

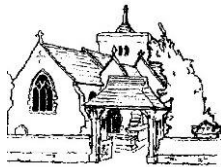
St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine

November 2026



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



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

The Church Wardens, Rural Dean and the PCC have oversight for the parish during the Vacancy. 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 Please contact the Wardens in the first instance with any questions or queries relating to Church matters or to arrange services:

*John Witherington 01444 892277 Email jhswithers@btinternet.com
Nigel Cheater 01444 892769 Email nigel@ardinglychurch.net*

READER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Remembering



As we enter the season of Remembrance, we recall with deep gratitude the lives of those who have gone before us. Many will be those we have known personally, whom we have loved and lost from our lives. We don't stop grieving; wounds always leave scars. But as we learn to live well with our grief, we bring to mind all that God shaped our loved ones to be. These are the ones who have nurtured us, taught us, encouraged us, supported us, befriended us, shared our joys and our trials, laughed and cried with us and loved us. Their lives have been a blessing to us and we will have an opportunity to do our personal remembering at our service on **Sunday 1st November** in the graveyard (weather permitting) at **3.00 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to join us for this short service and for refreshments afterwards in St. Peter's Centre.

Many, however, of those in our collective remembering the following week on Remembrance Sunday, will be unknown to us: both those who once laid down their lives for the freedoms we now enjoy and those of our armed forces today who have survived but still bear the ongoing challenges of physical and mental injury. Some of the names on the Roll of Honour we read out in our Act of Remembrance have a poignant ring to them as they are from Ardingly village families with living relatives amongst us. We remember them all with particular pride and thanksgiving. Our **Service of Remembrance** and **Act of Remembrance** will take place on the Recreation Ground on **Sunday 8th November**, beginning at **10.45**.

The two-minute silence is a very special time in the life of the nation, a rare opportunity to pause from the world's busy-ness and be completely still amid an unaccustomed silence. I wonder what thoughts you bring to mind, how you do your remembering in that short window of peace. Perhaps you picture in sorrow the realities of past wars. Perhaps contemporary conflicts, scarring so many lives across the world, awaken a prayer for peace and understanding.

Perhaps the work of the Royal British Legion comes to mind as they support the Armed Forces community, and ensure their unique contribution is not forgotten. My own thoughts often begin with gratitude to God that several members of my own family, serving in two world wars, came safely through the conflicts, though not all without lifelong after-effects. Remembering will be different for all of us, but on this day, we do so together with our community and nation.

Remembering in the Bible is more than recalling. God's people were repeatedly reminded of his steadfast love for them, not simply to give them a shared identity and a collective sense of thanksgiving, but so that they could act in line with the truths they had received. It's the same for us. Psalm 103:2 says: "*Praise the Lord ... and forget not all his benefits.*" We recall all Jesus has done for us, not simply to confirm our identity in him, but so that we can live out the truths we have received in the light of his sacrifice for us on the cross and, through the Holy Spirit, draw daily on his provision. Our services of Holy Communion are acts of remembrance, reminders for us to respond to the love and forgiveness of Christ with lives lived for God's greater glory.

May the Lord be with you in your time of remembering,



~~~~~



*The church is open daily from 10am to 4pm for private prayer. You can also light a candle in church if you wish, maybe in memory of someone or just to help some quiet reflection or meditation.*

~~~~~

ORGAN - DAVID MOORE
CONDUCTOR - ROBERT HAMMERSLEY

Mid Sussex

Remembrance Concert

Mozart - Requiem
Rutter - Amazing Grace

**SATURDAY 7TH
NOVEMBER 2026**

**7.30PM - ST WILFRIDS CHURCH
HAYWARDS HEATH**

in aid of

**The Royal
British Legion**

TICKETS ONLINE - £16 or ON THE DOOR - £16

www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1123464

BUY TICKETS ONLINE
www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk

Services in November 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 1st November

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Holy Communion (CW)

All Saints Day

1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

3.00 p.m. Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

A short service to remember those we have loved and lost to be held in the graveyard of St. Peter's Church. We have already commended them to God, but today we show our continuing love and remember with gratitude the gift of their lives to us.

