

PETWORTH MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2023

CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

Sunday 17th 4.00pm **CAROL SERVICE**
(Tractor and Trailer from Byworth) at St Bartholomew's Egdean

Tuesday 19th 7.00pm
CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE at St Mary's

CHRISTMAS EVE

at St Mary's Church

4.00pm **CHRISTINGLE CRIB SERVICE**

11.30pm **MIDNIGHT MASS**

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am **CHRISTMAS FAMILY Communion** St Bartholomew's

10.30am **CHRISTMAS FAMILY Communion** St Mary's



ST. MARY'S, PETWORTH & ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, EGDEAN
PRICE 50p ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: £5

St Bartholomew's Church



Egdean Carol Service

Sunday 17th December

at 4 pm

6 lessons and carols
Mince pies and mulled wine served after
the service

Transport available
from Byworth

**PARISHES OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, PETWORTH
AND ST BARTHOLOMEW, EGDEAN**

Rector

Canon Mark Gilbert SSC
01798 345278 or 07810 004062
E-mail: frmarkssc@msn.com

**PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, PETWORTH
Churchwarden**

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FROM CANON MARK GILBERT

Dear All

As the season of joy and celebration draws near, I find myself compelled to reflect on the profound significance of Christmas. In the midst of the twinkling lights, festive decorations, and the warmth of Christmas gatherings, it is crucial to remember the true essence of this extraordinary occasion.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In a world often shrouded in darkness, Jesus serves as a beacon of hope, love, and salvation. His teachings guide us towards compassion, understanding, and a deeper connection with one another.

In both of our churches, this Christmas season is marked by a series of carol services that bring our communities together in joyous harmony. These services are not merely musical events but opportunities for us to come together and bask in the light of Christ's love. The carols, with their timeless melodies and powerful lyrics, tell the story of the miraculous birth that changed the course of history.

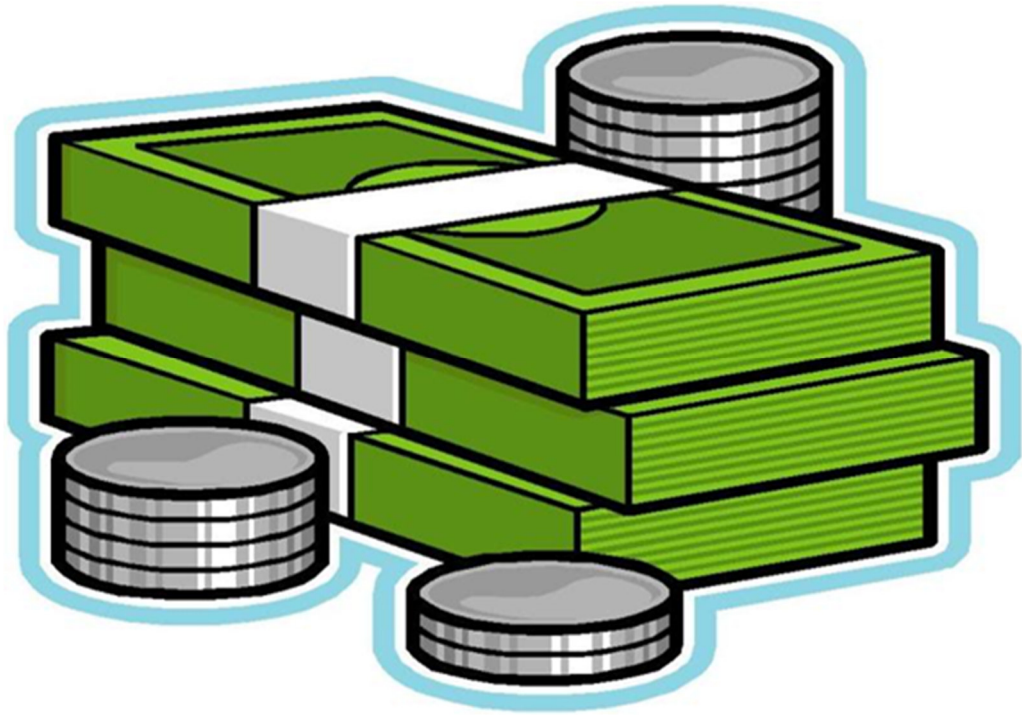
In each service, we are reminded that the message of Christmas extends far beyond the walls of our churches. It is a message of peace, goodwill and the promise of redemption. As we sing together, we join a chorus that has echoed through the ages, a chorus that proclaims the arrival of Emmanuel, 'God with us.'

Our churches become sanctuaries of warmth and serenity. The flickering candles, the gentle glow of Christmas lights, and the melodies of the carols create an atmosphere that invites reflection and contemplation. It is a time to pause, to appreciate the blessings in our lives, and to share the light of Christ with those around us.

As we approach Christmas Day, let us carry the spirit of the season beyond the church doors and into our daily lives. Let the love and joy we experience in our carol services be a guiding force, inspiring acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion. In doing so, we become vessels of the light that Christ brought into the world, spreading hope and goodwill to all.

May this Christmas be a time of profound reflection, genuine connection, and abundant joy for each and every one of you. May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and illuminate the path ahead. Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Christmas season.

Fr. Mark



St. Mary's is in need of a Treasurer!

Can you help?

Do you love/are you good at finances?

Can you help?

Please contact Father Mark to discuss

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, EGDEAN

*[Bank Details for online giving: CAF Bank, Account Name St Bartholomew's Church, Egdean; Account No. 00010862; Sort Code 40-52-40]
NB: Gift Aid forms are available in Church or from our Treasurer*

NOTICES

Christingle Service - 3rd December at 9.15 am

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE A COLLECTION FOR
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

Children's Society Collection Boxes

It is the time of the year that we collect all the Children's Society Boxes in for emptying. Could you please bring them along to the Christingle Service on 3rd December or as soon as possible before the end of the year.

