

# *St. Peter's Ardingly*

## **Parish Magazine**



## **July/August 2026**



## **St Peter's Church, Ardingly** **Who's Who at St Peter's**

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*

## READER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

### **Moving on...**

I love a good firework display - a mixture of wonder and surprise at the variety of colour, beautiful patterns, whizzes and bangs that make us gasp. Then, the show reaches its climax and suddenly there is only silence and sky. We are left, just for a moment, rooted to the spot, looking up and asking whether it's really the end. Is there more to come? It takes a moment before we move on.



As his disciples watched Jesus taken by a cloud and ascending into heaven, they had a similar moment; was that really the end? The end of their three-year experience of the most extraordinary life ever lived? The end of his amazing miracles, compassionate healings and challenging teaching? The end of his appearances to them after he was raised from the dead? Wasn't there more to come? They stood, rooted to the spot, still spell-bound, looking intently up into the sky; they took a moment to move on.

In fact, Luke tells us that two men, dressed in white, suddenly stood beside them and asked "*Why do you stand here looking into the sky?*" The angels assured the disciples that Jesus would return in the same way they had seen him go. Meanwhile, the disciples knew what they had to do: to return to Jerusalem and wait. The gift Jesus had promised them soon came in dramatic fashion: the Holy Spirit, the giver of new life, showed himself in wind and fire and empowered witness.

Three things then characterised the lives of the believers as they moved on: power, prayer and fellowship.

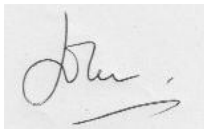
The Holy Spirit came in power upon the 120 believers and 3000 converts at Pentecost and was promised to all whom the Lord God would call. It was the Spirit who gave Peter the power to preach; it was the Spirit who moved the people to respond to the gospel

message and grow the church and it was the Spirit who gave the apostles the power to perform miracles and healings.

*"The disciples"*, we are also told, *"all joined together constantly in prayer..."*. They prayed before decision-making and in thanksgiving; they *"devoted themselves to prayer"* and continued to meet in the temple courts. Prayer was -and is- the life-blood of mission. Luke tells us that the believers also devoted themselves to fellowship: sharing meals and communion, meeting each other's needs and praising God together. Power, prayer, and fellowship together grew the church.

As we at St. Peter's experience our own 'fireworks moment', we know we can't stand rooted to the spot. With sadness, we watch John and Sally leave us and move on to a new life in retirement, with all the exciting opportunities the Lord will open up to them. We, too, must move on. There will, of course, be some waiting as we discern the future of ministry in the Parish, but the Lord always calls us forward. We can't be sure yet what moving on looks like, but if our life together shares the same characteristics as those early believers, we'll know at least that we're heading in the right direction.

With my prayers and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John', with a horizontal line underneath.

*The Church Wardens, Rural Dean and the PCC have oversight for the parish during the interregnum. Over the coming months there will be a process of discernment about the future ministry in the parish. The Rural Dean, Revd Christopher Powell, can be contacted on 01444 471783 or by email: [vicar.wivelsfield@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.wivelsfield@gmail.com) Please contact the Wardens in the first instance with any questions or queries relating to Church matters or to arrange services.*

## Services in July 2026

*[NB: Services and readings during the vacancy may be subject to change; as much notice will be given as possible and readers will be notified.]*

### **Sunday 5th July**

9.00 a.m.

#### **Morning Prayer (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

#### **Morning Praise**

6.00 p.m.

### **The Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-end

#### **Open to God**

### **Sunday 12th July**

9.00 a.m.

#### **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

#### **Holy Communion (CW)**

### **The Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### **Sunday 19th July**

9.00 a.m.

#### **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

#### **Morning Praise**

### **The Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### **Sunday 26th July**

9.00 a.m.

#### **Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

#### **Holy Communion (CW) with prayer for healing and wholeness**

### **The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 8:26-end; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Romans 8:26-end; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## Services in August 2026

### **Sunday 2nd August**

9.00 a.m.

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

**Morning Praise**

6.00 p.m.

