

St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine



SEPTEMBER 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,

Rivers of living water

Many of you will remember the long, hot summer of 1976. I was then a post-grad student archaeologist digging a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall. The dry and hardened soil made it thirsty work but, as the local pub was across the road, refreshment was never far away! That summer etched itself in our collective memory as being exceptional. But, 50 years later, our own 'long, hot summer' is being regarded as the new normal; global warming is creating changed weather patterns to which we will have to become accustomed and adapt.



There are many things we take for granted until they are taken from us; it's only then that we realise how much we rely on them. When water on tap is cut off, as happened not far from here earlier in the year, it makes headline news. Today, once hosepipe bans come into force or we are restricted to standpipes, we begin to be reminded how essential to life water is.

Water flows, as it were, all through the Bible. It's there at the very beginning of Genesis as the Spirit of God hovers over the waters. And it's there at the very end of Revelation where we read the invitation: *"Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."* In between, in God's salvation story of his people and in a land of low rainfall, water plays a central role in numerous stories.

Marriages of the Old Testament patriarchs begin at wells. God rescues his people as he parts the waters of the Red Sea, provides water for them in the wilderness and parts the River Jordan as the Israelites enter the promised land. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God says that his people have forsaken him, the spring of living water, and dug their own broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Jeremiah's prophecy in Chapter 17:7-8 says:

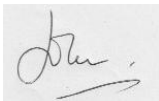
"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

I was reminded of this when looking at a patch of grass which lies under my garden table; a small oasis of green amid a 'lawn' of dry brown. It's a picture of the call of the Church to be that patch of green that stands out in a parched land; to be so nourished by the life of Christ within us, that we stand out in our community and our nation, for people with a spiritual thirst.

Water figures prominently in the New Testament, too: John the Baptist at the River Jordan and Jesus' own baptism there; Jesus turning water into wine, walking over the waters of the Sea of Galilee or washing his disciples' feet. When Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well, he tells her: *"Whoever drinks the water I will give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* And later in the temple at Jerusalem, he called out *"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me...rivers of living water will flow from within them."*

So let the current dearth of water remind us to thank God for his gift of the water of life, for his life-giving rain and to pray for more. Pray for those who lack a clean supply, and for those who work in arid areas to provide one; for farmers, faced with early and reduced harvests, delay in planting crops for next year and already using up their winter fodder. And for ourselves, pray that rivers of living water may flow from within us to be a blessing to others.

With my prayers and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Services in September 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 6th September

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 a.m.

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Morning Praise

6.00 p.m.

Open to God

A quiet and reflective service for the end of the day

Sunday 13th September

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 a.m.

Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 20th September

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 a.m.

Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Holy Communion (CW)

with prayer for healing and wholeness

Sunday 27th September

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 a.m.

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Holy Communion or Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Holy Communion or Morning Praise (CW)

NOTICEBOARD for September

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

These will take place on 14th and 28th September in Hapstead Small Hall from 10.15 to 11.30. All are welcome. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc.



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)
Start date for the new term: 10th September

PCC

The next PCC meeting is on Saturday 26th September at 9.30am at St Peter's Centre

DEANERY SYNOD

The next Deanery Synod meeting will be at Wivelsfield Church on 8th September.

ARDINGLY HISTORY SOCIETY

September 15th at 7.45pm in Hapstead Hall
Helena Griffiths and Andy Bliss speaking on
"Ardingly Archaeology"

Film Night: Thursday 24th September - "The Devil Wears Prada 2"
7pm for 7.30pm in Hapstead Hall. Tickets available from the Village Shop, Fellows Bakery and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk

Ardingly Evening WI

Thursday 17th September 7:30pm : Shuffleboard. Players use their hands to slide pucks down a long wooden table aiming for numbered scoring zones. Great fun for all either standing or seated! Visitors welcome, £5 including refreshments.

Hapstead Jam Tarts Ardingly WI

10am-12noon on 16th September in Hapstead Hall: we welcome the very talented Liz Smith to our meeting to discuss the soulful craft of Siddi Quilting, Kawandi, and Sashiko patchwork. Visitors as always are very welcome and there is no charge for your first visit.