Annual Carol Service - Sunday 17th December at 4.00 pm.

(transport available from Byworth - collection time at Black Horse 3.30 pm)

Christmas Day Family Eucharist and Carols - Monday 25th December at 9.00 am.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Christine Dallyn

christinedallyn@hotmail.com 01798 343454

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTING BOXES

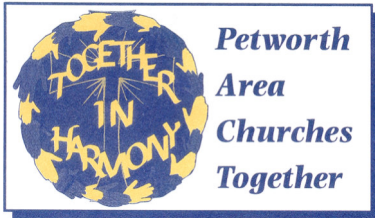
November and December are the time when the collecting boxes are opened. If it is possible to bring them to Church I will be very grateful or, if more convenient, give me a call so collection can be arranged.

This will be my last year as Parish representative for the Children's Society. If there is anyone who would like to take over, please let me know and I will be happy to explain what it will involve.

Jackie Smith on 01798 342676.

PETWORTH LUNCH CLUB

On Tuesday 5th December our Christmas Lunch is at the Cricketers, Duncton, price £15 for regular members and £25 for visitors. If you have not already made your menu choices please contact Ann Morrill on 01243 780010.



P A C T NEWS
Petworth Area Churches Together
working together in harmony

DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWS

Christian Unity Week, 18th - 25th January 2024.

On Sunday 21st January at 3.00 pm St Giles Church, Graffham GU28 0NL will hold a Christian Unity Service. All are welcome.

In the following week, the United Reformed Church (URC) in Petworth will kindly host the week day Lunchtime talks, with a soup and roll lunch to follow.

Speakers and dates for **Lunchtime** talks starting at 12.30 pm are:

Monday 22nd January	Rev Anne Lewitt (Petworth URC)
Tuesday 23rd January	Father Peter Newsam of RC Sacred Heart
Wednesday 24th January	Rev David Crook (Fittleworth)
Thursday 25th January	John Riddell (Tillington)

Booking is not necessary

This year the Unity week is guided by the churches of Burkina Faso, previously Upper Volta.

Their theme is the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*. They invite us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis.

Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.

Further details from Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com

COPY DATE FOR THE JANUARY 2024

MAGAZINE IS

MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER

MARY ELIZABETH WAKEFORD

Mary was born in Worthing on 19th June 1928, the elder sister of Ann. She went to St Brandon's school, followed by Worthing High School, and in 1944 passed her school certificate, coming top in her year. She didn't stay on at school. She was discouraged by her father who said she'd end up as a teacher or a nurse, and most likely a spinster!

So she left school, joined the National Provincial Bank and then went on to work at a company called Sangers who sold pills and potions. Mary always enjoyed the outdoor life. Encouraged by her father she learnt to play golf from a young age. She enjoyed swimming, especially in the sea. She loved travelling and went youth hostelling around the country with her bike, visiting the Lake District and Scotland. Whilst staying at Dover Youth Hostel she met a young Norwegian.....a 'lovely chap'. However, following a holiday in Norway she decided Norway wasn't for her and regretfully wrote him a 'Dear John' letter.

She met her husband, Eric, at a 21st birthday party and they were married in October 1951. After a honeymoon in Paris they moved into their first home in Chichester. Their eldest son, Richard, was born in 1953, they adopted William in 1958 and Elizabeth was born in 1959. In 1958 they moved first to Portsmouth and then, in 1960, they bought their shop in Petworth. Initially, they lived above the shop but needing more space they moved to Tillington in 1968. As their children left home they looked at moving back into Petworth and in 1980 bought their forever home in Rosemary Lane.

Mary involved herself in the local community. She regularly attended St Mary's church in Petworth and All Hallows in Tillington. She and Eric were keen supporters of the Family Support Work's Knowles Tooth Centre and between 1991 - 2006 they participated in their annual sponsored walk along the South Downs Way. When the outdoor swimming pool was built in Petworth she joined Petworth Swimming Club and qualified as a swimming teacher. She taught swimming at the club for over forty years. She always believed children should have fun whilst learning a vital skill, and was keen to encourage adult non-swimmers to learn too.

On moving to Tillington she joined the WI, becoming President on several occasions. She helped to run the WI Market in Petworth Town Hall until its demise. She was a keen allotment holder and enjoyed growing vegetables. She took up bee keeping and was very disappointed when it proved impractical to keep them when she and Eric moved back into Petworth.

Mary always liked travelling and she and Eric were both keen participants of the Petworth Twinning Association. She loved to take every opportunity to practise her French, and in later years enjoyed using duolingo on her laptop.

She was always interested in learning new skills and made a point of signing up for Evening Classes every year. She attended a variety of classes including woodwork, cookery, pottery and, of course, French. She tried out Yoga but wasn't too keen on the meditation elements!

When Eric passed away in 2010 she continued to enjoy the best life she could. She took up keep fit and art classes, and enjoyed coach holidays with her friend Min. Unfortunately, in 2014 she broke her ankle in a car accident and had to learn to walk again. Not an easy thing to do at 86! However, she prevailed.

In August 2020 she moved to Barlavington. She survived catching Covid in November but, sadly, following a hospital stay in May 2021, she was forced to move to Pendean, near Midhurst. Although always reluctant to give up her independence, she still made the most of life. In recent months her health further deteriorated and she died on 13th October. Not long before her death she declared, 'I've had a good life!'



You are welcome to join us for a free family breakfast at 9:15-10:15 am at St. Mary's Petworth. Followed by family jubilate service on 1st Sunday of each month!

