

PARISH NEWS



The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate

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IN THIS ISSUE

EPIPHANY 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

EASTERGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.parishofabe.org.uk

January 2026



**PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM
AND EASTERGATE**
SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2026



Thursday 1	Mary, Mother of God		
	11.15am Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
Saturday 3	Our Lady of Walsingham		
	9.30am Said Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
Sunday 4	Epiphany/Second of Christmas		
8.30am	Holy Communion	BCP	St George's, Eastergate
9am	Mattins	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.30am	Said Mass	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
10am	All-age Communion		St George's, Eastergate
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
Tuesday 6	Epiphany of the Lord		
	6.30pm Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
Sunday 11	Baptism of the Lord		
8.30am	Holy Communion	BCP	St George's, Eastergate
9am	Mattins	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.30am	Said Mass	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.45am	Sunday Seekers		Eastergate School
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
10am	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong and Benediction		St Mary's, Barnham
Sunday 18	Epiphany 2/Week 2		
8.30am	Holy Communion	BCP	St George's, Eastergate
9am	Mattins	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.30am	Said Mass	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.45am	Sunday Seekers		Eastergate School
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
10am	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
Sunday 25	Epiphany 3/Week 3/Conversion of St Paul		
8.30am	Holy Communion	BCP	St George's, Eastergate
9am	Mattins	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.30am	Said Mass	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
9.45am	Sunday Seekers		Eastergate School
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
10am	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham

Other regular weekly services:

10am – Holy Communion every Wednesday at St George's, Eastergate

6pm – Evensong (BCP) every evening at St Mary's, Barnham

6.30pm – Mass every Tuesday at St Mary's, Barnham



THE BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2025

The Christmas season is celebrated up until Candlemas (2 February) and therefore it is appropriate to read in January a message for Christmas(tide) from The Bishop rather than the usual message from the Rector, Fr Paul.

Knowing that we are loved

A new generation attending Chichester cathedral have shifted the atmosphere. Buggies now take their place alongside the Zimmer frames, to the delight of everyone.

We are being reminded what it's like to be a baby. The needs are basic: warmth and security, food, sleep, and clean clothes.

In early childhood we need people to notice us, and we need one or two people who always do this. That's how we know that we are loved. We need things to play with, capturing our imagination and teaching us communication and how to work with what we see.

We never really grow out our earliest needs which guarantee our human dignity.

I was reminded of this at the joyful celebrations of baptism and confirmation just before Christmas. Candidates spoke of their need of being loved, feeling safe, finding kindness and knowing that you can be forgiven.

Some of the most moving testimonies came from our asylum seeker and refugee brothers and sisters. They spoke of how the local church has shown them the kindness of God our loving Father, which we see in the face of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This kindness has done much to restore their sense of dignity as the children of God. And because words can sometimes be a barrier, the symbolic gestures of worship become more important as a form of communication.

The washing with water in baptism, like the laying-on of hands and anointing in confirmation speaks powerfully. It says that the love of God is as tender and reassuring as the gentle touch of a parent is to a new-born child.

So, with Christians young and old we rejoice this Christmas that what God the Father sees and loves in the new-born Christ, he sees and loves in you and me.

The Virgin Mother looks on with love. Joseph is a friend and guardian. Angels enchant us with music promising peace on earth. And all for your sake.

Bishop Martin

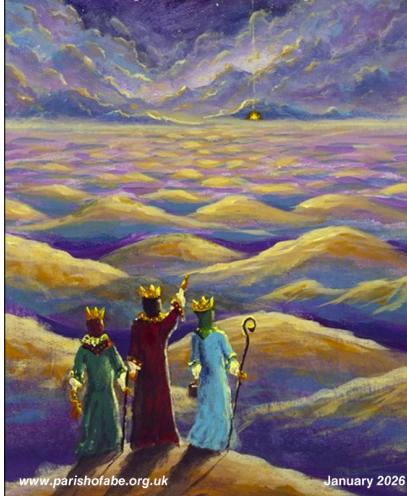
*See page 5 for the latest news
from the Parish of ABE*

PARISH NEWS

The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate



£1



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FROM THE REGISTERS NOVEMBER 2025

Funerals

- 4 Nov Sheila Ainger [90] (Ashes) (E)
- 18 Nov Valerie Greenwood [85] (Ashes) (A)
- 21 Nov Tracy Gustar [62] (E)

Baptisms

- 23 Nov Noa Trew (A)
- Matilda Trew (A)
- Poppy Partington (A)
- 30 Nov Tuppence Wood (E)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Events coming up in the Parish include:

- **8-11 January – Goldilocks and the Three Bears Pantomime at Eastergate Village Hall (page 10)**
- **15 January – A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) at Eastergate Village Hall from 12:30-2pm (page 19)**
- **22 January – Italian Fiesta at Barnham Community Hall from 1-3pm (page 10)**
- **30 January – Quiz at Barnham Community Hall (page 10)**
- **13 June – ABE Summer Fair**
- **20 June – Music at Murrells Field.**

SUPPORT FUND

The Walberton, Binsted and West Barnham Support Fund has funds available to make grants to support those in financial hardship and live in those areas. We can support food, heating and one-off payments. If you or you know someone who might possibly be eligible, then speak in confidence to Fr Paul or Rev Sheila who are trustees of the fund.