BRIDGING AGES

Bridging Ages Café resumes at Ardingly College on Friday 11th September from 1.30 to 2.30 pm.

COUNTRY WALK/RAMBLE

On Saturday 19th September, I am leading a country walk/ramble. The distance will be approximately 4 -5miles. Hopefully, we will stop for refreshments on the way. If you are interested in joining the group, please let me know by Friday 11th September. Location and timings to be confirmed. Esther Wigmore

01444 891654 or email ewalker68@gmail.com

Community Choir

Thank you to everyone who supported the Ardingly Community Choir musical afternoon on 18th July. A wonderful total of £400 was raised, with £200 going to Ardingly Connected Together and £200 to Breast Cancer Now.

CHURCH CENTRE CLEAN



It's the time of year again to give the Church Centre a good clean, so please do join us on Wednesday 2nd September. Bring dusters, cloths, brushes and any cleaning materials which you think would be helpful. If you'd rather be outside, there's some work there which could also be done.



Suitable refreshments will be on offer during the morning.

Come when you can and go when you must!

I'll be there from 9.30 onwards.

Jill Veasey



IMARA-UGANDA EDUCATION FUND

Our students

School holidays begin in late August in Uganda and our students will return to school in September for the final term of the year. Several of our scholarship students will sit O or A Level exams and will be considering their future careers. There are four exam candidates amongst our blind students for whom life holds so many challenges. They face life with a smile and such a positive attitude. A fifth student, now preparing for his O Levels, is an orphan boy, Yafesi. It seems such a short while ago, that on a visit to Uganda, we entered a primary school to meet families seeking support for their children's education. Two small boys sat together looking very apprehensive. Joseph, the oldest of four orphan boys had brought his little brother. When their father died and then their mother, as head of the family, Joseph gave



up primary school to learn to be a mechanic so he could care for his brothers. The youngest, Yafesi, was about 12 years old when we met him.

*The four brothers
– Yafesi left and
Joseph right.*

We visited their home - a couple of huts the boys had built - where they slept on straw mats on the floor. There was very little food and they must often have gone to bed hungry. Joseph said it was his birthday so we bought some meat for this little family, a luxury many families only have at Christmas, if then.

When Yafesi turned up a few days later to start boarding school as one of our scholarship students, he had with him only the clothes he was wearing. In supporting the education of Yafesi, we are bringing the hope of a better future to the whole family.

Joy Mercy is about to take her A Level exams. She is totally blind and has big dreams for the future. We were so proud of her when earlier this year she was chosen to sing the chorus of a song recorded for blind tennis at the Australian Open, "I can see with my ears what I can't see with my eyes," by Chad Harper. You can find the recording online or on my Facebook page. I think Joy Mercy's part is the best but perhaps I am biased!

Please pray for all our students. In Uganda many children with disabilities are hidden away. They don't have the chance to show how much they would be capable of achieving if only they could go to school. Too many families live in such poverty that they cannot raise the funds to pay school fees. Our students have the hope of something better if they work hard.

St. Mary Goretti Secondary School

Our school has been open for nearly 3 years. Now there are 63 students, 26 of whom are visually impaired. There are 3 students with cerebral palsy, 3 with other physical disabilities and 2 with sickle cell anaemia. With the focus on what they can achieve and not on disability, it is wonderful to see how they grow in confidence.

Work is progressing on the building of the **library/computer room block**. This will be a valuable facility for the school. The library will be



stocked with books in both print and braille and computers for the blind will have JAWS screen reader.

We are so grateful to all the people who support this work and help us to make a difference. God bless you.

Belinda

INCREDIBLE ANSWERED PRAYERS FOR HEALING IN SYRIA

A true story from Samara's Aid Appeal

Around 6 weeks ago we were told that a 10 year old boy who has been a regular at our rural outreach centre was in intensive care. He is one of our dear children - he has been coming to our centre for 4 years. His mother has been raising him and his 5 siblings, alone. They are desperately poor and have been struggling to cover the very basics in life. For him, our centre has become like his home, and our team and the other children are like his family. He was one of the "noisy boys", described endearingly as a "naughty little boy" who the team love, and he loves them. The fact that he has been coming consistently, every day for 4 years speaks volumes. He was often hungry, regularly asking for second helpings when lunch was served.