Sunday 8th November

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (BCP)

Remembrance Sunday

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 15:9-17

10.45 a.m.

"We Will Remember Them"

A short service and Act of Remembrance to be held on Ardingly Recreation Ground.

"This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lam.3:21-23)

Sunday 15th November

9.00 a.m.

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Morning Praise (CW)

The Second Sunday before Advent

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King

(The Sunday next before Advent)

9.00 a.m.

Ephesians 1:15-end; Matthew 25:31-end

Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

Ephesians 1:15-end; Matthew 25:31-end

Holy Communion (CW) with prayer for healing and wholeness

Sunday 29th November

The First Sunday of Advent

9.00 a.m.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-end

Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-end

Morning Praise (CW)



CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Our Carols by Candlelight service will be on 20th December this year, at 6.30pm.

We would once again like to make it a truly village affair, and would like to invite any singers who would like to, to join our choir for the occasion. We will mostly be leading

the congregation in singing well known carols, but also singing one or two items on our own. Practices will be at 7.00pm on Wednesdays in the Church Centre, beginning on 18th November. This allows enough time to learn anything new and be confident with the music. The last practice, on 16th December, will be the most important, and this one will be in church.



If interested, please contact Jill Veasey (01444 373091) or Lynn Wilson (07713 324620).

NOTICEBOARD for November

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

These will take place on 9th and 23rd November in Hapstead Small Hall from 10.15 to 11.30. All are welcome. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc.



ARDINGLY HISTORY SOCIETY

17th November at 7:45pm in Hapstead Hall

The speaker will be David Rudling and he will be giving a talk on the life of Ivan Margary who died 50yrs ago this year. Ivan was an Officer, Gentleman, Scholar and Philanthropist and a lot of his life was devoted to mapping the Roman Roads of Britain. The road that comes through our parish, number 150, connects Wakehurst with St Peter's and it is likely the location of these places was influenced by the road. He also financed the excavation of Fishbourne Roman Palace, near Chichester, and the building that covers it today.

DEANERY SYNOD

The next deanery synod meeting will take place on 10th November at St Richard's Church in Haywards Heath. 7.45pm for an 8pm start.

PCC MEETING

There will be a PCC Meeting at 9 o'clock on Saturday 21st November in St Peter's Centre.

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal



If there is anyone who has not yet given me their shoeboxes, could I please have them by 3rd November? Please let me know if you need them collected.
Many thanks. Sue Laker (892117)

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Village Christmas Lunch will be on **Wednesday 9th December** in Hapstead Hall. Tickets are £12 and will be available from the Village Shop. ***Please buy your ticket early*** in order to be sure of getting a place, and also so that the caterers know how many to cook for!

The Hapstead Jam Tarts WI

On 18th November at 10.00am in Hapstead Hall the Hapstead Jam Tarts WI will welcome Michelle Betts, award winning social media entrepreneur, and author, to talk to us about her novels plus the fascinating world of social media and Instagram. Michelle is an excellent public speaker and she will be able to answer all your questions about the Internet and how to get the most from your online presence. Contact Fiona on 07513411893

Ardingly Evening WI

19th November

Gill Walby speaking on the subject of
"From Jenny Wren to the Royal Navy"
7.30pm in Hapstead Hall

FSW TOYS FOR CHRISTMAS

As in previous years, FSW is inviting everyone to donate small gifts for children so that at Christmas they can be given to families within our Deanery who are supported by FSW. Gifts do not need to be wrapped and wrapping paper and cellotape is not needed this year. They can be brought to church up until midday on Sunday 29th November, after which they will be collected. Thank you. Deb Ruse



IMARA COFFEE MORNING – THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who supported the Imara-Uganda coffee morning on Monday 5th October. Including donations from those unable to come, we raised approximately £500!

