

# *St. Peter's Ardingly*

## **Parish Magazine**

**May 2025**



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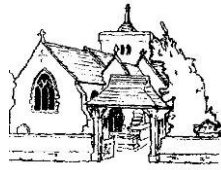
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A community project managed by St Peter's Church

Visit our web site [www.ardinglychurch.org.uk](http://www.ardinglychurch.org.uk)

**50p**



## **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 5pm for private prayer**

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

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends



As the disciples sat huddled together on the first Easter Sunday evening, both frightened and confused, Luke tells us that the risen Lord Jesus appeared to them and gave them a promise. *"I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so, stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high"* said Jesus [Luke 24: 49]. As the disciples heard this, I wonder if they remembered the words of the prophet Joel, that God would pour out his spirit on all people? I wonder if in their confusion they realized just what was being promised to them?

I also wonder if the church of today has forgotten the promise of the Holy Spirit, available to all who call on the Lord. As we face challenges like secularism, internal arguments, and financial issues, we must ask ourselves if we have remembered the promise of power from above. The church's true essence lies in possessing the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit, without which it is nothing.

The fulfilment of the promise of the Holy Spirit transformed a tired, frightened, and confused group of disciples into bold, confident preachers. But that promise, was made to all of us as well so that just as the disciples were transformed by the power of God's Spirit, we too can be transformed. Transformed in ourselves, as we realize all of the things that we are capable of doing, all of the gifts that we each have, gifts and talents given to us by a loving God and which He will empower us to use through the power and the working of His Holy Spirit. Transformed in our prayer lives, as the Spirit helps us to pray, understanding our weakness and preventing our prayers from degenerating into mechanical drudgery or powerless routine. And transformed too in our worship and as we experience in that worship the presence of the Lord Jesus himself, amongst us and with us as we meet.

The disciples and the early church demonstrate that a community that is receptive to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit swiftly transforms into an influential and remarkable entity. It becomes robust and impactful within its surroundings. And on an individual level, we see that if we are open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, our lives undergo transformation, leading to huge enrichment as we progressively align more and more closely with the likeness of Christ.

As we look forward and to the season of Pentecost we all need to pray and to ask God to make the power of the Holy Spirit come alive in our lives again, praying too that God will use each of us through that power as well.

With my prayers for you all,



## **IMARA-UGANDA EDUCATION FUND**

There were joyful celebrations at our school in Uganda as Kevin, who leads our work there, received a prestigious Change Maker award and grant for the school from MTN Foundation. MTN is Uganda's leading telecommunications provider. The award is given to individuals and organisations who are making a lasting difference to the lives of people in their communities. The grant provided the school with 3 desktop computers with JAWS screen reader for the blind, a computer work station, and 40 classroom desks. We are proud of Kevin for her tireless dedication to making a lasting difference to the lives of blind and other disadvantaged children in Northern Uganda.



**Belinda**

## Services in May 2025

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

### **The Third Sunday of Easter**

9.00am

Acts 9: 1 - 6; John 21: 1 - 19

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Acts 9: 1 - 6; John 21: 1 - 19

**Morning Praise** and the Laying up of the Royal British Legion Standard

6.00pm

**Open to God**

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

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

### **The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

9.00am

Acts 9: 36 - 43; John 10: 22 - 30

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Acts 9: 36 - 43; John 10: 22 - 30

**Holy Communion [CW]**

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

### **The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9.00am

Acts 11: 1 - 18; John 13: 31 - 35

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Acts 11: 1 - 18; John 13: 31 - 35

**Morning Praise**

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

### **The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9.00am

Acts 16: 9 - 15; John 5: 1 - 9

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Acts 16: 9 - 15; John 5: 1 - 9

**Holy Communion [CW]**

**with prayer for healing and wholeness**

### **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

### **Ascension Day**

10.30am - *A short said service to celebrate Jesus' Ascension*

**Holy Communion [CW]**

## NOTICEBOARD for May

### Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

Meeting Point will take place in Hapstead Small Hall on 19<sup>th</sup> May from 10.15 to 11.30. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc.



### Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in St Peter's Centre



### Walks with Esther and Glynis

The next 'Pilgrimage walk' is scheduled to take place on **17<sup>th</sup> May** and will be from Ditchling to Pyecombe. (more information on page 19)

### The Ardingly Evening W.I.

We welcome author Jonathan Cox to our meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May to talk to us about his police crime series 'Blue to Green'. 7:30pm at Hapstead Hall, visitors always welcome. Want to read his book? Why not join our book club? Non members welcome, meeting once a month at The Ardingly Inn. Email us for more info: [ardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk](mailto:ardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk)

**The Hapstead Jam Tarts W.I.** are looking forward to a talk from their own member and longtime Ardingly resident, Janet Hewitt, on **21<sup>st</sup> May at 10am in Hapstead Hall**. Janet will be talking about her experiences in the Second World War, about all the shortages and challenges and her time as an evacuee. We are also celebrating our first year as a WI in the village, which has been amazing, bringing so many local women together. Visitors are always welcome. Please contact Fiona or Christine for more details or just pop in. [hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk](mailto:hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk)

## DEANERY SYNOD

The next meeting is on Thursday 22nd May at 8pm.

The venue is the Martindale Centre, Station Road, Horsted Keynes.

**Next Village Lunch:** 14<sup>th</sup> May. Tickets £8 each from Ardingly Village News

## ARDINGLY FILM NIGHT

Thursday 29th May, 7pm for 7.30pm

*"The Penguin Lessons"*

Tickets from the Village Shop, Fellows Bakery or online  
at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

## REPAIR CAFÉ DATES

### LINDFIELD

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

10am - 1pm

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

REPAIR CAFE

### EAST GRINSTEAD

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 1pm

Glen Vue Centre, Railway Approach, East Grinstead, RH19 1BS

### FOREST ROW

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 1pm

Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

## News from Heather Johnstone (CMS)

Dear friends,

I am pleased to report that my home assignment in the UK at the end of the year was both encouraging and productive.

During this period, I visited 9 churches over 7 weeks, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. I was lucky enough to have a two week break in South Africa at the beginning of the year and got back to Musoma on 21 January. I resumed work immediately and have been trying to catch up ever since.



We are fortunate to have a team of 8 gap year students from the UK supporting Rehema Cafe four times a week. A significant milestone was achieved towards the end of last year, when the bishop reversed his long-standing decision and allowed us to sell local food to local people. This nutritious food is sold at a very low price, which, although the work is demanding and yielding a small return, enables more women to be employed for longer hours – definitely a change worth celebrating.

It is with deep sorrow that I share the news of Amy Vink's passing on 28 January at the age of 54, after a prolonged battle with cancer. Amy, the Australian missionary who founded the Rehema Project, dedicated her life to Christ, serving him with unwavering commitment. Amy and her family returned to Australia in 2016 due to health concerns. During her service in the Diocese of Mara, she exemplified the fruits of the spirit as described in Galatians 5:22–23. Her inspirational leadership and compassion profoundly impacted many lives in the Mara region through employment, training and assistance programmes, and she loved every single one of the Rehema women as if they were her own children.

The funeral service was held in Australia on 4 February 2025, with a memorial service in Musoma on the same day. The service in the cathedral was well attended and included tributes from various people, including the retired Bishop of Mara and his wife, Martha.



In honour of Amy, the Rehema staff contributed 20,000 shillings each (a significant amount for them) and provided food for over 100 people. The remaining funds, coupled with a special collection during the service, went to support "good deeds" in Amy's memory, specifically aiding a project under Father Pendo, whom I have written about previously. His mission, which cares for mentally



disabled people and the very poor, is not well-funded, so any contributions are greatly beneficial. We visited Father Pendo on Sunday, bringing gifts of maize flour, beans, sugar, soap, cooking oil and Rehema toy lions and giraffes for the children. The Rehema women sang joyfully for Father Pendo and his charges, and we shared a soda and

prayed together. Unfortunately, Father Pendo will retire at the end of this month due to ill health – he is suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease.

During our time of grief, we remembered many wonderful stories about Amy, and in closing I would like to share how the Rehema logo came to be: depicting the silhouette of a woman carrying a baby on her back and a basket on her head. The project was in its infancy and Amy had a small group of women making cards at her home. An extremely impoverished young woman, Bhoke, came to Amy's home carrying her baby on her back, hoping to sell the tomatoes in her basket. The baby, John, was just three weeks old and had the glassy stare of malnutrition. Amy invited her in because it was "chai time" and she was worried about her and the baby. Amy offered her chai, food and comfort. Despite Bhoke's embarrassment over her tattered kanga (a Tanzanian cloth, like a sarong) Amy reassured her and asked her to share her story. As Bhoke was talking, Amy sketched a simple picture of her, and hence the Rehema logo was born.