Our team noticed that he had stopped coming to the centre. Concerned, they called his mother who told them the heartbreaking story. They were so desperate for money that his mother had sent her son to work on someone else's land. He was doing farming work, as many children from poor families in this area are forced to, to earn money to help pay for their food and basic needs. Working in the intense heat for long hours, the boy sustained severe heatstroke. He developed encephalitis (inflammation in his brain) and became unresponsive, losing consciousness. When our team called, he was in intensive care, and had been put on a ventilator.

Months before, we were sent the sweetest movie of this little boy Dabke dancing with one of his friends at our centre. I was told that this boy's father is no longer present and the family were really struggling. Yet in spite of that, this boy was smiling and dancing with his friend. The family of this boy aren't Christians, yet his mother asked our Christian team to pray for him.

That Sunday, at the end of June, I was speaking at a church which has been involved in our work for many years. At the end of my talk I told the congregation about this boy, and talked about how Jesus asked us to lay our hands on people who are sick and pray for their healing. We couldn't physically do this, but we all stretched out our hands, laying them on him in our hearts and minds, and we prayed for his healing.



The next few days were tough. His kidneys were failing and the prognosis given by the doctors was extremely poor. They said that he was unlikely to survive and, because he had encephalitis, even if he survived he would have a severe brain injury, that he wouldn't be able to walk and would probably be paralysed for life. They wanted to take him off the ventilator and let his situation take its course as they said they couldn't keep him on it indefinitely: he was deteriorating, there was no hope, and it was needed for other people. It was so disheartening, but against all the odds we all continued to pray.

The next time I asked about him he was breathing for himself and was opening his eyes, but he was unable to move and was being fed through a tube. We kept praying. Then suddenly we were told that he had started talking, moving all four limbs and was crying and asking for his friends from our centre! For us, this was a miracle! Some of the other children went to visit him in hospital, and when he heard that they were still going to the centre and were starting to play football outside the centre there, people had to restrain the boy from jumping out of his bed. He was so desperate to get out of the hospital and come to our centre. He was concerned that he was missing out!

Last week, the boy made a surprise appearance at our centre! He has missed our family there and couldn't wait to see everyone. What an absolute treat it is to see him standing in our centre, able to walk and talk and to have his independence back! What an incredible mercy and kindness God has showed him and his family, and all of us, by answering our humble prayers. Thank you God.



Samara Levy

(In the photos the boy's eyes have been blurred to protect his identity)

AOJA – CONGRATULATIONS TO JANE AND EMMA

As previously reported, Jane (Margaret Dale's daughter) and Emma recently took on the Pennine Way – a walk of some 279 miles over challenging terrain (and weather) from Edale to Kirk Yetholm as a personal challenge (achieving 90 years of combined age) and also, through a JustGiving page, to raise money towards the Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association. At the time of writing, they have raised in excess of £2200 which, since the page is still open, will doubtless reach a higher figure.



Kept informed of their progress throughout, Cherno Yaddeh, General Administrator of the Old Jeshwang Clinic commented: "I am truly delighted and deeply grateful to hear about the extraordinary effort Jane and her daughter Emma have undertaken, walking nearly 300 miles along the Pennine Way to raise funds for AOJA and support our Health Centre.

This is particularly meaningful knowing that Jane is the daughter of John and Margaret Dale, whose longstanding commitment, generosity and support for AOJA and the Health Centre have contributed so much over the years. It is very touching to see Jane and Emma continuing that wonderful family connection and legacy of supporting our work and the people of our community.

Beyond the financial contribution, their effort means a great deal to all of us. It reminds our staff and community that we have friends and supporters who, despite being thousands of miles away, continue to care deeply about the work we are doing here in The Gambia."

I am sure you would wish to join me in passing on our congratulations to them, hoping they enjoyed their free pint, guaranteed at the Border Hotel, Kirk Yetholm to all walkers who complete whole walk!

Lynn Wilson

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2026

This is the month for us to prepare shoeboxes for Link to Hope to distribute at Christmas!

Running since 1992, the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal has sent over 1.1 million shoeboxes to hundreds of locations – mainly in Eastern Europe and Ukraine - supporting communities affected by poverty, conflict, and economic hardship.