NATIVITY EXHIBITION

We plan an exhibition of Nativities for this Christmas. Petworth Primary School has said it will take part, and also some of our regular exhibitors. If there is anyone who would like to take part, we will be very pleased to hear. The exhibits are mostly homemade or modified.

Please give me a call for details.
Jackie Smith on 01798 342676.

PETWORTH HOUSE AND PARK

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/petworth>



Colours of Christmas at Petworth House

Celebrate with a tree-mendous display at Petworth House. Explore the rooms decorated with stunning trees and floral displays, inspired by the colours within our world-class collection.

Normal admission applies, no booking required.

25th November to 1st January, 10.30 am - 4.30 pm.

Closed 24th and 25th December.

Christmas Workshops

Get into the festive spirit with our creative workshops. Suitable for all skill levels. Materials will be provided.

Each workshop is £50 per person and includes a hot drink and mince pie.

Booking is essential. Please call 0344 249 1895 or visit our website.

Lino Cut Christmas Cards

27th November, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

7th December, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

Paper Flower Wreath Making

27th November, 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

7th December, 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

9th December, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Traditional Wreath Making

29th November, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

8 December, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

9 December, 10.30 am - 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Christmas Makers Market

Explore this Makers Market to discover artisan gifts perfect for Christmas. You'll find a range of beautiful handmade products including jewellery, home-ware, textiles and art.

This event is held in partnership with Petworth Pop Up: Makers Market.

Normal admission applies.

Saturday 2nd December, 10.00 am - 7.00 pm

Sunday 3rd December, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm

Choirs in the Courtyard

Join us throughout the festive season and enjoy local choirs performing in the courtyard on weekends in December. Normal admission applies.

Choirs will perform on Saturdays and Sundays at 11.30 am and 2.30 pm, including two evening performances at 5.30 pm on 2nd and 22nd December.

Christmas Lates

Experience the magical festivities and explore Petworth House after dark, open until 7.00 pm, when the lights sparkle and the choir will be singing in the courtyard.

Saturday 2nd December, until 7.00 pm

Friday 22nd December, until 7.00 pm

PETWORTH & DISTRICT OVER 60S CENTRE **The Friendship Centre**

In December there will be Bingo sessions on Wednesday 6th and 20th at 2.00 pm. The minibus will be available to bring members to the Centre to all of these activities.

There is a 'pick a lucky number' for a Smart Watch - £1.00 per number. This will be available in the Centre and at the PACT Coffee morning on Fridays, the draw will be on 12th December in the Centre.

The Christmas Tea on Sunday 3rd December is at the URC at 3.00 pm - if you would like to attend please add your name to the list in the Centre. Transport will be available. Please bring a raffle prize.

The Christmas Raffle in the Centre will be drawn on Tuesday 12th December.

The Centre will be closed on Wednesday 20th December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

Caroline Stoneman, House Committee Chairman (01798) 342942

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE **Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd Marc 2024**

Here at St Mary's Church we are hoping to take a group of children to Walsingham this year. It is a fun weekend where the youngsters get to meet others from different Churches within the diocese.

We are looking for sponsors to help with the cost to take the children with us which is £130.00 per child. This could be a sponsor per child or part sponsorship with others.

Please see Fr Mark or Di Parr for more details

MIDHURST ROTHER COLLEGE

A Busy Autumn

What a term we have had so far at MRC! As Assistant Principal for Raising Standards, I am proud to tell you about this term and our plans for the New Year. As a school, we choose our values together with the students. Our values of achievement, happiness, and respect guide us in all we do, so I would like to tell you about life at college, focusing on each of our values in action.

Achievement: In August we celebrated with the outgoing GCSE and A level students, who achieved our best results ever. We very soon welcomed a lively new cohort of Year 7 students into college and everyone moved up to a new school year. I



manage the academic side of Year 11, a challenging ten months for all, leading to around thirty public examinations per student each summer. This year we are using morning tutor times to boost progress through masterclasses in GCSE subjects. Our students' progress is assessed every half-term, after which they are moved to the tutor group addressing gaps in their skills or knowledge. Students have impressed us with great efforts early each morning in masterclasses, in lessons and exams. On 12th December, students will experience a 'Results Day' after which there

Celebrating A Level results with Mr Burton, Director of 6th Form

is still time to work on improving grades before the real GCSEs next summer.

Constantly improving GCSE results enable more students to stay on at MRC sixth form and study for A levels. We are thrilled to have a growing sixth form. Our students enjoy great facilities, take on leadership roles and serve as excellent role-models for younger students, before moving onto a great range of degree courses and career paths.

Lower down the school, we have fostered fluency in languages, offering a range of subjects through French since 2020. In CLiL lessons, students learn geography, science, music, art and/or cookery through French, to build fluency beyond conventional MFL lessons. Our first CLiL students are ready for early entry GCSE next summer, outperforming older linguists!



CLiL students in Normandy and their French baguettes

To stretch our most able pupils, from September 2023, we will be creating a grammar stream, one class per year group, which students will compete to get into and stay in. Exciting times ahead.

Happiness: We offer education with character, seeking to develop the whole person as children move up through the school, nurturing known talents or interests and fostering new ones. Our programme of enrichment allows children to choose to discover new things such as learning Welsh, trying out French cookery, playing chess, putting on a play, debating a hot topic or rehearsing with the



school orchestra, amongst other things. This term, we have held a wonderful concert, and a great performance of the musical 'Waitress' from Year 13 performing arts students, ably supported by younger actors. We were pleased to welcome 3,000 visitors onto campus for the wonderful Fireworks Night this month. This autumn MRC students have travelled to Normandy and California for study trips, and closer to home for 'Go Ape', cross country running, rugby, opera at Glyndebourne and 'The Life of Pi' at Chichester Festival Theatre, to mention just some of the activities that

Mrs Lunskey centre make us happy to be part of MRC.

