

St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine



**OCTOBER
2025**

HARVEST

Visit our web site 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	Kathy James	891047
Authorised	Sue Laker	892117
Lay Ministers	Jill O'Mant	892464

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

Harvest time brings to mind the many stories told by Jesus that focused on seeds. Since he lived in an area known for agriculture, these stories would have been familiar to his audience. Often, they illustrated the concept of potential - demonstrating that even when circumstances seem challenging, small beginnings can lead to significant results.



For example, a seed may be insignificant in size but given suitable conditions, it can grow into a plant that yields a substantial crop, sometimes multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times [Mk 4:8]. Every rice seed, mustard seed, ear of corn, or pumpkin seed may appear small and inactive, yet each has the capacity to become a plant that produces an abundant harvest.

Like Jesus' early listeners, we too often seem to live in a harsh world that can test our faith in humanity. Still, we are encouraged to keep spreading seeds of hope, peace, love, and justice - and to persist in doing good, trusting in God's love and the promise of the harvest.

We can foster love, peace, and justice by giving resources, praying for fairer trade, and committing to simpler living to combat global warming and supporting those in need.

Alternatively, we may choose to engage in numerous acts of kindness, peace, and justice throughout our daily lives, thereby embodying the principles of the gospel. These actions serve as seeds of the Spirit, which, when cultivated, will lead to a significant harvest for the Kingdom.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John'.



Services in October 2025

HARVEST – “The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us.” Psalm 67: 6

Sunday 5th October

HARVEST FESTIVAL (The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity)

9.00am

Holy Communion BCP

Philippians 4: 4 - 9; John 6: 25 - 35

10.30am

Morning Praise

Harvest Celebration Service and Lunch, held in the Church Centre

Philippians 4: 4 - 9; John 6: 25 - 35

6.00pm

Open to God

A quiet and reflective service for the end of the day

Sunday 12th October

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am

Holy Communion BCP

2 Timothy 2: 8 - 15; Luke 17: 11 - 19

10.30am

Holy Communion CW

2 Timothy 2: 8 - 15; Luke 17: 11 - 19

Sunday 19th October

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00am

Holy Communion BCP

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:15; Luke 18: 1 - 8

10.30am

Morning Praise

2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:15; Luke 18: 1 - 8

Sunday 26th October

The Last Sunday after Trinity

9.00am

Holy Communion BCP

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-8; Luke 18: 9-14

10.30am

Holy Communion CW

with prayer for healing and wholeness

2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

NOTICEBOARD for October

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

These will take place on 13th and 27th October in Hapstead Small Hall from 10.15 to 11.30. All are welcome. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival will be on 5th October, when the 10.30 service will take place at St Peter's Centre. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch. Like last year, donations of dried, tinned or packeted food will be received at the Harvest service and these will be given to Ardingly Connected Together to distribute to families in need around the village.

Ardingly Evening WI

On Thursday 16th October Ardingly Evening WI have Pip Marsh, a former member of the Royal Ballet, coming to talk about Pilates and how it can help us all. Be prepared to get moving out of your chair! More information: ardinglywi@wsfw.co.uk

Hapstead Jam Tarts Ardingly WI

Wednesday 15th October from 10am to midday.

'Diamonds aren't forever' by our speaker, Louise.

All women over 18yrs are welcome. No charge for visitors.

Refreshments are provided. For more details please call

Fiona on 07513411893 or email

hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfw.co.uk

Film night: 30th October. "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale"

Doors: 7pm. Film 7:30pm at Hapstead Hall

Tickets are £8 and available at Fellows Bakery or Ardingly News Agent (*The Old Post Office*)

ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING

West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service is offering free electric blanket testing sessions this Autumn. Testing sessions are taking place at Haywards Heath Fire Station on 14th and 15th October from 9.30 to 4.30. To book an appointment call 0345 8729719.

(more notices on next page)

SAVE THE DATE!

IMARA will be holding a fundraising coffee morning on **Monday 3rd November**. Do put the date in your diary!

NEW ADDRESS:

Jill Veasey is moving. From 1st October her address is as follows:
29 Gowers Close
Ardingly RH17 6UF

She will have a new telephone number but the number is not yet known.



