

# *St. Peter's Ardingly*

## **Parish Magazine**



## **February 2026**



## **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	373091
Safeguarding Coordinator	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Church Centre Manager	Jill Veasey	373091
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 4pm for private prayer**

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

## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



The truth is, of course, that we all too easily miss the point about Lent. Each year as Ash Wednesday comes along many of us proudly declare what we're going to be giving up this year, what pleasure we're going to deny ourselves and what treat we intend to forgo for the next few weeks. But Lent isn't about denial; it is actually about transformation.

Because Lent is the season in which we make ready to encounter Christ's sacrifice by preparing ourselves to become more like him and by journeying with him again to Golgotha, to the cross. When we think about it in this way transformation is more about taking something on than letting something go. It is about allowing ourselves to be filled with God's presence so that we can be shaped by God's extravagant, abundant, and quite overwhelming grace and so reborn to live more fully as a citizen of the Kingdom, just as God wants. The question is, does giving something up really help in this? Does giving up that cup of coffee actually make us a better follower of Christ, or does it make us tetchy? Does avoiding that square of chocolate help us to build greater community in the body of Christ, or does it make us depressed and withdrawn? There's a danger that in giving something up we don't empty ourselves in order to let God in, we simply fill ourselves with more of us!

Lent should be a time to learn how to become more fully the people that God wants us to be. It has always been about discipline, so wouldn't it be better to try to become more disciplined in our personal prayer life? Taking time to pray every day and so to talk to God. Listening also to all that he may want to tell us in reply. Or trying to love others better.

The Bible calls upon us not only to love those who love us, but to love all our neighbours and to love our enemies too – and to pray for them as well. On a very practical note, Lent is a time to be more disciplined when it comes to eating ethically and shopping fairly. In each of these, as in other ways, the outcome will be that we are not only transformed, but by the end of Lent we will see that we have actually managed to eliminate several things from our lives without which we are much better off.

Perhaps the question that we need to be asking this Lent is not, “what shall I give up?” but instead, “what shall I start so as to allow God to transform me?” This may just help us to change our understanding and observation of Lent. But it will certainly allow God to work on us from the inside out.

Yours in His service



## **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 20<sup>th</sup> March so that she knows how many flowers to order. A donation of between £5 and £20 will enable us to make the church look lovely.



Many thanks.

## Services in February 2026

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February      The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**    1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25; John 2: 1 - 11

10.30am

1 Corinthians 1: 18 - 25; John 2: 1 - 11

**Morning Praise**

5.00pm

**Open to God**

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

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February      The Second Sunday before Lent**

9.00am

Romans 8: 18 - 25; Matthew 6: 25 - 34

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Romans 8: 18 - 25; Matthew 6: 25 - 34

**Holy Communion [CW]**

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February      The Sunday next before Lent**

9.00am

2 Peter 1: 16 - 21; Matthew 17: 1 - 9

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

2 Peter 1: 16 - 21; Matthew 17: 1 - 9

**Morning Praise**

### **Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday**

10.30am - **A service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes to mark the beginning of Lent**

*...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*

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February      The First Sunday of Lent**

9.00am

Romans 5: 12 - 19; Matthew 4: 1 - 11

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

10.30am

Romans 5: 12 - 19; Matthew 4: 1 - 1

**Holy Communion [CW]**

**With prayer for healing and wholeness**

*Our main service each Sunday (10.30 a.m.) is live streamed via zoom, so if you are unable to get to church and would like to join us on zoom and you do not currently receive the link each week, please let us know and we'll add you to the circulation list.*

*To receive the weekly 'Newslink' email please contact  
[emails4sue@gmail.com](mailto:emails4sue@gmail.com)*

### **MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2026**

Firstly a big 'thank you' to the many people who have already paid their 2026 subscriptions. If you have not yet paid and would like to receive the magazine throughout 2026 could you please put your subscription in an envelope with your name and address on it, and drop it in to Sue Laker, 19 Ardings Close, as soon as possible.



The minimum subscription for magazines which are delivered in Ardingly is held at £3. This is only possible because many of you so kindly round up the amount to £5 ! Postal subscriptions for 2026 will be £15.00. Cheques should be made payable to 'St

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

# **NOTICES FOR FEBRUARY**

## **Meeting Point Coffee Mornings**

The Meeting Point Coffee Morning will take place in Hapstead Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 10.15 to 11.30. All are welcome.