Bhoke is a Rehema woman to this day. Her life and that of her family improved greatly due to the compassion and love of Amy.

**Heather**

### ***A postscript from Heather:***

I've been encouraged to hear recent mission stories from around my wider area of work. In South Sudan, communities have taken steps towards peace as pastors from different tribal groups reconciled, and my colleague Joan has shared a growing vision of a new tribe of peacemakers.

Read more at [www.churchmissionsociety.org/empower](http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/empower)

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*8<sup>th</sup> May is VE Day, celebrating 80 years since the Allied victory in Europe in 1945. This poem has been written by Nigel Beeton.*

#### **The bells rang out in England**

The bells rang out in England  
And songs of heartfelt joy,  
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears  
For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting  
Had such a dreadful cost  
In blood and sweat and mortal threat  
And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended –  
In Europe's shores at least;  
Our people brave feared not the grave  
To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us  
For eighty peaceful years.  
Yet now, again, some brutal men  
Are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating  
This coming VE Day;  
Yet not at ease, but on our knees  
For lasting peace, we pray.

*As we celebrate the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nicene Creed here is a new poem written by Rev. Laura Darrell for the Diocese of Chichester Deanery Year of Faith Celebrations...*

## **NICAEA 1700**

What do you believe?

As we stand in our pews or rows of chairs, and recite the Nicene creed,  
I wonder, what do you believe?

As we sit in a meeting about whether we should use pews or rows of  
chairs, I wonder, what do you believe?

As we put out the tables and make the coffee, and put out the rota for  
making the coffee and put out the rota for putting out the tables, what  
do you believe?

As we sit with a stranger who was looking for quiet, as we hand them a  
candle to light and remember, as we clear up the crumbs from a mum's  
giddy toddler, what do you believe?

As we stretch out our hands to share Peace and for bread, as we lift up  
our voices and bow down our heads, as we love one another just like  
Jesus said - what do you believe?

Do you believe in the Father who flung stars into space, whose  
benevolent image can be found in your face, who traced lines of  
eternity into every embrace, do you believe?

Do you believe in the Son, the second person of the trinity, the three in  
one, the one who would come and renew us all with a promise to be  
with us until the Kingdom will dawn - do you believe?

Do you believe in the Spirit? The giver of life? The teacher of Love and  
the queller of strife, who pours out his gifts at our baptismal start, and  
makes us one body, one faith, one heart. Do you believe?

Do you believe in the church? The vessel for God's mission, who is  
called to stay humble and accept the commission to be beacons of hope  
and children of light until that day comes when we resurrect and reunite  
with the one who made us. Do you believe?

We stand with the Saints, and join with their praise, in our pews and  
our chairs all our voices we raise, to proclaim our faith, our Creed, our  
Way. On this 1700th anniversary we say: We believe.

## NEWS FROM NEPAL

*We have received a long update from Nepal – so long, in fact, that I'll have to split it and print the second half next month!*

Greetings and love from Nepal.

We hope you are well by His grace. I am glad to send you some brief news here and hope you will be encouraged to read this. We thank God for what He has been doing among us. We thank you so much for your prayers and standing with us over the years.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH !



**November 2024:** November was a busy month as we had a One Month Leadership Training where 17 participants completed the Training from different parts of Nepal. Some of them are now leading the Church. All praises to HIM !

**December 2024:** During Christmas we have reached many people with Gospel through Carole Songs and other outreaches. We had a special Christmas program for the Children where 150 Children came to the celebration, it was with gifts, fun and food. As always Christmas was such a blessed program among over 400 people at Imadol alone. It was our joy to help to build a Church and Sunday School building in Sindhupalchok. We also planted new Churches in the Far West and visited our churches in the first week of December. Now we are 20 Aanandit churches in Nepal. As you know we have a vision to plant 40 Churches by the year 2033. We appreciate your prayers for this mission.

**January 2025:** It was a huge blessing for me to travel to the UK in January for 2 weeks. It was such a fulfilling time being at the Ichthus Leadership Conference too.