### **The Ninth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

**Open to God**

### **Sunday 9th August**

9.00 a.m.

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

**Holy Communion (CW)**

### **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

### **Sunday 16th August**

9.00 a.m.

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

**Morning Praise**

### **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

### **Sunday 23rd August**

9.00 a.m.

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

**Holy Communion (CW) with prayer for healing and wholeness**

### **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

### **Sunday 30th August**

9.00 a.m.

**Morning Prayer (BCP)**

10.30 a.m.

**Morning Praise**

### **The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Romans 12:9-end; Matthew 16:21-end

Romans 12:9-end; Matthew 16:21-end

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A VERY  
SPECIAL MUSICAL AFTERNOON

WITH A SELECTION OF SONGS PERFORMED BY

# ARDINGLY COMMUNITY CHOIR



18 JULY 2026

2.30-4.30PM



HAPSTEAD HALL, ARDINGLY

TICKET INCLUDES

## AFTERNOON TEA

**TICKETS: £5 ADULTS £2 CHILDREN**

**Tickets available from:**

Ardingly village shop and Fellows Bakery

or by clicking this link or QR code:

<https://www.ticketsource.com/ardingly-community-choir/t-kdymmap>

**All proceeds from ticket sales to:  
Breast Cancer Now and  
Ardingly Connected Together**



## **NOTICEBOARD for July & August**

### **Meeting Point Coffee Mornings**

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

We will be having an outing on 17<sup>th</sup> August to Ditchling Garden Centre.



Belinda Maclean

### **Angels & Urchins**

For babies, pre-school children and their carers  
Thursday mornings in school term time  
0900-1100 at Peter's Church Centre (front door)  
Last session before summer: 16<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
Start date for the new term: 10<sup>th</sup> September

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

16<sup>th</sup> July: Meeting in Hapstead Hall 7.15 for 7.30 pm.  
Beeswax Candle making with Andrea Fall

20<sup>th</sup> August: 'Paracise and Wobble' moving to music, seated or standing. Speaker - Tara Garstang

### **Hapstead Jam Tarts WI**

The Hapstead Jam Tarts are so excited to welcome Joanna Zara, a talented milliner from Hove, to their meeting at 10am on Weds 15<sup>th</sup> July. She will be bringing some of her beautiful hats and showing us how they are made.

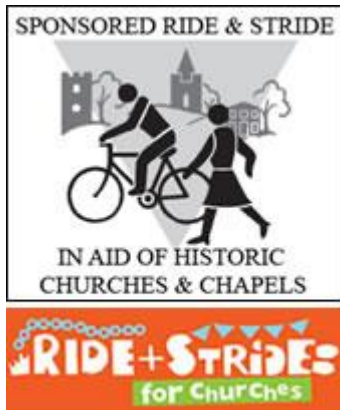
In August we have a lovely trip arranged for members only ( a good reason to join ! ) to Wakehurst to learn about the delights and designs for Glow Wild. A lovely community engagement adventure for our members. Please do contact Fiona O'Leary or Christine for more information: email- [hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfw.co.uk](mailto:hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfw.co.uk)  
Or call 07413411893

**Village Day:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July (more details on page 9 )

## Village Lunch

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at Hapstead Hall. 12.30 for 1.00 pm  
Tickets £9 from Ardingly News or 01444 892717 (Deb Ruse)

## Sussex Historic Churches Trust



### Sponsored Ride and Stride 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026

This annual event enables us to help in raising money to preserve the historic places of worship across Sussex.

As usual St Peter's will be open all day to enable riders and walkers to visit the church while participating. Sponsor forms and lists of places open will be available soon for walkers and riders who wish to participate in this annual event. Sponsor forms will also be available for those who assist by manning the church and welcoming visitors during the day.

If you have any queries please contact me on 01444 415317.

Jean Jeffery

### **Thank you from the Editor**

At this time of year it's time to say a big 'Thank you' to all those who contribute to, print, proof read, sort and deliver the magazine on a monthly basis.