If you are able to make up a box for a family or an elderly person and need the form/list of contents please let me know. Alternatively you can download the form and find helpful information on the website:

www.linktohope.co.uk

Boxes need to reach me by the end of October, if possible, so that I can deliver them to the collection centre in this area by 6th November. I have a few spare shoeboxes, if anyone needs one.

Sue Laker (Tel. 892117)

Link to Hope do not only send shoeboxes ...

Their 'WASHING MACHINE MINISTRY' has had a dramatic effect on peoples' lives. If you have no running water how do you wash your clothes let alone your bedding?

Gheorgie lives with his wife Aliona. Both spouses are sick and lonely, they have no children and no help of any kind. The Washing Machine Ministry helps them by taking their clothes and bedding, washing them and returning them often with food packages or other help.



The families that are supported in this way are so grateful.

RISE IN CONFIRMATIONS!



Across the Diocese of Chichester, we have recently seen a notable increase in confirmations, with several parishes reporting especially strong numbers as people of all ages affirm their faith. Nearly 600 people were confirmed in 2025. Churches in coastal, rural and urban settings alike have celebrated full services, with candidates ranging from teenagers to those discovering faith later in life. Clergy have spoken of a renewed sense of encouragement as congregations gather to support those taking this significant step. In Crawley 50 candidates were confirmed by Bishop Will recently and Bishop Ruth led joyful Confirmation services at St Peter's Brighton and in Storrington. These celebrations offer a hopeful sign of spiritual growth across the diocese.

(From Faith in Sussex Summer 2026)

Sussex Historic Churches Trust



Sponsored Ride and Stride 12th September 2026

This annual event enables us to help in raising money to preserve the historic places of worship across Sussex. Last year, riders and striders raised £50,000 for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust.

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

A thought from our former Rector, Simon Allaby:

Alongside his new job at Lee Abbey, Simon writes books and a podcast, and his 60 second 'Turn the Page' stories help to "connect the dots between everyday life and something far bigger — offering fresh, faith-filled insights that J. John calls 'always more than food-for-thought'." (www.turn-the-page.co.uk). Here is one from this summer:

If you are cooling off in the latest heatwave with an ice-cold drink, you might want to raise a glass to Frederick Tudor. Tudor lived in New England in the early 19th century and one day hit upon the idea of selling ice to people in countries where it was hot. Everyone thought he was mad. Firstly, there was no demand and secondly, all the ice was sure to melt before it reached its destination. But he didn't give up and gradually persuaded people that cold drinks were a good idea. He also worked out how to insulate the ice in transit, using sawdust and wood shavings. One shipment left Boston carrying 180 tons of ice and arrived months later in Calcutta with 100 tons left. It turned out that he was a genius and not a fool. Someone else who was considered a fool but to whom we should be similarly grateful is Noah. One day he hit upon the idea of building a boat. But he lived in a desert where it hadn't rained for years. Like Tudor, everyone laughed. But he was convinced he was right and no matter how much he was mocked, he kept going and in the end was proved right.

Tudor's perseverance led to the widespread availability of cold drinks. Noah's would one day lead to the widespread availability of the water of life found in Jesus who said, 'whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst'.



HAPPY RETIREMENT JOHN AND SALLY



The church was bedecked with flowers, the bells rang and pews were full of friends and family on 28th June for the last service that Rev John Crutchley would take before retiring and leaving Ardingly. John preached on the same passage as on his first Sunday at St Peter's (Ephesians 3 v 14-21) and he said his prayer for the people of Ardingly was v 16-19; that the church here would grow in strength, love and fullness.

John knelt in prayer with Churchwardens John and Nigel as he prayed for them in their new responsibilities of guiding the church during the Vacancy. He prayed especially for God's guidance, for energy, for protection and patience.

The service ended with the Hallelujah Chorus in celebration of John's retirement, with coffee, cake and some sparkling wine. He and Sally will be very much missed.