In January, we were also able to start some Missionary Work among the Nepalese in Portugal where one of our Leaders, named Mrs Sharmila Dhungel, moved and has been reaching-out to the Nepalese community around Lisbon. She has a great heart for the Gospel and love for the people. So we'd appreciate your prayers for her and for her husband and son too.

Our young people have started a football club again and now they are also reaching out to young people in Imadol. All honour and glory to God !

**February:** As you know, in the last 8 years we were talking, praying and raising money for the Aanandit 2030 Project, which happened on Feb. 23rd when we had a great inauguration of the Aanandit Charity Building, with much celebration. It was our honour that ACC partners from Canada and the UK were with us too. Now the building has been used for the Girls Hostel, Offices, and training/Chapel and will soon be used for care of the elderly. It was a major breakthrough in the Aanandit Ministries. We give all honour and praise to the Lord. Work in the kitchen and garden is still going on and we hope to finish by this April. Shusma and I felt great relief. Huge thanks to all our prayer partners, donors and to the staff for making this possible.

**March:** We give thanks to the Lord and prayed from Eastern Nepal to Far Western Nepal over 6 days (March 3-8). We drove every day for around 15hrs, most of the time in prayer, worship and reading the Scriptures. 6 of us were on the group, asking the Lord to bless the nation and local places, churches and every sector of society. Probably we are the first ones to do this and we are so thankful to the Lord for His protection and safety during that time.

March 26-28: we held Empowerment Seminars for all the Aanandit Church Pastors and Leaders in Chitwan, South Nepal. 35 of our Pastors and Leaders joined the seminars from 19 Churches.

Thank you so much for your prayers.  
God bless, Milan



## **LINK TO HOPE FINAL 2024 SHOEBOX TOTAL**

The final number of shoeboxes donated in the 2024 appeal was 25,633 Family & Elderly shoeboxes. All delivered safely to their destinations in Eastern Europe. If you would like to read the Shoebox Delivery Diary on the Link to Hope website (written by the team that went and delivered just a small proportion of them) this is the link:

[https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-delivery-diary-2024/](https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-delivery-diary-2024)  
<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-delivery-diary-2024/>

There are also lots of photos which were taken by the project managers.

Everyone who gave a shoebox also helped the charity to buy a lot of wood (and stoves) for people who desperately needed it this winter. It is so much colder in Eastern Europe than it is here in Winter time. Link to Hope have received news of the death of an old lady who burnt toxic items and died after she had run out of wood. If you are found to be collecting wood from the forest then you are automatically put in prison for two years so there are very few alternatives.





St Peter's will again be supporting the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal this Autumn. We are asked to fill a Shoebox for a family or an elderly person- not just a child. The list contains items for all family members and includes different items. These range from shower gel/shampoo,

family games, stationary items, gifts for mum and dad as well as sweets, soft toys, hats, scarves etc. Please contact Sue if you'd like more information (892117).

The Shoebox Appeal has been running since 1992 and has delivered smiles to thousands of people in Eastern Europe over the years. In fact, well over 1,000,000 shoeboxes in total have been delivered to hundreds of different locations.



### **Local Garden open for charity**

Sue and Jim Stockwell are opening their garden at 47 Denman's Lane, Lindfield, as part of the National Garden Scheme this Spring. It is a beautiful one-acre garden, described by Sussex Life as "a garden where plants star". It's close to the heart of the village and it includes ponds, lawn, rose garden, rhododendrons, azaleas, hedges and fruit and vegetable gardens. Entry is £7 (children under 18 free) and this will go to support National Garden Scheme charities. The garden is open from 1pm to 5pm on **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May** and also **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May**. ([www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk))



## Thy Kingdom Come 2025 - 29th May - 8th June



*This year it's the 10th year of Thy Kingdom Come!*

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Every person, household and church are encouraged to pray during the 11 days in their own way.

It is TKC's hope & prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, every Christian across the globe is invited to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

Resources are available online at  
<http://thykingdomcome.global/resources-0>



## PILGRIMAGE WALKS

Having been treated to tea & biscuits at St Augustine's Church, Scaynes Hill, a cheerful band of 7 walkers set off on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April to tackle the second stage of our Pilgrimage Walk to Chichester. Unlike the first "leg" it was now largely dry underfoot and warm sunshine was occasionally tempered by a cooling breeze as we covered the 7 miles to Ditchling. Footpaths led through open countryside and then stretches of woodland covered in anemones and emerging bluebells. Benches at Wivelsfield Rec provided a place to sit, eat packed lunches and watch football teams put through their paces!



