

# *St. Peter's Ardingly*

## **Parish Magazine**



## **March 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 John Witherington	892769 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,

It is quite a few years now since I sat down to think about the first of these 'Rector's Letters' - in fact, very nearly twenty years. And now it will soon be time for me to write my last because I have decided to retire on 30<sup>th</sup> June this year.



In those twenty years I have certainly known what one clergy colleague describes as 'the joys and challenges of ministry'. In truth there have been plenty of both, but above all it has been a huge pleasure to lead the church here in Ardingly, to have worked alongside so many wonderful people, and to have been involved in so much across the years.

There will be plenty of time for more reflection, but I wanted to share my plans now and as Lent begins. Because Lent is a time for greater reflection and for more prayer and so it is the perfect time for me to be praying about my future role among the ranks of retired clergy and for us to pray together as a church family as we begin to seek to discern the Lord's plans for the future.

Yours,

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

## Services in March 2026

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

### The Second Sunday of Lent

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13- 17; John 3: 1 - 17

10.30am

**Morning Praise**

Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13- 17; John 3: 1 - 17

5.00pm

Open to God

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

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

### The Third Sunday of Lent

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Romans 5: 1 - 11; John 4: 5 - 42

10.30am

**Holy Communion [CW]**

Romans 5: 1 - 11; John 4: 5 - 42

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

### Mothering Sunday (The Fourth Sunday of Lent)

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Ruth 4: 13 - 17; John 19: 25b - 27

10.30am

**Morning Praise**

Ruth 4: 13 - 17; John 19: 25b - 27

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

9.00am

**Morning Prayer [BCP]**

Romans 8: 6 - 11; John 11: 1 - 45

10.30am

**Holy Communion [CW]**

**With prayer for healing and wholeness**

Romans 8: 6 - 11; John 11: 1 - 45

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

**PALM SUNDAY**

9.00am

**Holy Communion [BCP]**

Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 21: 1 - 11

10.30am

**Morning Praise**

Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 21: 1 - 11

### **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.

### **CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES**

It is time once again for our annual collection of the boxes that you have in your homes in order for us to send off the money to the Children's Society. We would be grateful if you could bring your boxes to church during March, if this is convenient. We normally attend the 10.30 service, but if it is easier for you, we are happy to collect the boxes from you. If you would like us to arrange a suitable time to collect your box from you, please contact us by telephone (01444 415317) or email us. Thanks again for your generosity in supporting this worthy cause.



Jean and Tony Jeffery ([jeanandtonyjeffery@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanandtonyjeffery@hotmail.com))

## NOTICEBOARD for March

### Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

Meeting Point will take place in Hapstead Small Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 10.15 to 11.30. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc.



### Mothering Sunday 15th March

Do come and bring all the family!

Help in providing flowers and greenery for the Mothering Sunday service, and in putting together posies, would be very much appreciated by the St Peter's flower arrangers! Please bring any contributions and meet at St Peter's Centre at 10.00am on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you.

### Ardingly History Society AGM and talk

Hapstead Hall Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7.45pm

We are pleased to welcome back **Laura Burchell**, Archivist at Ardingly College, to give a talk after the AGM on "*Voices from Wartime Ardingly College: an oral history project.*" This was a major project undertaken at the College in 2025 and includes recollections of people attending the College during WWII and no doubt venturing into the village. Refreshments will be available (free) and non-members are welcome to attend. (£5)

**FILM NIGHT:** Thursday 26th March, 7pm for 7.30pm. "**HAMNET**"

Tickets from the Village Shop, Fellows Bakery or online at:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

**The Hapstead Jam Tarts WI** will be holding their Annual Meeting, with a cream tea, on Weds 18th March at 10am in Hapstead Hall.

Visitors are very welcome to attend. Contact Fiona on

07513411893 or email [hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk](mailto:hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk)

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

On Thursday 12th March our members will celebrate Chinese New Year with a special Buffet prepared by Rita and Bob at the Peking Chef. At our monthly meeting on Thursday 19th March we will hold our Annual Meeting with a review of the year and election of the committee and officers. We also have some fun activities planned and plenty of time for chat. The meeting starts 7:30pm at Hapstead Hall.

