Saturday 3rd February at 3pm

St Swithun's Church

East Grinstead RH19 3RZ

Tickets £10 each, to include refreshments

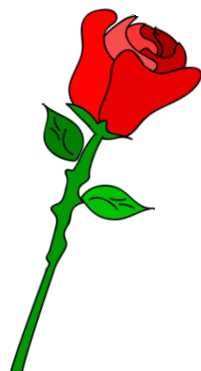
More information from lynnefallowell@gmail.com

A Valentine's Day poem

My love, she likes a red, red rose
Of deep magenta hue,
A gift for Valentine that shows
That someone's love is true.

But think on this, my bonnie lass,
As you admire the bloom –
That flower's been forced on under glass
You ought to wait till June!

By Nigel Beeton



FSW January 2024 update

Dear Friends,



At the start of a new year we are looking forward with hope to what we might achieve in 2024. With over 400 families currently active on our caseload, and over 700 families supported in total during 2023, there is no sign of the need for our work slowing down. We are doing what we can to maintain this level of support whilst also being conscious that the continuing financial crisis will impact on our ability to raise funds (all of our income is voluntary with no statutory support from local or national government).

With the retirement of our Hastings practitioner at the end of last year, we have been reorganising our practitioner teams to make sure that we can continue to provide a service throughout Sussex without placing too much strain or unrealistic expectations on any of our staff. As a result we are currently recruiting new staff to keep this support at the necessary level. Do please pray that the right people are found.

Our events diary for the year is filling up fast, with 3 supporters (including Spencer from our office!) taking part in the Brighton 10k in early April, as well as our skydive on April 26th and the busy Open Garden season.



December's work in numbers

- 333 individual visits and 1183 calls with families supporting 330 adults and 298 children
- 30 supported meetings with other agencies
- 56 group sessions held supporting 798 parents and 497 children, plus Christmas parties and trips to the pantomime
- 194 food deliveries made and 180 Christmas hampers delivered

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

CMS: HEATHER
JOHNSTONE NEWS
(Received December 2023)

Dear friends,



I recently visited my friend and former neighbour, Anna. We chatted and in passing she told me about a lady, a near neighbour, who she had met recently. Her name is Neema (which means grace). Neema was down and despairing, and Anna asked her what was wrong. Her response was "I'm going to die". She told my friend she has breast cancer and that the doctor had told her she must have urgent surgery to remove the breast otherwise the cancer will spread. She was despairing as she is unable to work, her husband works as a casual labourer when he can find work, and they have two young children. The cost of the surgery was the equivalent of about \$100 and was prohibitively expensive for her. I told my friend we could help her through the Rehema assistance programme.

A couple of days later Anna told me that Neema had had the surgery on the Sunday evening and needed to have several blood transfusions (here, the patient must pay for these AND find his/her own donors!). Her husband found four donors, each willing to donate two pints, but they didn't have the money to pay for the transfusions, or for transport for the donors to get to the hospital, so treatment was delayed. Of course, as soon as I heard I made sure she had the extra money to have the transfusions and undertook to make money available to her for any medication she may need post op.

Rehema assistance also helped a crippled lady to rebuild the roof of her house. Her name is Mama Mkami and I see her from time to time when I'm getting a tuk-tuk into town. She is a paraplegic and drags herself about using her upper body strength. If I happen to be using the same transport, I give her a small contribution to help her buy food etc and she is always so grateful. She has a wheelchair-cum-tricycle which she pedals with her arms, but she can't take it with her when she goes into town on a Friday. (On Friday it is acceptable for people with disabilities to beg in town.) In conversation a few days later she asked if I could help her replace her roof as she lost the sheet metal in a storm. She desperately wanted to replace it before the next rainy season started. Again, our fund came in useful, and Mama Mkami was extremely relieved and grateful.

Praise the Lord that, thanks to the generosity of supporters, Neema was able to have the surgery she so desperately needed, and both Neema and Mama Mkami were given hope for the future through the provision of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for God's protection over them and their families.

Our recent Mara Day celebrations within the Diocese of Mara:

All schools, organisations and projects within our diocese had stalls showcasing what they do and celebrating their skills and expertise. All parishes attended too and there were approximately 30 or 40 choirs who performed throughout the day and into the evening. The celebration lasted four days and culminated in a huge Sunday service at the cathedral. It is a very joyous affair rejoicing over everything Mara, and we were delighted that several of the attendees visited Rehema Café for a refreshing juice or a snack.