PARISH LUNCH

A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) is on Thursday 15 January at Eastergate Village Hall. Please do come if you can to share in a simple lunch of homemade soup, bread, cheese, tea, coffee and biscuits with one another. We also enjoy the challenge of a light hearted quiz. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

We have a provisional profit figure of £3,120.11 (2024 - £2,813.80). A wonderful result!

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Dean Edward has written and said that "each day at the 8am Eucharist and at Evensong in the Cathedral we pray for the parishes of our Diocese, as listed in the Diocesan Intercessions Rota. Parishes are warmly invited to join us when we pray for them, if they are able. If you are not able to join us in person, please know that you are in our prayers. We will be praying for your parish (ABE) on Tuesday 20 January."

If you would like to attend then please do let the clergy/staff know that we were represented that day when you are there.

JAR OF COMPASSION

The PCC agreed at its December meeting that the charity for 2026 would be St Wilfrid's

Hospice. We are all aware of the financial strain that the hospice movement is under and that there are wards/beds remaining empty because they cannot afford to use them presently. Our efforts this year will be greatly appreciated they have told us when we got in touch.

ALPHA COURSE

St George's, Eastergate, is holding an Alpha Course starting 18 January and runs for 8 weeks with a break for half term. The course allows people to explore the Christian faith and the meaning of life.

Alpha is for everyone, no matter your background or beliefs. Whether you're new to faith or simply open minded about it all, Alpha is for you.

We all bring different thoughts to the table, and at Alpha we want to create a space that's open for everyone to find what faith means for them.

Each session starts with food (a great way to connect and get to know everyone there) has a video with a talk (about the basics of Christian life) and then a discussion or conversation time. It's a very friendly and welcoming space and you can ask any questions you like.

If you'd like to come along (maybe bring someone else too?) please could you e mail Fr Paul (at paularmstead@btinternet.com) and let him know if you have done this course before or not.

The sessions (which are free) will be held in the church and be on 18 Jan, 25 Jan, 1 Feb and 8 Feb and then 1 Mar, 8 Mar, 15 Mar and 22 Mar and we might have to reflect on this when numbers are known.



It was a jolly afternoon with guests from other WIs who came to join in our Christmas party. Our entertainer was the delightful Dawn Gracie who kept us amused as we sang along to Christmas songs from the 1960's. Some members were encouraged to help provide an accompaniment for Dawn by shaking jingle bells at the right moment. We have seen Dawn before but this was a different programme selected for Christmas. One of our guests was a six month old baby

who gazed wide eyed at all the goings on without a murmur. Many thanks to her mum and older brother who helped us clear up afterwards.

We ended the afternoon by singing carols. Our next meeting is our Sausage Sizzle on 13 January. Remember ladies this will be at 1pm. At this meeting we will vote on the Resolutions which you can find in the W.I. Life. No doubt you will hear of more outings and jolly events.

Happy New Year to you all. Maybe it will have stopped raining by then?

Catherine White-Aldworth

PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER

For our three church communities: We pray that we are all aware of any in our congregations who are lonely or facing hardship and that we all make every effort to encourage one another.

We also pray for the Alpha course starting this month in St George's Eastergate, that it will encourage many to explore what the Christian faith is in a way that encourages deeper commitment and provides the opportunity to share difficulties with faith.

We give thanks for all whose continued hard work makes our worship run smoothly... For those who lead the services, who lead intercessions for us, for the coffee makers and of course the enthusiastic worshippers!

And we give thanks for those who provide this parish magazine each month and who publicise events on the website and on social media.

For the wider community of ABE: We pray for all who volunteer in any capacity, giving particular thanks this month for the work of

Sage House and for all who encourage our local community by providing activities in our village halls.