### **ARDINGLY FILM NIGHT QUIZ & SUPPER**

**21<sup>st</sup> March**

Movie Quiz and Supper fundraiser at Hapstead Hall. Tickets £25. Doors open 7pm for Quiz 7.30pm. Bring a team (up to 6 people) or just come and meet new people.

Each £25 ticket includes a welcome glass of bubbles, poppadoms and samosas, rice with a vegetable or meat curry, followed by brownies and of course unlimited popcorn. There will also be a cash bar serving wine, beer and soft drinks, plus prizes for the winning team. Don't forget to bring some pound coins for Heads & Tails! Tickets can be purchased from Ardingly News Shop. You'll need to give your name and phone number for our records on the ticket stubs and also let Kim at the store know if you'd prefer a vegetarian option. Numbers are limited, and the event sold out last year, so we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment.

### **CLIMATE AWARENESS TALK 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

***Fairer World Lindfield are delighted to have received a Grant from Mid Sussex District Council to host two talks and a workshop in 2026 on Climate awareness and what we can do, individually and collectively, to help.***

The first Event is *Our Better Nature presentation* on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30 at the King Edward Hall. This will be a presentation from Tony Whitbread, President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, and Paul Hannam, author and psychologist, who designs and delivers mental health programmes for organisations.

## NEWS FROM SAMARA'S AID

### New outreach Centres

We are so thrilled that our **mountain outreach centre** for orphans and vulnerable children is now open! This takes us to a grand total of FOUR centres in different locations in Syria serving some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in the world.

Our mountain outreach centre is very small, and has only been open for a month, yet they have 30-60 children coming each day, and



sometimes more. We have an amazing team there with some great teachers and an excellent manager who has been working with us

for a couple of years. It is a real blessing to this community.

Towards the end of 2025 we also opened our **desert outreach**

**centre**, which also receives 30-60 children every day for educational support and food. The team started with educational support, then once they were more established they also started providing a cooked lunch each day. This is such an important part of the service, as many of these children arrive hungry.



These two newest centres are our smallest, as the areas they serve are very rural. One of our centres currently serves Sunni Muslim orphans and vulnerable children, another serves Alawite Muslim orphans and vulnerable children, and other centres serve a mix from different groups.

We still have a **fifth outreach centre** that we have built and still need to open, but not yet. It will take some time but it is still very much on our agenda, when the timing and circumstances in the area allow.

### **CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

The Christmas parties went down so well! The team at our rural outreach centre hosted 170 children for their party which included food, games and giving Christmas gifts. They said it "included singing and dancing and was met with great happiness. The surrounding community is not accustomed to such traditions, especially giving Christmas gifts. The event contributed to promoting the positive humanitarian values of love and kindness".



71 children attended our desert outreach centre Christmas party, which is a huge number for a small centre that had only recently opened. These children have never been to a Christmas party before and were thrilled. A couple of younger

siblings also attended - all received gifts and were absolutely delighted!

Our new mountain outreach centre hosted 96 children over Christmas and their party was attended by a local singer as well as the mayor, who wished to offer their greetings to all and their support to the new centre.

Our city centre hosted an incredible 401 children across different days. At some of the parties the boys and girls were separated into different rooms, taking into account the increasing number of conservative Muslims who now attend our centre. This community has specific cultural sensitivities around mixing genders, even at a young age.

There are many significant changes taking place in Syria. Our team are doing a brilliant job of serving as many as they can, from different backgrounds, while being sensitive to the needs of each group and their cultural needs.

### **RAIN!**

Something we are incredibly grateful for is rain! It has been raining in Syria - even in the desert! This is a huge blessing. Last year there was barely a drop in the desert, which was really worrying. This year there has been rain across the areas we are working in. Please pray for more, at the right times. Thank you.

Thank you again for your amazing support. We are so grateful. Samara and the team