Along the way there was plenty of time to chat and lots of help on hand to safely tackle the variety of stiles (grateful thanks to members of the "Monday Group" who build & restore these). Arriving at St. Margaret's Church, Ditchling we were again warmly welcomed with tea & cake, Thank you Heather & Ginny.

Do come and join us. The next walk is on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, a 4 mile section from Ditchling to Pyecombe. NB this includes a climb up to the Downs. Those who would like to extend this walk could do the return to Ditchling.

For timings and more information please contact Esther Wigmore 01444 891654 or Glynis Doerr 01444 892431. We need to know final numbers by Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

## ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY

We make a point of telling you, in each Parish Magazine, about the exciting and interesting things that our pupils and staff have the chance to do. It is always busy and fun and Easter was no different with our Easter service and Easter eggs rounding off the term. However, this time we have something to report from the governors that is potentially very exciting for the whole school community.



As most people know, St Peter's School has been working in close partnership with St Giles School in Horsted Keynes since September 2023. We have shared an Interim Executive Headteacher, brought our staff closer together through training etc and aligned some of our policies and practices. This has already brought benefits to both schools, strong leadership along with more opportunities for staff and pupils. Now we are proposing to take the next step and move to a formal federation.

If we go through to federation, both schools will retain their individual visions, identity and Christian ethos. However, the schools will share one governing body. The proposal is that the schools will continue with the leadership structure which is operating currently, with one Executive Headteacher.

The governing body believes strongly that federation offers an exciting and beneficial way forward. It will preserve what is special about each school, but allow us to grow and develop, retaining the benefits of, but also weathering the challenges facing small schools. As governors, we care deeply about the role that both schools play in their communities and we are committed to preserving their unique character and ethos.



A formal consultation on the federation proposal opens on 25 April and will run until 13 June. We warmly invite all members of the community to look through the proposal, raise any questions and let us know your views.

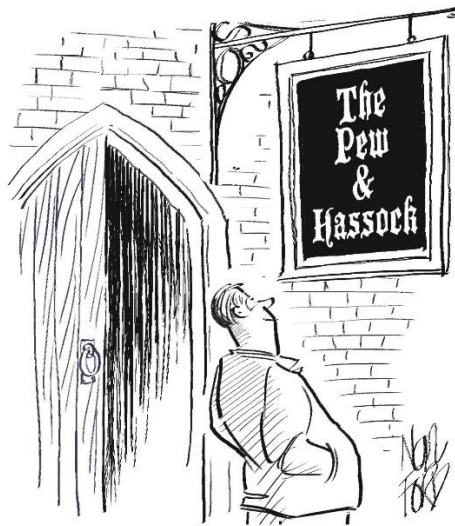
The full consultation document is available on the school website or from the Clerk to the Governors, [clerk@st-peters.school](mailto:clerk@st-peters.school)

Please share your views, which you can do by:

- Completing the response form available from either of the schools' offices;
- Attending one of the consultation events taking place at:
  - 7pm on 6th May at St Peter's CofE School in Ardingly;
  - 7pm on 8th May at St Giles CofE School in Horsted Keynes;
  - Online, 7pm on 13th May. Please email the clerk at St Peter's School for the link to the virtual meeting;
- Emailing your feedback to the clerk at St Peter's.

We will look forward to hearing from you.

Kathy James



Changing the name from "St Mark's Parish Church" resulted in a big increase in the number attending services

## FSW April 2025 update

Dear Friends,



With a new financial year just started, we are as always wondering what the next 12 months will bring. The price rises which came into effect on 1 April across many household bills are already causing further problems for some of our families, and the impact on our own finances of Government changes to Employers' National Insurance is also being felt. Whilst we always remain positive, we know that juggling the increased need for our work and the more challenging funding situation will be difficult. So having your support in prayer, through practical efforts and personal donations means so much to us.