Instead of our usual Tuesday afternoon prayer meeting at my house, we recently had a very poignant but joyous get-together at the home of retired Bishop Hilkuah and Martha Omino. Most of the Rehema team joined in and a fabulous afternoon of prayer, worship, and celebration took place.



My contract with CMS has been renegotiated and instead of returning to the UK every three years for six months, it has been confirmed that my new cycle will be two months back in the UK every year. The British summer season is a busy time for Rehema so it is more likely that I will return in winter, which will be a regular shock to the system. The six-month break was really quite disruptive to the continuity of the project, so shorter visits more often will hopefully be more efficient.

A big thank you to my friends and supporters, for your encouragement, financial and prayerful support, and love throughout the year 2023. I wish you peace, goodwill and happiness at Christmas and always.

Heather

Hand-made items made by the Rehema Project are available on the Etsy website at www.etsy.com/uk/shop/GoMADinTanzania

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 FROM SAMARA'S AID

Samara's Aid is a small charity and has been in existence for only 10 years, but what it achieved in 2023 is remarkable:

- 2 containers of aid were sent to Syria and 11,000 people received a new winter coat. Many others received new shoes
- 1500 schoolbags were sent (education is not free in Syria and if you haven't got the equipment you can't study)
- 2 containers of flour were sent
- Earthquake survivors were helped in many different ways and this will continue
- 9,500 patients were seen at the Medical Centre and many lives saved
- 1000 Ultrasounds and Echo's were done, plus 12,000 Lab tests. A new Pharmacy was opened and a new ambulance sent.
- A blind lady had her sight restored
- Up to 810 orphans were fed and educated each month and they enjoyed some fun activities too
- 15,000 more trees were planted (pomegranates, figs, olives, pine) in addition to those already planted
- On the 3 farms, milk, yoghurts, cheese, meat and wool were produced by the sheep and goats
- 800 kgs of corn were grown, 200 kgs of cucumbers, 200 kgs of courgettes, half a ton of Okra, 600 kgs of potatoes and 2.5 tons of grapes. The World Food Programme has cut support for Syria for 2024 due to lack of funding so this year the charity's support will be even more vital.

- In 2024 a programme will begin to provide some regular meals for malnourished boys in a detention centre



All this, and a lot more, was only possible thanks to the support of people in the UK – some in our own village. Samara sends a big 'Thank you' to all who have supported her work.

REPAIR CAFE

REPAIR CAFÉ DATES:

LINDFIELD

Saturday 3rd February, 10am – 1.00pm
United Reformed Church, 52 High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HL

FOREST ROW - Saturday 17th February, 10am – 1.00pm
The Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

TURNERS HILL - Saturday 24th February, 10am – 12pm
The Ark, Mount Lane, Turners Hill, RH10 4RA



AROUND THE VILLAGE

December and the New Year were eventful in lots of ways. The Christmas Fair, Carol Singers, Christingle and Carol services and other celebrations all brought us Christmas joy. But there was an accident in the High Street which left one car on its side and another badly damaged. There were floods, ice and potholes on the roads, trees down, traffic lights and road closures. And on 17th December Michael Denman was distracted by a very big, loud and colourful convoy of vehicles travelling up the High Street - it turned out to be a Charity Tractor Procession heading for the Showground!



PETER NUNN

It was with sadness that we learned that Peter Nunn, who was the organist at St Peter's for 13 years, died in November last year. Many - especially the choir - will remember him as a very mild-mannered, gentle man who was much respected and liked. He moved from Lindfield to the Rustington area when he retired in 1996 and played the organ at Rustington church from time to time.

Ardingly Connected Together

It's been a busy old time for Ardingly Connected Together, with all our activities through the Christmas and New Year period. We were fortunate to have incredible support from so many people, groups and other 'assorted help' (!!) and that means that we could spread the joy even further!



As we have done over the last few years, we were able to distribute amazing Christmas bags, including groceries, presents and treats for our families in the village who need a bit of support at the moment. Ardingly College, as ever, were incredibly helpful, collecting donations of presents for children and treats for the whole family. Our amazing community entered into the spirit of Christmas wholeheartedly and participated in the Reverse Advent scheme. Instead of opening advent calendar doors (and eating chocolate behind them!), people donated a gift each day, such as grocery items, toiletries, and then brought their donations to us for delivery to families. Such was the generosity of people in the village that we have already been able to follow up with another delivery SINCE Christmas!