CHURCHYARD TIDY UP

Saturday 18th October, 10.00-12.30

Come and join us as we give the churchyard an Autumn tidy-up!

We particularly want to do some weeding and clear the channel around the church building.

Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own tools!



ARDINGLY OLD JESHWANG ASSOCIATION

Now that the construction of the Clinic extension is now well in hand, the Committee is busy sourcing and purchasing various items of equipment and furnishings in order to equip the new Delivery Suite (and the refurbished old one) so that, when completed, each will be able to offer the best possible service outcomes.

So far, we have managed to arrange for two delivery beds, a resuscitation platform, an examination lamp and a defibrillator all of which are in the process of delivery either



direct to Banjul Port or delivered to Crawley where they will be shipped, all together, to destination. There are two or three other items for which we have yet either to have received quotations or whose availability is not yet secured.



We are naturally very excited at the prospect of a 'grand opening' of the facility later in the year, meanwhile we have set a date for our Annual General Meeting which will be held in the Church Centre on Saturday, 15th November, starting at 2.30pm, to which all are invited and refreshments will of course be provided.

Lynn Wilson

Beetle Drive in aid of FSW

Sunday 5th October 2025
3.45pm to 6pm

St Richard's Church
Sydney Road, Haywards Heath

Adults £5 (under 12s £3)
Booking essential. Phone Helen Thomas on
07976031579

NEWS FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE (CMS)

Dear friends,

It has been so hot since I arrived back in Musoma (which is not surprising as we are only two degrees south of the equator). I have struggled with the heat and the humidity, and it is particularly difficult at night-time, as it is often more than 30 degrees Celsius in my room. A simple standing fan, working overtime but not particularly effectively, has resulted in sleeplessness or at best sleeping fitfully and not restfully. I investigated getting aircon and established that an aircon unit cost about £250 and I would need three for my home, but could start with one at least in my bedroom.



With that knowledge fresh in my mind, I went to visit my good friend Maria (name changed for privacy reasons) because she hadn't been feeling great and had been to the hospital the previous day. Maria told me the doctor had identified a tumour in her stomach which needed to be removed surgically. She told me that she was in pain, but realistically she would have to wait until they were able to afford the operation. I asked how much the surgery would cost, and the answer was £250. Suddenly everything was crystal clear and my aircon seemed like a frivolous and extravagant extra. This was an undeniably clear message from God. I immediately agreed to pay for her surgery, how could I not?

Post surgery, the Rehema team went to visit Maria as she was convalescing at home. We sang and danced and praised God together, it was a very joyous time. The biopsy unfortunately revealed that Maria has uterine cancer, her worst fear come true. She has been referred to a specialist cancer hospital more than 1,000km away from home for immediate chemo and radiotherapy treatment. This treatment is extremely expensive, and we thank God that friends and acquaintances have dug deep, and that her husband's employers are running an appeal in the UK to cover the cost of the treatment. Maria has thus far had 14 sessions of radiotherapy and four of chemotherapy.

Some of you will remember that in 2019 Bishop George asked me to take over the running of the Anglican hostel (next door to Rehema), which incorporates a restaurant, accommodation and a hall for rent. By the time I had returned to Tanzania post-COVID some 18 months later, the idea had fizzled out somewhat and the diocese decided instead to let the premises out privately. A decision I was not unhappy with as I felt Rehema was enough of a responsibility.

Then in March 2025, the tenants ended their lease with only a few days' notice. Without a plan or budget for this expansion, and with no clear understanding of potential income or costs, at the behest of the bishop we took on this responsibility and unexpectedly became tenants of the Anglican hostel. Though it might seem reckless, it has created additional work and longer shifts for the Rehema women.

The primary issue with the hostel is the lack of maintenance over an extended period. We identified key areas for immediate repair: 1) security in the kitchen 2) broken sheet metal roofing and water-damaged ceiling boards, 3) door locks, 4) various plumbing issues, and 5) damp in walls. The hostel is also in dire need of a facelift and our next project is to paint it inside and out.