The charity received some generous donations before the event so we have been able to purchase 2 Perkins Classic braille machines to take to Uganda in our luggage and we have an Orbit Reader 20 on order. The Orbit Reader enables students or their teacher to type braille notes which are stored on an SD card to be read back by the student. It is quite small so we will be able to take it with us as well. Step by step we are managing to equip the school with the things they most need and I am really grateful for the help we have received in this. It is truly a blessing. Belinda

FILM NIGHT: Thursday 26th November



HAPSTEAD HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year's Fair will take place on Saturday 5th December in Hapstead Hall. Stalls of all types will be selling cards, gifts and other produce for Christmas and also fundraising for local organisations.



St Peter's Church will be having our usual Handmade & Homemade stall, so offers of goods to sell will be very welcome, as well as offers to help set up and/or man the stall for an hour or so.



If you can help please contact Jill Veasey (01444 373091) or Sue Laker (01444 892117) Thank you!

Lindfield Repair Café

Saturday 7th November, 10am-1pm
United Reform Church, High Street,
Lindfield, RH16 2HL

REPAIR CAFE

Forest Row Repair Café

Saturday 21st November 10am – 1pm
At the Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ.

East Grinstead repair café

Saturday 14th November , 10am – 1pm
Glen Vue Centre, Railway Approach, East Grinstead RH19 1BS

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2026

On a beautiful warm and sunny October morning, we gathered at the Recreation Ground for our outdoor Harvest Festival service.

Before the service we were encouraged by Reader, John Witherington, to turn and look around, take in the changing colours of the trees and appreciate God's provision, supporting life and health all around us.

The service itself, and Rev Andy Nicholson's sermon, of course centred on the harvest time and our need to be thankful that we live in a land of plenty while being ever mindful of those who are less



fortunate or, for reasons of climate change or conflict, are in need.

We then proceeded to the Church Centre where, thanks to Jane and Nigel Cheater, we were treated to a traditional roast Sunday Lunch.



All were agreed that it was a splendid meal and we gave a large round of grateful applause to Jane and Nigel, and their helpers, for their efforts.

The occasion also offered an opportunity to bring bags of non-perishable/ tinned goods which, in the following days, would be distributed by Ardingly

Connected Together to folk in our own community who are finding it difficult in these stressful times to put food on their tables.

Lynn Wilson

NEWS FROM HEATHER JOHNSTONE (CMS)

God's grace and timing are always perfect, even when our patience is tested. After six long, often frustrating, months of navigating paperwork, malfunctioning websites and being told more times than I care to remember to "be patient", I am overjoyed to share that my official work and residence permits have finally been granted, valid until July 2028. It was a tedious journey, but God placed an incredible helper in my path – a man named Festo. Though I have never met him in person and know nothing about where he lives or works, he was extremely helpful and managed to get my approvals processed where so many others, including government employees, had failed.

God's divine protection was powerfully evident in the life of one of our beloved seamstresses recently. For a long time, her family has faced



ongoing structural issues because historically their house was built directly on top of a massive termite nest. A few years ago, we tried to help secure and tile the floor, but the resilient termites persisted, silently eroding the home from the inside out at weaker access points. One evening, she came to me in floods of tears to share a terrifying ordeal. She had left her youngest daughter, Abigail (two years old), at home under the watchful eye of her 18-year-old son. Abigail was playing in the bedroom while her big brother was doing his own

thing nearby. Soon, he heard her calling out "mjusi" – the Swahili word for lizard. Abigail's calls grew increasingly persistent as she shouted, "Brother, lizard!"

Deciding to investigate, he walked into the bedroom and froze. The "lizard" was actually a large, dangerous snake next to Abigail on the bed, coiled and ready to strike. Acting quickly, he threw something at the snake, simultaneously grabbed little Abigail and rushed out. In the chaos, they were initially unsure if the snake had bitten her, but by the absolute grace of God, Abigail was completely unharmed! The snake slithered away and was killed by a neighbour. Moments later, a second snake was discovered inside the house.

