St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine

December 2026/January 2027



St Peter's Church wishes you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year



Visit our website: www.ardinglychurch.org.uk

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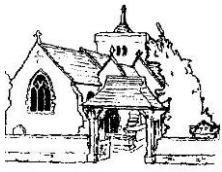

St Peter's Church, Ardingly

Who's Who at St Peter's

Reader	John Witherington	892277
Wardens	Nigel Cheater John Witherington	892769 892277
Secretary to the PCC	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Treasurer	Jean Jeffery	415317
Organist	Jill Veasey	373091
Safeguarding Coordinator	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Church Centre Manager Church Centre Bookings	Jill Veasey Carol Grossman	373091 416707
Magazine Editor	Sue Laker	892117
Pastoral Care Authorised Lay Ministers	Kathy James Sue Laker Jill O'Mant	891047 892117 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,

I've never been to Melbourne, but I'm told it can experience four seasons in a single day. In the following pages, we are covering three seasons in a single issue!

Waiting

Before we rush headlong towards 25th December, seduced by ads for perfumes and creamed liqueurs, before we stock up on mince pies and feel-good films, let's pause to wait a while: to savour the joy that is to come and look forward in hope and expectation.

Advent is a season of waiting. We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus who has come into our broken world to create a new beginning, an age which sees his hope, his peace, his joy and his love bring new life to those who put their trust in him. It is also a season of longing - longing for Jesus to return and restore his creation, a new heaven and a new earth; everything in perfection, as God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - made it in the beginning.

To mark Advent this year, we shall be opening up **Prayer Space** again on Saturday mornings, **9.30-10.00 a.m.** in the church. Each session will include a reading from Isaiah and a short reflection on it, allowing for other contributions and a time of prayer. The dates are: **28th November, 5th, 12th and 19th December**. Everyone is welcome.

Rejoicing

"*Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King!*" So begins Isaac Watts' carol. Christmas is indeed a season of rejoicing. But amid the celebrations let us remember who it is who 'is come'. "*The Lord is come!*" So often we rejoice because the holidays have come; because family and relatives have come; because feasting and drinking have come; and because decorations and presents have come. This year may we all remember it is our Lord who is come, who laid aside his life of majestic glory in heaven and was born as a weak baby and made one of us.

It is the Creator of the world who is come, who lived a perfect life, who himself committed no wrong but died on the cross to pay the price for all our wrongs. Watts' hymn continues: "*Let every heart prepare Him room*." Amid the rejoicing, that's surely a prayer to pray this Christmas!

Proclaiming
Epiphany is the season which celebrates revelation, light and mission. It declares that Jesus is revealed to all people and invites every nation, culture and individual to encounter him. Just as the light of the star led the Magi to Christ, Epiphany inspires us to seek Christ and to reflect his light in the world. It is a call to openness, humility, and a willingness to journey, following in faith where Christ may lead and, with our lives, proclaim his presence to the world.

This Advent, may we wait expectantly for the light of hope, peace, joy and love.
This Christmas, may we find joy in the Light of the World, who is come.
This Epiphany, may we be a star of light guiding others towards our King.

With every blessing to you all for three joyous and holy seasons!





Services in December 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.]

In the season of Advent, we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, 'God with us', as our Saviour; and we look forward to Jesus' return in glory as our judge. "*I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no saviour. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed…You are my witnesses, declares the Lord, that I am God*." (Isaiah 43:11-12)

Sunday 6th December **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.00 a.m. 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m. 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Morning Praise (CW)

5.00 p.m. *A service of Evening Prayer for Advent*
Open to God

Sunday 13th December **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.00 a.m. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Holy Communion or Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 20th December **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.00 a.m. Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
Holy Communion (CW)

6.30 p.m. **Carols by Candlelight**
A tradition service of readings, words, music and carols for Christmas presented in a beautiful candle-lit church and followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