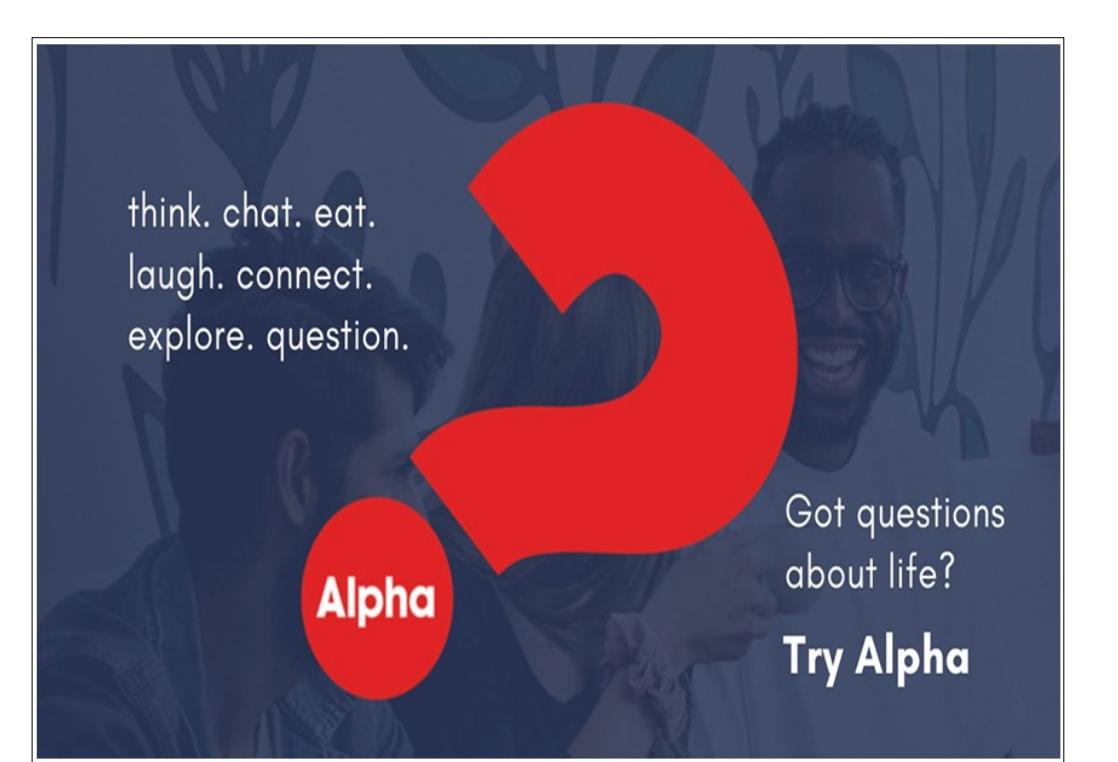
We also pray for continued support for the Food Bank in our local shops.

And we pray that all who move into new housing in the area will find it easy to integrate into our communities and also that local facilities such as schools, medical facilities, shops etc will not be overwhelmed.

For our nation and the world: We pray for our police forces; for success in reducing crime and protecting the most vulnerable.

We also pray for all in our world who do not have access to fresh water or reliable food supplies and we ask God's blessing on charity work helping in those areas.

As we have celebrated the Prince of Peace over the Christmas period, we also pray for peace and reconciliation where there is conflict and we pray for all world leaders who strive for this end.



think. chat. eat.
laugh. connect.
explore. question.

Got questions
about life?

Try Alpha

'This is your invite to try Alpha'.

Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together.

Alpha is for anyone who's curious.

No judgement, no pressure.

Each session unpacks a big question

of life, faith, and purpose, and is designed to spark conversation.

Come along, see what you think.

At St George's Church, Church Lane, Eastergate PO20 3UT

From 6-8pm

Food, video, conversation

Starting on 18 January

To register please e mail paularmstead@btinternet.com

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we usually fizz out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have several goals, don't attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals — and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about

giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money that you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

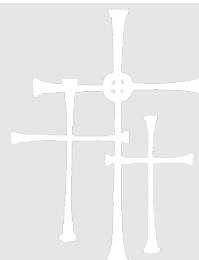
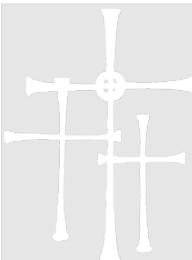
Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So, break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again and to keep going. Only if you stop are you really defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.



**THINKING ABOUT A WEDDING
OR CHRISTENING (BAPTISM) IN
ONE OF OUR CHURCHES?**

Contact our Parish Office on 01243 553955
for more information





The Jar of Compassion

This year we are supporting



St Wilfrid's Hospice

Making a difference to local lives

Registered Charity number 281963

St Wilfrid's Hospice is an independent, local charity that has been supporting people in our community who are living with a terminal or life limiting illness, for over 30 years. They deliver expert, personalised care to each patient, supporting them and their loved ones through difficult times.