Respect: At college we teach our students to respect and care for others. We listen to learners' opinions at our student council, diversity and LGBGTQ groups. We mark important occasions like Founders' Day at the Parish Church and Remembrance Day here in school. Each House supports a chosen charity through fundraising events like the recent fancy dress competition and the sponsored walk, which sixth form leaders often run. This month, many students and staff are itching to reach the end of Movember and shave off the moustaches, they are growing for charity! We are regular supporters of the Midhurst Food Bank too. There is lots in store for 2024 as we continue to provide a rich and varied education for young people from a very wide catchment area, including those of the local community.

Fiona Lunskey - Assistant Principal for Raising Standards



Remembrance at the College Memorial



Wreath laying



"Does anyone have a light, please?"



PETWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our year 6 artwork at Petworth CofE Primary School has been inspired by North American landscapes. Children learnt about perspective through the work of Stephen Wiltshire.



SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Holly

by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm sure you'll agree that these are crazy times, folks. Back in Ancient Rome they had a festival - Saturnalia - which saw their society turn upside down for a week each December. It seems Saturnalia's traditions of chaos and mayhem are now the daily norm for us Brits but, as we career towards Christmas, we have another thing in common with Saturnalia. We will soon be paying our respects to the Holly tree.



Holly has been celebrated in many traditions over the centuries because, as a native evergreen, its vibrancy in the dead of winter could easily be mistaken for immortality. Holly was the sacred tree of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. In pagan tradition, the Holly King ruled over the Oak King from Midsummer to Midwinter. Holly was easily adopted by Christians, who saw many links between the tree and the life of Christ. Today, Holly remains a centrepiece of our Christmas decorations, cards and cakes.



Each Holly tree is either male or female. While both produce delicate white flowers in May, it's only the female Holly that bears a berry as red as any blood. When these berries are produced in profusion, it's taken to be a sign of an oncoming hard winter - although in reality it's the outcome of a successful spring. Holly's prickles provide protection for nesting birds, their flower buds are food for the Holly Blue butterfly's caterpillar and their ripe berries are essential for thrushes.

If you're after a tree filled with folklore then Holly must take a bow. So if you're planning to deck your halls with boughs of the stuff this Christmas, here's a quick user guide. First off, *never* cut down a Holly tree - that's guaranteed bad luck, a superstition which has spared many Holly trees from the woodsman's axe.

And make sure you leave Holly trees in your hedgerows to prevent witches from running along the top. If you bring Holly into your home at Christmas, it'll help protect you from those pesky festive faeries. Only female Holly leaves under your pillow will allow you to predict your future in your dreams. Oh, and don't forget to get rid of your Holly decorations before Twelfth Night (but don't burn them, that's bad luck too). Holly trees will protect you against lightning strikes (I'm not sure if this has been scientifically proven so don't blame me if you still get zapped). And don't eat the berries, they're poisonous, but if you have small-pox you can drink an infusion made from the leaves.



Stick to those rules folks and you'll have a peaceful Christmas. Me? I've had enough of the state of the world today. I'm going to pour some wine, put on my toga and pretend I'm in ancient Rome. Somebody pass me my fiddle.

CHRISTMAS

Mince pie baking, a wish while stirring pud,
Milk and carrots left for Santa and reindeer.
Family and friends gathered when they could,
Christmas preparations were full of cheer.

On ends of beds long socks pinned, waiting to be filled -
In each toe, a tangerine with some nuts,
Small toy, special gift and sugar mouse for all.
Christmas Eve's bed-time comes, there are no buts!

Young ones carefully decorated the tree;
Walks on Christmas day, never mind the weather,
While 'oldies' snooze in comfy armchairs,
Fun and games are best played all together.

'Twenty-first Century Christmas Design'
Brings flashing, sparkly decorations for the day;
The sideboard is home to a nativity scene
Of Mary, Joseph, little donkey and some hay.

Merry Christmas to All and a Happy New Year!

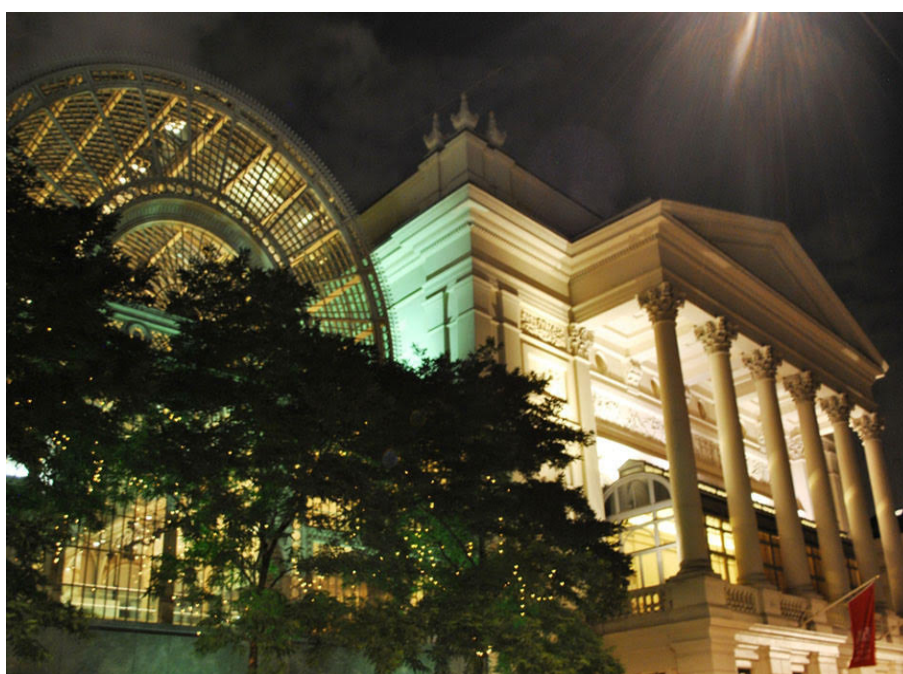
Teresa Charman©2023

The Arts Society West Sussex

On Tuesday 5th December Sarah Linton will give a talk on

‘Christmas: Backstage at Covent Garden’