When I visited the house the following morning, the extent of the damage was shocking. Termites were eating away the inner structure; touching the outer pebble dashing and causing it to simply fall off the brickwork. There were gaping holes leading directly from outside into the bedrooms and every morning brought new piles of sand inside.

Knowing the family could not remain in such danger, we immediately gathered quotations to rebuild and strengthen the walls, shutting off all access points to unwanted dangerous visitors. Thanks to our assistance programme and the incredible generosity of our Rehema Project friends and supporters, this vital construction was completed expeditiously.

The Diocese of Mara recently celebrated its 41st anniversary with a vibrant, week-long programme packed with seminars, worship and deep gratitude for God's continued mercy. The celebration culminated in a glorious Sunday service featuring visiting choirs from various regions across Tanzania, alongside a delegation of 51 pastors who travelled all the way from Butere, Kenya. The bishop of Butere, Bishop Rose, delivered a powerful sermon to an energetic congregation. The joyous service lasted 7 hours and at the end included a crucial fundraiser to purchase motorbikes for pastors serving in remote, hard-to-reach areas.

Our catering team was kept extraordinarily busy feeding the crowds throughout the week. Our cafe provided lunch and dinner for the visiting bishops, their wives and their drivers all week long, finishing with a grand festive meal for 80 special guests following the Sunday service. Our external food service team prepared and served meals for 200 people at a nearby hall. And combined with two other food stations, our collective efforts helped feed an estimated 1,000 people who gathered to mark this milestone.



It was also a pleasure to host teams from UK Christian charity Go MAD (gomakeadifference.co.uk) again this year. They visited Musoma over a 9 week period from mid-June until the end of August. The Go MAD teams ate at Rehema 4 times a week and our onsite craft shop saw the benefit of a lot of visitors. Many of the 190 volunteers also had items of clothing made by our seamstresses, which is part of the volunteers' Tanzanian experience and a real blessing for our seamstresses and to the project.

To cap off an already eventful season, I was blessed with very special visitors from South Africa: 2 dear friends I've known and loved dearly since primary school, along with one of their husbands. Celebrating a cherished friendship of nearly 60 years was a profound gift.

A special celebration was held in their honour on the following Sunday, giving my childhood friends the opportunity to witness firsthand the extraordinary love, compassion, hard work and unity of the Rehema women. It was a beautiful bridge between my past and my present ministry here in Tanzania.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, encouragement and support that make the work of the Rehema Project possible every single day.

Heather



*Music &
Mince Pies*

 **ARDINGLY**
College

World Ready

Wednesday 2nd December 11.00 AM

For the Senior Citizens of Ardingly.
Join musicians from Ardingly College
for individual and group performances

Transport starting at 10:35am from
Turnpike Court, followed by the Village
Hall car park and Priceholme car park

RSVP for attendance & transport
01444 893 289
debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com
Admission Free, All Welcome

Recital Room, Music Department
Ardingly College
RH17 6SQ

SAMARA'S AID NEWS



This (*above*) is part of the new playground we have installed for the children at our Mountain Outreach Centre. The extension work here is going really well and we hope it will be finished in a month or so. This will enable us to accommodate double the number of children there. In this area, the children are keen to study, and the families are really poor.

The hairdressing and sewing training is going well in the community building next door. It has been finished in a very basic way, but it is functional enough to be used.

Left: This year we have our first banana crop!



THE POPPY

Nature created a flower, with petals of
brilliant red
Who'd have thought such a beautiful flower,
Would be used to remember the dead
For when all the guns have stopped firing,
and there's only mud and rain
God sent down his little red flowers, to cover
the lads who remain
So remember every November, when we hold
our Remembrance Day
Of the lads who lie neath the poppies, and the
price that they had to pay

ARDINGLY CONNECTED TOGETHER and collection of food



Ardingly Connected Together (ACT) continues to work within the village to bring help, support and hopefully joy to families and individuals in Ardingly. We are already planning ahead for Christmas and into the New Year! More will follow so keep a look-out for details.