ACT has always been ready to link with other groups to provide support where we can. We want to connect the village together and spread some positivity where we can. St Peter's Church, St Peter's School and Ardingly College have all supported us in so many ways, working with us in what we do. We are delighted, too, that Ardingly Community Choir is well and truly established, meeting at St Peter's School on Monday evenings, and ACT is able to support the choir. This year's Carol Singing in the village was definitely enhanced with choir voices. Watch out for the choir's next performance soon!

We held our first 'Meet and Greet' evening in The Ardingly Inn in December, which was a great success. We aim to hold another one soon so keep an eye out for the date and come along.

Kathy James



Clerk & RFO: Lee Dunkley BA (Hons
MPhil, FSLCC,
01444 220499
clerk@ardingly.org

February 2024

As we welcome in the New Year the Parish Council are looking forward to a busy one. Councillors are undertaking training to ensure professionalism and up to date understanding of government legislation.

Phase one of the Pavilion refurbishment work is well underway, bringing this valuable community facility into the 21st century. Much of the funding for the project has been sourced externally, and a great deal of work continues to be done by the Council and the sports teams. For phase two we are awaiting the results of some grants and will need even more parish help. Let us know if you want to help paint, make aloft furnishings or have carpentry skills you'd like to share.

You may have seen the works by WSCC, improving the pedestrian access and safety from the centre of the village to the primary and pre-school. Our District Councillor has been very supportive and there has been some consultation. As ever, there are trade offs, so we are working through some of the resultant challenges.

The Council now has its own Facebook profile, which you can find simply by searching for Ardingly Parish Council. We hope to post informative snippets on the Ardingly Village News page from time to time. The website, too, will be updated to show all the latest policies and minutes, as well as Council news and public notices.

Weekly Clerk surgeries are now underway – you can drop in and say hello to Lee at Hapstead Hall on Wednesdays 2pm-4pm (there are some exceptions, such as half-term). Our meetings schedule is also

as per below, and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe. It does remain, though, that the best way to discuss matters and get questions answered is to contact the Clerk or a Councillor via email or phone during the working week.

Upcoming Full Council meetings:

Monday 12th February – 7:30pm (planning committee 6:45pm if needed)

Tuesday 12th March – 7:30pm (planning committee 6:45pm if needed)

Tuesday 9th April – 7:30pm (planning committee 6:45pm if needed)

www.ardingly.org



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

Your Cat's 10 top New Year's Resolutions

1. My humans will never let me eat their pet hamster, and I am at peace with that.
2. I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks.
3. I will not play 'Thundering Wildebeest Stamping Across the Plains of the Serengeti' over any humans asleep in bed at night.
4. When it rains, it will be raining on all sides of the house. It is not necessary to check every door.
5. I will not play 'dead cat on the stairs' while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true.
6. When my human is typing at the computer, their forearms are not a hammock.
7. TV and computer screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail.
8. I will not suddenly freeze and puff my entire body to twice its size for no reason after my human has watched a late-night horror movie.
9. I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare until they wake up.
10. Above all, I will not walk on the key board when my human is writing important adagfsg gdjag ;lxx*?!



Haywards Heath babybank opened in February 2023 to help alleviate child poverty in homes within the town and surrounding areas and to support families in need at times of financial and emotional stress.



Are you an expectant Mum?

Do you have toddlers who are
outgrowing their clothes rapidly?

Haywards Heath Baby Bank has a wonderful selection of very good quality, barely used, "new baby" and toddler clothes up to the age of 5 years to offer you!

We also have various items of baby equipment that you might need, including:

Moses baskets
Cots
Buggies
Baby baths
Sterilizers

We are based at 9 Delaware Road and are open on Tuesdays 11-1 and Thursdays 10-12 for collections.

Please don't hesitate to pop in or phone us on 07884106719 to see what we can offer you.

St Peter's C.E. School

The Autumn term at St Peter's School is always busy and last term was no exception. Of course there is the nativity – this year's production, the Big Little Nativity was wonderful, with songs sung with gusto and total involvement – and our Christmas service held in St Peter's Church, sharing celebrations from around the world. However, we were involved in so much more....



Sporting prowess abounds in St Peter's, not least with our cross country teams. Both the girls and boys teams were successful in the NEARs schools competition in November and some of our pupils will be going on to the Mid Sussex finals this term! Music is also key for St Peter's pupils, and our Rock Steady gang were delighted to be able to demonstrate their talents in a concert for parents. Well done everyone.