Every year the Opera House puts on a season of Christmas shows, both ballet and opera. This talk takes us into the wings and down the traps to see how they cope with magic coaches and snow bags, plus 17 Sugar Plums and 12 Princes.



The talk will be followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

There is no talk in January

Talks held at 2.00 pm in Fittleworth Village Hall RH20 1JB

Doors open 1.15. Coffee & tea afterwards

Non-members welcome for £7

Contact Jackie Buckler on 01903 411086

or email westsussex@theartssociety.org

www.theartssocietywestsussex.org

CHICHESTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

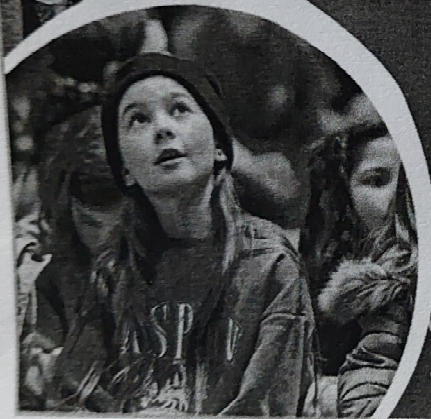
THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM



CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE

FRIDAY 1ST - SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

MARY'S SONG



www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk

1st – 3rd

March 2024

Fr Mark Gilbert & Mrs Vicky Townsend will lead a team of Adult leaders (groups may bring their own leader)

Children aged 7-11 (Year 6) Cost

£130 for transport, accommodation, and all meals. (Cost for Adult leaders £150)

Fun Work Shops
drama, music, art &

craft **Great Worship** with young people from all over Britain **Disco Party & Outdoor Games** and lots to discover and explore in Walsingham.

We will ask permission for you to be excused from school on the 1st March as it is an educational trip, but this is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

www.sswshchichester.weebly.com

WALSINGHAM CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE

FOODBANK

Harvest Festival donations

We have been fortunate to receive an amazing amount of harvest festival donations this year from schools and churches. This is wonderful because we tend to see donations drop off considerably in the summer and this replenishes our stock as we start to hit our busiest time of the year. Thank you to all those who have organised and donated for harvest festival. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Finding a way out of crisis

As a Trussell Trust foodbank, Chichester District Foodbank (which includes Petworth) is very much focused on helping people out of their crisis so that they no longer need to turn to a foodbank. What this means is that as well as providing three days' worth of emergency food, we also refer people to organisations that may be able to help our clients in other ways. This may be a local organisation or a national one or a combination of both.

Such is the need for help that we now have a Citizens Advice worker attached to the Chichester District Foodbank. The range of issues that our Citizens Advice worker can help with include benefits, housing, debt, utility bills and many others. For example, a client may be about to have their gas and electricity cut off so quick intervention is vital. Or a family in low paid work may be entitled to more universal credit than they're receiving or financial difficulties may have led to unmanaged debt.

When these types of problems overwhelm, it can cause a downward spiral and people can find it very difficult to move through their crisis. In the midst of such difficulty, it is also hard to know where to turn particularly if you don't have a computer or smart phone to search for the right kind of support. At Petworth foodbank, our telephone signposting team are able to let clients know where those sources of help can be found as well as a making a referral to our Citizens Advice worker as appropriate.

Would you like to be a volunteer signposter?

We are looking for a couple more people to join our team of signposters. The role is home-based but you'll definitely be part of our Petworth team. Training is provided. You need to be IT literate, with a good telephone manner and be able to offer a morning a week of your time (we particularly need to cover Monday morning at present but there is flexibility on the day). The hours are 09.30 to 12.30 on your chosen morning but you do not need to sit by the phone all that time!

To find out more and see if it is something you'd like to be involved with please e-mail petworth@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

From the Petworth Foodbank (part of the Chichester District Foodbank)

Thank you for your donations!

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to the foodbank in 2023. Your support and generosity are essential for us to be able to continue our work. Demand for our emergency food parcels has remained high and winter is always especially busy for us.

We always welcome any in-date, unopened and long-life items (including unopened toiletries). Due to Natasha's Law, all items must have an ingredients list.

If you would prefer to donate money, please go to our website to use Enthuse (formerly Charity Checkout) or to see other ways you can donate via shopping <https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>



PETWORTH VILLAGE MINIBUS

There will be a shopping trip on Friday 1st December to Worthing and The Trading Post at Barnham, and a pre-Christmas shop to a venue of your choosing on Friday 15th December.

There are also trips to the Friendship Centre (Petworth Over 60s) on Tuesday mornings and Bingo on Wednesday 6th and 20th.

Caroline Stoneman – Local Organiser

ST MARY'S COFFEE MORNINGS

The Coffee morning on Saturday 11th November raised £252.20 for Church Funds. Many thanks to all who helped, came and spent.

With the Christmas Event on Saturday 2nd December there will be no Coffee Morning next month.

