

# PARISH NEWS



The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate

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IN THIS ISSUE

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EASTER 2026

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STAINED GLASS

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April 2026



**PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM  
AND EASTERGATE**



**SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026**

***Services for Holy Week and Easter on the opposite page***

<b>6th – 10th</b>	<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in Easter Week</b>			
	6pm	Evensong & Mass (6.30pm)		St Mary's, Barnham
	<b>Wednesday in Easter Week</b>			
	10am	Holy Communion		St George's, Eastergate
	6pm	Evensong & Mass (6.30pm)		St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Saturday 11</b>	<b>Saturday in Easter Week</b>			
	9am	Mattins & Mass (9.30am)		St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 12</b>	<b>Easter 2 (Low Sunday)</b>			
	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	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
	10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
	11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
	6pm	Evensong	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>Easter 3</b>			
	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
	10.30am	Family Communion for St George's Day <i>followed by Bring and Share Lunch</i>		St George's, Eastergate
	11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
	4pm	Songs and Praise for Eastertide		St George's, Eastergate
	6pm	Evensong (BCP)		St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>Easter 4</b>			
	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	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
	10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
	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



**PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM  
AND EASTERGATE  
SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**



**Sunday 29**

**Palm Sunday**

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	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
	<i>(we start on the Green for the procession)</i>		
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham

**Monday 30**

**Monday in Holy Week**

6pm	Evensong		St Mary's, Barnham
6.30pm	Mass and Stations of the Cross		St Mary's, Barnham

**Tuesday 31**

**Tuesday in Holy Week**

6pm	Evensong		St Mary's, Barnham
6.30pm	Mass and Stations of the Cross		St Mary's, Barnham

**Wednesday 1**

**Wednesday in Holy Week**

10am	Holy Communion		St George's, Eastergate
Noon	Chrism Eucharist		Chichester Cathedral
	<i>with the blessing of oils</i>		
6pm	Evensong		St Mary's, Barnham
6.30pm	Mass and Stations of the Cross		St Mary's, Barnham

**Thursday 2**

**Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper		St George's, Eastergate
7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper		St Mary's Barnham
	<i>followed by the Watch until 10pm</i>		

**Friday 3**

**Good Friday**

10am	Mattins and Litany		St Mary's, Barnham
10am	All Age Good Friday service		St George's, Eastergate
Noon	Ecumenical service		Market Place, Barnham
2pm	Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong & Maria Desolata		St Mary's, Barnham

**Saturday 4**

**Easter Eve**

**Sunday 5**

**Easter Day**

5.30am	Vigil and First Mass of Easter		St Mary's, Barnham
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	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong & Benediction		St Mary's, Barnham



**LIVE JAZZ**  
with the  
**REGIS JAZZ BAND**



**PARISH OF ABE**



# Summer Fair

**SATURDAY**  
**13TH JUNE**

**11-3PM**

**Manor Farm, Church Lane**  
**Eastergate, PO20 3UX**

by kind permission of Paul Helyer

**PLANT BARN, TRAIN RIDES**  
**KIDS CORNER & BOUNCY CASTLE**

**BBQ & REFRESHMENTS**

**GRAND RAFFLE**

**HOMEMADE CAKES**

**MINIATURE RAILWAY DISPLAY**



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## WALKING ALONGSIDE

One of the most evocative and meaningful passages in the New Testament for me has always been the account of the journey on the road to Emmaus (*Luke 24:13-35*).

We can only imagine how the two travellers to Emmaus felt, knowing that Jesus had died. Gone were their hopes for a bright future. They thought God had let them down. They had suffered a cruel blow and were bewildered and upset.

In their grief, the risen Jesus came alongside them and spoke with them at length, but somehow, they didn't recognise Him. Why was this, and why did Jesus intend to leave them at Emmaus without first revealing who He was?

The answers may be found by looking back at the encounters Jesus had with people. He never forced his true nature onto anyone. Every individual had to make up their own mind as to who he was, and to decide if the things he said were true.