The season of Christmas celebrates the birth of God's Son, Jesus, God's gift to us to bring hope, peace, joy and love to all the world. *"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord*." (Luke 2:10-11)

Thursday 24th December **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4.30 p.m. A **Crib and Christingle** service for all the family*;*
T*he message and meaning of Christmas and favourite carols!*

10.00 p.m. **A Christmas celebration of Holy Communion**
(Midnight in Bethlehem!) Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20

Friday 25th December **CHRISTMAS DAY**
9.00 a.m. Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1:1-14
Christmas Morning Praise (CW)

Sunday 27th December **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
9.30 a.m. Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21
Holy Communion (CW)



Services in January 2027

The season of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ to the whole world. Traditionally the season is full of moments of revelation: the visit of the Magi, Jesus' baptism and his first miracle at the wedding at Cana. "*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you*." (Isaiah 60:1)

Sunday 3rd January **The Second Sunday of Christmas**
9.00 a.m. Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18
Morning Praise (CW)

Sunday 10th January **Celebrating The Epiphany (6th January)**
9.00 a.m. Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Holy Communion or Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 17th January **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
9.00 a.m. Revelation 5:1-10; John 1:43-51
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Revelation 5:1-10; John 1:43-51
Morning Praise (CW)

Sunday 24th January **The Third Sunday of Epiphany**
9.00 a.m. Revelation 19:6-10; John 2:1-11
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Revelation 19:6-10; John 2:1-11
Holy Communion (CW) with prayer for healing and wholeness

Sunday 31st January **The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
9.00 a.m. Revelation 12:1-5a; Mark 1:21-28
Morning Prayer (BCP)

10.30 a.m. Revelation 12:1-5a; Mark 1:21-28
Morning Praise (CW)

NOTICES FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings



The Meeting Point Christmas Party will take place in Hapstead Hall on 7th December from 10.15 to 11.30. The next Meeting Point dates will be 11th and 25th January 202. All are welcome.



Angels & Urchins dates

Our last morning before the Christmas holidays will be on Thursday 17th December. We'll meet again on Thursday 7th January 2027. Happy Christmas!

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Village Christmas Lunch will be on **Wednesday 9th December** in Hapstead Hall (*Not on 2nd, as printed in the November magazine – apologies from the Editor*). 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!

Ardingly Evening WI

17th December - Christmas party (for members only)
Thursday 21st January 7:30pm - Join us for a talk from The Wings Aviation Museum about the role of women pilots in the Second World War. Visitors welcome. WI Book Club - open to non members - first Thursday of every month at the British Legion Club at 7pm.

CAROL SINGING

If you would like to come carol singing in the village on Tuesday 22nd December please meet in Hapstead Garden (by the Hall) at 6.30pm.

The Hapstead Jam Tarts WI

On 16th December, the Hapstead Jam Tarts will be making fabric wreaths for Christmas. No skills are required and this will be a fun and effective craft morning for all.
On 20th January we hope to welcome our friends from the deaf and signing community and signing choir, to talk to us.
Visitors are always welcome. Please contact Fiona 07513411893 for more details, or email hapsteadjamtartswi@wsfwi.co.uk

POSTBOX in Church



As in previous years, we will have our Christmas Postbox and it will be in church on 29th November, 6th 13th and 20th December. You are welcome to post in it your Ardingly village cards but please no cards for outside the village! Please post donations towards this service in the box. The total raised will be given to a local charity. Deliveries will be made on Monday 21st December, and help with this will be much appreciated! Sorting will begin at 10.00am in the Church Centre that day. Please let me know if you can help. Thank you!