The following evening there was a farewell celebration held at Goddenwick Farm, with refreshments, attended by over 50 family, friends and other well-wishers. On a beautiful Summer's evening, overlooking the spectacular countryside towards Highbrook, we again had the opportunity to bid farewell to John and Sally. John Witherington gave a vote of thanks to John and Sally and presented them with gifts while Nigel Cheater made especial mention of the support that Sally had given John, and to us all at St. Peter's over the years.

Sue and Lynn

ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

As I write this, the sun is beating down during another of this year's heatwaves and we are in the middle of the summer holidays. St Peter's School is the last thing on the families' minds, particularly the pupils!



The end of the school year saw us saying goodbye to our friends in year six. It's always sad to lose daily contact with those we've grown up with. However, we wish them well as they go on to Secondary school and look forward to hearing their news. Of course, we also said goodbye to Revd Crutchley - John, as all our pupils knew him. We will miss his regular assemblies and seeing him in our special services in St Peter's church.

Looking forward, though, we have exciting times to look forward to. The new term lies ahead and as each class group moves through the school, we have the joy of welcoming our new reception pupils. They start at St Peter's coming to learn. Yes, they will be learning curriculum subjects like maths, English, science, but they will also learn how to be kind to one another, to respect people, to care for each person and for the world. What an exciting time lies ahead!

Kathy James



ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL – AUTUMN 2026

As summer draws to a close, we'd like to share some of the Parish Council's recent news and upcoming events.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Village Day such a success. It was wonderful to see so many residents enjoying the day. A special thanks to Ardingly Connected Together (ACT), who coordinate and organise the event. The Parish Council was delighted to sponsor the sports activities at the Recreation Ground, including a basketball and DJ workshop and a multi-sport session for children and young people.

These activities reflect feedback from our recent village survey, which highlighted a need for more opportunities for our youth. We are actively looking for volunteers to help lead and develop our youth programme, with the full support of the Parish Council. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Parish Clerk. We are continuing to keep the multi-sport courts open and freely available over the summer holidays, encouraging young people to make use of the facilities. Our Playground Working Group has installed a 'Borrow a Ball' box inside the multi-sports court, making it easy for young people to get active and enjoy the space. The basketball posts have also been given a much-needed fresh coat of paint, helping to brighten up the courts.

Planning continues for the South of England Showground site, where Antler Homes is progressing proposals for the approved 35 new homes. The Parish Council has submitted its response, reflecting the needs and priorities of the village. The final planning decisions will now be made by Mid Sussex District Council in the coming months.

We have received the new noticeboard, and the Best Kept Village sign is being refurbished. Both will soon be reinstalled at Hapstead Green, the community space next to Hapstead Hall. Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, pergolas generously donated by Wakehurst, and landscaping completed by Garden Unit, the site is taking shape beautifully.

Please save the date for its official opening and a free community barbecue on **Saturday 3 October, 5.00–7.00pm**. Further details will follow.

Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9 September at 7.30pm**, and residents are always very welcome to attend.

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

Churchyard Tidy Up

As the church will be open during the Ride and Stride on 12th September it seems a good opportunity for us to combine manning the church with giving the churchyard an Autumn tidy up!

We particularly want to do some weeding, clear the channel around the church building, weed the paths and cut back shrubs and bits of the hedge where needed. If you're able to help please come at any time between 9.30 and 5pm and bring your own tools! Thank you!





There are many books on the shelves at the back of church. You are very welcome to borrow these free of charge.



AROUND THE VILLAGE

Belinda Maclean – Order of St Richard

Congratulations to Belinda Maclean, who is being awarded the Order of St Richard by the Diocese in Chichester Cathedral on 26th September.



After a career in education, abroad and in the UK, Belinda has continued her Christian service in the Church, the community and in Uganda. At St. Peter's she has long been a reader and leader of prayers. We value highly her rich intercessions for their clarity and compassion. She led a Home Group for ten years and is still an active and faithful member of it, sharing the wisdom of a lifetime of Christian faith and commitment. She leads and co-ordinates the

provision of flowers in church; her team produces wonderful displays for a variety of occasions which we and visitors so appreciate. In the village, she runs Meeting Point; the fortnightly chat over refreshments and a summer excursion do so much to offer a space for folk to make friends. In 2011, Belinda set up a charity, The Imara-Uganda Education Fund, initially providing scholarships for orphaned or otherwise disadvantaged children in Uganda to have an education, as well as providing equipment for the schools. Latterly, the charity has been providing education for blind children and equipping a school in Lira with residential accommodation, a Braille library and Braille machines, while still supporting other children with bursaries. It is so fitting that Belinda is being recognised by the award of the Order of St. Richard as her Christian witness though all she does has inspired so many of us here at St. Peter's and left us in amazement at her perseverance and resilience.