Jean Huggett and Jackie Smith

FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

We are in one of our busiest times of the year at the moment, as we juggle the many needs of our families as well as all the preparations for Advent and Christmas. Parties are planned, hamper packing dates are scheduled and we are getting daily calls from churches and other organisations asking what gifts would be most appropriate this year. Thank you to everybody who is supporting us this year with food, presents, financial donations or by volunteering – we are incredibly grateful.

Away from the festive planning, things remain very difficult for our families with the increased energy costs over the winter months contributing to financial problems. We are very grateful to anybody who is supporting our ‘Share the Warmth’ winter fuel campaign, which makes a huge difference to these families who are struggling. There are still very long waiting lists for specialist services such as SEN support for children or access to mental health professionals, so our practitioners are really vital sources of support to families in these circumstances.

Funding continues to be challenging, with so many charities seeking support from grant funders and individual donors alike. We really do value all the support we receive from churches and their congregations as well as local groups including Rotary and Lions clubs. We are planning a skydive for 2024, so if there are any thrillseekers out there who think they might like to join us, do get in touch with the fundraising team on 01273 041401 or by email fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk.

October's work in numbers

258 individual visits and 1181 calls with families supporting 324 adults and 301 children
39 supported meetings with other agencies
48 group sessions held supporting 589 parents and 334 children
108 food deliveries made

Prayer points

Pray that all our staff will find an appropriate balance between work and rest during the upcoming busy Advent and Christmas period

Give thanks for a very generous individual donation we have recently received

Pray that a very important grant funding meeting taking place in early December will have a positive outcome

Nikki Kerr

FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

THE ARTS SOCIETY SOUTH DOWNS

Wednesday 6th December

Who is Santa Claus? Art from St Nicholas to Father Christmas By Christopher Bradley

CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY has a broad range of lecturing experience, including to the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Institute of British Architects. As a film producer and cameraman he has made documentaries for the BBC, National Geographic TV and Channel 4.

Nicholas was the Greek Bishop of Myra, a 4th century port in Anatolia. Following his death, his legendary generosity established him as the principle gift-giving saint as well as the patron saint of seafarers. The body of St Nicholas was stolen by Italian sailors to protect their own ports in the Adriatic. Over the centuries the image of St Nicholas changed constantly until the Dutch re-invented him as Sinterklaas. Taking him to their new colonies in America, he transformed into kindly Santa Claus. Later re-imported into Britain without his Catholic baggage, he gradually emerged as Father Christmas



JANUARY 2024 - No talk

Talks are in Fittleworth Village Hall, RH20 1JB
10.30 am for Starting time **10.45 am**,
preceded by coffee from **09.50 am**
Members Free, new Members welcome
Visitors £7

Further details on:

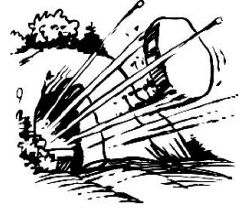
www.theartssocietysouthdowns.org.uk
Or Jane Allison on Tel 01798 813314

CALENDAR AND SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

3rd	ADVENT SUNDAY (Launch of the Year of New Testament) <i>Isaiah 64.1-9, 1 Corinthians 1.3-9, Mark 13.24-37</i> Holy Eucharist 8.00am Christingle (Egdean) 9.15 am Breakfast from 9.00am Jubilate Family Communion 10.30 am
10th	ADVENT 2 <i>Isaiah 40.1-11, 2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8</i> Holy Eucharist 8.00 am Parish Eucharist (Egdean) (BCP) 9.00 am Parish Eucharist 10.30 am
17th	ADVENT 3 <i>Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24, John 1.6-8,19-28</i> Holy Eucharist 8.00 am Parish Eucharist 10.30 am CAROL SERVICE (Egdean) 4.00 pm
Tuesday	
19th	CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE 7.00 pm
24th	ADVENT 4 <i>2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38</i> Holy Eucharist 8.00 am No Service at Egdean Parish Eucharist 10.30 am CHRISTMAS EVE Christingle Crib Service 4.00 pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm
Monday	
25th	CHRISTMAS DAY Christmas Family Communion at Egdean 9.00 am Christmas Family Communion 10.30 am
31st	THE HOLY FAMILY <i>Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3, Galatians 4.4-7, Luke 2.15-21</i> Holy Eucharist 8.00 am No service at Egdean Parish Eucharist 10.30 am

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Tuesday to Friday Holy Eucharist 9.00 am



FOLLOW THE SERVICES

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Or YouTube search for St Mary's Petworth

For Egdean here are the following links 9.00 am

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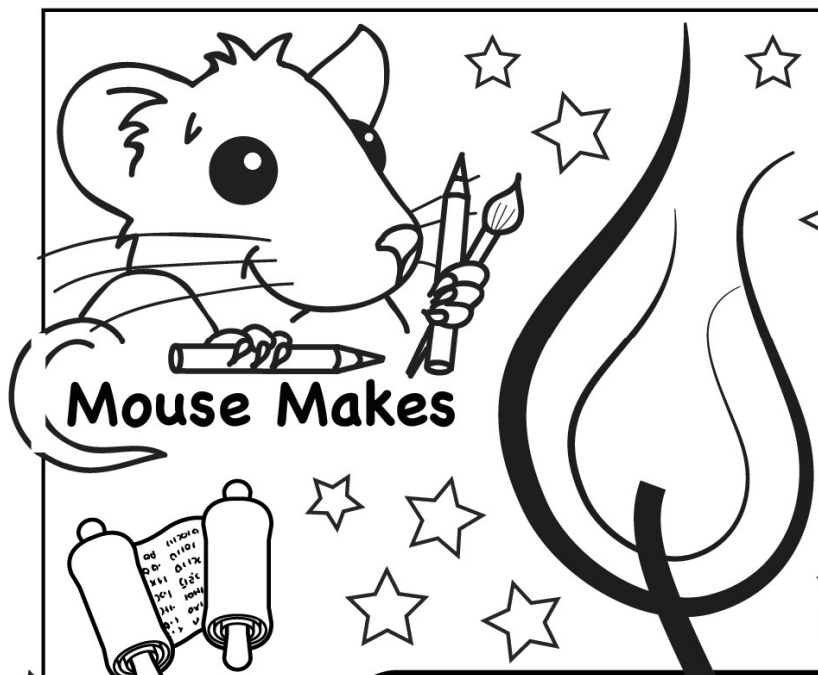
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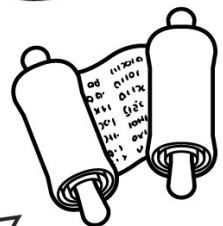
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ADVENT
comes from
the Latin
'AD VENTO'
which means
ARRIVAL