Without you it wouldn't happen! I hope you have a good break during the summer, before preparation for the September magazine begins again in August. If you'd like to contribute anything please send it to me by noon on August 21st. The email address is [emails4sue@gmail.com](mailto:emails4sue@gmail.com) Many thanks!  
Sue Laker



## THANK YOU

Lyn Wood would like to thank everyone for their very kind thoughts, prayers and cards following her recent stay in hospital.

Jonathan Summers would like to thank everyone who sent very kind messages or cards and visited him during his recent stay in hospital.

### Children's Society boxes

Just to let you know, the total raised in the collecting boxes this year is £481.66. Thank you to all those who have so generously kept the boxes in your homes and collected for this worthy cause.

Jean and Tony Jeffery



#### LINDFIELD

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July

(No Repair Café in August)

10am – 1.00pm

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

# REPAIR CAFE

**FOREST ROW** - 18<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> August

10am – 1.00pm

The Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

**EAST GRINSTEAD** - 11<sup>th</sup> July and 8<sup>th</sup> August

10am – 1.00pm

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



# VILLAGE DAY

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026

— A fun day for all the family —

FUN  
FOR ALL  
AGES!



Tours around the College,  
Heidelbergs and St Peters

11.00 – 2.00



History Society exhibition

1.00 – 3.00



Village fete on the  
recreation ground

1.00 – 3.00



Tiny Tekkers, Basketball,  
DJing and more activities

10.30 – 3.00



Rainbow Run

*Must be Prebooked in advance*

3.00 – 4.00



Stool ball exhibition match

5.00 – 6.30



BBQ and bar on the  
recreation ground

6.30 – 8.30

REFRESHMENTS AROUND THE VILLAGE ALL DAY



STALLS  
GAMES  
LIVE MUSIC  
GREAT FOOD  
and more!

SAVE THE DATE

♥ MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE NEARER THE TIME ♥

## **NEWS FROM SAMARA'S AID**

### **MORE THAN 1,000 WOMEN AND CHILDREN EVERY MONTH**

Across all four outreach centres, we have 740 children coming on a regular basis every month! But we have more, as another 200 come once or twice, perhaps for a meal or specific activity rather than regular attendance. In April, the total number of children we served across all four centres reached 995! That's almost 1,000 children we are consistently making a difference to each month. And since the start of 2026, we have served a total of 1,510 different children through these four centres.



This is on top of the 160 women we are supporting each week, which equates to around 220 different women each month - most attending regular courses and groups but around 80 coming for one off support.

### **75 STAFF ON THE GROUND AND GROWING**

There are moments when I feel a little overwhelmed and in awe of how this work has grown since it started from the instruction to "start collecting" and the vision to fill our first lorry of winter aid for refugees fleeing ISIS in 2014. It is incredible to me that our team in Syria is now made up of 75 regular members of staff. WOW!

## **160 VULNERABLE WOMEN EVERY WEEK**

In the mornings each week, we now have 40 women attending support groups, a further 20 women having their hair done, more than 70 women doing hairdressing training, and we have just restarted sewing courses for a further 30 women - who all came this week for the introduction and theory. (We are hoping to start this in our other centres too) This means we are serving 160 vulnerable women there every week.

Many vulnerable women approach our centres in need of some kind of support. Over the years it's been challenging to know how best to support them, or to have the ideal staff to make them feel understood. It is hard for women whose husbands have abandoned them with children, or a widow struggling to make ends meet, to feel truly understood by a young woman who still lives with her parents and has comparatively little life experience, even when she is very caring and compassionate. These vulnerable women feel seen and understood when they can share with another woman who has been through significant life challenges.

Recently one of our team - a mother who suffered a difficult marriage and divorce - began hosting groups with some of these vulnerable women. All have faced extremely difficult life events. These groups don't aim to give advice, counselling, or solve their problems, but to provide a safe, non-judgemental space where these women can talk about their experiences and do some activities together like exercise, dance or share a meal. We now host 40 women in these support groups every week. They now find comfort in talking with each other and the inspiring woman who facilitates this initiative. In many conservative Syrian communities, women don't have the chance to socialise or meet people outside their home in the way western women do. If they are carrying heavy burdens which others cannot see, it can be a very lonely existence.