I really thought that news of the hostel would have been the biggest news of this link letter as the venture has consumed my waking hours since we took over, but this news has been completely eclipsed by something rather more exciting and spectacular.



The diocese recently commissioned us to cook at a special fundraiser they were holding in Bunda (about an hour away from Musoma) to raise funds to rebuild and massively extend St Peter's church. Great excitement – the official guest was to be the former president of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete. Our remit was specifically to cook for this extremely special guest and his entourage, and other senior government/church officials. We had to take all our cooking appliances, utensils, serving dishes, crockery and cutlery to Bunda – it was a massive undertaking.

Former presidents require as much security detail and paraphernalia as a sitting president, and consequently things became a lot more complicated and expensive. The government refused to allow the event to take place in the church as it wasn't big or safe enough, and the plan to cook for the guests at the diocesan girls' school was quickly dismissed. The whole event had to shift to the government teacher training college. We rose to the challenge and cooked a huge variety of different dishes for 130 guests – under the watchful eyes of three security personnel who monitored our every move – and we delivered great food on time. We feel so privileged to have



been given the honour and huge responsibility of cooking for the former president of Tanzania and his fellow dignitaries. Some of the team got to meet the president face to face and were delighted to hear that he thought the food was excellent and very delicious. We have the JK stamp of approval. **Heather Johnstone**

Lindfield Repair Café

Saturday 4th October, 10am-1pm

United Reform Church, High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HL

The "Fill Good Van" will be parked nearby, so if you bring your empty containers you can stock up on store cupboard essentials. Check out the website www.fillgoodstore.co.uk to see what's available.

Also at the Repair Café that day there will be a Waste Prevention Information Stand.

Forest Row Repair Café

Saturday 18th October

10am – 1pm

At the Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

East Grinstead repair café

Saturday 11th October

10am – 1pm

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

PRISONS WEEK 12th-18th October
BIBLE SUNDAY 26th October

"In prisons in England and Wales, prisoners are coming to faith in Jesus", according to the Bible Society.

In a recent report Claire Smith writes "If you walked through the grey, featureless corridors of HMP Stocken, the sound of worship would meet you long before you arrived at the chapel. Deep, powerful and heartfelt, the voices of 60 men sing "How great is our God" – and the music echoes around the prison walls.



In the chapel itself, every seat is taken. Prison chaplain, Rev Tim Wright, opens God's word and waits while everyone picks up their Bible and finds the right page. "Follow along, because God has something to say to you," Rev Tim tells the prisoners, and you can hear a pin drop as he begins to speak.

This is the extraordinary picture of faith behind bars. In prisons right across England and Wales, chaplains say the Lord is at work and lives are being changed.

"There's a real hunger and thirst from the men," says Rev Tim. "I'm having to put men on the waiting list for Bible study groups!"

The Bible Society provided more than 6,500 bibles to 122 prisons last year but demand still outstrips supply.

"Prisoners are drowning, spiritually and morally," says Rev Tim. "The waves are high and their heads are going under. But the Bible gives guidance, purpose and direction."

(taken from Word in Action by the Bible Society)

NEWS FROM SAMARA'S AID



NEONATAL CARE - INCUBATORS

Recently our team treated a baby whose parents were told by the staff in the public hospital that there was no hope and that he was going to die. He was jaundiced and his bilirubin level had increased too quickly in too short a period of time, signalling a significant risk of brain damage. The staff there advised his parents to bring their baby to our centre where they could receive treatment even though they are very poor. Our team gave the baby the care and treatment needed including new blood tests and phototherapy at a more intense rate in our phototherapy capsule. With the right, quick treatment, they were able to treat the baby boy and discharge him alive and well.

We treat lots of neonates in respiratory distress, many with jaundice and also haemolytic disease of the newborn - when there is a mismatch between the mother's and baby's blood group - which can be fatal if not treated properly.

Saturdays and Sundays see our highest patient numbers. We have four incubators, one of which is specifically for phototherapy and delivers it more effectively than others in the city. We usually have 2-3 babies in our incubators at any one time and our little neonatal unit has been earning a good reputation in the city. The infection control in the public hospitals is now so poor through lack of resources and antiseptics that babies end up with significant infections when they need care in an incubator. In these instances

we see an increase of neonates coming to our centre. There have been a number of occasions recently that we have had to turn sick babies away as all our incubators were occupied and we had nowhere to admit any new babies coming in. This is heartbreaking!