St Wilfrid's Hospice, Walton Lane, Bosham, PO18 8QB

Tel: 01243 775302 email: general@stwh.co.uk

Website: www.stwh.co.uk



BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE COMMUNITY TRUST

Happy New Year to all. We look forward to welcoming you to our community halls - Eastergate Village Hall and Barnham Community Hall no matter what time of year. Both our buildings have many friendly events to offer you including the following.

ALL REGULAR COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CLASSES WILL RESUME AT EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY AFTER THE ANNUAL PANTOMIME.

- **Pop Up Shop Opportunities at Eastergate Village Hall on Tuesdays** during the busy coffee morning. £10 a table. Please contact Nina for more information.

- **Weekly Coffee Mornings:** Please note the coffee morning is not running on Tuesday 6 January due to the annual pantomime. Nina's Friendly Coffee Morning on Tuesdays at Eastergate Village Hall, 10am – midday (quiet space also available). Wednesdays at Barnham Community Hall, 10am – midday. Just pop along, you will be made very welcome. Please note that on the 1st Wednesday of the month, Barnham Community Hall's Cutten Café (see: page 22) will be open from 9am–3pm. As well as the usual delicious cakes and savouries, a light lunch will be on offer.

- **Friendly Foodie Fridays:** 11:30am-1pm on Friday 23 January at Eastergate Village Hall (in the Community Hub at the back of Eastergate Village Hall). Just the one Friday in December because of Christmas. We will have rescued/surplus food on offer to our community from our partners UK Harvest.

This amazing initiative is available to everyone. We accept cash donations but they are not compulsory. Please bring a bag. We look forward to welcoming you.

This project is now sponsored by Nyton House Residential Care Home.

In the main hall we will now have a **regular clothing and furniture swap** working with our partners West Sussex Recycles.

Please contact Nina for more information or should you want to help (details below).

- **Textile Workshops:** Wednesday 14 and 28 January at Barnham Community Hall.

- **Goldilocks and the Three Bears :** Watch the Eastergate Players pantomime from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 January. Book your tickets online at www.eastergateplayers.org.uk or call 0333 666 3366.

- **Italian Fiesta:** Thursday 22 January at Barnham Community Hall from 1pm – 3pm. Lasagna and Tiramisu. Just £10 per person. Please contact Sally-ann (details below).

- **Quiz at Barnham Community Hall:** Friday 30 January. £5pp, max 6 in a team. Doors 7pm. Please book in advance. Fully licensed bar, hot dogs, snacks and raffle. Please contact Ali, (details below) for more information.

Please keep an eye out on the local noticeboards, our Facebook pages and our website for more information barnhamandeastergatecommunitytrust.com.

Our motto is 'Together We Are Stronger' and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

Take care.

All the staff and volunteers at Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust

For enquiries and more information please contact Nina-Maria McMaster on 07849 356097 or email nina@eastergatehall.org.uk (based at Eastergate Village Hall) or Ali Tarbard/Sally-Ann Barker on 07714 456482 or email: events@barnhamcommunityhall.org (based at Barnham Community Hall).

ALDINGBOURNE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

Warm Space Hub launches

We're thrilled to be launching our Warm Space Hub at Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre on 6 January 2026 – a welcoming, heated environment where anyone in our community can drop in for a cozy space to relax, work, read, or just enjoy a friendly chat and a warm drink.

Drop in anytime during our opening hours. Booking is preferable to help us plan, but not mandatory: communityhub@acsc.org.uk

The Hub is located in the Social Club facility at Olivers Meadow, Westergate, Chichester PO20 3YA.

The opening hours from 6 January are: Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm and Thursdays from midday to 3pm.

Volunteers needed

To make this happen, we need at least 2–3 volunteers per session, and we'd love for you to be part of it!

Volunteer roles available:

- Session Volunteer – greet visitors, create a friendly atmosphere, prepare and serve hot drinks, preparing the space and tidying up afterward
- Support Leads – as above, help oversee sessions and support other volunteers
- Standby Volunteer – additional session support as required on short notice

The commitment options are flexible – with weekly, fortnightly or monthly options at the sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Email centre.manager@acsc.org.uk if you are interested, including your name, your availability and a contact number.

We are also looking for volunteers to support our events and ventures in 2026 so please email us if you're interested in these too!

Hello Aldingbourne Community!

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as your new Centre Manager at Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre.

My goal is to make this a welcoming space for everyone—whether you're here for events, sports, activities, social or just a friendly chat.

We have some exciting plans ahead, including our Warm Hub launch on 6 January 2026, where you can drop in for a hot drink and a cozy space to relax, work, or connect with others. We need Volunteers to help us too!

I'd love to hear your ideas and feedback on what you'd like to see at the centre. Let's make this a place that truly brings our community together!

Looking forward to meeting you soon!

**Tamryn Buys
Centre Manager
Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre**



HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

2 January – Gregory of Nazianzus

Next time you think about the Holy Spirit, breath a short prayer of thanks for Gregory of Nazianzus.