I'm so thankful to God for opening the doors for us and making it possible for us to have a positive impact on the lives of people whose existence is so harshly different from our own. So many of the families we support now in Syria were wealthy, or at least comfortable, before the war started in 2011. Yet overnight, the situation changed and they lost everything - they now live in poverty.

Samara Levy

## NEPAL UPDATE

Hello and Greetings from the Adhikari family. As always, we are so thankful for your prayers and love. We thank God for you and also Praise Him for what He has done in the last 3 months in us and in Nepal. Here are some highlights:

- 1) The Easter Rally in Kathmandu where around 35 thousand Christians marched and gathered at the national football stadium.
- 2) Since January we have baptised 17 people and planted one more Church. That makes 22 Aanandit Churches in Nepal. We have also ordained 4 Pastors and elders.
- 3) 20 ladies completed 8 weeks of Bible Study training.



- 4) 20 people completed a week of Discipleship Training in May
- 5) The annual 3 Days Children's Camp was a tremendous blessing to over 125 kids. They learned about God with lots of fun, food and games.
- 6) Our eldest, Amishu, has been accepted by the University of Roehampton for her Masters in Cyber Security.
- 7) The Aanandit Charity work is going well by the grace of God.

God bless, Milan

## NOT TOO SERIOUSLY!

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour your father and your mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."



Doctor: "Describe your average night."

Patient: "They wear suits of armour."

Doctor: "No, I mean at bedtime."

Patient: "They probably take it off."

### Some of the great questions of life:

Why are buildings called buildings when they are finished? Shouldn't they be called builts?

Why is abbreviated such a long word?

Why is it that when you tell a person there are 400 billion stars they will believe you, but when you tell them there's wet paint, they have to touch it?

If your supermarket has been lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

If a firefighter fights fire and a crime fighter fights crime, what does a freedom fighter fight?

Do you find it unnerving that what doctors do is called 'practice'?

## ACT and VILLAGE DAY

Unbelievably, we are almost half way through 2026! As incredible as that sounds, it also means that we are heading towards Village Day 2026 on 11 July. This is shaping up to be a really fun day with lots of things to do for all the family.



Do you fancy looking round Ardingly College? Visiting and learning about St Peter's Church? Perhaps you are looking forward to the dance display from Tanzen Dance or wanting to enjoy a leisurely break with tea and cakes on the recreation ground. Oh, and don't forget the 'table top' sale. Bring your own picnic table or blanket, whatever and all the things that you have no use for anymore. Someone is BOUND to have a use for them! Whatever you fancy, there is sure to be something that fits the bill.

A poster showing what's happening, where and when is included on page 9. Do take a look and if you have any questions, do please get in touch with ACT and/or watch the village Facebook page for up-to-date information.

ACT (Ardingly Connected Together) continues to aim to help anyone in need in the village. Whether it is with a food delivery where needed, a friendly chat with someone on their own or meeting a specific need, we continue to try to bring the village community together.



One way in which this happens is by ACT supporting the Ardingly Community Choir financially. The Choir meets for an hour every Monday during term time at St Peter's School in Holmans. Do come and join us, even if you have never sung before. We work hard and laugh a LOT! You also have the chance of hearing the Choir sing if you come to Hapstead Hall on 18th July when we will be holding a musical afternoon tea event! Tickets cost £5 (£2 for children) and include afternoon tea with musical interludes. All proceeds raised will be donated equally to Breast Cancer Now and Ardingly Connected Together. (There will also be an

opportunity to donate directly to Ardingly Connected Together to help the work going forward.) Tickets are available online and in person at Fellows bakery and The Old Post Office newsagent.