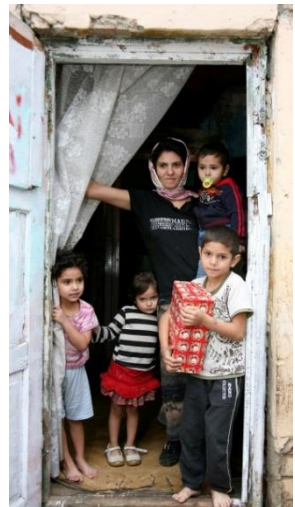
We want to be able to welcome every sick baby and poor family who come to us for help, as for many we are their only hope so we have made a decision to buy another four incubators. Our incubators are the best in the city, and we thank God for enabling us to provide this care for these precious little babies, as well as the kindness of everyone who has donated to make this possible.

It is one of the toughest and most dangerous places in the world to work, but we believe with all our hearts that this is why God has placed us there - to serve and love his precious children who are in dire need there. It is tough for our teams, but we are not quitters. We will see through this vital work we have started there.

Samara Levy

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOXES

This is the month for us to prepare shoeboxes for Link to Hope to distribute at Christmas! If you are able to make up a box for a family or an elderly person and need the form/list of contents please let me know. Alternatively you can download the form and find helpful information on the website www.linktohope.co.uk Boxes need to reach me by the end of October, if possible, so that I can deliver them to the collection centre in this area by 7th November. I have a few spare shoeboxes, if anyone needs one.
(Sue Laker -Tel. 892117)



Link to Hope can also use unwanted **old/foreign coins and notes**. If you have any lurking somewhere at home please let Sue have them by the end of October and they will be taken to our local Shoebox collection point together with the shoeboxes. Funds raised this way all help to cover the cost of transporting the shoeboxes.

Pilgrimage Walk No. 6

Surprisingly, it being the August Bank Holiday, the group were blessed with yet another very warm and sunny day as they started from Washington on stage 6 of the Ardingly to Chichester pilgrimage. Visiting Washington's parish church all were struck by the similarity of the design of the east window with that at St. Peter's.



After making use of the smart facilities incorporated into the north aisle but regrettably not having the time to visit the gardens open that day under the NGS, the group headed off, crossing high above the A24

by means of a footbridge. The farmland gradually gave way to more wooded areas as the incline increased before we arrived on the top of the Downs. As on previous walks the views were superb, northwards to the Surrey Hills and south, out to sea with the Rampion windfarm clearly visible.


An early lunch break was taken perched on a mossy mound in one of the few shady areas before continuing along the ridge following the South Downs Way. Descending into the Arun valley it was good to meet up with those who were joining the group for the second part of this walk. A very welcome cold drink sitting in the shady garden of the Bridge Inn at Houghton revived everyone before tackling the final few miles.

Avoiding the narrow road bridge, a more pleasant route followed alongside the River Arun before crossing it and starting the climb. Heat reflecting off the chalk paths made it seem even hotter and the thought of refreshments at the Whiteways café was an encouragement to all. So it was with sinking hearts that it became obvious that it was closed, and even more worryingly, there were only two cars remaining in the car park, which had a locked barrier across the exit! Who closes a car park at 4pm on a Bank Holiday?!



This pilgrimage group was certainly being looked after. Seeing us toiling up the last stretch of hillside the leather clad motorcyclist gate keeper had waited to unlock the gates! What a hero! What a relief. Thanking him profusely we departed quickly and reunited individuals with vehicles left at starting point to make the journey home.

Email: debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com
 Tel: 01444 893289



ARDINGLY
College
World Ready

Bridging Ages Cafe

Where: Lower Library
(Visitor Car Park)


When: Every Friday
1:30pm - 2:30pm

IT Support
Board Games
Conversations
Free Tea and Coffee

- Friday 12th September
- Friday 19th September
- Friday 26th September
- Friday 3rd October
- Friday 10th October – **Music Recital**
- Friday 17th October

A place to bridge the ages, where young & not so young can chat, play a game of Scrabble or Chess, have some basic IT support or enjoy a short music recital over a cup of tea & biscuits.