This fourth century bishop of Constantinople made such an impact on the Early Church with his understanding of how the Holy Spirit relates to the Father and the Son, that he became known as the 'Trinitarian Theologian'.

The young Gregory had never intended to be a theologian. Far from it. Born in 329 into a wealthy Greek family in southwest Cappadocia, he had excelled in rhetoric and philosophy in Caesarea, Alexandria and Athens, becoming a gifted scholar and orator.

Then disaster struck. While Gregory was on his way to Athens, a severe storm nearly

engulfed his ship. Amid the terror of the wind and waves, Gregory promised God that if his life was spared, he would dedicate the rest of his life to the service of Jesus Christ.

It was not an easy promise to keep, as by nature Gregory preferred a life of study and reflection. Instead, as a priest and then Bishop of Sasima in 372, and Bishop of Constantinople in 380, he was plunged into the tumultuous church politics of the time. His crowning moment came in 381, when he presided at the opening of the Council of Constantinople.

But it was in his quiet times of study and writing that Gregory made his biggest contribution to the early Church. For he expanded the idea that our salvation is a progressive journey into the Godhead, and he stressed that the One who enables us to take this journey is the Holy Spirit. Gregory proposed the term 'procession', saying that the Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son, and that the Spirit should be given full worship and equal honour.

Gregory is greatly honoured in both Eastern and Western Christianity. He was one of the three 'Cappadocian Fathers', who along with Gregory of Nyssa and Basil of Caesarea, developed the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and the Trinity.

21 January – St Agnes, child martyr of Rome

Agnes should be the patron saint of all the young Christian girls alive today who live in areas of the world where they face kidnap, rape, forced marriage, persecution and even death – simply because they are Christian.

Agnes, born c 291, probably came from a noble Roman family. She converted to Christianity at the age of 10, and took a vow of chastity. When she was only 13, the son of a high-ranking Roman official wanted to marry her. But Agnes refused, declaring



St Gregory. Fresco from The Chora

herself given totally to Christ.

This was not a safe thing to say in 304. It was a time of great violence against Christians, the so-called Persecution of Diocletian. So Agnes was condemned to death. Some accounts say she was burned at the stake, while Ambrose claims her death came by sword. She may have been sentenced to serve as a virgin sacrifice to pagan deities. Beheading has also been mentioned.

In any event, Agnes became a virgin-martyr, and thus became patron saint of chastity, girls, virgins, engaged couples and rape survivors. In the decades after her death her tomb became a place of pilgrimage, as other Christians sought courage for themselves by remembering her fearless witness.



Image via Wikimedia

Saint Agnes by Domenichino (c. 1620)

BURNS NIGHT

Each year, Burns Night takes place on 25 January to celebrate Scotland's National Bard, Robert Burns. (1759 to 1796).

Burns Night is usually marked with haggis, neeps, tatties, and warming 'drams', as well as recitals of some of Burns' famous work.

Robert Burns was born in 1759 and died only 37 years later, in 1796. But his life and writing certainly left a rich inheritance behind. Here are some interesting facts:

1. After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure.

2. American music legend Bob Dylan said that his greatest-ever source of inspiration was Burns' *A Red, Red Rose*.

3. J.D. Salinger's 1951 novel *The Catcher in the Rye* based its title on the Robert Burns poem, *Comin' Thro' the Rye*.

4. *Auld Lang Syne* is a song of friendship in China. Known as *You Yi Di Jiu Tian Chang* –

or Friendship Forever and Ever – the song is played at formal gatherings like graduations.

5. *Is There For Honest Poverty* was chosen to open the new Scottish Parliament in 1999 due to its themes of equality and universal brotherhood.

6. *Auld Lang Syne* is recognised by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as one of the top three most popular songs in the entire English language.

7. US fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger claims to be a direct descendant of Robert Burns.

8. In 2009, Robert Burns became the first-ever person to appear on a commemorative bottle of Coca-Cola.

9. A book of Burns' poetry was carried into space by astronaut Nick Patrick during a two-week space mission in 2010. The book completed a 5.7-million-mile trip, managing 217 orbits of the Earth.

10. Burns fathered at least 12 children during his lifetime. His youngest son, Maxwell, was born on the day of Burns' funeral.



EASTERGATE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am thrilled to be writing to introduce myself to you as the new headteacher of Eastergate CE Primary School. I feel very privileged to be joining such a great, enthusiastic and committed team. It has indeed been a very long six months since I was interviewed and appointed by the governors to the post! I am very grateful to Mr Leigh for stepping in to the role for the past term and wish him well with his new educational adventure with Ofsted!