Today, Jesus does not 'gate-crash' into our lives. In a number of ways, he gently and persuasively reveals himself. So, the story of

the walk to Emmaus should encourage us each time we feel his absence; at those times when we thought he would step in and immediately solve our problems! On our journey of life, we can have times of sadness, and it can seem as though God is far away.

But while we are thinking that Jesus has left us alone, he is actually with us. He knows where we are and what we are feeling. He can quietly draw alongside us. Surprisingly, it can sometimes be in situations of sadness and solitude that Jesus 'speaks' to us more clearly.

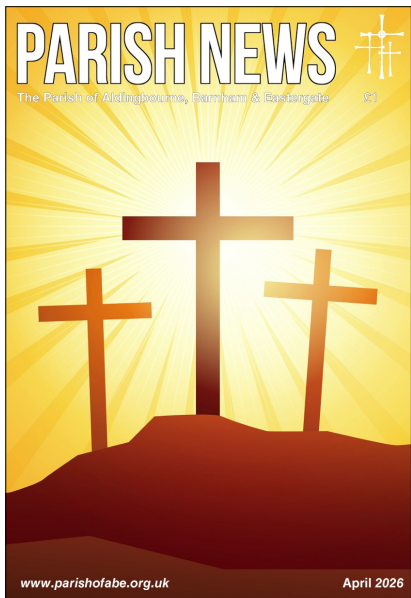
We don't have to go off in search of some 'religious experience' or to a special 'holy place'. He is present in the here and now. Jesus is the unseen companion on every journey and the unseen guest at every meal. In his way and in his time, our Lord reveals himself to us in different situations. We may be aware of his presence in surprising circumstances and on unexpected occasions. How important it is that we stay alert.

There will be times when we will be like those two men on the Emmaus Road, searching for answers. We will earnestly desire clear and direct answers to our questions and the knowledge, understanding or revelation may be slow to come. But, with Jesus, there are many lessons to be learnt along our Emmaus Road that would not have been discovered any other way.

This Eastertide and every day, let us be open those encounters and the answers that they bring.

**Fr Paul**

*See page 7 for the latest news  
from the Parish of ABE*



## FROM THE REGISTERS FEBRUARY 2026

**Baptisms: We welcome into the fellowship of the Church**

1 Feb Molly & Arthur Huggins (A)

**Funeral: We commit into God's loving care**

17 Feb Valentina Stapleton [49] (E)

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Events coming up in the Parish include:

- **1 April – Easter Market at Barnham Community Hall from 10am-1pm (page 21)**
- **16 April – A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) at Eastergate Village Hall from 12:30-2pm (page 7)**
- **20 May – Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at Eastergate School (page 7)**
- **13 June – ABE Summer Fair**
- **20 June – Music at Murrells Field**
- **4 October – Harvest Lunch at Barnham Community Hall**
- **6 November – ABE Fun Quiz at Barnham Community Hall**
- **5 December – Christmas Fair at Eastergate Village Hall**

## IN THIS ISSUE...

	<b>PAGE</b>
Services – April 2026	2-3
LETTER from Fr Paul	5
From the Registers	6
Dates for the Diary	6
News from the Parish of ABE	7-8
Prayer Diary for March	8
News from the W.I.	9
Stained Glass	10
Barnham & Eastergate Community Trust	11
High Days and Holy Days	12-14
All in the Month of April	15
Richard D'Oyly Carte	16
Marmalade	16
Easter Chocolate	17
Our Community	18
Churches in the Parish of ABE	23
Editorial Team & Deadline <b>Wed 15 April</b>	<b>24</b>
Looking for Something?	25-46
Parish Who's Who	47
Parish Directory	48

## PARISH LUNCH

A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) is on Thursday 16 April 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! If you haven't given it a try yet, then maybe this is the month to come along.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Two dates for your diaries this year. The Summer Fete is at Manor Farm on 13 June and the Christmas Fair is at Eastergate Village Hall on 5 December.