This is offered as a volunteering opportunity for our students on a termly basis.



ARDINGLY CONNECTED TOGETHER

Village Day already feels an age away and we're already thinking about Harvest, Bonfire Night and then, the next thing you know, it's Christmas!!

As you doubtless already know, a continuing part of the work of Ardingly Connected Together (ACT) takes place with our food distribution to those who need a little help from time to time. We have been blessed in the last couple of weeks with donations of eating apples and boxes of bananas. That really helps when we come to make up the food bags which we deliver to families in the village. Of course, there are staples which every household needs and it is in this area where we are extremely grateful to St Peter's Church and St Peter's CofE School, both of whom have told us that their harvest donations will be made available to ACT for us to deliver. That is such a great help!

If you are planning to make donations to the Church Harvest festival or at the School's Harvest service, may we please ask the following (everything needs to be in date please):



- Tins of food (tomatoes, beans etc) are always useful and can be stored for a little while too;
- Things like tuna, ham, soup are great staples for meals;
- Tea, coffee, squash, long life milk are essentials we try to supply;
- Weetabix and other 'healthy-ish' breakfast cereals are good, as they make a handy breakfast for children;
- We also try to include soaps, shampoo and shower gel as well as staples like toilet rolls and kitchen rolls;
- Some treats are always welcome!
- No fresh food like meat, cheese etc please. It's always difficult to store and health and safety guidelines mean we can't distribute them.

It's a long list and not exhaustive at all. We are very grateful to everyone in the village who is already helping us in whatever way they do. Thank you!

Kathy James

NOT TOO SERIOUSLY.....

If you thought some things were obvious, below are some actual labels, found on consumer goods. (Someone probably got paid to write these!)



On Sears Hairdryer:
Do not use while sleeping

On a bag of crisps:
You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside

On a bar of soap:
Directions: use like regular soap

On some frozen dinners:
Serving suggestion: Defrost

On Children's Cough Medicine:
Do not drive or operate machinery

On a pack of peanuts:
Warning: contains nuts

On a string of Christmas lights:
For indoor and outdoor use only

On a famous Airline's packet of nuts:
Instructions: open packet, eat nuts

(seen in the Crawley/Horley "Streetwise" magazine)

There are only 2 things a young child will share freely: communicative diseases and Mum's age.



A clergyman bought a new car that sported an on-board computer. On Sunday morning he got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. Glancing at the screen, he chuckled at the announcement: "Time for service."

Pilgrimage Walk Leg 7

It had to happen! On Saturday September 13th, after completing six walks in beautiful sunny weather, the penultimate walk of the pilgrimage from St. Peter's, Ardingly to Chichester Cathedral started in torrential rain, with flooded roads being negotiated en route to the drop off point at Whiteways.

Amazingly, as we drew in the rain stopped and the sun came out. Five minutes into the walk and it was raining heavily again! Rain showers followed by warm sunshine proved to be the pattern for the day. One of the longer sections to have been covered, there was a greater variety of terrain to experience.

Leaving the shelter of the Houghton Forest we followed the South Downs Way along tracks that rose and fell over the gently rolling landscape. As the skies cleared the views were far reaching. Descending from the top of the Downs to cross the A285, lunch and a loo stop were taken at



Littleton Farm where friendly service provided hot drinks, food and welcome benches to take the weight off one's feet! Here the initial group of walkers were joined by three more.

The climb uphill from the valley got the legs working again and walking through fields of sunflowers was an unexpected delight. Further on, areas set-aside had wild flowers still blooming. From these open fields we then turned onto the West Sussex Literary Trail which led through the Hanger Forest. In what could have been very dark woodland, dappled sunlight illuminated the beech leaves and mossy fallen trunks.

Back out onto open fields and the trail eventually became a farm track leading into the village of Charlton. From here the final mile

followed a footpath across a field to St. Mary's Church at Singleton. Inside this ancient church it was interesting to discover crosses carved into the stonework made by pilgrims from much earlier centuries. We resisted the urge to make our mark in this way, signing the visitors' book instead!