The new term will be exciting as I get to know all the children's names and build relationships with the team, parents, governors and the wider community.

I have been working in education for just over 26 years and have a wealth of teaching and leadership experience behind me. I have been involved in school leadership for the past 16 years as an assistant head for two years at Durrington First & Middle school, deputy head at Lyndhurst Infant school and for the past

two-and-a-half years as headteacher at Twineham CE Primary School.

Professionally, my vision for education is clear: I want it all for our children! Every decision I ever make is with children at the centre so that every child feels safe, happy and receives an excellent education and experiences '*Life in all its fullness*' (John 10:10).

Mrs Sarah Davy
Headteacher



Mrs Davy with The Gruffalo

SMILE LINES

Cold ministry

Two missionaries were comparing notes about their work in the arctic settlements of Siberia. "It was so cold where we were," boasted one, "that the candle froze during our church service and we couldn't blow it out." "That's nothing," said the other. "Where we were it was so cold that my sermons came out in chunks of ice, and the congregation had to thaw them to see what I was talking about."

Light

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said.

"Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked.

"Oh no," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."

Softly

A churchwarden went to the Police Station wishing to see the burglar who had slipped in and out of the church during evensong. "You'll get your chance in court," said the Desk Sergeant.

"I don't want revenge," said the man. "I want to know how he got out of the service early without the vicar noticing. I've been trying to do that for years!"

AUSTRALIA CELEBRATES A MILESTONE

January is an important month for Australia.

As of 1 January, it has been 125 years (1901) since the Commonwealth of Australia was established, when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

But a British presence in Australia began long before 1901. It was way back in 1788 that the First Fleet first landed in Australia, and the Union Flag of Great Britain was raised by Captain Arthur Phillip.

The 11 ships had left England seven months before. Their passengers were mostly convicts, and Captain Phillips had been charged with the job of establishing penal colonies to house them.

The First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay, but decided to explore further. A few days later, on 26 January 1788 the fleet finally landed at Sydney Cove, a small bay on the southern shore of Sydney harbour.

That was the day that British settlers arrived

on Australian shores for the first time. They formally established the Colony of New South Wales on 7 February, and 20 years later, in 1808, the convicts who had been pardoned were now emancipated convicts, and heartily celebrating the anniversary of their arrival with dinners, drinking and toasts.

The first official celebration took place in 1818 on the 30th anniversary of their arrival, with Governor Lachlan Macquarie naming the day a national holiday, called Foundation Day.

While Australians have celebrated the 26 January as Australia Day ever since, the story is not all a happy one. For indigenous Australians, who have been there for thousands of years, faced persecution and even dozens of massacres during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

As one website puts it, nowadays Australia Day is a day when: "We reflect on our nation's past, which began more than 65,000 years ago, and the impact of European settlement on the First Nations Australians. Our national day is a time, above all, for inclusion and respect, as we work towards reconciliation.

(<https://www.australiaday.com.au/about/>)



Botany Bay, a 1788 watercolour by Charles Gore

Image via Wikimedia

ALL IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

It was... 200 years ago, on 30 Jan 1826 that the Menai Suspension Bridge was first opened. It links the island of Anglesey to mainland Wales, and was the world's first major suspension bridge.

175 years ago, on 7 Jan 1851 that French physicist Leon Foucault set up the first Foucault pendulum in the cellar of his home, to demonstrate the rotation of the earth. On 31 March he created his most famous pendulum, hanging a 28-kilogram (62-pound) lead weight from a 67-metre (220 foot) wire from the dome of the Pantheon in Paris.

125 years ago, on 1 Jan 1901 that the Commonwealth of Australia was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

100 years ago, on 13 Jan 1926 that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born. He created

the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Also 100 years ago, on 14 Jan 1926 that Warren Mitchell, radio TV stage and film actor was born. Best known for his role as Alf Garnett in the TV sitcoms *Till Death Us Do Part* and *In Sickness and in Health*.

Also 100 years ago, on 26 Jan 1926 that Scottish engineer and inventor John Logie Baird gave the first demonstration of his TV system to members of the Royal Institution.

90 years ago, on 18 Jan 1936 that Rudyard Kipling, writer and poet, died. Best known for *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *If*, and many more. Winner of the 1907 Nobel Prize for Literature.

80 years ago, on 3 Jan 1946 that William Joyce, Lord Haw-Haw, British fascist politician died. He had broadcasted Nazi propaganda from Germany during WW2 and was hanged for treason.

Also 80 years ago, on 10 Jan 1946 that the United Nations General Assembly convened for the first time, in Westminster Central Hall, London.



Image by Reading Tom via Wikimedia

The Menai Suspension Bridge viewed from the Anglesey side

75 years ago, on 9 Jan 1951 that the UN headquarters in New York City was officially opened.