As many of you will know, the long-term nature of our support is what sets us apart from other organisations. We have worked with some of our clients for many years, and often families are referred to us in their early days of parenthood. This week we received a lovely message from a mum who came to us when her child was a small baby. The family is still being supported by us, and that child is now starting primary school in September. Things are getting slowly better for them, but it has taken years to make progress. This is what she said:

*"You are amazing. Truly the ray of light I needed in the dark days of early motherhood, and then so much more."*

There is still time to join us on our Cuckmere Pilgrim Path sponsored walk on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like more information then please contact [jason@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:jason@familysupportwork.org.uk) or phone 01273 041401.

**Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing**  
**[www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org)**

*This is the last update by Nikki as she is leaving FSW to work for a different charity. The recruitment process is underway to find a successor to Nikki.*

## NOT TOO SERIOUSLY ...

During a bank robbery the police chief told the sergeant to cover all exits so the robbers could not get away.



Later the sergeant reports to the chief, "Sorry sir, but they got away."

The chief, very disappointed, says, "I told you to cover all exits."

"I did," replied the sergeant, "But they got away through the entrance."

A rookie police officer was assigned to go out on a round with an experienced partner. A call came over the car's radio telling them to disperse some people who were loitering.

The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window and said, "Move away from the corner."

No one moved, so he barked again, "Move away from the corner!" Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled glances in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?"



"Pretty well," replied his senior, "especially since this is a bus stop."

Two mice are exploring a film studio warehouse. One of them finds a bit of old celluloid and starts chewing.

"What's that?" asks the other mouse.

"Let me see..." says the first. "Ah, yes. It's from 'Gone with the Wind.' "

"Is it good?" asks the second.

"Not so great," replies the first. "The book was better."



## **ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL**

We hope you all had a fantastic Easter Weekend! It was lovely to see the sunshine and daffodils shining brightly.

As we embrace the warmer weather, the Parish Council has been busy giving our village playground a thorough spring cleaning.



We've washed down all the surfaces and are making some important repairs to the equipment. We're excited to share that the repair of the zip wire is scheduled for the end of this month! Plus, we're working on a bigger plan to bring in new playground equipment, which will involve

grant funding and input from our community. Keep an eye out for a survey coming your way in the next few weeks—we'd love to hear your thoughts!

On a different note, we have some sad news to share: Tracy, our Parish Clerk and RFO, is currently on sick leave. We wish her a speedy recovery and want to assure you that we're keeping an eye on her emails and phone in her absence. Please feel free to reach out as usual. During this period, we'll hold one in-person surgery each month, coinciding with our regular Parish Council meetings.

We're also thrilled to announce that we will be joining the nation in commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day! Join us for a special event at Hapstead Garden (the area outside Hapstead Hall around the oak tree) on May 8th from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. We'll be serving free sausages and squash, and at 9:30 PM, we'll light a



beacon and come together to sing the hymn "I Vow to Thee My Country". This will be an opportunity for our village to come together and share a reflective moment to show our gratitude and honour the sacrifices made for our freedom. "Let's join together in hope and unity as we celebrate our past and look forward to a brighter future."

We look forward to seeing you all there!  
Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

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**THANK YOU** to the Showground for replacing the gate opposite St Peter's Centre. The new one looks splendid and will make parking arrangements much easier when we need to use that space (and we are very grateful to the Showground for allowing that). The old gate had become very heavy and awkward to lift.



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### **HAYWARDS HEATH LIBRARY – 100 years**

The West Sussex County Council Library Service celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, and according to the Head of Libraries and Heritage, local residents borrow 3 million books from our libraries each year. Centenary events include a free Tea party at the Haywards Heath Library on Friday 30th May.

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### **Recycling of Garden Items**

It is now possible to take used compost bags (as clean as possible) and plastic flower pots to Coolings Wych Cross Garden Centre to be recycled. Customers can also take pots free of charge from the recycling zones to reuse at home, rather than buy new.



## **AROUND THE VILLAGE**

### **Congratulations to Wakehurst!**

Wakehurst has moved up seven places in the ALVA (Association of Leading Visitor Attractions) visitor number figures, placing them at number one in Sussex!