We need volunteers now for the Summer Fete to run our stalls so that we can plan well in advance. These are wonderful occasions when parish and people come together as well as raising over £10,000 for parish funds.

Please let your Churchwarden know if you can help. This year some of those who have helped in previous years are not able to so *YOUR FAIR NEEDS YOU!*

## 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. If you or you know someone who might possibly be eligible then speak in confidence to Fr Paul or Rev Sheila.

## CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Are you on the church electoral roll? By being so it shows that you wish to participate in the life of our parish and we show to those who are interested what our church membership is. This year is a revision of the roll so you only need to fill in a form if you previously have not been listed. Application forms can be found at the back of each church. All forms must be returned by the end of April.

## APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is being held on Wednesday 20 May at 7.30pm in the Hall of Eastergate Primary School. Our annual gathering takes stock of the last year and thinks ahead for the next.

At this meeting we consider reports from the life of our parish and its churches, elect our churchwardens for the next year and PCC members where vacancies occur this year, appoint sidesmen and women and receive our annual accounts.

It is a time for coming together. Please do make a special effort to share in the life story of this wonderful parish and attend our annual meeting.

Copies of the agenda and reports will be available at the back of each church well in advance of the Meeting. Please do take a copy and bring it with you on the night.

As is our custom, there will be refreshments (finger food - bring and share) and drinks at the end of the meeting - *Contact* will have more details about this nearer the time.

### **Are you called to serve your parish?**

Can you consider whether you are called to be a churchwarden or a member of the PCC? We have vacancies for PCC members at each church. In addition, we also have to elect four representatives to the Deanery Synod.

If you have any questions then please speak to Fr Paul, Sarah Tripp (PCC Secretary) or any of the Churchwardens.

Prior to this meeting, we will be electing Churchwardens.

We still have no local Churchwarden for Aldingbourne. If you feel called to represent our community at St Mary's in this role and want to know what it would entail then please do speak to Fr Paul or a member of the church committee. It is a vital, important and rewarding role.

## ST GEORGE'S DAY

St George's Day will be marked at Eastergate Church on Sunday 19 April with our Family Communion at the slightly later time of 10.30am and after this we will have a Bring and Share lunch. Please do come along to give thanks for all that this church means to our parish life!

## SONGS OF PRAISE

We will also be celebrating Songs of Praise for Eastertide at 4pm on 19 April at St George's, Eastergate, when the music will be provided by our parish organists and Peter Whitham's brass ensemble. Please come and sing some favourite seasonal hymns which will be interspersed with readings.

## ALDINGBOURNE WARM HUB

Looking for a friendly place to relax, have a chat, and enjoy a cuppa? You'll always find a warm welcome at the Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre (ACSC).

Free tea, coffee, treats, and great company - just drop in.

Final sessions running until 26 March  
Special final session: Monday 31 March  
Come along and meet our local PCSO at the start — a great chance to ask questions, share concerns, or just say hello.

This is the perfect time to pop in, connect, and be part of your community before we wrap up for the season.

For further information, call 01243 940138 or email [centre.manager@acsc.org.uk](mailto:centre.manager@acsc.org.uk)

## PRAYER DIARY FOR APRIL

**For our three church communities:** As our Lent courses come to an end, we pray for the continued strengthening and development of our faith in communal worship and house groups.

We give thanks for the recent Alpha Group at St George's and pray for guidance about future development of this group, in particular the possibility of Youth Alpha in our parish.

We also pray for young people considering attending a First Communion group this summer. And we pray for all families having children baptised in any of our three churches.

In addition, we pray that people from our churches will feel called to volunteer for the two posts becoming vacant, namely Churchwarden at St Georges and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

**For the wider community of ABE:** We give thanks for the vibrancy of activities provided by our three village halls and for the energy and commitment of those who organise them

and pray that positive social networks will be fostered to counter isolation and loneliness.