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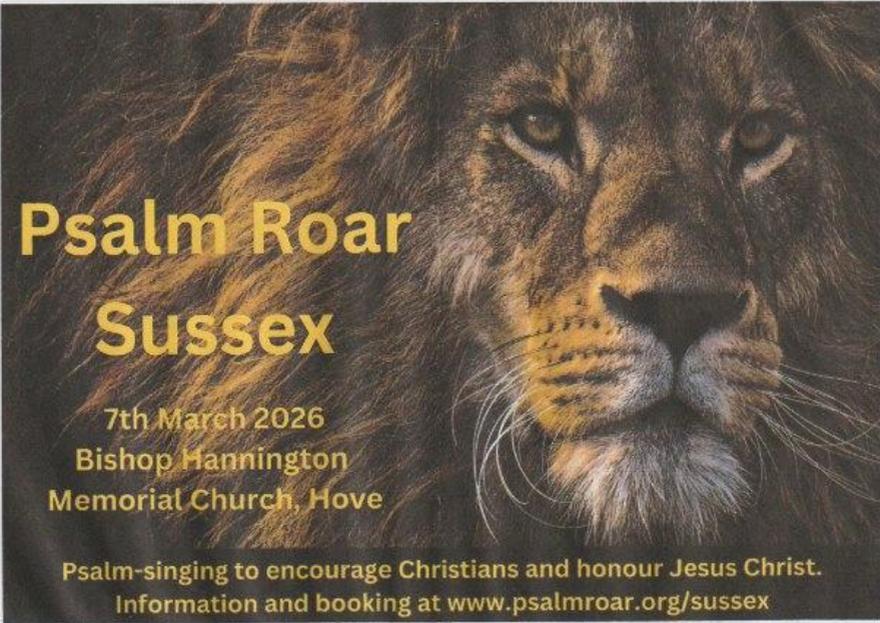
## **FSW Update February 2026**

The start of 2026 has been challenging for Family Support Work due to a reduction in funding, which has required us to make difficult changes to how we operate. We have reorganised our practitioner areas so we can continue to cover the same geographical reach with fewer staff. Sadly, this has resulted in two redundancies and one retirement.



We have delayed these changes for as long as possible, and while we may now support slightly fewer families, our commitment remains the same. We are determined that the quality and impact of our work will continue to be as strong as ever.

For more information about our new practitioner areas, please visit our website: (<http://www.familysupportwork.org/what-we-do/our-services/>)



# Psalm Roar Sussex

7th March 2026  
Bishop Hannington  
Memorial Church, Hove

Psalm-singing to encourage Christians and honour Jesus Christ.  
Information and booking at [www.psalmmoar.org/sussex](http://www.psalmmoar.org/sussex)

Singing psalms is commanded by God. It is part of a life filled with the Holy Spirit. **We join our voices with Christ, our heavenly Worship Leader.** If doctrine strengthens our minds, psalm-singing fortifies our hearts. Picture an army preparing for battle. Jesus is the Lion of Judah and this will be a day to roar the psalms. It is also a day to engage with the psalms as God's word centered on Jesus.

This is a day for everyone - whether or not you call yourself 'musical'. We will be singing the psalms in a variety of styles. The emphasis is on enthusiastic participation rather than musical perfection. No prior knowledge of music is required; once you have booked you will be given exclusive access to a Psalm Learning Page to help you prepare. **As we gather to sing the psalms you will be encouraged in Christ and emboldened by the power of the words and the strength of the singing.**

**Saturday 7th March 2026  
10am - 3pm**

Join your voice to that of Jesus Christ as we sing the psalms. Experience the unity of the Spirit and the encouragement of God's Word as we sing the psalms together.



There will be regular breaks through the day. Please bring your own packed lunch. We suggest a donation of £10-£15 per adult. Children are encouraged to attend and there is no cost for them. Members of Chichester Diocese Evangelical Fellowship can attend for free.



**For more information and practicalities, and to book yourself a place, visit  
[www.psalmmoar.org/sussex](http://www.psalmmoar.org/sussex)**

Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music from your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

# World Day of Prayer

## 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement which brings Christians of many traditions together to observe a common day of prayer each year. This year the liturgy has been prepared by the women of Nigeria and the theme is "I Will Give You Rest: Come", based on Matthew 11 v 28-30.



*The illustration above is by Gift Amarachi Ottah and is entitled "Rest for the Weary"*

At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The Worship Service features a playlet about a young girl named Chioma and stories of three Nigerian women: Beatrice, Jato, and Blessing. Their experiences reveal how God provides rest through community support, faith, and hope.

Services are being held locally as follows:

Fri 6th Mar 2026, 2pm

**Balcombe Parish Room**, Stockcroft Road, Balcombe, RH17 6HP.  
The Parish Room is in centre of the village next to the Balcombe club Cark Park.