A poster for this is included in the magazine with all details, including a QR code if you want online tickets. We look forward to seeing you there!

~~~~~

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



There's always a lot to do at any time of the school year and summer term is no different. Of course there are lots of sports events. Our swimming gala at Ardingly College preceded the annual sports day. Pupils participated enthusiastically, supporting one another and cheering each other on. Even the weather was kind.



Greenfinch and Cuckoo classes had a very special day when they visited the Paddington Bear Experience. Apart from all the wonderful things to see in Paddington Station and the Brown's house, they travelled to London and back on the train!! How exciting for them all, particularly those for whom this was their first visit to London.

St Peter's is a Church of England school with a Christian foundation. This is reflected throughout the school in everything that we do, including daily collective worship or assembly. Some of the governors recently had the privilege of attending a celebration assembly, which was a joyful occasion. The children were learning about St Paul's journeys and talked about courage and carrying on even when things were difficult. Singing, praying and reading all featured in the worship time and there was a highlight of awards to pupils to recognise their achievements. These were wide-ranging and reflected times when pupils had exemplified the school values. Of particular note were the 'Golden Fish' awards: these are awards nominated by pupils themselves where they see their peers being kind, taking care, helping etc. It was a real joy to be present to see these awards presented and celebrated.

## **A Farewell to John and Sally Crutchley**

We thank God for sending us John as our new Rector in 2006, with his wife Sally and four boys, Tom, Jack, Charlie and Joe. Now that twenty years have passed before John has decided to retire, we have cause for even greater thanksgiving that we have been led and served for so long with such faithfulness and dedication. We have been blessed with stability, clear direction, passionate preaching and sound Scriptural teaching with unwavering steadfastness of care-giving ministry.

Rural ministry nationwide has many challenges and the Parish of Ardingly is no exception. Families move away, children leave home, and we all advance in years; such changes are more keenly felt in a small village church. Our church building is located on the margins of the village, a picture perhaps of how the Church is generally regarded in our country as we face the challenges of this 'selfie' generation.

All through his time with us, though, John has worked assiduously to engage with the youth of the village, taking weekly assemblies in St. Peter's School, overseeing two dedicated youth workers, encouraging 'Messy Church' events at Easter, 'Light Party' alternatives to Halloween and breakfast playtimes for dads and their children and encouraging families to our café services in the Centre. Sally was instrumental in setting up and running Angels and Urchins, our continuing weekly parents and toddler group, which is appreciated by so many mums, dads, grandparents and carers.

John's focus on mission has always been to direct our vision to look outwards, not inwards. On his initiative, he has led Harvest, Good Friday and Remembrance services on the Recreation Ground, All Souls services in the graveyard, Mothering Sunday services in the School, harvest and nativity services on the showground and Christingle at and in Hapstead Hall. We have engaged in prayer walks around the village, walks of witness and an 'At Your Service' programme to help residents in need.

John has also been a great encourager of lay ministry. He mentored and trained three of us who became licensed as Readers, and three who serve as Authorised Lay Ministers (Pastoral). He also helped to train Gerry Burgess, later ordained to serve in Amberley and Sarah

Upchurch, who became our curate before ministering in Haywards Heath and now Worth. I know we are all grateful for the care, attention to detail and wisdom he imparted during our formation for ministry.

In amongst all this, John found time to study for a Masters Degree in which he received a Distinction and serve for a short time as Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands, counselling those seeking to enter full-time ministry. He and Sally have both served as Governors of St Peter's School, a role with an increasingly heavy burden of paperwork, especially around inspection time. John also served the village as a member of the Parish Council and as the official 'Listener' to Ardingly College, being someone outside the College to whom anyone in that community could speak in confidence. He also oversaw the major re-furbishment of the Church Centre.