One of the things ACT undertakes is to deliver parcels of food and other provisions to families in need of some support. Recently, we were delighted to receive donations via St Peter's Church and St Peter's School harvest celebrations. This meant that we were able to deliver a good selection of non-perishable household staples, along with fresh fruit and vegetables. Thank you to everyone who donated through the church and the school.

A number of people have asked us how they may make donations to ACT to support our work. If you would like to donate provisions of any sort, please bring them to St Peter's Church, where there will be a box just inside the main door. We also plan to have boxes in other locations eg the hub. Please make sure that items are in date and non-perishable. Obviously, tinned goods are always handy but things like soap, stock cubes, squash, washing up liquid are also excellent products for us to distribute.

Some folk have indicated that they would like to donate financially to ACT funds and this is welcomed. Please contact Kathy James or Jim Sloane if you would like to give money in this way.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid allows UK charities such as St. Peter's Church, to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated at no extra cost to you the donor, provided you are a UK taxpayer who pays enough Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax to cover the amount reclaimed.

All you need to do to allow St. Peter's Church to claim Gift Aid on your donation is to sign and return the declaration and we do the rest. Gift Aid is a valuable source of income for the church, and you only need to fill in the form once and we do the rest.

Please do consider signing the Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer. Thank you for supporting St. Peter's Church.

$$\text{£1} + \text{giftaid it} = \text{£1.25}$$

Gift Aid Declaration

Once completed please to hand to one of the churchwardens or a member of the PCC.

Please confirm the statement:

I am a UK taxpayer. I want to Gift Aid all donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years St. Peter's Church until I notify you otherwise.

Title

First Name

Last Name

Address

Postcode

Date of Declaration

Signature

ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



In this day and age, we are all very aware of the need to look after both our physical and mental health and wellbeing. While the media does tend to bombard us with the latest fad, here at St Peter's School, we make sure that

our pupils are encouraged and supported to have a healthy lifestyle and experience life to the full.



Sport is a great way to promote overall wellbeing. Attending the recent football festival encouraged our children to engage in sports and develop skills. As well as attacking and defending skills, there was also an emphasis on teamwork too.

Our residential activities are always exciting and the recent overnight Federation Camp was no exception! Our Yrs 5 and 6 pupils joined with their counterparts in St Giles School (our Federation partners) to enjoy camping out overnight. Putting up the tents, picnic-ing and playing games was fun and tiring. However, rumour has it that there was also sufficient energy for a midnight feast! The next residential is 'round the corner' date-wise, just before half term. It's a busy, healthy term!



Returning to the theme of health and wellbeing, the school is delighted that we have once again received the Healthy School Award. As a whole school community, we are committed to ensuring the health, wellbeing and happiness of all our children. It is fantastic to have it recognised in this way.



AROUND THE VILLAGE

CONGRATULATIONS TO WAKEHURST!

After entering for the first time ever, Kew Wakehurst has been named Best Heritage Park or Garden at the *South & South East in Bloom* awards! They were delighted to be named Category Winner, 'recognising the impact their wild botanic landscape has on visitors, and celebrating the dedicated individuals who care for it.' Well done Kew Wakehurst!



RAIN

Hooray, we've had some rain! In a good way – not a deluge or a storm but some steady, gentle rain, allowing the water to soak into the soil. It's lovely to see nature beginning to recover slowly. There are still plenty of bare patches on some lawns however and it's a bit concerning that Ardingly Reservoir has featured several times on TV recently – because it's currently only 19% full. Meteorologists say that "many months of rain" are needed to replenish water levels.