We pray for our local shopkeepers and give thanks for all that is provided by them locally.

We give thanks for the provision of transport locally and pray for its development as new housing is built.

We also give thanks for local policing provided to keep us safe and pray for all those who work in this area.

**Our nation and the world:** We pray that care and compassion will prevail over commercial greed in the rapid development of social media so that future generations will benefit and not suffer from its growth: and that young people involved and training for this area will have God given values in the front of their minds.

We continue to pray for a just and lasting peace to be achieved in the war torn areas of our world and for all those whose lives are being devastated by these conflicts and violence.



## EASTERGATE & BARNHAM

Well, this month saw the end of another WI year, they pass so quickly, we held our annual meeting, reviewing everything we have been up to in the last year, it is amazing how many things we DO get up to!! Our new program for the coming year is full of interesting meetings, lots to be getting excited about. March was ovarian cancer month and hopefully you have seen our pants displayed around the area to raise awareness. A group went out to tea at Ford Prison, even getting to sit outside in the sunshine. A group went to the cinema to see Mothers Pride, a great movie.

**Georgette Budhram**



## EASTERGATE FRIENDS

The varied and interesting monthly programme carefully considered and arranged by our dedicated committee continues to be very stimulating and enjoyable for all concerned.

Members at our March meeting had a very productive morning designing and decorating a tote bag. All the equipment was provided by one of our very creative members who demonstrated what we had to do with the inks and blocks which she had brought along to the meeting. Thank you Sue!! The Indian blocks included flowers, leaves and butterflies. Different coloured inks were applied to the blocks and then printed on to cotton tote bags. Each bag was very individual and members had a lovely time thinking about their colours and designs. We almost had no time for refreshments as the activity was so absorbing!!

Our monthly coffee morning took place at Harbour Lights, Littlehampton. We await the countryside to dry out a little before our walks can recommence. We are all looking forward to the warmer weather and the spring.

Eastergate Friends meet at Eastergate Village Hall on the second Monday of each month between 10 and 12pm. All are very welcome to join our happy group.

**Debbie Mead**



## WESTERGATE

This month we had a visit from two representatives from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. Much to our disappointment they didn't have a dog with them but they did bring slides and videos to demonstrate what a difference these well trained dogs make. Apart from the obvious things such as alerting people when the doorbell rings they offer companionship and encourage people to go out and mingle with others.

After that and teatime, Jill, our president thanked those who helped with lifts to the meeting, otherwise there are some members who would find it difficult to attend. Boards were passed around so that we could add our names to the lists of future outings. There will be an afternoon tea as well as lunches and we are hoping to visit a retailer in Chichester to hear about the production of their goods and how they are marketed as well as a visit to the theatre.

**PLEASE NOTE:** From April onwards we will start our meetings at 1pm, still on the second Tuesday of each month at Westergate Methodist Church Hall.

**Catherine White-Aldworth**

## COULD STAINED GLASS HAVE A ROLE IN MODERN-DAY MISSION?

Millions of people visit cathedrals and historic churches in the UK and around the world every year. St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are among London's most popular tourist attractions.

In many English cities, it's the cathedral that tops the TripAdvisor list for ratings and reviews. Local churches that remain open through the week often find visitors drawn to them – to look around, pray, reflect, or simply pause amid busy lives.

When the [Bible Society's Quiet Revival report](#) was published last year, the headlines rightly focussed on the numbers of young people being drawn to church.

But, within the report's pages was another, perhaps surprising, finding. It was that one of the top three places for people with no religion, or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

This underlines the importance of churches making available good, printed material and displays explaining the Christian gospel.

Yet it also may show the importance of a form of Christian communication that many modern-day evangelists may have ignored. The enduring appeal of stained glass.

Historian Janet Gough has recently produced *'Divine Light'*, a survey of some of the best stained glass in England's cathedrals. She explained, "The stained-glass windows of England's cathedrals illuminate interior spaces, communicate religious, historical and political messages, and perhaps offer us a glimpse of heaven."