An enjoyable, relaxing day of walking and chatting with fellow hikers was rounded off with an evening meal at the Partridge Inn at Singleton before heading home.

Grateful thanks to all those who have provided lifts. The walks would not be possible without your help.

NB The final 7 mile stage of the pilgrimage is on Saturday 11th October, walking from Singleton to Chichester.

GRASS helps to repair potholes!

What if our local verges could not only fight climate change, but also help repair roads?

WSCC are trialling a new approach called Greenprint with South Gloucestershire Council and other partner organisations, to turn grass clippings into 'biochar' - a carbon-rich material that can be used to fix potholes and trap carbon.

Grass cuttings are usually left to compost on the ground but that creates carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, the gasses that contribute to climate change. Collecting the cuttings reduces these greenhouse gas emissions and the grass regrows more slowly so more wildflowers that attract pollinating insects have a chance to grow. This captures more carbon in the soil and the collected cuttings can be processed to create useful products like biofuel and biochar.



Slower grass regrowth also reduces the number of times the grass needs to be cut each year. That in turn means the mowing machines need less maintenance and less fuel to power them.

(taken from the WSCC September newsletter)

Mike Veasey 18.4.1932 to 18.7.2025

written by his daughter Jane

Mike was born in Chelsea, London on 18th April 1932. He grew up in London, where his mother and father ran a sweet shop and dairy.

During the war years, Mike was initially evacuated to live with his grandmother in Fladbury, Worcestershire. He would later tell how he had to collect water from the communal well and recalled the large feather mattress on his grandmother's bed. Despite his fond memories of this time his father was not too impressed with the education he was receiving and so he returned home to be sent to boarding school. Mike would talk about the siren warnings along the Thames, the sound remaining with him all his life, he also recalled how a bomb fell in the middle of the road that they lived on and the narrow escape that they had that day.



In Mike's late teenage years and twenties, he was a scout leader, and an enthusiastic member of the local motorcycle club. Shortly after the war he went with his motorbike group on tour of Europe and saw the devastation in Germany at first hand. Mike met Margaret, his first wife, at a scout dance. On one of their early holidays they travelled on the motorbike to Cumbria, Margaret would later recall the discomfort of being a pillion passenger, Mike however would hear none of it.

Later, having learnt to drive, Mike taught Margaret, his sister Anne, his mother and his daughters Jane and Carol to drive, and remained a keen driver into his 90's.

Mike started work with Woodall Duckham in August 1948 with a salary of £104 per annum and no holiday for the first 12 months! Initially he was working in Victoria Street London but eventually transferred with the company when they relocated to Crawley in 1964. He worked for the company for 25 years at which point he was made redundant.

Relocation brought Mike to Ardingly in 1964 when he purchased 16 Munnion Road, which was a new build. This was one of the first houses in the road and over time the houses of Munnion Road and Price Way and then the extension to Munnion Road were built up.

Initially the building was completed by the builders EH Munnion, the proprietors living next door at 14. This was slow construction, unlike current construction sites, and the labourers became well known to the families who lived in the houses.

It was during Mike's time with Woodall Duckham that his love of the sea was truly ignited. He joined the company sailing club and would spend happy weekends on the south coast at Felpham where he would race dinghies with his colleagues and friends. One of the directors had a yacht which was based on the Solent and they would occasionally race the 'round the island' race or across to France. There was one cross channel race which was well reported at the time as Edward Heath (prime minister) was taking part. Edward Heath's return was reported on the news. Mike eventually returned home a couple of days later as they had 'been becalmed' on the French side of the channel!

Following his departure from Woodall Duckham Mike joined the Newhaven and Seaford sailing club and was later able to rekindle his love of larger sea going yachts, crewing for friends from Brighton Marina.