Jill Veasey (373091)

NEW YEAR WALK AND LUNCH

To mark the start of 2027 we are planning to have a meal at St Peter's Centre on Friday 1st January, as we have done in previous years. George Ruse will lead a walk (weather permitting) for those who would like to work up an appetite. This will probably begin at 11.00 from the Centre (more details to follow) and the walkers will join the rest of us for a meal at about 1.00pm. Coffee will be available before and after lunch, and we will pack up at about 3.30. The meal is free but donations are welcomed and the proceeds will be shared between Old Jeshwang and IMARA.
If you would like to come to the meal please contact Deb Ruse (892717) – preferably before Christmas!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Deb and George Ruse (deb_ruse@hotmail.co.uk)

Next Film night : 28th January 2027

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2027

Firstly a very big 'thank you' to the many people who contribute to, and help with, the parish magazine during the year – to the team at Ardingly College who print it for us, to Ann Phillipson who proof reads it each month, to Glynis Doerr who bundles and distributes all the magazines each month, and to all the deliverers who put them through our doors! ***THANK YOU***!



Now it's the time of year when annual subscriptions become due. If you would like to have the magazine delivered to your door (in Ardingly) the minimum subscription will be £3 (and grateful thanks go to all those who round it up to £5). For those people who receive it by post, the subscription for 2027 will remain at £15.00.

Subscriptions can be delivered or posted to Sue Laker at 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN . Cheques should be made payable to "*St Peter's Church*, *Ardingly*" please and if you need our bank details please let me know (*emails4sue@gmail.com*).

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas, and God's blessing in the New Year,

Sue Laker

Link to Hope Shoeboxes



Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, whether by putting together a box, by donating money or by passing on old or foreign coins. In the end we had a total of 27 boxes, which is 3 more than last year (and last year we had 5 more than in 2024!). These are now on their way to Eastern Europe and Ukraine, bringing a little joy to the people who receive them.

WARDENS WORDS



Dear Friends,

On the 22nd October, we received formal notice from the Acting Bishop of Chichester that "the presentation to the Benefice of Ardingly be suspended for a period of five years and during that time an incumbent will not be appointed to the freehold and the Patron shall not be entitled to exercise the Right of Presentation."

We have announced this to the congregation at both services and posted this notice in the church porch but we wanted to extend our reassurance to other readers of the Magazine that this does **not** mean that we shall be without a priest for that length of time! The key phrase is 'to the freehold', meaning that will we not have a priest licensed as a Rector.

It also does not mean that we shall be without the help and guidance of our Patron, the Church Pastoral Aid Society. They will continue to support us during the interregnum and help us as we search for a new incumbent. Instead, it means that the initiative to appoint a Priest-in-Charge or make some other arrangement to oversee the continuing ministry in this parish now lies with the Bishop, taking into account the needs we have identified as a church.

We would like also to reassure you that this action has not come as a surprise to us and, having now been told of this decision, we can start in earnest to set out our needs for a new priest to lead us into our next chapter of worship here in Ardingly.

In the meantime, we continue to ask for your prayers as we prepare a parish profile outlining where we are as a church and how, with God's grace, we would look to be moving forward in advancing the good news of Jesus.

Yours in His service,

Nigel Cheater
John Witherington

IMARA-UGANDA EDUCATION FUND

Adelaide Asibwa and I were recently in Uganda. It was good to spend time with our team there and to meet up with our friends, students and former students who have been part of our journey since our work in Uganda began following a brutal civil war in which around 60,000 children were abducted and forced to be child soldiers.

On this visit we were made aware of how the suffering of the children who survived captivity continues through their adulthood. Maria (not her real name), mother to one of the students we support, was 13 years old when she was captured by the LRA rebels. For 2 years she witnessed killings, was forced to carry heavy loot from the raids on villages and suffered sexual and physical abuse. When finally rescued and returned to her family, she was pregnant. Now she is married and has other children but she still suffers physical pain as a result of the abuse. Her husband is not with her. He is sick and must be close to a hospital. Her first child has no rights to the family property and no sense of belonging and her youngest child has hydrocephalus, is blind and too weak to stand or walk. As she struggles to grow crops to feed her family and attempt to pay their school fees, she carries her 6 year old on her back. She told her story very quietly in case the neighbours would hear and talk. There was not a lot of kindness for her. Stories like this and the many other stories of pain and hardship are the reason we must do what we can for as long as we can.