Also 75 years ago, on 30 Jan 1951 that Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian automotive engineer died. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle, the Tiger tank and founded the Porsche sport car company.

70 years ago, on 8 Jan 1956 that five American evangelical Christian missionaries were killed by members of the savage and isolated Huaorani tribe in Ecuador. The missionaries were attempting to bring Christianity to the Huaorani people, and had spent several months dropping gifts from an airplane. They had established a camp a few miles from the Huaorani settlements on 6th Jan, but were all killed within two days.

Also 70 years ago, on 31 Jan 1956 that AA Milne, writer, poet, humourist and playwright died. Best known for his stories about Winnie the Pooh.

50 years ago, on 12 Jan 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating the character Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

30 years ago, on 27 Jan 1996 that the first Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in Germany. It became International Holocaust Remembrance Day in 2005 when it was adopted by the United Nations. It marks the day (27 Jan 1945) that the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp was liberated during WW2.

10 years ago, on 31 Jan 2016 that Terry Wogan, Irish radio and TV broadcaster, died. Known for his long-running BBC Radio 2 show, and for presenting TV's *Wogan*, *Blankety Blank*, *Come Dancing*, *Children in Need*, and for his commentaries on the Eurovision Song Contest.

MICHAEL BOND, CREATOR OF PADDINGTON BEAR

It was 100 years ago, on 13 January 1926, that Michael Bond was born. He was the children's writer who created Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Paddington Bear padded into Michael Bond's life quite by accident. It was back in 1956 that Michael was on his way home from work at the BBC when he spied a lonely looking teddy bear on the shelf in a shop window in London. On the spur of the moment, Michael decided to take it home as a stocking filler for his wife.

Michael called the bear Paddington, because they lived near Paddington Station at the time. Two years later, in 1958, while daydreaming over a typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, Michael wondered what might happen if an unaccompanied bear turned up at a railway

station looking for a home. The rest is history. His first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was written in ten days and published by Collins in October of 1958. 28 more books followed, and in all more than 35 million Paddington books have been sold worldwide, in more than 40 languages. More than 27 million Paddington Bear soft toys have been sold, just since 2021. The films alone have grossed more than \$778m (£583m).

Paddington made an appearance at Buckingham Palace in 2022, where he had tea with Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee, exchanging tips with her about the best place to store marmalade sandwiches.

Bond was born in Newbury in 1926 and served with the RAF and army during WW2. He started writing in 1945 while stationed in Cairo, and began his career at the BBC, where he later worked on *Blue Peter* as a cameraman. He died in 2017, aged 91.

REMEMBERING AGATHA CHRISTIE

It was 50 years ago, on 12 January 1976 that Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, short story writer and playwright died. Best known for creating the character Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, and for the world's longest running play, *The Mousetrap*.

Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890, the daughter of wealthy parents. In 1914 she married Archibald Christie, and Rosalind, their only daughter, was born in 1919.

Agatha produced her first detective story in 1920, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, which introduced Hercule Poirot. Her marriage failed in 1928, but not her desire to write; for in 1930 she produced *Murder at the Vicarage*, and Miss Marple arrived.

That same year, 1930, Agatha married again, this time to an archaeologist Max Mallowan, who was 14 years her junior. They had met when Agatha visited an archaeological dig at

Ur, a major ancient Sumerian city-state located in modern-day southern Iraq.

After the war, Max became Professor of Western Asiatic Archaeology at London University and as Director of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq he excavated at Nineveh and Nimrud 1947-61.

Agatha went with him, and her travels in the Middle East inspired *Murder in Mesopotamia*, *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*. Back home, in 1934 the couple had found a peaceful and elegant home just outside of Wallingford, where they lived for many years.

In all, Agatha wrote more than 100 novels, plays, short stories. The undisputed 'Queen of Crime', she is the best-selling novelist of all time. Some two billion copies of her books, translated into at least 100 languages, have been sold. Her play *The Mousetrap*, has been in continuous performance in London since 1952, breaking all records.