John Witherington

NEW HEAD AT ARDINGLY COLLEGE

This month sees a new Head at Ardingly College – Alastair Tighe. He takes over from Ben Figgis, who has joined Munich International School as Principal, after over a decade at Ardingly College. Alastair Tighe has been at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset, where he has been Head Master for the past seven years. Alastair is joined in Ardingly by his husband, Gavin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Sloane, who is the new President of the History Society in Ardingly.

FELLOWSHIP PICNIC

2nd August was a hot summer's day and as many of the congregation as could come (plus friends and family members) enjoyed a lovely relaxed picnic under the big Tulip tree in the Rectory garden.



Celebrating an Outstanding Sussex Community Heroine

In celebration of Ladies Day, Plumpton Racecourse has recognised some outstanding Sussex Community Heroines, including Ardingly resident, Fiona O'Leary, who is a member of the Hapstead Jam Tarts Ardingly WI, and her work for the Sussex Cancer Fund.



"We are incredibly proud to see our wonderful volunteer, Fiona O'Leary, recognised as an Outstanding Sussex Community Heroine by Plumpton Racecourse. Fi has dedicated countless hours to creating beautiful, heart-shaped breast cushions, providing comfort and support to people recovering from breast surgery. What began with a simple question, "Could I help?" has grown into an extraordinary act of kindness, with more than 2,600 cushions lovingly made and delivered to patients across Surrey and Sussex.

Fi said: "I am filled with gratitude that I was in the WI at the right time and my passion for sewing has been able to help other women feel just a little bit more comfortable when they needed it."

We couldn't agree more with Fi's words about our charity, but the truth is that people like Fi are the heart of Sussex Cancer Fund. It is thanks to dedicated volunteers, supporters and fundraisers that we can continue providing practical support and improving the lives of local people affected by cancer.

A huge congratulations, Fi, on this thoroughly deserved recognition, and thank you to Plumpton Race Course. Thank you, Fi, for your compassion, creativity and unwavering generosity. You truly are one in a million."

Fiona was also invited to do a live radio interview for BBC Radio Sussex in August and was nominated as a finalist by "More Radio" at Hickstead as a local hero in their awards, with a celebration breakfast and live radio interview in July. Well done Fiona!

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS 2026



On its 30th anniversary more than 11,000 visitors (a record number) attended this year's Festival of Flowers, helping to raise almost £180,000 for the Cathedral.

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BISHOP

The process of appointing a new Bishop of Chichester has moved a step forward with the election of six people as the Diocesan representatives to the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC). The CNC forms the interview panel for the next bishop, and it is made up of the two Archbishops (or a Diocesan Bishop acting on their behalf) and 6 'Central Members' elected from the General Synod alongside our Diocesan Representatives.

The six people elected are:

- Revd Canon Lisa Barnett, Team Rector of Horsham
- Bob Chambers, lay representative on the General Synod (2024-26), member of St Margaret's, Angmering
- Revd Anita Colpus, Rector of Trinity Lewes
- Michelle Lashley, Early Years Minister at Hailsham Parish Church
- Ven Martin Lloyd-Williams, Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes
- Bradley Smith, lay representative on the General Synod (2015-26), Churchwarden at Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate

REPAIR CAFÉ DATES

LINDFIELD

Saturday 5th September

10am – 1.00pm

United Reformed Church, 52

High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HL



EAST GRINSTEAD – 12th September

10am – 1.00pm

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

FOREST ROW – 19th September

10am – 1.00pm

The Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

MORE RECYCLING GOOD NEWS

Pet food, including raw or cooked meat and fish, can go in our food waste caddies

As of 1st June we can now recycle **plastic plant pots** – any colour except black - in our blue bins. The minimum size is 40mm x 40mm and they should be clean and dry and not stacked inside each other.