St. Mary Goretti secondary School

We enjoyed visiting the school and seeing how much progress had been made since our visit last year. The library/computer room block is coming on well. Windows and doors are in place and the rooms are ready for plastering. We saw the school in action on a normal working day. One of our former scholarship students is now a teacher of physics and maths at the school. The school was delighted with the 2 braille machines and 2 orbit readers we took out for the blind students, and they loved the football kits Adelaide had been given. As they wear them to matches, they will be a good advert for Brighton and Hove Albion!



Meetings with the school governors and with the Catholic diocese and engineer were positive.

Time with our scholarship students

We were able to visit nearly all of our students in their schools and colleges. Seeing our blind girls at Gulu High School is always one of the highlights of our visits to Uganda. They never cease to amaze us with all they are able to achieve. They sang a song to us and showed us how competently they use the computer with JAWS screen reader. After our visit one wrote, "It was like a dream to me in 2022 that I have got a scholarship. I was having no hope of joining secondary yet I have to keep my dream alive. On that very day, all my visions appeared very clear. Hope came back to me, and I was set free from worries and stress that was torturing me."



Two of our students who completed their nursing training had their graduation ceremony while we were in Lira. It was such a privilege to share this joyful occasion with them and we were so proud of them.

We are blessed by our supporters. I hope this article paints a picture, not just of the tragic circumstances, abduction, poverty and disability that deprive a child of the joy of childhood and hope for the future, but the difference we can make in restoring hope and dignity to broken lives. Please pray for our work. As this year has seen a marked drop in income from regular monthly donations, please pray for the funding we need to "keep dreams alive."
Blessings, Belinda

NEWS FROM S.E. ASIA



While we were away our small group of believing women connected with another group of women and they have been meeting together at least once a month, which is very encouraging for us.



Our little group is very special. Meetings are usually made up of bible study, testimonies, and occasionally breaking of bread. Most of the women share how their lives have changed since knowing Jesus, and the challenges they share as believers. There is mutual encouragement, laughter and a desire to reach out to others.

The members of the group all come from poor socio-economic backgrounds and dysfunctional or broken families. But now they believe in Jesus and on many occasions they have testified about what Jesus has done for them and how they always pray now in Jesus name. This is a big encouragement to me and everyone else!

Education has not been a priority for their families because it's more important to them to have enough food in their stomachs than to send the children to school. Praise God, in this school year all the children are registered at school, thanks to funds donated by supporters. The children can hardly read, however, and there is bullying.



Our social media work continues, but the enthusiasm and commitment of the team is dwindling so we're going to make some changes in the system as well as how we approach this work.

On the family front our son has just proposed to his girlfriend of 4 years! They are not getting married yet – maybe in 2028. He is about to finish his Bachelor's degree in Medical Physics, after which he plans to move closer to his fiancee's home.

Our daughter, by God's grace, is still studying Electrical Engineering. We are grateful for how the Lord is growing our adult children in their personal faith in Jesus.

We are both thanking the Lord for his faithfulness and goodness to us – we have just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary at a nice resort nearby!

Blessings in Christ,
B&A

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THE LEGEND OF THE SPIDER'S WEB

Festive decorations are a big part of Christmas, aren't they? But have you heard the legend relating to a very common Christmas decoration – tinsel?