Following his redundancy, Mike soon found work with other engineering companies – initially Babcock Wilcox and then later Bechtel. It was his work with Bechtel that would take him travelling around the world. He would be working on long term projects and be away from home for significant periods of time. Mike had many tales to tell of his times abroad – fond memories of drinking in Ireland, meals in Germany, travelling out to the base in Kazakhstan in military helicopters that had seen better days. During his time in Saudi Arabia he was able to continue his love of sailing and won several prizes. He also very much enjoyed sailing in the warm seas of that region compared to the cold water of the English channel! Mike was posted to Kuwait between 1991-93 to help with the restoration of the oil fields following the invasion and subsequent war. This had a profound effect on him with the sights that he saw and the hard physicality of the job.

Mike always played an active (but background) role in village life, firmly believing in the value of community and friendship. He helped build bonfires for the PTA on what was waste land behind the rec. He convened Ardingly Village sailing club even before the reservoir was in existence! Mike's life was centred on Ardingly for 62 years, and lifelong friendships were formed.

(Continued overleaf)

Mike always played an active role in family life. He would never interfere but was always there with advice or help when it was requested. He was very proud of his grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Margaret died in 2002 and in 2018 Mike announced to his family that he was to marry Jill, with the words 'we won't wait long as we may not have long together'. Jill has enriched the last 7 years of his life through their sharing of love, their enjoyment of travel, the village, and its many activities.

Mike's life was full, varied, with the usual highs and lows he never let things defeat him, always had a 'can- do' attitude and refused to let his failing health reduce that enjoyment of life. Mike was taken ill whilst on holiday on the Rhine. The night before becoming unwell he and Jill were dancing and enjoying the surroundings. He was transferred to hospital the following morning saying that he 'didn't feel right'. He died on 18th July 2025 in Koblenz, Germany, 10 days later.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

WAKEHURST

Three years ago, restoration of the Mansion roof at Wakehurst began and the building was wrapped in scaffolding, largely hidden by a huge artwork installation called Planet Wakehurst. All that has gone now and the Mansion is once again open to visitors. New exhibitions are on display in the Billiard Room, the Chapel and the Library, tracing the history of Wakehurst through its topography, exploring the origins of the Millenium Seed Bank and offering opportunities to relax on a comfy sofa and read a book in the Library.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Once again, we would like the Carol Service at St Peter's Church (on 21st December) a truly village affair, and would like to invite any singers to join our choir for the occasion. We will mostly be leading the congregation in singing well known carols, but also singing one or two items on our own. Practices will be on Wednesday evenings beginning in November. If you're interested, please contact Jill Veasey or Lynn Wilson (07713 324610).



ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



So *WHAT* happened to summer? Where did it go? Goodness me but that time sped by! Fortunately, we were happy to come back to school in September, looking forward to seeing all our friends and going into new classes. For



some, of course, it's their first term at St Peter's and we are delighted to welcome them into our school family. At the other end of the school, we have a class looking towards moving on. There's still a very full year ahead before that comes around!

The year has started well and excitingly, we are now formally part of Bright Futures Federation, with St Giles school in Horsted Keynes. The schools will be working closely together to hopefully be even more efficient and effective, while retaining their individual ethos, values and nature. We are currently going through the process of appointing governors to the Federation's governing body. There will be two parent governors on the board and I urge you to consider standing for one of these positions. Please speak to me or to Ms Griffin in the school office for more details.

Already we have exciting plans for this term. We have our Harvest Festival, held at St Peter's church, at the beginning of October. As well as all the classroom learning that's going on, we have lots of sports like a football festival, clubs such as jam making club, visits and trips including an overnight residential. How will we fit it all in?!!

Kathy James

Johnny was due to start school. His mother energetically pumped up his enthusiasm, buying him new clothes, telling him about the new friends he'd meet, and so on.



The first day came and he eagerly set off and came back home with glowing reports about school.

The next morning she woke him up and told him it was time to get ready for school.

"What?" said Johnny. "Again?"

HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE AND STRIDE

On 13th September the day dawned with grey skies & heavy showers! It looked as if our "striding" around Chichester was going to be a soggy business! However, by the time we got there, and with tummies rumbling, and therefore having indulged in bangers and mash in a delightful little cafe, the skies had cleared and the rain had ceased, so we set forth without the need for umbrellas and we eventually found ourselves stripping off our jackets in the hot sunshine!