John's sharp legal brain has often been vital to the PCC as we have grappled with challenging situations. His clear analysis of the issues at stake and of the potential solutions has been crucial to many of our decisions. We have much to thank him for in his contributions to our debates and we will miss his wise leadership. No less so will we also miss Sally's tireless work managing our finances and making sure that the PCC has all the necessary information, and presented in such a clear (and colourful!) format. She has also been busy on our behalf investigating what grant-awarding bodies might be approached for the funds we so badly need for the repairs to our church building.

We have so much else to thank Sally for as she has taken on many roles in support of John: as unofficial verger at life-event services, as Lay Minister of Communion and leader of intercessions. With her expertise in all things IT and technical, she has been managing our sound system and looking after glitches in the screen presentations. The screening of the liturgy and music, and being able to zoom our services to those at home, have become a regular feature in our acts of worship.

It is in the week-by-week worship that John will leave such a huge gap to be filled. It is hard for us as the congregation to imagine the relentlessness of being the only priest in a parish, the meticulous preparation of the services and the scripting of powerful and

engaging sermons, as well as sourcing, choosing and downloading all the hymns and songs. Even through those dark Covid times, John's dedication to his task found innovative ways of keeping us focused on Christ and worshipping with a sense of togetherness and purpose despite, for a time, the closure of the church.

John's great skill has been to lift the liturgy off the page and not let us simply say our parts in semi-automatic pilot mode. His eloquent prayers have also been evident in our acts of evening worship in the monthly Open to God services which he introduced and which are so highly valued by those who attend. His teaching during Lent and Advent courses, has also drawn many into a closer understanding of the Bible and his passionate preaching has lifted and inspired us to deepen our faith.

John and Sally have taken upon themselves so much that in other churches is carried out by a church administrator: all liaison with the Diocese, with families seeking life-event services and arranging burials. Typical of his and Sally's selfless giving of themselves to us has been the way that they have waived many of the expenses they could have claimed; it has been John who has mowed the Rectory grass on his valuable day off; it is he and Sally who have shared in our church and graveyard maintenance days, cleaned and hoovered the church on so many occasions, cooked, washed up and served us at fellowship meals, laundered the church linen and otherwise made good on our lapses and forgetfulness.

The responsibility of running an active parish almost single-handed is enormous and weighs heavily on any incumbent in that role and takes its toll. All we can do is to thank God for and admire John's amazing resilience, even though sometimes feeling poorly, at fulfilling his profound sense of duty and, with Sally, ministering to us over so many years. We wish them both every blessing in their retirement and, in time, to find new ways to minister and show the love of God which they have so faithfully reflected in their care for us and the Parish of Ardingly.

Nigel Cheater  
John Witherington  
*Churchwardens.*



## **AROUND THE VILLAGE**

### **ARDINGLY COMMUNITY AWARD 2026**

Congratulations to Deb Ruse, who has been awarded the Parish Council 2026 Community Award in recognition of her many years of service and contribution to numerous village organisations. These include her role as Brown Owl within the guides, Brownies and Rainbows, her leadership of the Village Lunch, and her involvement with Ardingly Connected Together, the Evening WI, Meeting Point, St Peter's Church and Family Support Work.

At their Annual Meeting the Parish Council offered Deb their sincere personal thanks for the care, kindness and dedication that she has shown over so many years. "Her commitment to supporting others and bringing people together has made a lasting difference to village life and is deeply appreciated."

Others nominated for the award included Kathy James, Kay Miller-Porter, Lauren Miller, Tammy Nelson, Igor Srzic-Cartledge, Charissa Turner, Becky West and Alison Winsler.





## SUMMER UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We are delighted to announce that this year's Ardingly Parish Council Community Award has been presented to **Deb Ruse**, in recognition of her long-standing and valued contribution to village life. Her dedication and quiet commitment over many years have made a real difference to the community, and we extend our warm congratulations and thanks. All presentations from the Parish Council Annual Meeting are available on our website: [www.ardingly.org](http://www.ardingly.org).

Progress is also continuing on the development next to Hapstead Hall, which is now taking shape with pergolas, generously donated by Wakehurst, landscaping done by Garden Unit and a new name agreed for the site: **Hapstead Green**. This change reflects a deeper appreciation of the area's local heritage.