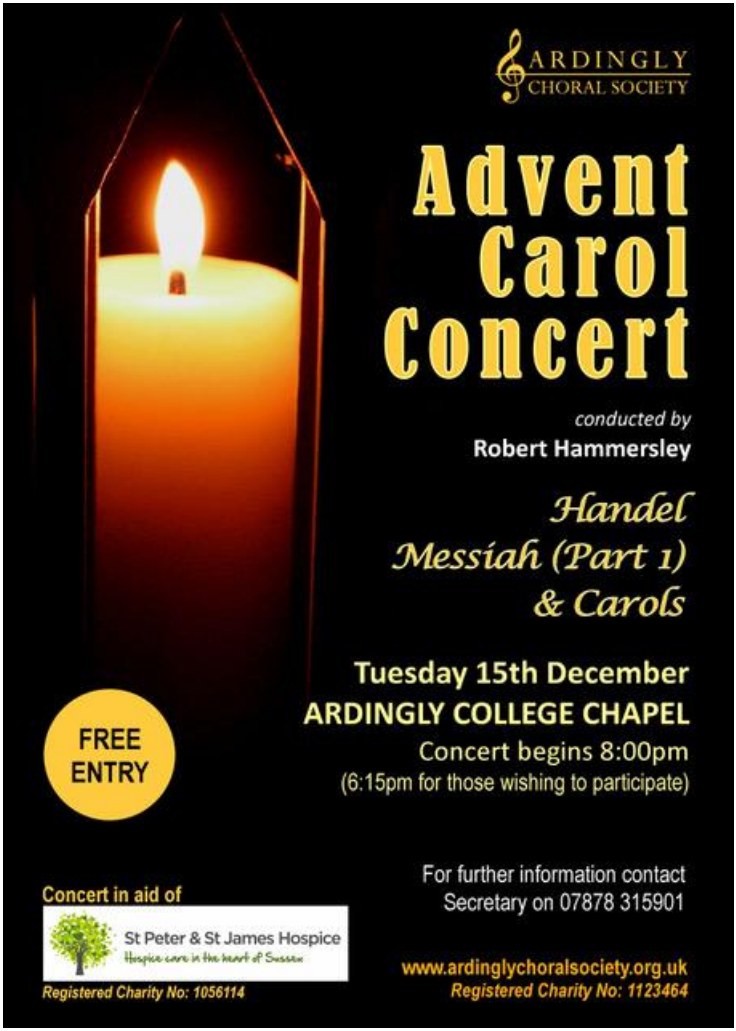
"Some 2,000 years ago Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus to Egypt, having been warned in a dream that King Herod wanted to kill Jesus. That part of the story is in the Bible. But legend has it that one frosty evening the family sought refuge in a cave and a little spider saw the baby. This little spider so wished that he could help keep the child warm, but the only thing that he could think of doing was to spin a web across the entrance to the cave.

Later, a group of Herod's soldiers went in the direction of Egypt, intent on carrying out his orders. They were passing the cave where Jesus and his family were sheltering, and were about to search it when the captain saw the spider's web intact and covered with frost across the entrance. He decided that there could be no one in the cave, as anyone entering would have broken the web. At that, the soldiers moved on, and the family was safe to continue their journey.

Apparently, to remember the little spider's web, people started putting tinsel on their Christmas trees."



Reprinted with permission from the 'War Cry' magazine, produced by The Salvation Army in the UK



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MARGARET DALE
sends her very best wishes to everyone for a very happy Christmas

St Peter's C.E. Primary School

More than half way through the first term of the year and well on the way to Christmas - it hardly seems possible! Not that Christmas is on our minds just yet! (Well, not too much!)

Life in St Peter's continues to excite. Our recent excursion for year 4 pupils, Wood and Wild Adventures, was great fun. Building dens and making dream catchers were just part of the fun. Lots of learning opportunities happened too - developing collaboration skills, problem-solving, designing and working together. Altogether, it was a great day.

Talking about great days… KS2 pupils had an AMAZING day in the middle of November. Not only did they have a train adventure , going up to London together on the train, but this was surpassed in excitement value by all going to see The Lion King! My goodness, there were some very happy and extremely tired children at the end of the trip!