In Advent we
celebrate Jesus' birth
and look forward to
the time when Jesus
will come again.



GOD'S PROMISE

Isaiah 9:6-7

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GIVEN • WONDERFUL
COUNCELLOR
MIGHTY • GOD
EVERLASTING
FATHER • PRINCE
PEACE • LORD



AN ANGEL MESSENGER

Luke 1:26-38

ANGEL • GABRIEL
JOSEPH • MARY
FAVOUR • SON
JESUS • GREAT
THRONE • REIGN
FOREVER • HOLY
SERVANT • WORD

V	R	P	R	I	N	C	E	L	R	O	D
W	O	R	D	C	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
J	A	G	M	A	N	G	E	R	G	E	B
O	W	H	O	E	V	E	R	W	I	I	J
S	J	O	Y	B	O	R	N	O	S	G	E
E	S	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	N	S
P	P	Y	J	C	H	I	L	D	E	P	U
H	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
F	A	V	O	U	R	E	F	R	W	S	O
B	I	R	T	H	S	W	O	F	O	D	L
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F	E	C	O	U	N	C	E	L	L	O	R
A	N	G	E	L	B	J	V	K	D	V	D
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	E	S
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N	E	O	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	N
F	L	O	C	K	M	I	G	H	T	Y	B

A LONG JOURNEY

Luke 2:1-20

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SHEPHERDS • FLOCK
ANGELS • JOY
GOOD NEWS • PRAISE
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John 3:16

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WORLD • HE • GAVE
ONLY • SON
WHOEVER • BELIEVES
ETERNAL • LIFE



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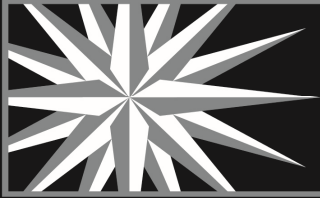
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY MATRIMONY

We offer our congratulations to

THOMAS PAUL HIRD AND MORAG HELEN MACLEOD from North Chailey, following their marriage at St Mary's on 11th November.

FUNERALS

We remember with thanksgiving the recently departed

With the recent passing of **MARY WAKEFORD** and **ROSEMARY HARRIS**, St Mary's has lost two devoted and loyal members of its congregation.

MARY had been resident at Pendean Nursing Home and passed away there on 13th October at the age of 95 years.

Born in Worthing on 19th June 1928, she married Eric in October 1951 and set up their first home in Chichester.

Their first child, Richard was born in 1952, five years later they adopted William and Elisabeth arrived in 1959.

In 1960 they bought the shop premises in Market Square where they lived above the shop before moving to Tillington some 8 years later. In 1980 Eric and Mary moved back to Petworth, purchasing Rosemary Cottage.

Mary was much involved in the community, being associated with the Women's Institute at both Tillington and Petworth, the WI Market, the Twinning Association and the Swimming Club where she qualified as a teacher and, for over forty years, taught countless numbers of children how to swim.

Along with Eric, they supported Family Social Work and between 1991 and 2006 they participated in the annual sponsored walk along the South Downs Way.

After Eric passed away in 2010 she took up keep fit and art classes as well as taking coach holidays.

A person of deep faith, Mary regularly attended St Mary's at the 8.00 am service on Sunday, latterly with the help of her walking frame, but when this became too much she received her communion at home.

In August 2020 she moved to Barlavington Nursing Home but after a stay in hospital she was relocated to Pendean.

Her funeral service at St Mary's on 16th November was followed by burial at Hampers Green cemetery.

It was in 1987 when **ROSEMARY** along with Raymond arrived in Petworth on a house hunting mission.

They came across Somerset Lodge in North Street and decided to buy the property, which was in need of considerable restoration. Two years later they finally moved into their new home, having sold their house in London.

They soon became drawn into the active life of the town, helping the expanding Festival, joining the church choir.

With Raymond's experience as an architect, (Rosemary had also been one), he was involved in restoration work on the Leconfield Hall.

Meanwhile, Rosemary became Secretary of PACT, arranged Alpha Courses at her home and later as a Lay Assistant held regular Communion services at the Cottage Nursing Home. She was a strong supporter of organisations that worked with persecuted Christians through the world.

Rosemary held firm views on many subjects, on one occasion she was highly critical of the Somerfield supermarket when it began opening for Sunday trading.

She took much pride in her garden which had featured in the House & Garden magazine, as well as a number of other publications. It was open to the public as part of the National Gardens Scheme and also to support local charities.

Widowed 8 years ago, she continued her regular attendance at St Mary's on Sundays until shortly before her death.

Rosemary passed away at her home on 1st November at the age of 93 years. Her funeral service was held at St Mary's on 30th November.