The Christmas holiday time sped by and, right at the beginning of January, we were back to work. With new school clubs, swimming at Ardingly College, music, sport – oh, and all the rest of school life, including lessons, we were keen to get through the school gates! Incidentally, if you are looking for a school place for your child (or know someone who is), please do come and look round our lovely, friendly school. Just call the school office to arrange a visit.

Kathy James

THANK YOU

Adele wishes to thank everyone for their kindness following the loss of her daughter-in-law Bekkie and for the many prayers that have been said for Bekkie over such a long period of time – and for the family at present. She has seen many answers to your prayers and is very thankful for the wonderful prayer support and love shown by her church family at St Peter's.

NOT TOO SERIOUSLY

Friends sympathized as the curate complained that her back was really sore from moving furniture. "Why don't you wait till your teenage son gets home?" someone asked.

"Well, I could," the curate replied, "but the couch is easier to move if he's not on it."



A businessman had a tiring day on the road. He checked into a hotel and, because he was concerned that the restaurant might close soon, left his luggage at the front desk and went immediately to eat.

After a leisurely dinner, he reclaimed his luggage and realized that he had forgotten his room number. He went back to the desk and told the clerk on duty, "My name is Henry Davis, can you please tell me which room I am in?"

"Certainly," said the clerk. "You're in the lobby."



"People get nervous when they think that they have to call me 'my Lord', said an Irish bishop. "Especially the poor nuns. One was giving me a cup of coffee. As she pushed the sugar bowl towards me, she said, 'How many lords, my lump?'"

A family on holiday was visiting a rather dark, very ancient church in rural France. One of the youngsters whispered: "Does God live in here?"

"Yes, dear," said her mother.

The youngster looked rather fearfully around. "Well why doesn't He move?"

Parish Register

The funeral of Philip 'Phil' James Turner of Wickham Way, Haywards Heath, who died 9th November 2023 aged 69 years, was held at St. Peter's Church on Friday 1st December 2023.

The funeral of Tina Judith Avril Worsfold of Gowers Close, Ardingly, who died 26th November 2023 aged 64 years, was held at St. Peter's Church on Friday 8th December 2023.

Our times are firmly in His hands,
The hands that fashioned all that's made,
Giving life and breath and purpose,
Touching all He came to save.

The hands that gave themselves to nails,
Have gathered sheep that went astray
And raised them up to heavenly places
Waiting for the Coming Day.

As life and years roll on together,
Our times are set, on this we stand,
Secure and safe in God's own keeping
As none can pluck us from His hand.

By Megan Carter

Flower Rota

Friday 2nd February - Belinda

Tuesday 13th February - Pam (Lent)

Brass Cleaning

11th February: Adele Collins

Meeting Point

February 5th - Adele, Diana and Sue

February 19th - Jill, Ruses and Kathy



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

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

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 FEBRUARY 2024



"Trust in God at all times, my people. Tell him all your troubles, for he is our refuge." (Psalm 62 v 8)

- 1 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 2 All who are grieving the loss of loved ones
- 3 Our Government and Prime Minister – current industrial disputes
- 4 All church services today and those who lead them
- 5 Our village schools – their pupils, staff and governors
- 6 Pray about the cross channel migrants and people smugglers
- 7 Places suffering from natural disasters or severe weather
- 8 Open House and Off the Fence; all who are homeless this winter
- 9 Pray for peace in the Middle East and surrounding area
- 10 The NHS and all who work in it
- 11 Today's worship. All who need peace, love and healing
- 12 Samara's Aid. Blessing & protection on projects planned for 2024
- 13 Give thanks for all the benefits of living in the UK
- 14 **Ash Wednesday.** Pray for growth in love and faith during Lent
- 15 Young people – protection from harm, crime, drugs and gangs
- 16 Church finances and the maintenance work which is needed
- 17 Bambi and Andreas and their mission work in S.E. Asia
- 18 All church services today. May God's blessings fall
- 19 IMARA, Belinda and the building of the new school in Uganda
- 20 All who are anxious or have poor mental health
- 21 Our Churchwardens John and Nigel
- 22 Compton House – especially Sandy, Joan and Adelaide
- 23 Christians against Poverty (CAP), helping people in financial difficulty
- 24 AOJA and the work of the Clinic in The Gambia
- 25 Today's church services. Pray for the church family
- 26 All who do not have enough to eat
- 27 Members of St Peter's who are housebound or unwell
- 28 Milan and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
- 29 Praise God for his promises and his faithfulness

Deadline for copy for the March magazine is
Friday 16th February