Fri 6th Mar 2026, 10.30

**St John the Baptist**, Church Walk, Crawley, RH10 1HH  
Follow by refreshments at the Friary Hall.



### **PARISH MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Many thanks to all those who have paid their subscriptions for 2026, especially those who have given more than the minimum £3 and those who have very generously sent additional donations. These are all much appreciated. Sue



### **BRIDGING AGES**

The Bridging Ages care will take place on 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. It's a place where young & not so young can chat, play a game of Scrabble or Chess or have some basic IT support over a cup of tea & biscuits. 1.30-2.30pm on Fridays in the Lower Library at the College.

### **TIME MARCHES ON .....**

*The clocks go forward by one hour at 01:00 on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March*

## LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX DELIVERIES 2025

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in the 2025 Family and Elderly Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to your incredible support 25,281 shoeboxes were sent to families and elderly people across Eastern Europe.



Every year a small team from the UK go and visit one of our project managers in Eastern Europe and help them deliver shoeboxes and this year we visited our teams in Bulgaria. We flew to Plovdiv and after a night's rest we drove to Chirpan. The first sight of the settlement was

overwhelming. Makeshift houses were pieced together from whatever materials people could find, with muddy tracks instead of streets, washing hanging everywhere, the occasional horse and cart and children with bare feet playing among piles of rubbish. The poverty was stark and the sight was overwhelming for some of our team.

We delivered 25 shoeboxes to adults and elderly patients in the town's hospital. In one ward, women opened their shoeboxes with tears in their eyes. One lady, finding knitted hats, whispered, "It is too much." Another echoed the same sentiment, overwhelmed by kindness.



From the hospital, we drove to Cherna Gora, a slum town on the outskirts of Chirpan. Families lived in crumbling houses, along rough, unmade tracks. We handed out shoeboxes to families, children and elderly people, whose poverty was starkly evident, as was their gratitude for the gifts inside their shoeboxes.

Despite their extreme hardship, families and children received the boxes with joy. Children showed such delight at the toys and sweets inside their boxes, while mums and dad were delighted to know that their children would receive a present this Christmas as well as useful gifts for the rest of the family.



We then drove on to Stara Zagora where one woman, crippled by pain and weakened by a stroke, was deeply moved and asked for prayer. Another widow, clutching her box, said simply, "Thank you for giving to the poor." Many others echoed similar sentiments and prayed for our health and wellbeing as they received their shoeboxes.

After that we drove to the outlying villages where halls were filled with families. Everyone received their boxes with joy, wonder, and gratitude and by evening, hundreds of shoeboxes had been given out.



The next day we drove to Kardjali, high up in the mountains. Just six miles from the Greek border, the village is remote and rarely sees outsiders. Originally 2,000 people lived here; now only 500 remain, mostly elderly and isolated, with a few families holding on. We gave out shoeboxes in the kindergarten and one little girl

had a skipping rope in her shoebox. We tried teaching her to skip—without much success, but with plenty of laughter.

In the afternoon we visited elderly residents who mostly lived alone and saw very few people. They seemed so surprised that English people (and a Moldovan) had



travelled all the way out to this remote village in the back of beyond of Bulgaria, to give them a shoebox.



One moment stood out when we gave a shoebox to an elderly lady. She lived alone and had been invited by the families to join them. She had never had a Christmas present in her life. She beamed when she received her shoebox – her very first Christmas present! She was totally overwhelmed by the contents of her box. This lady's one joy in life was to work in her garden, and the shoebox was full of gardening gifts such as work gloves and gardening tools – she was thrilled. The other highlight was the wooden spoons that she and her friend pulled out of their shoeboxes at exactly the same time – so useful, and much laughter and smiles as they admired their spoons.

You can see more pictures on the website:

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-delivery-diary-2025/>

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## REPAIR CAFÉ DATES

### LINDFIELD

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March

10am – 1.00pm

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

REPAIR CAFE

**EAST GRINSTEAD** – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March

10am – 1.00pm

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

**FOREST ROW** - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March

10am – 1.00pm

The Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

## **BISHOP MARTIN IS RETIRING**

Since his appointment to the diocese of Chichester in 2012, Bishop Martin has been committed to ensuring that effective safeguarding is a clear and properly resourced priority. At the same time, he has also sought to promote renewal in all-age mission, pastoral care, and theological engagement for laity and clergy alike.