At St Peter's, our values include respect and kindness and we always look for ways to emphasise these on a regular basis. The Link to Hope appeal allows us to demonstrate kindness to others who are not as fortunate as we are. Each year, the shoebox appeal asks people to fill a shoebox with practical gifts and the shoeboxes are then distributed to families in Eastern Europe facing hardship. This year, the whole school was involved and we managed to fill seven shoeboxes, full of gifts relevant to the whole family.

And finally, Christmas….! We are about to embark on learning Christmas carols, turning into an angel or shepherd, maybe even a king, making decorations and having discos and parties. There is so much to do - will there ever be enough time?



Kathy James

NOT TOO SERIOUSLY



A visiting choir was due to come and sing *The Messiah* at our church just before Christmas. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the minister put up a sign outside which read: 'The Messiah is postponed due to snow.'



The Christmas church service sheet that didn't get it quite right....

"The pastor will light his candle from the altar candles. The ushers will then light their candle from the pastor's candle. The ushers will then turn and light each worshipper in the first pew."

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of the Nativity and had just finished the part about there being 'no room at the inn'. A small voice piped up: 'Well, I blame Joseph. He should have booked."



A magazine offered this exercise as a way of keeping your tummy trim over the Christmas break:

"First, clasp your hands over your head and place your feet together on the floor. Now bend to the right at the waist as you sit down to the left of your feet. Now by sheer muscular control, haul yourself up, bend to the left and sit down on the floor to the right of your feet. Keep this up for ten times and let us know of the result."

The first reply received by the magazine said: "HERNIA".

An efficiency expert watched his wife's routine at breakfast. He made some helpful suggestions to make the process more efficient, and it worked!
It used to take her 20 minutes to get breakfast ready; now he does it in seven.

TIPS FOR A 'GREENER' CHRISTMAS
Christmas is a time for celebrating, giving gifts, and enjoying tasty food. West Sussex Recycles has a few suggestions to help reduce waste, save money, and make the most of what we already have this Christmas:

FOOD: Make a list and check it twice:
Food waste increases significantly at Christmas. The most wasted Christmas foods in the UK are:

- potatoes (710,000 tonnes)
- poultry (100,000 tonnes)
- carrots (96,000 tonnes)
- enough gravy to accompany Christmas dinner for the whole country

Wrap up Christmas sustainably:
If you are buying wrapping paper, try to aim for a roll that doesn't have any plastic in it as this can't be recycled. This is also true of ribbons, bows or string. The easiest way to check paper on gifts you've been given is to try the scrunch test:

1. Scrunch the wrapping paper in your hand.
2. If it holds its shape, you can recycle it.
3. If it springs back, put it in the general waste bin.



Try reusing gift bags, making gift tags from old Christmas cards, or wrap presents using reusable fabric?

Shopping for gifts
Christmas presents don't have to be brand new to be special. Consider shopping second-hand, making homemade gifts or giving an experience rather than a physical item.



If you're choosing gifts for a gardener there are now rainbow coloured pots made of recycled bamboo fibre, cellular seed trays made of natural rubber and how about a paper pot press, which turns old newspapers into biodegradable pots? There are many other ideas online.

Before starting Christmas shopping, it's important to prepare. Speak to loved ones about what they want or need and make a list before stepping foot in the shops. This can help prevent panic buying or purchasing something the recipient may not need, just for the sake of giving a gift! And as you head out Christmas shopping, don't forget to take your reusable shopping bags.

And when the festivities are all over …. A lot has been said in the media recently about electrical fires at recycling centres. So if it has a plug, battery or cable, **don't bin it**! Putting it in the landfill bins could be fatal.

(taken from WSCC Recycling News and Greener Lindfield Facebook)

Lindfield Repair Café
Saturday 5th December and
9th January 2027, 10am-1pm
United Reform Church, High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HL

Forest Row Repair Café
No Repair Café in December. The next one will be on 16th January 2027 at the Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ.

East Grinstead repair café
No repair café in December.
Dates for 2027 to be confirmed

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POSTAGE STAMPS

If you don't already give your used stamps to a charity, please pass them on to Sue Laker. She will send them to the Air Ambulance service, which can raise funds from them. Thank you.