Earlier examples of stained glass often depicted biblical scenes, illustrating scripture for those unable to read the accounts themselves.

In today's society, dominated as it is by the visual image – from Instagram to YouTube, TikTok and Facebook – these colourful windows could help introduce contemporary people to Bible narratives and gospel truths.

There is much biblical truth to be found in stained glass windows for those who look with an inquiring mind. In many cases, some knowledge of scripture may help decipher the stories being told. In others, the viewer is invited into an encounter with the divine: to look in awe and wonder at the artistry, and to feel an emotional – perhaps spiritual – response to what they see.

In our supremely visual age, these works of art can capture the attention and imagination of the millions who are drawn to our cathedrals and historic churches.

When was the last time you looked at the stained glass windows in each of our churches and reflected on the stories behind them and what they represent and who they commemorate? Maybe make an Easter pilgrimage to visit each of them this month and do just that.



**Carlisle Cathedral's East Window was named as the Nation's favourite in a recent poll**

# BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE COMMUNITY TRUST

At last, we have had some sunny days to enjoy – life is so much brighter when the sun shines! 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:

- **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:** Nina's Friendly Coffee Morning on Tuesdays at Eastergate Village Hall, 10am – midday (quiet space also available). On the last Tuesday of the month, we will now have a bacon/hash brown roll morning due to popular demand. There is also a coffee morning on Wednesdays at Barnham Community Hall, 10am – midday. Please note that on the 1st Wednesday of the month, Barnham Community Hall's Cutten Café 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 10 and Friday 24 April (the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month) at Eastergate Village Hall in the Community Hub at the back of Eastergate Village Hall). 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.

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

In the main hall we 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).

- **Repair Café:** To be held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month (10 and 24 April) in the main hall at Eastergate Village Hall 10.30am – 1pm. Offering light repairs by experienced volunteers. Bring items you can carry and pictures of ones you cannot. We are passionate about recycling and reusing, we all love a challenge and look forward to seeing you! Please contact Nina for more info.

- **Textile Workshops:** Wednesday 8 and 22 April at Barnham Community Hall from 10am-12noon. Please contact Sally-ann for more info

- **Board and Card Games:** On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays (1 and 15 April) in the Hub at Eastergate Village Hall. 7-9pm, £3 including refreshments. Please contact Roy rog@camcodesignltd.plus.com for more info.

- **Community Connect Event:** 7pm on Tuesday 7 April at Barnham Community Hall. Complimentary food and drink. Your chance to discover the fantastic local groups making a difference in our area, meet fellow residents, and learn about the work of the parish council. Please contact Nina for more info.

Please keep an eye out on the local noticeboards, our Facebook pages and our website for more information [barnhamandeastergatecommunitytrust.com](http://barnhamandeastergatecommunitytrust.com).

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

**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](mailto:nina@eastergatehall.org.uk) (based at Eastergate Village Hall) or Ali Tarbard/Sally-ann Barker on 07714 456482 or email: [events@barnhamcommunityhall.org](mailto:events@barnhamcommunityhall.org) (based at Barnham Community Hall).*

# HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

## 2 April – Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus

transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

## 3 April – Good Friday

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last

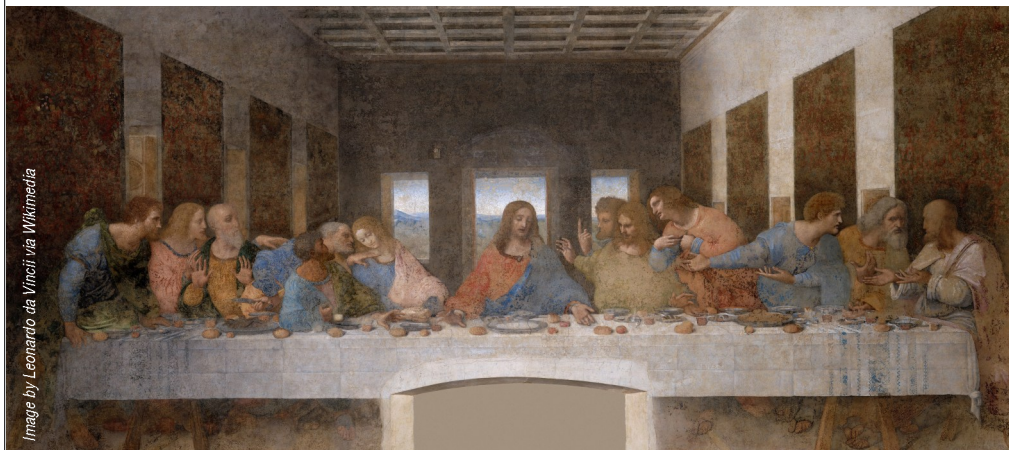


Image by Leonardo da Vinci via Wikimedia

**Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper**

moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when You come into Your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with Me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 3:18).

### **5 April – Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary**

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person to actually meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the



**Mary Magdalene by Domenico Tintoretto**

Image taken as part of Google's Art Project. Sourced via Wikimedia

contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and

she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

### 23 April – St George, our Patron Saint

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who

witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.



*St George and the dragon by Paolo Uccello*

## ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

It was... 125 years ago, on 3 April 1901 that Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

100 years ago, on 6 April 1926 that the Revd Ian Paisley, Baron Bannside, Northern Irish politician and Protestant evangelical minister was born. Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from 1971-2008, and then First Minister of Northern Ireland in 2007-08.

Also 100 years ago, on 21 April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born.

75 years ago, on 2 April 1951 that General Dwight D Eisenhower (later US President) became NATO's first Supreme Allied Commander. He assumed command of all Allied forces in the Western Mediterranean and Europe.

Also 75 years ago, on 17 April 1951 that the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first National Park.

65 years ago, on 12 April 1961 that Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space and the first person to orbit the Earth.

60 years ago, on 10 April 1966 that Evelyn Waugh died. This satirical novelist, biographer, and travel writer is best known for *Decline and Fall*, *A Handful of Dust*, *Brideshead Revisited*, and *Sword of Honour*.

40 years ago, on 11 April 1986 that Halley's Comet made its closest approach to Earth during its most recent visit. It will return to Earth's vicinity in 2061 and 2134.

40 years ago, on 26 April 1986 that the Chernobyl disaster took place in Ukraine, then within the Soviet Union. It was the world's worst nuclear power plant accident, killing 31 people outright, and leaking radiation across the western Soviet Union and Europe.

15 years ago, on 29 April 2011 that Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton were married at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.



*Pripyat with the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the distance*

image by Jason Mitrushoff via Wikimedia

## REMEMBERING THE GENIUS OF RICHARD D'OYLY CARTE

It was 125 years ago, on 3rd April 1901, that Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

Best known now for his association with Gilbert and Sullivan, Carte operated during the late Victorian age as a talent spotter/agent and theatrical impresario, as well as building a hotel empire. Among his many clients were Jacques Offenbach, Clara Schumann, James McNeill Whistler, Matthew Arnold and Oscar Wilde.

Carte was born in 1844 in Soho, but when he was a boy the family moved to Dartmouth Park in Islington, North London, where he was brought up in a large, detached house by an artistic family who spoke French at home two days a week. The name D'Oyly is French/

Norman, and the family also had Welsh ancestry. Musically gifted, Carte studied violin and flute from an early age, then took up composing.

While risqué French musicals were popular on the London musical stage in the 1870s, Carte felt that wholesome, skilful English comic opera could take over. So, he recruited dramatist W S Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, whose first joint venture was the short, experimental Trial by Jury. This became a huge success and led to the 13 'Savoy' operas, whose clever wordplay and magical tunes exhibited such staying power that they are still in constant demand today.