OUR LONG LOVE AFFAIR WITH COFFEE

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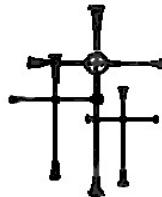
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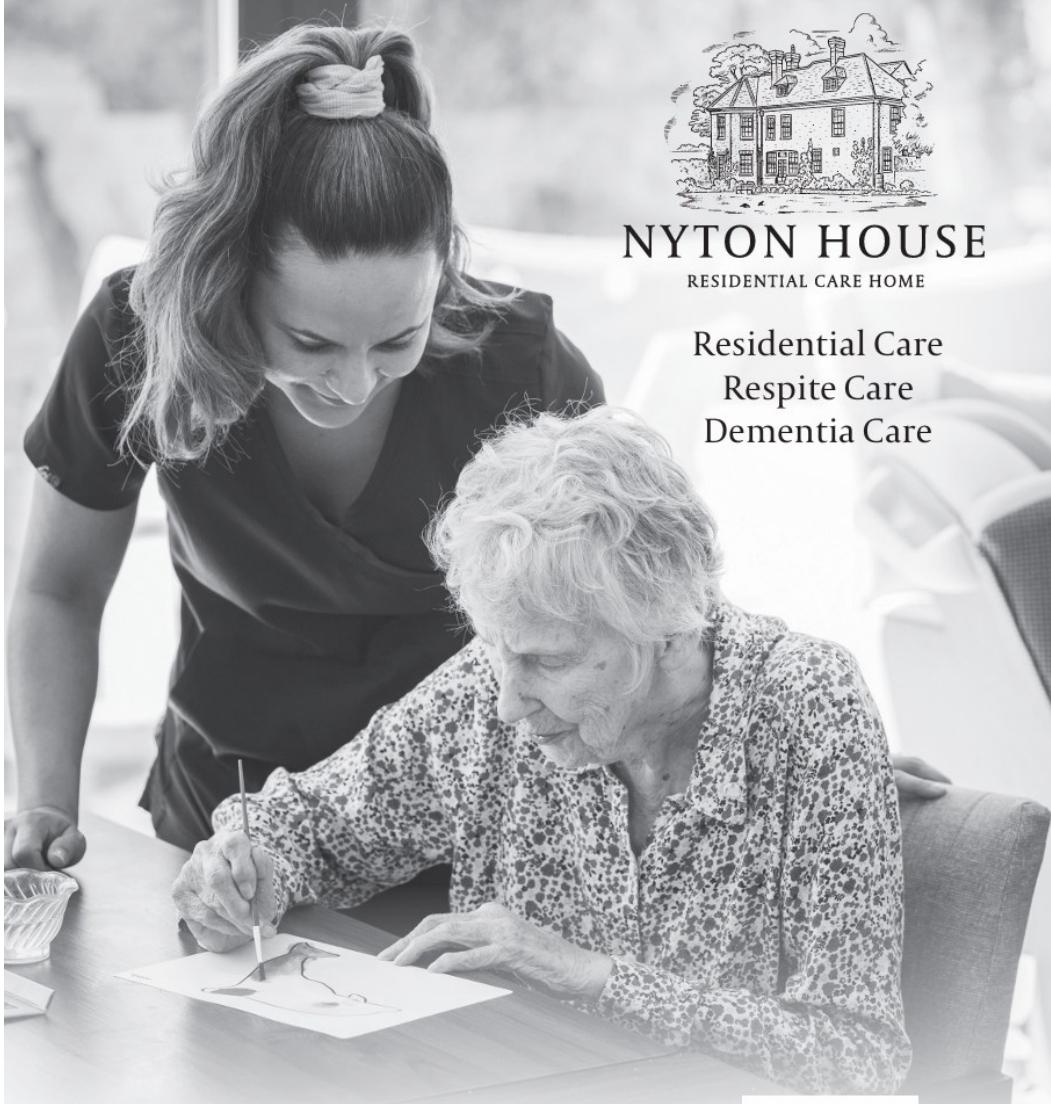
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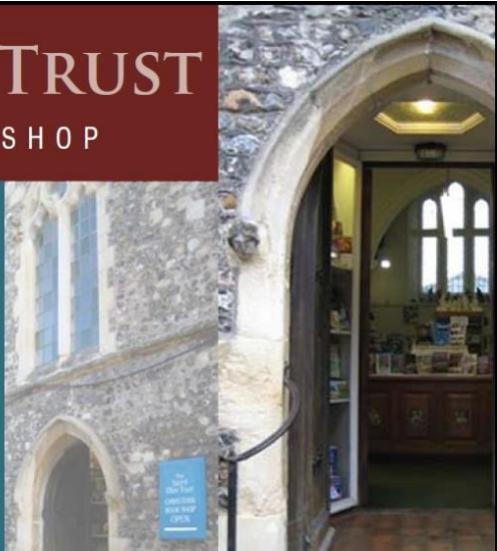
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The Revd. Susan Paterson	Email: revspaterson@gmail.com	01243 696452
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Parish Administrator:

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PARISH OFFICE

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The Parish Office is usually open on Monday mornings from 10am to 12noon as well as on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 10am-12noon and Friday mornings from 9am to 11am. Other times by appointment—please contact Fr Paul Armstead (details above)

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Aldingbourne and District Bowls Club	Lynn Kendall 01243 552033	Police Community Support Officer Caroline Wilson	caroline.wilson@sussex.police.uk
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