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ARDINGLY
PARISH COUNCIL

Ardingly Parish Council Update (December/January)

As we head towards the festive season, we would like to wish everyone in the village a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. It is also a time to think of others, so amidst all the busyness and celebrations, please do look out for neighbours who might be on their own. A little time, a friendly visit or simply checking in can make a real difference, particularly to those without family or friends nearby.

Remembrance Sunday – remembering together
Our thanks to everyone who took part in our annual Remembrance Sunday Service, and particularly to John Witherington for his thoughtful reflections, the WI for their beautiful crocheted poppies and the Ardingly British Legion for providing complimentary tea and coffee afterwards.

Speed Indicator Devices – a new location
We continue to press ahead with plans to improve traffic management in the village and have been trialling a new location for our southbound Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Lindfield Road.
We have a couple of active devices, which we move around the village regularly to encourage drivers to reduce their speed. This new location seems to be having a particularly positive impact, according to local residents, and we will continue to monitor their effectiveness.

Save the date – Hapstead Hall Christmas Fair followed by carols and tree lighting!
Please join us on **Saturday 5 December** for Hapstead Hall's Christmas Fair, followed at **4:45pm** by the lighting up of our village oak tree and carols around it led by St. Peter's Church. There will be complimentary mince pies, hot chocolate and mulled wine. We look forward to seeing you!

Looking after our village oak tree
Following the Christmas celebrations, maintenance works on the oak tree are scheduled. All the Christmas lights will be carefully removed, and the tree will receive some much-needed attention, including crown raising and feeding, to help keep it healthy for years to come.

New year, new ideas!
As we look ahead to the New Year, we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about how we can continue to improve our village. Are there things you feel are needed, projects you would like to see happen, or ideas you would like to share? Please do get in touch – we are always keen to hear from residents, and your suggestions help shape what we do.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be on **Wednesday 9 December**, after which we will take a short winter break, returning on **Wednesday 10 February.** Although there will be a pause in meetings, if you have any questions, concerns or matters to raise, please do not hesitate to contact our Parish Clerk on 01444 220 499, who will be happy to help.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year!

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

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Thank you to everyone who has passed on their used ink cartridges for recycling. Over 50 were posted off in October to Recycle4charity and these have generated £39.15, so in total used ink cartridges have raised £66.50 this year for Church funds. Please do keep putting your old cartridges in the tub at the back of church.



BRIDGING AGES CAFÉ
The first Bridging Ages Cafe in 2027 will be on Friday 15th January from 1:20pm to 2:20pm.



AROUND THE VILLAGE

ARDINGLY REMEMBERS



The forecast was for fog, but the sun shone warmly as about 101 of us gathered for a Service of Remembrance on the Recreation Ground on 8th November. As usual the uniformed organisations (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) took part, and five wreaths of poppies were presented. The service was led by Reader, John Witherington, with intercessions and the blessing given by Rev Andy Nicholson from Ardingly College.

BBC Bargain Hunt was presented from Kew Wakehurst on 1st November! Presenter Natasha Raskin Sharp and the team delved into the fascinating history of the landscape, told through some very special artifacts. A neolithic arrowhead, an antique fire engine and a Canadian army shield brought to light the distinguished history of the Elizabethan mansion at Wakehurst.

The illuminated **Charity Tractor Run 2026** in the Mid Sussex area is in its 7th year and is scheduled for Sunday 20th December. Beginning at the South of England Showground at 10.00 a.m. and including vintage cars and lorries, it is due to travel through Ardingly High Street, then on to Lindfield and Haywards Heath before looping back to the Showground later on. It's a fun event and spectators will see vehicles adorned with reindeers, elves, snowmen and of course jolly old Santa!

Parish Register

The funeral of Jennifer Le Hardy, who died on 25th October 2026 aged 72 years, was held at St Peter's Church on Friday 20th November 2026.