Hapstead Green is the historic local name associated with the wider area within which Hapstead Hall was constructed, once extending across what is now the High Street and beyond. The earliest detailed map, commissioned by Lydell of Wakehurst, indicates a broad area identified as Hapstead Green. The 1841 Tithe Map shows this area as narrower than on earlier mapping, reflecting subsequent development on the east side, and with further development the name became largely limited to the road itself. The new naming therefore reflects this long-standing local identity and helps preserve an important part of the village's history.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to highlight **Village Day on 11 July**, and hope as many residents as possible will come along and take part. There will be lots of activities across the village for

everyone to enjoy. The Parish Council has organised activities at the Recreation Ground including activities for older children at the basketball hoop from **10:30am–12:30pm** – Ross Grillo’s basketball and DJ session. For younger children, from **1:30pm onwards** and in line with the St Peter’s Primary School Summer Fete, there will be Tiny Tekkers on the multi-sport courts leading football and other activities.

We are also pleased to share that there are other **FREE** activities throughout the summer: **JOLF** (golf for 4–11 year olds) will take place on **30 July 2026, 1–3pm**, and the **Mid Sussex play days** (activities geared to under 10 year olds) will return to Ardingly Recreation Ground on **12 August**.

We wish everyone a very happy and restful summer.

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

---

## LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2026



Link to Hope have just launched their 2026 Shoebox appeal, which St Peter’s Church will be supporting again this year.

Link to Hope distributes shoeboxes through trusted partners in Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria and Ukraine. Shoeboxes will go directly to people who are poor and marginalised in Eastern Europe: families, the elderly and people that literally struggle to survive on a day to day basis. A simple gift of a shoebox shows love and care for people who would otherwise have very little hope.

If you’re able to support this appeal, the more time you have to prepare and pack your shoeboxes, the more interesting and probably cheaper it will be. By buying individual items each month, it spreads the cost and means there is no last minute rushing around just as you are preparing to get ready for Christmas. For a list of what can be put in a shoebox please contact Sue (892117 or [emails4sue@gmail.com](mailto:emails4sue@gmail.com)).

# Bright Futures Federation

## SCHOOL GOVERNORS WANTED

- Would you like to be part of a dedicated and inclusive team?
- Do you want to make a difference to your community and be involved in the education of our local children?

The Bright Futures Federation is the federation of St Giles CE Primary School, Horsted Keynes and St Peter's CE Primary School, Ardingly.

Rooted in Christian values and a shared belief in the importance of small schools, we believe that by working together, we can share expertise, strengthen leadership and create wider opportunities for pupils and staff.

We are looking to recruit a Foundation Governor who can provide strategic leadership and help support the continued development of the Federation. Foundation Governors play an important role in preserving the Christian ethos of our schools while supporting and challenging leaders to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

We'd particularly welcome people with experience in business, management or leadership, but enthusiasm, commitment and a willingness to contribute are just as important. We'd especially love to hear from regular members of a Christian place of worship, ideally connected to St Giles Church or St Peter's Church, although we'd be delighted to hear from anyone passionate about supporting small schools and their communities. You'll receive training, mentoring and support as part of a friendly and forward-thinking governing body.

If you would like an informal conversation about the role, please contact Lynne Mulcare, our Clerk: [clerk@brightfuturesfederation.co.uk](mailto:clerk@brightfuturesfederation.co.uk).

Applications close 15 August 2026.

## SMALL SCHOOLS, BIG OPPORTUNITIES

# Parish Register

The funeral of Jacqueline Serdiuk of Melray Cottages, College Road, Ardingly who died on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 aged 78 years, was held at St. Peters on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

---

## A SUMMER REFLECTION

*Heavenly Father,  
Summer holidays and sunny skies. All should be well and yet,  
around the world all is not well!  
It can feel overwhelming and we want to bury our heads in the  