## **Cuckfield Deanery Morning 2026 - ART and PRAYER**

**Speaker: The Revd Charles Pickstone**

Saturday 7th February 2026 10am to 1pm at The Ascension Church, Vale Road, Haywards Heath RH16 4JS

## **VILLAGE LUNCH**

The Village Lunch will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February in Hapstead Hall. Tickets are £8 and will be available from the Village Shop.

## **Ardingly History Society**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February

7.45pm in Hapstead Hall

Mary Rudling: "Children and the Poor Laws"

## **The Hapstead Jam Tarts WI**

18<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 a.m. in Hapstead Hall

Please contact Fiona for details : 07513411893 or email

[hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwj.co.uk](mailto:hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwj.co.uk)

## **Ardingly Evening WI**

19<sup>th</sup> February

7.30pm in Hapstead Hall

Sarah Nathaniel speaking on

"The Commonwealth War Graves"

## **Ardingly Film night: "Song Sung Blue"**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February in Hapstead Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30.

Tickets from the village shop

## THANK YOU ....

**Thank you** to Ardingly Connected Together for once again brightening up Christmas for the single Seniors in the village with an Amaryliss bulb! Also to the Primary School children for their cheery Christmas cards. These were much appreciated.

**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 £27.35 for Church funds. Please do keep putting your old cartridges in the tub at the back of church.



### 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 in donations was £100.00 and this has been given to the homeless charity Off the Fence. Jill Veasey

A big '**Thank you**' to the choir for all their hard work, and to Simon who played the organ on 21<sup>st</sup> 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  
*[Thank you also to Jill for organising the choir and music]*



A big **Thank you** to Pam Newnham for once again making lots of new large candles for the Carols by Candlelight service on 21<sup>st</sup> December. And thank you to Belinda and all her helpers who helped to decorate the church for that occasion. The Christmas tree, donated by Goddenwick Farm, was also much appreciated and enjoyed. Thank you to them.



**Thank you** to everyone who supported the church stall at the Christmas Fair. We raised £200 for church funds.



### **Meeting Point Christmas Party in December:**



## NEWS FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE (CMS)

*(This was received in early December)*

Dear friends,

Two praiseworthy stories from Rehema:

Two young girls, Mariam (9) and Christina (8) always come and visit me at Rehema when their grandmother is attending choir practice at the cathedral (next door). It's very exciting and they chatter away, draw pictures and "hang out". Their mother died a few years ago and their father abandoned them, leaving their grandmother to fend for them. During one of their visits, our cook, Mode, asked me if Mariam was sick. I told her that I didn't know but didn't think so. Mode later asked the same question to their grandmother, as just by looking at her she suspected the girl either had sickle cell anaemia or HIV/AIDS. The grandmother confirmed that Mariam did indeed have sickle cell anaemia but confessed that she hadn't taken her for her monthly check up for several months because she had no money for transport to get to the hospital, never mind the treatment or prescribed medicine. The monthly cost is about TSH 40,000 (£13). We told her we would be more than happy to support her with these costs through our Assistance Programme as it is so important for Mariam and her future. She was so relieved and grateful.



Someone you will have heard me mention before is Kenneth, who was named after my late father. Kenneth broke his arm in November last year. The treatment he received was very poor and the arm never healed properly. I saw him some months ago and noticed he was protecting his left arm and doing everything with the good arm. His mother told me the bone had never set properly, and he was favouring his right arm as it was painful to use the left one. I told her if he continued to use only the right arm that would create future problems due to muscle wastage etc. The problem could not be ignored, and I thought medical intervention was needed. She consulted a specialist doctor at the government hospital and corrective surgery was recommended. We give thanks for the generous donations received to cover the cost of Kenneth's surgery and after-care. Praise God the 2 and a half hour operation was a success.

Following on from the huge challenge and responsibility of cooking for the former president of Tanzania and his fellow dignitaries, we have been expanding our catering services. Not that long ago we provided breakfast, lunch and dinner for a group of ordinands for one week, and for 320 people including special guests Jono Vink and Tim Swan from Australia at the ordination service on the Sunday. More recently we catered for 205 people at ACT Mara Pre & Primary School's graduation service. The team did brilliantly and the parents attending the service declared that it was the best buffets they'd ever had. Many of them were so impressed they asked for our business cards, so hopefully that will lead to more catering assignments.

It was the first time we'd seen Jono since he and the family left their service as missionaries in the Diocese of Mara in June 2016. There was a time for sadness as he remembered his beloved wife, Amy, who passed away earlier in the year. But also a time for great joy as he celebrated everything they had achieved as co-founders of Rehema. There was a time for prayer and thanksgiving as we celebrated all they had achieved in Mara.