A Christmas prayer



Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show us how much God loves the world.
Let the light of your love
always shine in our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.
Amen.

FLOWER ROTA

Friday 18th December – Flower arrangers and helpers (candle decorations)
Saturday 19th December - All flower arrangers, please (Christmas)
Saturday 2nd January – As much help as possible, please
Friday 15th January – Pat and Sheila
Friday 29th January – Belinda



MEETING POINT ROTA

7th December: All (Christmas Party – set up from 9.15 am)
Jan 11th - Jill, Ruses, Sue
Jan 25th - Adele, Diana, Kathy

BRASS CLEANING ROTA

12th December: Adele Collins

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: 2027 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 DECEMBER 2026



"He will be called 'Emmanuel', which means 'God is with us' " (Matthew 1 v 22 GNB)

1 John and Nigel, carrying extra responsibilities during the interregnum
2 Our Prime Minister and government and all in positions of authority
3 IMARA Uganda – the team and the children who are being helped
4 The people of Gaza and the conditions they live in
5 The Christmas Fair and Carols round the Oak tree today
6 Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
7 Meeting Point – all who help and attend. The Christmas party today
8 The NHS, under extra pressure during the winter months
9 The Village Lunch today and the team who prepare it
10 Samara's Aid and its work in Syria. Protection for staff and projects
11 Foodbanks and all those who need to use them
12 Ardingly Connected Together, supporting local people in hard times
13 Our services today. Pray for all who lead worship
14 World Leaders, that they may work for peace
15 Open House and Off the Fence. All who are homeless
16 Jill Veasey and the choir, preparing for the Carol Service
17 Communities recovering from natural disasters
18 All who decorate our church and make it attractive and welcoming
19 Single parents as they approach Christmas and the winter holidays
20 Our services today, especially the Carol Service this evening
21 Samaritans and homeless charities, extra busy at this time of year
22 All who find the Christmas season difficult
23 The military and others who will spend Christmas away from home
24 All the Christmas services and those who lead them
25 **The Saviour is born!** Give thanks and praise
26 Pray about social media, AI and how they affect people
27 Our services today. Give thanks for the gift of new life
28 Heather Johnstone and the ladies of the Rehema Project
29 All who have lost someone dear to them this year
30 The Police and our emergency services
31 Look back over the year and give thanks for God's blessings

PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY 2027



"The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue,
fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise"
(Lamentations 3 v 22-23 GNB)

1 The New Year walk and lunch today
2 Commit the year ahead to God's care and guidance
3 Our services today and our witness in 2027
4 John and Nigel as they lead us through the interregnum
5 Our village schools, staff and pupils as term resumes this week
6 The timing and appointment of a new Rector for St Peter's
7 Give thanks for family and friends and all who encourage us
8 Journalists and all who work in the media
9 Our Parish Council and all who volunteer in the village
10 Our services today and Bishop Ruth's visit
11 Bambi and Andreas; their plans to move to another town
12 Our home groups and their leaders
13 The King and all the Royal family
14 Pray for opportunities to share Jesus this year
15 Young people; pray against the gangs, drug & knife crime culture
16 All who provide pastoral care at St Peter's
17 Our services today. Pray for the church family and for growth
18 AOJA and the work of the clinic in The Gambia
19 All who are lonely or housebound
20 World leaders – may they work for peace
21 St Peter's Centre and all who use it
22 Christians suffering persecution for their faith
23 The PCC meeting today. Secretary Jane & all who serve on the PCC
24 Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
25 Milan & Shusma and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
26 Our village shops and businesses
27 All who suffer from mental health problems, addiction or abuse
28 Refugees, at home and abroad, and the communities they live in
29 Friends and family who do not know Jesus
30 Climate Change and our care for the environment
31 Our services today. Praise God for his love and faithfulness

Deadline for copy for the February magazine is Friday 22nd January

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