West Sussex County Council has upgraded the Horsham based Anaerobic Digestion and Resource Recovery Facility (ADRRF) so they can recycle thousands of tonnes of food waste into renewable energy and fertiliser each year. Between April and June the expanded Anaerobic Digestion facility has converted over 2,670 tonnes of food waste into renewable energy used to power the plant, with the surplus electricity exported to the National Grid and nutrient-rich fertiliser to be returned to farmland.

NOT TOO SERIOUSLY



The other day one of the neighbourhood kids bet me his dog could jump higher than my house.

I said, "You're on!"

I lost the bet, of course, because my house can't jump at all.

A mother was visiting her son on an Army base, and chatted with a colleague of his.

"What rank are you?" she asked.

"I'm relieved to say that I've just been promoted from captain to major."

"Why relieved?"

"Because," he replied, "my last name is Hook."



A couple had been married for 40 years and also celebrated their 60th birthdays. During the celebration, a fairy godmother appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple all those years, she would give them one wish each.

Being the faithful, loving spouse for all these years, the wife wanted her and her husband to have a romantic vacation together, so she wished for them to travel around the world. The fairy godmother waved her wand and boom! She had the tickets in her hand.

Next, it was the husband's turn and the fairy godmother assured him he could have any wish he wanted, all he needed to do was ask for his heart's desire. He paused for a moment, then said, "Well, honestly, I'd like to have a woman 30 years younger than me." The fairy godmother picked up her wand and boom! He was 90!!

Parish Register

The funeral of Barbara Mary Boff of Albert Close, Haywards Heath, who died 11th May 2026 aged 94 years was held at The Surrey and Sussex Crematorium on Friday 26th June 2026, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving held at St. Peter's Church on the same day.

**What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!**

These are words from a hymn written by Joseph Scriven. His life was filled with grief and trials so he often needed the solace of the Lord as described in his famous hymn. Ill health forced him to give up his ambition of an army career. Soon after came a second blow - his fiancée died in a drowning accident on the eve of their wedding. New plans for marriage were dashed when his new bride-to-be died after a short illness. Following this calamity Scriven seldom had a regular income, and was forced to live in the homes of others. He also experienced mistrust from neighbours. Scriven suffered from depression and died by drowning in a lake.

Flower Rota

11th September: Belinda

25th September: Pam and Jean

Meeting Point Rota

14th September: Jill, Ruses & Dilys

28th September: Adele, Diana & Kathy



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

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

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 SEPTEMBER 2026



"You will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you." (Jeremiah 29 v 12)

- 1 John and Nigel, leading us through the interregnum
- 2 Our village schools as term begins
- 3 Settlement for Gaza and the many conflicts around the world
- 4 The future of St Peter's Church/the appointment of a new Priest
- 5 Refugees worldwide and Cross Channel migrants
- 6** Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
- 7 Our Prime Minister, government and all MP's
- 8 Farmers and all others who have suffered from the heatwaves
- 9 Bambi & Andreas and the small church they lead in S.E. Asia
- 10 Young people and the pressures/dangers they face
- 11 Church Army and the Salvation Army; those that they help
- 12 The Historic Churches Ride and Stride today
- 13** Our services today. Pray for the clergy who visit us
- 14 The Link to Hope Shoebox appeal
- 15 Andy and Debbie Nicholson and their ministry at Ardingly College
- 16 IMARA: the children and the school project in Uganda
- 17 Climate Change and the world's response to it
- 18 University and College Christian Unions
- 19 Our overcrowded prisons. Pray for inmates and staff
- 20** Our services today. John and all involved with the music
- 21 International Day of Peace. Pray for all peacemakers
- 22 Ardingly Connected Together, supporting families in the village
- 23 The Ardingly team who take services at Compton House
- 24 AOJA and the work of the clinic in The Gambia
- 25 The PCC, meeting tomorrow
- 26 Belinda Maclean, receiving her award at Chichester Cathedral
- 27** Our services today and the witness of the church
- 28 All who serve in the Police Force and justice system
- 29 Samara's Aid; the team and all the projects in Syria
- 30 Praise God for his love and faithfulness

**The deadline for copy for the October magazine
will be Friday 18th September**