He says: "It has been an enormous privilege to work with so many gifted and committed people during my time in Chichester and I am deeply grateful for our partnership in apostolic mission. A new diocesan bishop will bring fresh vision and energy, and be supported by a strong, confident team. I give thanks to God for the call to serve in this diocese and also ask pardon from anyone I have offended. I will hold this joyful household of faith in my prayers as its future unfolds."

Prior to his episcopal ministry, Bishop Martin served as a Residentiary canon at St Paul's Cathedral after serving as Priest Administrator at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

In more recent years, he has represented the Church of England in its close workings with the Roman Catholic Church. He was a Fraternal Delegate at the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, called by the late Pope Francis.

Suffragan bishops will together oversee the life of the diocese during the vacancy. They have decided that Bishop Will (The Bishop of Lewes) is to take on the formal duties of acting bishop, subject to consultation with the Bishop's Council.

*(from the Chichester Cathedral website)*

### **Festival of Flowers at Chichester Cathedral 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June**

This year the Festival of Flowers celebrates its 30th anniversary. Since 1996 it has become one of the South's most cherished traditions, drawing tens of thousands of visitors and raising over £1.4 million towards the care of the Cathedral. Tickets cost £21 per person and £25 at the door. Book at :

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chichestercathedralrestorationanddevelopmenttrust/e-pbppyv>

## ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



We all are increasingly aware of how important the internet has become in our lives and St Peter's school community is no exception to this. Of course we welcome the benefits it brings but we also need to recognise potential issues and make sure we keep ourselves safe.

During Mental Health Week and on Safer Internet Day this term, we talked about using AI (artificial intelligence) wisely. Developing the necessary skills to help make informed choices when using 'smart technology' is a crucial part of growing up and our pupils are guided and helped to learn these skills.

As well as looking after mental health, physical wellbeing needs to be on the learning agenda!! Early in February, Lucy Soper joined us



in school to teach everyone age-appropriate first aid skills. We had a really interesting day, finding out about when to dial 999 and what to say. Do you know what DR A B C can remind us about? Well, it's Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, Circulation - a good way to check on a person's safety and immediate needs. Everyone had a great time with Ms Soper and learned a great deal of useful information.

Of course, sport continues to be an important part of life at St Peter's. All across the school, our pupils are encouraged to get involved in a great variety of different activities.

This half term has seen involvement in Multi Skills events for key stage 1, Basketball for years 3 and 4 and Cricket for years 5 and 6. It's great to see the children's skills, sense of self worth, teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm thrive!



Our team of mathematicians from years 5 and 6 definitely deserve a mention for their success. They entered the annual Primary Team Maths Challenge held at Ardingly College, competing against 9 other schools. The children did themselves and the school proud, achieving a fantastic second place in what was a hard-fought and high level competition. Congratulations and well done to everyone!

## WINSTON CHURCHILL PAINTING

We have received the following:

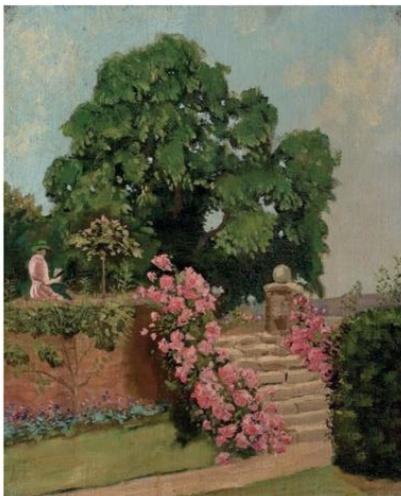
### ***Help tracking down a bit of Sussex history***

*Hi - May I please request your assistance? Since you are in the right vicinity, I think you might be able to help. I am trying to spread the word about the search for information about a painting - it turned up at Ardingly in 2022, was painted in 1916, and is almost certainly by Sir Winston Churchill! So it may be quite important to local Sussex history. It depicts Herstmonceux Castle, and for the past hundred years it probably stayed somewhere in that 30-mile distance. But its authenticity can't be confirmed until we have some proof of where it has been. I feel there is a chance that somebody living in the area might recognise it.*

*Emily Esser, Portrait & American Folk Art Specialist  
Princeton '18 Art & Archaeology*

*P.S. This is the same painting that was formerly on the BBC, but the investigation was inconclusive.*

Contact:  
herstgarden  
@gmail.com



**Do you recognise this painting?**

**We are looking for its Sussex history, especially Herstmonceux!**

If you have any ideas or information about it, please email [herstgarden@gmail.com](mailto:herstgarden@gmail.com) Thank you.