Belinda - Order of St Richard

Belinda Maclean was one of 40 lay people from across the Diocese who received the Order of St Richard from the Acting Bishop of Chichester, Rt Rev Will Hazlewood, on 26th September. All were recognised for their quiet, faithful service which strengthens church and community life.

The Choral Evensong at Chichester Cathedral was attended by the Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard, and Gary Shipton in his capacity as High Sheriff of West Sussex.

These people join a growing community whose service is invaluable. Since its inception in 2019, more than 220 people from over 150 parishes have received the Order of St Richard award. 3 of the 220 are from St Peter's Church, Ardingly!

(Belinda is just behind Bishop Will's right shoulder!)





ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2026

Autumn has been a busy time for the Parish Council as we continue to progress projects and strengthen our connections with the community. Here are our latest updates and opportunities to get involved.

Ardingly Football Club – welcome back!

A special shout-out to Ardingly Football Club, which reformed in May 2025 and is now competing in the SSFL Sussex Sunday Football League. With four wins and two losses so far, the team is off to a great start. It is fantastic to see the club active again, so do look out for home matches and come along to show your support!

Our Pavilion and the local Eco Network

We recently hosted a meeting of the local parish and town councils' Eco Network at our Pavilion. We shared details of the Ardingly Reservoir water supply system, and we showcased the environmental features of our refurbished building.

Working with our neighbours at the Showground

We had a productive meeting with the South of England Agricultural Society (SEAS) and the South of England Events Centre (SEEC).

SEAS shared news of its charitable work, including its free **Countryside Learning for Home Education Day on Thursday 25 February 2027**. For children aged 4–16, the event offers hands-on activities in farming, livestock care and beekeeping, alongside careers guidance. If you know a family who might be interested, details are available at seas.org.uk/homeeducation.

SEEC has been going through organisational changes, but things now appear more settled, with a genuine willingness to build a stronger relationship with the village. Discussions included traffic impacts and better communication around events. We look forward to continuing this constructive dialogue.

Hapstead Green – preparing for spring

Further improvements and planting are planned at Hapstead Green over the coming months. The official opening has moved to spring, allowing the planting to establish and the remaining work to be completed. We look forward to welcoming residents to enjoy the space.

Telephone box refurbishment – volunteers welcome!

Approval is now in place to refurbish the telephone box next to Ardingly News and provide a home for a defibrillator. Volunteers are coming together to bring this village landmark back to life. If you can help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Could you help with village twinning?

Beauzeville, France, has expressed interest in developing our twinning relationship. We are looking for someone to coordinate activities and help build connections between our communities. Interested? Please contact the Parish Clerk.

Save the date – Christmas carols and tree lighting!

Join us on **Saturday 5 December** for our annual Christmas celebration, with carols, the lighting of our village oak tree, and free mince pies, hot chocolate and mulled wine. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

Ardingly Parish Council



FSW October update

Dear Friends,



As the nights draw in, many of the families we support begin to worry about heating, food and the cost of Christmas. Winter is a hard time for family budgets. Heating bills rise just as the weather turns cold. Children need warmer clothes, and everyone needs more food to keep warm. For a parent already stretched to the limit, every one of those costs is a worry. Then comes Christmas. There is so much pressure to provide the perfect festive meal, the right presents and the traditions that other families seem to enjoy without a thought. Parents want the very best for their children, and it can be heartbreaking when they can't give it.

Many of the parents we support are held back by money, but also by lack of time, by illness and by their mental health. Winter can make all of this feel heavier. Days are shorter and darker, energy is lower, and the to-do list grows. This is where we step in. Our support means a family doesn't have to choose between keeping the house warm and putting a good meal on the table, and that a child can wake up on Christmas morning feeling that they matter.

Last December, we began supporting a family new to the area who were living in temporary accommodation. Mum and dad were worried they couldn't afford any gifts for their young daughter. Thanks to our supporters, we provided presents for the whole family. Mum wrapped them, and her daughter woke to a Christmas surprise. *"She was extremely happy and excited. I am truly grateful to you for making my daughter this happy."* said Mum.