**Congratulations to Jill O'Mant**, who has just completed the Authorised Lay Minister's course in Pastoral Care. She will be commissioned at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May and is already on the Pastoral Care team at St Peter's. Anyone wishing to join the service on zoom can do so, using the following link:

<https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/worship/livestreamed-services>

### **On 5<sup>th</sup> April ....**

Pews were polished  
Windowsills were swept  
Floors were scrubbed  
Carpets were hoovered  
Glassware was washed  
Rails were wiped  
Shelves and cupboards were cleaned  
And lots of spiders were made homeless

Our church building was given some love! A big thank you to everyone who helped (and to those who clean and polish throughout the year!). It's much appreciated by us all.



## NICK LEADSOM



Nicholas Hart Leadsom died peacefully at Martlet Manor Care Home on 21 February 2025. Nick was very involved in the local community, including being an active member of St Peter's Church, chairman of the local Conservatives & the local branches of UNICEF and Save The Children, as well as being involved with the organising of the Ardingly Open Gardens days.

Born in Formby, Lancashire on 3rd April 1931, he initially went to prep school locally and then boarded at Malvern College, which was evacuated to Harrow during the Second World War. Nick spent twenty years serving as an officer for The Lancashire Fusiliers, being posted around the world to various locations including Egypt, Jordan, Trieste, Cyprus, and Germany. Having moved to Sussex in the early 70s with his sons Simon and Jeremy from his first marriage, he married Jeannie in 1971 and then after having Victoria, they moved to Ardingly in 1978.

Gardening was Nick's passion and he enjoyed many hours planting and growing shrubs. He adored military history, tennis and bridge and he was an extremely proud grandfather to 8 grandchildren and most recently a great grandchild. Nick lived a full, rich and happy life and was quite simply a lovely man who will be greatly missed by everyone.

*Victoria Pennington (daughter)*

# *Parish Register*

The funeral of Nicholas Hart Leadsom, formerly of Little Lywood, Ardingly, who died 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 aged 93 years was held at St. Peter's Church on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

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## **PRAYER**

*Dear God,  
Our loving, Almighty Father,  
Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven,  
you were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples  
then and today.*

*In these strange, topsy- turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify,  
destroy, confuse and disappoint, we rejoice that you are the  
Sovereign Lord of all things, at all times, in all places,  
and we are secure within Your love and protection. Amen.*

(from a prayer by Daphne Kitching)

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### **Flower Rota**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - All flower arrangers,  
please

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May - Belinda and Jill

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May - Pat and Sheila

### **Meeting Point Rota**

19<sup>th</sup> May – Adele, Diana and Kathy



### **Brass Cleaning Rota**

10<sup>th</sup> May – John Witherington and Dilys Taylor

## 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:** 2025 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 MAY 2025

*"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 Victims of the earthquake in Myanmar
- 3 Word peace: Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, DRC, Syria ....
- 4 Our services today. Praise God for the freedom to worship
- 5 Refugees and asylum seekers all over the world
- 6 Teachers & pupils, especially those taking exams this month
- 7 Samara's Aid – pray for protection for all staff and projects
- 8 **V.E. Day.** Pray for all who serve their country overseas
- 9 Praise God for the seasons and beauty of the countryside
- 10 All who offer Pastoral Care, especially those at St Peter's
- 11 Our services today and those on the radio and TV
- 12 Christian Aid week. Pray for a good response and the charity's work
- 13 Give thanks for the NHS and pray for all who work in it
- 14 Bambi and Andreas and their work in South East Asia
- 15 The Village Lunch team and all who attend
- 16 All who deliver aid and medical assistance to those in need
- 17 Our Prime Minister and government and all who shape policy
- 18 Our services today. Pray for God's blessing on Ardingly
- 19 All who are anxious or lack faith or hope
- 20 All who serve on the PCC. The Annual Church Meeting tonight
- 21 Milan and Shusma and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
- 22 All who are housebound or lonely
- 23 Christians Against Poverty, helping people in financial difficulty
- 24 All who help with "At Your Service"
- 25 Our services today. Pray for all who lead worship
- 26 Organisations which help homeless people and re-house them
- 27 Belinda and Kevin and the IMARA scholars in Uganda
- 28 Church finances and our applications for grants
- 29 **Ascension Day.** Praise God that Christians are never alone
- 30 Old Jeshwang and its work in The Gambia
- 31 Give thanks and praise for God's immeasurable love and faithfulness

**Deadline for copy for the June magazine is**  
**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**