## **ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL**

With all the recent rain, we're pleased to say the hosepipe ban has now been lifted — some good news at last!

### **2026 Community Award – Call for Nominations**

We're now inviting nominations for the 2026 Ardingly Parish Council Community Award. This annual award celebrates someone who has gone the extra mile for our village — often quietly and without fuss. If you know someone who deserves a heartfelt thank you, please do nominate them. Deadline: 1st May.

### **Improved Access to the Tennis & Multi-Sport Courts**

You may have spotted the newly improved track leading to the tennis and multi-sport courts. A big thank you to Heidelberg Aggregates for generously donating 20 tonnes of stone, and to Phil Knight for expertly levelling the surface. The JobFather has also repaired the playground entrance fence and gate. These improvements have cleared the long-standing puddles and made access much easier for everyone.

### **Playground Improvements**

There's new equipment now installed in the lower playground, including swings and monkey bars. Benches to come shortly. The gates and fence of the playground has also been replaced, thanks to the Jobfather. At the upper playground, a replacement for the dolphin rocker is installed and new chain nets have been fitted to the basketball hoops. These updates will help make the playground even more enjoyable for children and families of all ages. Our sincere thanks to Ardingly Rambling Dads and other local donors who helped make this happen.

### **Allotments Available**

The 2026 allotment season is underway, and we currently have plots available if you'd like extra space to grow your own fruit, vegetables or flowers. Recent drainage improvements and planned fencing works should make them even better this year. If you're interested, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

## **Village Survey – Thank You**

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our recent village survey. With over 40% of households responding, your feedback gives us a really valuable understanding of what matters most to residents and will help shape our plans for the year ahead. A full summary will be available on the website, and the Parish Clerk is always happy to help with any questions.

We're committed to listening and working together as a community. Please keep sharing your ideas — together we can continue to make Ardingly a wonderful place to live.

To make sure you don't miss future updates, please sign up to our newsletter at [www.ardingly.org](http://www.ardingly.org). You can also follow the Ardingly Parish Council Facebook page for updates — you'll receive Facebook notifications about parish news only, with no advertising.

And finally, here's hoping for some brighter and drier weather ahead for us all!

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

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## **MSDC: 800 tonnes of food waste saved from landfill**

After implementing the new 1, 2, 3 food waste collection programme, MSDC wish to say a big 'thank you' to all residents who have helped to recycle significant amounts of food waste.

More than 800 tonnes of food waste has been collected to date (Feb 2026) and saved from going to landfill. This food waste has now been sent to an anaerobic digester where it is transformed into energy which is fed back into the electricity grid and turned into fertiliser used to grow food.

In the Council's February newsletter Councillor Chris Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services, wrote, "We're grateful to all residents for the way that they have adapted to one of the largest changes to council services."





## AROUND THE VILLAGE

### WAKEHURST

According to recent statistics Wakehurst attracted 424,798 visitors in 2024 (figures for 2025 are not yet available). That is a 6% increase on 2023. It is ranked as the number one visitor attraction in Sussex and sits within the top 20 in the South East.

### Birds of Prey over Ardingly

This week (9<sup>th</sup> Feb) something spooked a flock of about 2 dozen pigeons over Ardings Close. The cause turned out to be a female Sparrowhawk. They have also been spooked recently by a Red Kite flying low. Perhaps there is more to come because in November two white-tailed eagles, also known as sea eagles, were seen at Ardingly Reservoir. The huge birds were spotted just two days after a white-tailed eagle was photographed in Ashdown Forest. These birds are often described as “flying barn doors” and have an enormous wingspan of up to 2.5m (8.2ft).



### FREE ORGAN CONCERT at Ardingly College

On 24<sup>th</sup> March there will be an organ concert performed by young organists studying at Ardingly College. Entry is free. The concert will begin at 1900 hours in the College Chapel.

Ardingly is generally a very safe village but in January a house was burgled near the village centre, causing damage, mess and distress. The following notice has now posted on Facebook:

## COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE – HAYWARDS HEATH & SURROUNDING AREAS

We've been informed by Sussex Police that there is currently a spike in burglaries in Haywards Heath and nearby towns.