Please pray for the families we support this winter, for provision and for parents under pressure at Christmas, and for our staff, practitioners and volunteers in these busy final months of 2026.



NOT TOO SERIOUSLY

An x-ray technician, talking to a child touring the hospital:

Technician: "Have you ever broken a bone?"

Child: "Yes."

Technician: "Did it hurt?"

Child: "No."

Technician: "Really? Which bone did you break?"

Child: "My sister's arm."



When children tell Bible stories...

- * Jesus created the Golden Rule, which says: 'Do one to others before they do one to you'.
- * The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels.
- * One of the followers was St Matthew who was also a taximan.



The other day it was my turn to prepare dinner so I asked my wife to go over to the local market and buy some organic vegetables. She came back rather upset.

When I asked her what was wrong she said, "I don't think I like that produce guy. I went and looked around for your organic vegetables and I couldn't find any. I asked him where the organic vegetables were. He didn't know what I was talking about."

"So I said, 'These vegetables are for my husband. Have they been sprayed with any poisonous chemicals?' He said, 'No, ma'am. You'll have to do that yourself.'"

A little boy was saying his bedtime prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you, dear," his mother whispered.

"Wasn't talking to you," said the little chap firmly.



Seen in a church magazine:

The church hall is available for hire for groups and parties. There is a well-equipped kitchen and disabled toilet facilities, with the capacity to seat up to 80 people.

Parish Register

There are no entries in the Parish Register this month.



John 15:13 — *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*



"In war, whichever side may call itself the victor, there are no winners, but all are losers." *Neville Chamberlain*

Flower Rota

Friday 6th November - Pat
(Remembrance Sunday Pedestal)
Friday 13th November – Belinda
Friday 27th November – Pam and Jean
(Foliage arrangements – Advent)



Meeting Point Rota

9th November : Adele, Diana & Kathy
23rd November : Belinda, Alison and Dilys

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 for NOVEMBER 2026

*" Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name
Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."
(Psalm 105 v 1, 4))*



- 1 Our services today. Pray for all who are sad
- 2 John and Nigel, leading us through the interregnum
- 3 Belinda and Adelaide, visiting IMARA students in Uganda
- 4 Our Home Groups and their leaders
- 5 Bonfire night. Pray for fun, safety and the emergency services
- 6 Milan & Shusma and the work of the Aanandit churches in Nepal
- 7 Our armed forces: chaplains, new recruits and the injured
- 8 **Remembrance Day** services today. Pray for world peace
- 9 Link to Hope shoeboxes, being transported this month
- 10 Pupils, staff and governors at the village schools
- 11 All bishops and clergy. The next Bishop of Chichester
- 12 Our Prime Minister and government, making difficult decisions
- 13 Heather Johnstone and the ladies at the Rehema Project
- 14 Christians Against Poverty and all who are struggling financially
- 15 Our services today. Pray for all who lead worship
- 16 All who are affected by anxiety or difficult relationships
- 17 The pastoral team at St Peter's / all who are housebound
- 18 Jill Veasey and the choir, practising for the Carol Service
- 19 Samara's Aid. Pray for the team and projects in Syria
- 20 Children who are fostered or adopted, and their families
- 21 The PCC meeting this morning
- 22 Our services today. Pray for growth
- 23 St Peter's Church, its future and its finances
- 24 Refugees and migrants and all who have fled from violence
- 25 The problem of rubbish and plastic around the world
- 26 AOJA and the work of the clinic in The Gambia
- 27 The homeless and charities which support them
- 28 Youth Pastors and all who work with young people
- 29 **Advent Sunday.** May God's light shine wherever there is darkness
- 30 Give thanks for all God's blessings in the past month

**The deadline for copy for the December/January magazine is
Friday 20th November**