We were also privileged to have my brother Craig visit with his partner, Tracy. Craig has wanted to visit for some time but didn't simply want to fly in and out and visit for a week or two. He wanted an authentic overland African adventure. He and Tracy drove 9,000km from Cape Town in South Africa to Musoma, Mara, to visit me and see the Rehema

Project first-hand. We went to visit the children at the nursery school at Nyambeshi, which was very joyous. All the children were treated to an ice lolly, as Craig has a fridge/ freezer in his SUV. As there is no electricity in Nyambeshi, this was a very rare and well-received treat indeed.

While in Nyambeshi we also went to visit the granddaughter of Cesi, who is named Xandra after our late mother. We shared a meal of rice and beans and got to know the lovely "Xandu" who, coincidentally, seems to have the same gentle temperament as our dear departed mum.

The Rehema women pulled all the stops out and held a special celebration to honour these extremely honoured guests. Craig and Tracy were blown away by the generosity of the women and the fantastic hospitality they received. Theirs really was the Africa trip of a lifetime; they took 3 months, visited 10 countries and put 22,000 km on the clock, but their highlight was the time spent in Musoma. They are still talking about their amazing visit to Mara.

A big thank you to my friends and supporters, for your encouragement, financial and prayerful support, and love throughout the year 2025. I wish you peace, goodwill and happiness at Christmas, and always.

Heather

---



*Henry is making a real effort for Lent – he's giving up the remote control and walking to the TV*

## ARDINGLY OLD JESHWANG ASSOCIATION



In addition to the day-to-day running of the Clinic, our Administrator, Cherno Jaddeh has continued to run regular Outreach initiatives, this time over three weekend dates last December, where, at various sites within the wider community, people were encouraged to come, be tested and receive advice on possible treatment or health and lifestyle recommendations.

Cherno reports- "In total, 710 community members benefited from these outreach activities"

This remarkable achievement reflects the Clinic's commitment to be proactive in compassion for the community, and dedication to improving access to quality healthcare for all.

Lynn Wilson

***God works in us and with us, not against us or without us. (John Owen)***



## NEWS FROM NEPAL

**Family:** We praise God for our family as we have been enjoying our lives in Nepal. Our girls are growing in age, in education and also in God. Our eldest daughter has finished her BSc Degree in Computers and is now looking to study further in a Masters Degree. The other 2 girls are in Grade 8 and grade 4.

**Church and Training:** As a Church we now have 21 Aanandit Churches throughout Nepal. We hope to have 40 by AD 2033. In October we had a one month Pastors and Leaders Training in Kathmandu, where 13 participants completed the Training. In November we had a 3 day Annual Conference for Aanandit Pastors and Leaders where 52 pastors and leaders had some blessed teaching from the life of Joseph. We have regular monthly programs for children, young people, men and women.



### **Mission and Charity Work:**

On the Mission side, A group led by Pastor Nar went to Western Nepal, reaching out to 8 districts with the Gospel for a week. In December we had a number of programs to witness to Jesus' Love to the community through gifts and the Gospel. Shusma and the team travelled to different schools in Sindhu and Lalitpur. We sang Carols in half a dozen places and we are proud to say that God has enabled us to reach out and to help many needy people. We are continuing supporting children, single mothers and the poor in the community by all means.

**Aanandit Mission Fund:** As the Churches grow we are in need of buildings. For this either we lease a piece of land and build on it or pay a high rent. Hence, the Church Committee has decided to set up

a Mission Fund in the Micro business model. But not to charge any interest from where the Aanandit churches can borrow a limited amount for Church Needs. They can pay back to the fund monthly in instalments or in 2 years. It will take the burden off the Pastors and Leaders when money is needed for Church urgent needs for mission or rent etc.

**Nation:** After the Zen Z protest the new Government was formed 3 months ago and they have called a special election in March. There is a lot of uncertainty at the moment so we need to pray more for our nation. We would value your prayers for this.