We understand that news like this can feel unnerving for residents, and we want to reassure you that Police are taking this situation very seriously.

What you can do now to help protect your home:

- Lock all doors and windows, even when you're at home
- Use alarms, security lights, and CCTV/Ring doorbells where possible
- Keep keys and valuables out of sight
- Leave lights on timers if you're out
- Report any suspicious behaviour immediately to Police

In an emergency call 999.

For non-urgent concerns, call 101 or report online.

## **Why we should be like donkeys**

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They are content with poor fodder like thistles and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there at the birth; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the King of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!  
*(taken from parishpump)*



## NOT TOO SERIOUS ....

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought The Almighty had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."



For the minister's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his message with a tear in his eye, saying: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

A mother asked her young son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was five years old, because then he would ride for free. As they got into the bus the driver asked him how old he was. "I am five years old," said the little boy proudly. The driver had a son of his own that age, and so he smiled. "And when will you be six years old?" he asked. "When I get off the bus," answered the boy.



Constant nagging didn't seem to provide any relief from having to clean up the bathroom after each of my three teenage children. After I cleaned it one day, I resorted to posting a sign that read: "Please leave the bathroom as you found it."

I noticed the bathroom was in the usual mess after my son used it, so I called, "Brian, how did you find the bathroom?" After a brief pause, he replied, "Straight down the hall, first door on the right."

A little girl told her mother one day before lunch that her stomach was hurting. Her mother replied: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister looked a bit rough and explained that his head was hurting. The little girl gave him a sweet smile and said encouragingly: "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"

# Parish Register

The funeral of Kathleen Mary Robb ('Kate'), formerly of Munnion Road, Ardingly, who died 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 aged 96 years was held at St. Peter's Church on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

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## Prayer

*As we journey through this month,  
Please fill us with your Spirit  
And help us to see with Your eyes,  
Hear with Your ears,  
Think with Your mind  
Speak Your words  
Love with Your heart  
Reach out with Your hands  
And walk humbly with You each day.  
Amen*

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### Flower Rota

6<sup>th</sup> March : Belinda

20<sup>th</sup> March: Pam and Jean

### Meeting Point Rota

9<sup>th</sup> March: Belinda, Alison, Sue

23<sup>rd</sup> March: Jill, Deb & George, Dilys

### Brass Cleaning Rota

7<sup>th</sup> March: Deb & George Ruse



## 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 MARCH 2026

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.." (Lamentations 3 v 22-23 )*



- 1 Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
- 2 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 3 Our Prime Minister, government and all in authority
- 4 Farmers, coping with the effects of recent weather
- 5 Deb Ruse and the work of FSW
- 6 World Day of Prayer. Praise God that he hears us and answers
- 7 Our Churchwardens John and Nigel and all that they do
- 8 Our services today. Pray for the church family
- 9 King Charles and all the members of the Royal Family
- 10 Our Home Groups and those who lead them
- 11 The situation in Ukraine and also in Gaza
- 12 Give thanks for medical breakthroughs. Pray for all who are unwell
- 13 Our uniformed brigades and those who lead them
- 14 Prison Fellowship. All who live and work in prisons
- 15 **Mothering Sunday.** Pray for all mothers around the world
- 16 The IMARA-Uganda team and all the children who are sponsored
- 17 Ardingly Connected Together and the people they support
- 18 All who care for children or adults with special needs
- 19 Our Police Force and all in the justice system
- 20 Refugees and all who have fled from violence or persecution
- 21 Young people and the many modern-day pressures that they face
- 22 Our services today. Pray about the life of the church in Ardingly
- 23 Samara's Aid: protection and blessing for the team and projects
- 24 Our local hospitals, doctors and Care Homes
- 25 Dame Sarah Mullally in her new role as Archbishop of Canterbury
- 26 Tearfund, helping to reduce poverty and reduce waste globally
- 27 All who work in Social Services
- 28 Pray for friends and family who do not know Jesus
- 29 **Palm Sunday.** Our services today and preparation for Easter
- 30 CPAS, training church leaders and running youth summer camps
- 31 Praise God for his goodness and the delights of creation

**Deadline for copy for the April magazine is  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026**