BRYAN JOHN HILL was born in a cottage in Pound Street to parents, Arnold and Ella Hill, who had originated from the north of England. They later moved to South Grove and Bryan started work for W Bryder & Sons a week before his 15th birthday. Having developed his trade as a carpenter he would remain with the firm throughout his working life. In addition, he assisted with funerals until he was 80.

Married to Doreen the couple had two sons, Andrew and Graham, and had lived at Hampers Green.

Tragedy struck the family when, in 1975, Andrew who had been involved in a road accident, sadly passed away at the age of 16 years after being in a coma for some 18 months.

Bryan suffered health problems in the latter part of his life, and was supported by Doreen in difficult circumstances.

He passed away on 7th October and the funeral took place at Worthing crematorium on 1st November.

MELVYN BRIDGER grew up at Hampers Green, the only son of Owen and Hannah. From a young age he joined the Scout movement, an interest he held throughout his life.

A carpenter by trade, he prepared background scenery for many of the Petworth Players productions over the years.

Married to Kathy, they had two sons, Shaun and Gareth.

A few years ago, the couple moved from their home in Downview Road to live in the Bognor area.

Melvyn passed away on 16th October at the age of 77 years.

His funeral took place on 6th November at the Arun Crematorium at Yapton.

JEAN ELSIE BAINBRIDGE had been a resident in Petworth for over 30 years. She became Warden for the residents living at Thompsons Hospital and Egremont Almshouses, living in one of the Egremont units where she transformed her garden, which attracted much praise from visitors. Sadly, her husband, Francis passed away in 1995.

Since 2002, Jean had lived at Thompsons Hospital.

She passed away at St Richards hospital on 21st October at the age of 82 years. Her Committal service took place at Chichester crematorium on 23rd November.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

I have mentioned many times before about the new Special Needs School called Woodlands Mead at East Grinstead area. This is only part of the work we do with Schools for Special Needs children. OFSTED will have been with us by the time you read these notes, and by January I should know how well we are doing and where we need to make improvements. We have certainly put time and money into improving this Service.

Our Footpath and Rights of Way team are doing their best to keep up to the schedule they have for checking the state of our Rights of Way, but the weather we have encountered has not made this an easy job. On that same subject we have erected a new Bridge between Wisborough Green and Billingshurst, we were due to visit it but the weather has again put a stop to that.

Lady Emma Barnard, Lord Lieutenant, is officially opening the new Fire and Rescue Centre at Broadbridge Heath on 28th November.

On the same subject I recently visited Petworth's retained Fire and Rescue Station. They're doing a great job, when I was there training with breathing apparatus was taking place. All those doing the course, which is over 3 days, passed. There is still a need for retained Firemen.

We still do need prospective foster parents to come forward. There is an event between the hours of 8.00 am and 2.00 pm on the 5th and 6th of December. On the 5th December it will be at County Hall Chichester, and on the 6th at County Hall North in Horsham. West Sussex is now an accredited Fostering Friendly employer. There is also a bonus of £750 for a scheme called 'refer-a-friend' and, if they become an approved Foster Carer, they also receive a bonus of £750.

It's this month that I wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the very best for 2024. Please keep safe and feel free to contact me on janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or my mobile 07979152898

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Petworth Surgery.....	01798 342248
(Out Of Hours Service).....	0300 1301313
Petworth Police Station.....	101 x 588229
Red Cross (Petworth area)	0800 0280831
WRVS Meals On Wheels.....	01798 343773
Citizens Advice Bureau.....	0344 4771171
Liaise @ Frontline – offer a free service for help with debts, repossessions, final demands and bailiffs.....	
ICIS – free advice for finding support and care in West Sussex	0800 859929
Action against Bullying – Childline.....	0800 1111
StartUp Co your local Enterprise Agency.....	0845 7827887
Sussex Pathwatch.....	0845 6070999
Traveline (for bus timetables).....	0871 2002233
Traveline (for train information).....	08457 484950
Compass Bus - Route 99 enquiries.....	01903 690025
TANDEM - hospital and surgery transport.....	03300 303962
Petworth Community Mini-Bus.....	01798 342942
Sainsbury's Free Bus [Monday only] Dep: Hampers Green 09.40 & Petworth Town Square 09.45. Dep: Sainsbury's Chichester 11.50	
Petworth Over 60s (Friendship) Centre.....	01798 342942
Petworth Lunch Club.....	01798 342942
Petworth Masonic Lodge.....	01798 343454
University of the 3rd Age.....	01403 783359
Alcoholics Anonymous.....	0845 7697555
CRUSE West Sussex (For the bereaved).....	0300 3119959
CRUSE (National Help line).....	0808 8081677
Samaritans.....	08457 116123
Relate (Marriage Guidance).....	01243 788935
Energy Watch.....	0845 9060708
GAS Emergency Freephone.....	0800 111999
Water (Midhurst & Petworth).....	0845 2720845
Electricity Emergency.....	0800 0727282



WE HAVE OUR FLAGPOLE AT LAST!!

A big thank you, for the help from our business community, who helped us purchase a new Flagpole.
And to Mark Thompson who organised the collection. It is now up and in use.

St Mary's Christmas Draw

*Help our Church,
AND win a prize!*

Cash Prizes: £100, £50, £25
Hampers, Wine, Plants and Chocolates!

*Draw tickets available from jeandhuggett@gmail.com
or ring 01798 343906
and we will deliver or post*

*The draw will take place at St Mary's after the 10.30 service
on Sunday 17th December 2023*

Christmas



St Mary's Church
Christmas Event
Saturday 2nd December

10.00 am to 4.00 pm



Come and join us in the morning for

coffee and mince  pies,

a light lunch or

tea in the afternoon.

There will be Gift Stalls and a Raffle