Love, Milan, Shusma and the girls

~~~~~

## **REPAIR CAFÉ DATES**

### **LINDFIELD**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February

10am – 1.00pm

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

**REPAIR CAFE**

### **FOREST ROW - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

10am – 1.00pm

The Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

### **EAST GRINSTEAD – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

10am – 1.00pm

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

### **THANK YOU FROM MARGARET DALE**

Margaret Dale would like to thank everyone for their Christmas cards and New Year messages. She sends her love to everyone.

## **NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK AND LUNCH**

If one's New Year Resolution was to exercise more, then the traditional New Year's Day Walk, organised by George Ruse, was a great start! A group of hardy souls met at the Church Centre and duly proceeded by motorcade to Cuckfield where, as last year, we walked through the streets and twittens around the cheaper areas (there aren't any!) eventually arriving at the church. Last year it was open and we were treated to an impromptu organ recital. This year as, disappointingly, it was closed, we circled back to our cars.



Arriving back to the Centre somewhat earlier than planned, after a welcome hot drink, the keener of us set off for an extended walk around the showground. Resolution number one – tick.



On the other hand, if a resolution was to eat less, then this was not a wise choice as we were treated to an excellent, two-course hot meal, washed down with wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee! Around 30 of us enjoyed the superb lunch, thanks to Deb, Jill and Margaret, hosted by George, and left the Centre feeling that we had started 2026 in the way we would like it to continue, surrounded by good friends in a welcoming community.



While no charge was made, generous donations were given resulting in a total of £222 which was then donated equally between the Imara-Uganda Education Fund and the Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association. Belinda and I would like to express our sincere thanks to the organisers and donors for your support to these local charities which are having so much beneficial impact on less fortunate communities.

Lynn Wilson



## **ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL**

We hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to all that 2026 has to bring.

We are pleased to begin the year with some exciting news. Thanks to the efforts of the Hapstead Garden Working Party, led by Sarah Chapman and Councillor Chris Hotblack, the Parish Council has secured a £20,000 National Lottery grant. Work will now begin on developing a detailed project plan and appointing contractors, with the aim of rejuvenating the centre of the village.

In response to feedback from residents, a new bench has been received and will soon be installed by the bus stop. Our thanks go to The Jobfather for his continued support of the Parish Council across our varied projects and maintenance needs.

We were also pleased to support St Peter's Pre-school by providing temporary accommodation in the Community Pavilion during recent heating issues at the Church Centre, ensuring childcare could continue uninterrupted. We would like to remind residents that the Pre-school also runs a breakfast club and after-school club for all St Peter's Primary School children. The cost is £5, including food, and children are safely walked to school by pre-school and school staff.

For further information or a registration form, please contact Clare on 07969 890907 or [clare@st-peters-preschool-ardingly.org](mailto:clare@st-peters-preschool-ardingly.org)

Following recent rainfall, Ardingly Reservoir is 86.3% full (as of 11 January 2026). This will allow plans to link Weir Wood Reservoir and Ardingly Reservoir to progress at a more measured pace, ensuring the most appropriate long-term solution is considered.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Jane Thomson, who joins us from East Grinstead on 1st February as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Please do drop in to meet her at her first surgery on 11th February from 2–4pm, in the Hapstead Hall Reading Room. And if you would like to become more involved in parish matters, let Jane or any councillor know and we would be delighted to find a project for you.

A new year full of promise — we wish everyone the very best for the year ahead!

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

---

## **WSCC Climate Change awards**

West Sussex County Council were proud to support Carbon Literacy Action Day in November. It's a worldwide initiative focused on building knowledge and inspiring practical action to tackle climate change. The day coincided with COP30 when global leaders met in Belém, Brazil to shape climate policy.

County council staff members took part in in-house training to become Carbon Literate certified, joining a growing network of over 750 colleagues who have already been accredited and are contributing to reducing emissions across all council services.

This collective effort has already earned the county council 'Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation' status, and the council is aiming for 'Silver' accreditation soon. The Highways, Planning and Transport team has led the way by achieving 'Silver' accreditation, with 35% of its staff now certified Carbon Literate.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing West Sussex.

## ST PETER'S C.E. SCHOOL



The season of Advent leading into Christmas was VERY exciting! We made decorations, sang Christmas Carols, had a lovely service at church, put on a fantastic nativity....oh, and did lots of learning too! Some of our pupils even paid a visit to Meeting Point and had a chat with village residents there. And then it was the Christmas holidays.