We started by visiting churches closest to the city centre. Sadly many churches were closed but the Friends Meeting House gave us a very warm welcome & lovely cup of tea! Now refreshed and with the sun shining we decided to brave the remote parts beyond the city wall & stride out to the university chapel & Graylingwell hospital chapel which was very interesting. The Graylingwell hospital was built in the 1890's as an asylum and also cared for some 29 thousand soldiers during the Great War. The chapel is all that remains & has been tastefully restored and is now a cafe and community venue. Many interesting photos and details of its history were displayed. We can recommend a visit should you find yourself in Chichester anytime!

Making our way back to the centre we were treated to a look inside the Providence chapel. Opportunely a lady was just re-entering the premises, having hoovered the church and mislaid her car keys! A few minutes later we would have missed her! A delightful little chapel built 1809 & now an independent Bible believing reformed Baptist church. Our host said she was being baptised the following day & as there was no baptistry & as she was a midwife, she was supplying the pool! She had no idea what the "orange sign in" sheet was, attached to the gates so we were able to enlighten her!



St John's Church

'preaching house', now a popular concert and musical events venue

where Judith climbed the triple decker (very high!) pulpit but no sermon came forth!

We chose Chichester as it is flat & we are no longer young & spritely! We accomplished 17 churches, very much enjoyed our day and raised approximately £570. We are very grateful to all our sponsors & hope we were worthy of their support!

Adele & Judith



Bishop Otter university chapel



Judith at St John's Church



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the Winter season"

Parish Register

There are no entries in the Parish Register this month



*God our Creator,
As we celebrate our plenty
And give thanks for our food,
We praise you for all you have done and
for all you have given.
For your love which made the world
And for the fruits of the earth in their seasons.
We pray for those who do not have a harvest
And those who labour
And do not receive a just reward.
May we all respect and cherish this planet
And all who live on it. Amen*



Flower Rota

Friday 3rd October – All flower arrangers please (Harvest)

Friday 17th October – All flower arrangers
please

31st October – Pat and Sheila

Meeting Point Rota

October 13th : Adele, Diana and Sue

October 27th : Belinda, Alison and Dilys

Brass Rota

25th October: Adele and Judith



General Information

ANGELS & URCHINS: At St Peter's Centre on Thursdays, 9-11.00 during term time. Contact 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: 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

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 Sue Laker (892117).

PRAYER DIARY for OCTOBER 2025

"Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him all you peoples. For great is his love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord" (Psalm 116)



- 1 John and Sally and the Crutchley family
- 2 Pray for peace wherever there is conflict
- 3 All who have recently suffered storms and flooding
- 4 Young people and the many modern day pressures on them
- 5 Our Harvest service and lunch today
- 6 Farmers, struggling to make ends meet and coping with the effects of Climate Change
- 7 Our village schools, their staff, children and governors
- 8 Milan and Shusma and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
- 9 Cross Channel migrants and all refugees around the world
- 10 World Mental Health Day. Pray for all who suffer in this way
- 11 Our local hospices and all who provide support for the terminally ill
- 12 Our services today. Give thanks for God's grace and mercy
- 13 Meeting Point and all who help and attend
- 14 Our Prime Minister, his government and all MP's
- 15 Bambi & Andreas and their ministry in S.E. Asia
- 16 This is Prison's Week. Pray for all inmates and prison workers
- 17 World leaders: may they use their positions for good
- 18 All clergy. The appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury
- 19 Our services today. May God's love & power be experienced afresh
- 20 Praise God for creation and the beauty of the seasons
- 21 All who are housebound and those who care for them
- 22 Heather Johnstone: the Rehema ladies' café and craft projects
- 23 Air Ambulance and all who rescue people in trouble
- 24 The situation in Syria and the work of Samara's Aid
- 25 The Police Force and all who work in the Judiciary
- 26 Our services today, Bible Sunday. Give thanks for God's written word
- 27 Race relations in this country
- 28 All who have no home or food. Those who help these people
- 29 CPAS, training clergy and evangelists and supporting parishes
- 30 The NHS, its staff and work
- 31 Praise God that he knows us and loves us personally

Deadline for copy for the November magazine is
Friday 17th October 2025