sand, rather than build sandcastles on the beach.  
Help us Lord, to look up; to see things with Your perspective; to  
remember that Jesus warned us that in this world we will have  
trouble. Then help us to remember that He told us to take heart,  
because He has overcome the world.  
Father, help us to savour the summer as we put our trust in You –  
our strength, our hope, our ultimate and unfailing security.  
In Jesus name, Amen.*

*(Daphne Kitching)*

---

## Flower Rota

3<sup>rd</sup> July: All flower arrangers please  
17<sup>th</sup> July: Pat and Sheila  
31<sup>st</sup> July: Belinda  
14<sup>th</sup> August: Pam and Jean  
28<sup>th</sup> August: Pat and Sheila



## Meeting Point Rota

July 13<sup>th</sup> : Adele, Diana and Kathy  
July 27<sup>th</sup> : Belinda, Alison and Sue



## Brass Cleaning Rota

4<sup>th</sup> July: Jill Veasey and Jill O'Mant  
29<sup>th</sup> August: Judith Rae and Adelaide Asibwa

## 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 July 2026



*"Then Jesus ... said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matt 28 v 18 )*

- 1 John and Sally as they begin their retirement
- 2 Churchwardens John and Nigel as the interregnum begins
- 3 Pray for world peace and all leaders in positions of power
- 4 The PCC, meeting this morning
- 5** Our worship today. Those who lead worship
- 6 Belinda and the IMARA-Uganda team
- 7 Our Prime Minister and all Members of Parliament
- 8 All who are housebound or have long term health problems
- 9 Angels & Urchins – the leaders and all who attend
- 10 Foreign students and all who will visit the UK this summer
- 11 Village Day. Pray for safety, good weather and enjoyment
- 12** Our services today. May God's kingdom grow
- 13 Samara's Aid – its staff and all the projects in Syria
- 14 All bishops and clergy, especially Dame Sarah Mullally
- 15 Young people in this country and the many pressures they face
- 16 The NHS and our local health workers
- 17 Refugees and migrants, in this country and around the world
- 18 Those who suffer from poor mental health or anxiety
- 19** Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
- 20 AOJA and the work of the clinic in The Gambia
- 21 The Police Force in this country
- 22 Village Lunch. Deb and the team who prepare it
- 23 All who are sleeping rough and those who help them
- 24 Children who are leaving or changing schools this summer
- 25 Street Pastors and those who patrol Beachy Head
- 26** Our services today. Pray for the future of St Peter's
- 27 Bible Society, Scripture Union and all organisations which produce Christian literature
- 28 King Charles and all the members of the Royal Family
- 29 All who have recently been bereaved; the sad and lonely
- 30 Church finances and the maintenance needed at St Peter's
- 31 Thank God for prayers answered and His unfailing love

**The deadline for copy for the September magazine is  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

## PRAYER DIARY August 2026



*Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." (Ps 34 v 8 )*

- 1 John and Nigel, leading us through the interregnum
- 2 Our services today. Pray God's blessing on this country
- 3 All beach missions and holiday camps taking place this month
- 4 Christians who are persecuted for their faith
- 5 Pray for friends and family who do not know Jesus
- 6 Praise God for the pleasures of summer
- 7 Milan and Shusma and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
- 8 The RNLi, Air Ambulance and other emergency services
- 9 Our services today. Pray for all who haven't heard the Good News
- 10 Pray for new opportunities to share and live out God's love
- 11 Climate Change and our care for God's creation
- 12 All who care for others, at home and in the Care Sector
- 13 Heather Johnstone and the Rehema ladies in Tanzania
- 14 All who work in the Forces or serve our country abroad
- 15 All who suffer from domestic violence or other abuse
- 16 Our services today. Give thanks for our freedom to worship
- 17 Belinda and Meeting Point; the summer outing this month
- 18 Andreas and Bambi and their work in South East Asia
- 19 Clubs and leisure activities in the village and those who run them
- 20 School children considering their future following exam results
- 21 Our Home Group leaders, having a break and preparing for next term
- 22 Tearfund, helping to alleviate poverty and reduce waste
- 23 Our services today. Give thanks and pray for the church family
- 24 CPAS, providing training, youth holidays and support for parishes
- 25 Our village schools as they prepare for the new term
- 26 Aid workers overseas and the challenges they face
- 27 The Samaritans, helping people in distress
- 28 Rev Andy & Debbie Nicholson and their work at Ardingly College
- 29 Farmers as they bring in the harvest
- 30 Our services today. Pray God's blessing on St Peter's
- 31 Give thanks for the blessings of the past month

**The deadline for copy for the September magazine is  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August**