Of course, it is always exciting having a break that includes Christmas but then, it is exciting too to go back to school to see the staff and our friends. We need to talk about what we did in the holidays, what Christmas presents we received...oh, and what we are going to learn this term! Already Greenfinch class has been on an exciting winter walk, looking for insects, leaves and all sorts of wintry things.

Our sporting prowess as a school continues to be at the forefront and music remains high on our agenda – Rock Steady or Guitar, anyone? With lots of visits and visitors planned for each class, and plenty of interesting work to do in our classrooms, the only thing that is a little bit questionable at the moment is the weather. So far, Ardingly has had very little snow (but we are still hoping!!)



## ARDINGLY CONNECTED TOGETHER



The Christmas periods are busy ones for Ardingly Connected Together and Christmas 2025 was no different. Of course we maintained the food deliveries that ACT has done for some considerable time now. Where families in the village let us know that they need a little support, we do what we can to help. Again, this Christmas we were helped by Ardingly College and together, we were able to deliver not only the normal food and home staples but also a present for every child and some special Christmas treats for the families.

We decided to run our Reverse Advent activity again, which proved to be very successful. People were asked to donate specific, identified, non-perishable items throughout most of December and then bring them to ACT just before Christmas. The generosity of those involved was amazing and meant that we were able to deliver provisions to families in need early in 2026. Thank you to everyone who participated.



ACT was able to spread some Christmas joy too, by delivering a present of a plant to older residents living on their own. The first 'Ardingly Christmas Together' event was held in Hapstead Hall on 20 December. With free food (hot dogs with onions and LOTS of cakes), soft drinks and access to the Legion for alternative drinks, a good time was had by all! The grand prizes for the best decorated house in the village and the best Christmas jumper were awarded to great acclaim.

Who will win next time, I wonder?

Ardingly Connected Together continues to offer support where we are able. If you or someone you know need some support, please contact us and we will do what we can ([kathrynjames7@sky.com](mailto:kathrynjames7@sky.com)).

We are also planning for more events in 2026 – any ideas? Want to help? Please contact us. In the pipeline already is a visit from Citizens Advice Bureau, coming to talk to us about money matters and stretching it, dealing with benefits, coping in difficult monetary times – watch this space for the date!!!



## **AROUND THE VILLAGE**

### **BIN COLLECTIONS**

A reader asked recently if bin collection dates could be included in the magazine. Having looked into this, it seems that the Council are emptying bins on different days in different parts of the village, so I'm afraid I won't be able to help – it could create even more confusion. People can check online, using their postcode, to be sure which bins to put out each week:

[www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/bin-collection/](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/bin-collection/)

### **REV SIMON ALLABY**

Many will remember Simon, who was our Rector in the 1990's. After 15 years at Bolney Village Chapel, Simon has left Sussex and moved to Devon, having been appointed House Team Leader at Lee Abbey. He will continue to spend a few hours each week writing, and has two new books in the pipeline. He will also continue teaching in Lahore via zoom. Joel and Mim are settling into new jobs and Mim is moving to London after two years in Oxford.

### **TELEPHONE OUTAGES**

These mysteriously stopped as suddenly as they began! I have never discovered what the problem was. [Sue]

## **RESERVOIR**

It's good to hear that after all the rain we've had recently the reservoir is now 86% full again. It might be 100% by the time you receive this magazine!

## **FILM NIGHTS**

More good news is that a new screen is up permanently in Hapstead Hall now! Thank you to all those who have worked to arrange this.

---

## **In Memoriam – David Smith**

We are sad to report the death of David Smith, who died on 1st December 2025, aged 76, and we extend our condolences to his wife Pam.

David was a much loved member of St. Peter's Church, having served us both as Churchwarden and Reader. A man of faithful prayer, he was a leading figure in the church prayer group and often at New Wine shared in the prayer ministry for those who came forward.

His Christian witness was evident in his career as a schoolmaster, first at Ampleforth College and latterly, as Head of Mathematics at Worth School. He had a wonderful ability to talk to anyone anywhere and make them feel special.

The later years of his life were overshadowed by Alzheimer's, but he never lost his sense of fun, his love of singing and, above all, his joy at spending time with his family - four children and 12 grandchildren.

A thanksgiving service was held on 9th January 2026 at St. Mark's Church, Kempshott, at which it was evident how deeply rooted in the Christian faith his family are. A fine legacy indeed.

John Witherington

## NOT TOO SERIOUS ....

Father: I finally won a battle in the never-ending war between parents and children.

Mother: That I'd like to see.

Father: Take a look.

Mother: Well, I never! That's our son out there, actually mowing the lawn! How in the world did you ever manage that?

Father: He wanted to borrow the car and I told him I'd lost the keys in the overgrown grass!



John was furious when his steak arrived too rare.

"Waiter," he shouted, "Didn't you hear me say 'well done'?"

"I can't thank you enough, sir," replied the waiter. "I hardly ever get a compliment."



A farmer in Rhode Island has just grown the largest pumpkin in North America, weighing over 2,200 pounds. The only downside is that the man's wife no longer thinks it's cute when he calls her "pumpkin."

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said.

"Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked.

"Oh no," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."

A vicar who had just undergone a very complicated operation kept complaining about a bump on his head and a terrible headache. Since his operation had been an intestinal one, the nurse was concerned. Finally, she spoke to the doctor about it. The doctor reassured her, saying: "Don't worry, he really does have a bump on his head. About halfway through the operation, we ran out of anaesthetic."



## FSW January Update

The start of the New Year brings a natural sense of renewal. Our practitioners begin re-engaging with families, reconnecting with schools and other professionals, and putting new plans in place to support families and help them find fresh ways to address the challenges they face.



Each year we are very grateful for the many children's books donated before Christmas. We hold on to most of these donations until February, when we start preparing for World Book Day in early March. Our practitioners are invited into the

office to choose books for the children they support, ensuring each child receives a book that feels personal, whether it's by a favourite author or on a topic they love. We also include a colouring book as an extra treat.

We will also soon begin planning for Mothering Sunday on 15th March. Each mum we support will receive a small gift, often made up of toiletries donated at Christmas.

On another note, our Share the Warmth This Winter Appeal has raised over £25,000 and counting! Thank you so much to everyone who has donated. The challenges faced by the families we support are often heightened during the winter months, placing additional strain on finances and health. This year, an estimated 65,300 households across Sussex are living in fuel poverty. We will continue to raise funds through this campaign until the end of March.

Hannah Rothwell  
Digital Communications and Fundraising at FSW

# *Parish Register*

The funeral of Norman Renshaw, of Red Oaks Care Home, Henfield, who died 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 aged 100 years, was held at St. Peter's Church on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

---

**Almighty Father, out of your glorious riches  
strengthen our hearts by your Holy Spirit.  
Grant us the power, with all your people,  
to appreciate how wide and long and high  
and deep is the love of Christ.  
Help us to know this love which surpasses  
knowledge and fill us  
with all the fullness of God.  
Amen.**

## **Flower Rota**

6<sup>th</sup> February : Pam & Jean  
17<sup>th</sup> February: Pat & Sheila  
(Foliage arrangements)

## **Meeting Point Rota**

9<sup>th</sup> February: Jill, Deb & George, Dilys  
23<sup>rd</sup> February: Adele, Diana & Kathy

## **Brass Cleaning Rota**

7<sup>th</sup> February: Adele Collins



*"Prayer moves the hand which moves the world."*

(Anon)

## General Information

**ANGELS & URCHINS:** At St Peter's Centre on Thursdays, 9-11.00 during term time. Contact Jill Veasey (373091) 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:** 2026 Annual Subscription £3.00. Can be delivered or posted (if posted the cost is £15.00 for the year). 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 (373091).

## PRAYER DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2026



*"Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27 v 14)*

- 1 Our services today and all clergy and bishops
- 2 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 3 Pray for peace wherever there is conflict
- 4 World Cancer Day: pray for all sufferers & that a cure may be found
- 5 Our Prime Minister and government and all in positions of authority
- 6 IMARA: Belinda, Kevin and the start of a new school term in Uganda
- 7 Ardingly Connected Together and the people they support
- 8 Our services today and all who lead worship
- 9 All who are grieving the loss of loved ones
- 10 Cross Channel migrants and attitudes towards them
- 11 The village schools – their pupils, staff and governors
- 12 Samara's Aid: protection and encouragement for the team and peace in Syria
- 13 The American Administration: the part it plays on the world scene
- 14 Give thanks for clean water, warmth and food; pray for those who lack these things
- 15 Our services today. Pray for Christians who are persecuted
- 16 Bambi & Andreas and their community of believers in S.E. Asia
- 17 Young people and the effects of social media on them
- 18 **Ash Wednesday.** May we grow in love and faith during Lent
- 19 Off the Fence and Open House; all who are homeless this winter
- 20 Heather Johnstone and the Rehema Project in Tanzania
- 21 The NHS and its staff, under such pressure
- 22 Our services today. Pray for all in need of healing and hope
- 23 AOJA and the work of the clinic in The Gambia
- 24 Our churchwardens, John and Nigel. All members of the PCC
- 25 Compton House and the team who lead worship there
- 26 Milan & Shusma and the Aanandit churches and charities in Nepal
- 27 Chaplains ministering in the Forces, hospitals, prisons and schools
- 28 Praise God for his grace and love

**Deadline for copy for the March magazine is**  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**