To exploit his 'find', Carte founded the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, which was run after his death by his second wife, Helen. He also built the state-of-the-art Savoy Theatre, and next to it the Savoy Hotel. Other hotels followed.

Biographer Hesketh Pearson said: "He took what other people thought were risks, but he felt were certainties."

## WHAT'S ORANGE, STICKY AND WORTH PRESERVING?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18th – 25th April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!).

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to

do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. Our late Queen even kept a marmalade sandwich in her handbag if you believe that! If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: [www.marmaladeawards.com](http://www.marmaladeawards.com).



# OUR EASTER CHOCOLATE

As you buy your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate:

**Where does chocolate come from?** Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, theobroma cacao. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America.

**Who first discovered it?** The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate.

**Who was (probably) the first chocoholic?** The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink.

**Who used chocolate as currency?** The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc.

**When did chocolate as we know it today**

**begin?** Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains saturated fat, but normal consumption doesn't have any bad effects.

**At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic?** It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week.

How to get the best from your chocolate:

- Keep your chocolate cool (16 – 18 degrees Centigrade) and in a dry, airtight place.
- Never put your chocolate in the fridge (if you have, let it warm to room temperature for an hour or so before you eat it).
- Bring out the full flavour of chocolate by drinking water with it.
- If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't bother with expensive chocolates – you won't be able to appreciate them properly!



PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM  
AND EASTERGATE

## A Bite to Eat (A Parish Lunch)

Every third Thursday,

(except July & August)

12.30 - 2pm

at Eastergate Village Hall

A simple lunch of homemade soup, rolls and  
cheese, tea / coffee and biscuits

All ages welcome

Just turn up!

Raffle



Quiz

Lifts available

For more information please contact the  
Parish Office on 01243 553955



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# OUR COMMUNITY

Clubs, events and meetings, walks, talks and fun...



*Nina's Friendly Coffee Morning*

*Every Tuesday 10:30-12  
At Eastergate Village Hall*

*All welcome from babies to golden oldies.  
Come for a coffee, cakes, scones,  
company, and a chance to make new  
friends!*

*Even well-behaved dogs are welcome!  
Contact Nina on 07849 356097 for more  
information or just come along!*

**BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL**  
**QUIZ NIGHTS 2026**

FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY  
FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY  
FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPT  
FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCT  
FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DEC XMAS QUIZ

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE  
£5 PP/ENTRY, DOORS OPEN @7PM  
LICENSED BAR & RAFFLE  
HOT FOODS & SNACKS AVAILABLE  
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Would you like a friendly visitor?

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call us on -  
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Your local good neighbour scheme  
Charity Number 1095086

POSTER DESIGNED BY JAMES DACK YEAR 8 ORMISTON SIX VILLAGES ACADEMY

EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL

# FUN QUIZ NIGHT

With quizmaster  
Martin McMaster

**Friday,  
15<sup>th</sup> May**  
Doors open 6:30pm

**£5**  
per person  
(teams of up to  
6 members)

Licensed bar, pizza and raffle  
Prizes for the winning team!

Booking in advance essential  
to avoid disappointment.  
contact Nina on 07849 356097  
or email [nina@eastergatehall.org.uk](mailto:nina@eastergatehall.org.uk)

# CHICHESTER NORTHERN SOUL AND MOTOWN

AT  
EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL  
BARNHAM ROAD, WEST SUSSEX, PO20 3RP

**DJ: TONY CASSINI  
COLIN SLATER  
GARY BUCK**

**SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2026**

7.30PM TILL  
11.30PM **£5 OTD**

EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL  
BARNHAM ROAD  
EASTERGATE  
NR CHICHESTER  
PO20 3RP

FURTHER DATES:  
Saturday 18th July 2026  
Saturday 10th October 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DI CASSINI ON 07718415620

BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL  
WITH LUXTON DJ MUSIC

# DISNEY SINGALONG DISCO

**QUIZ!**

**THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**  
**3PM- 7PM**

Licenced bar and raffle.  
Hot food/snacks available.  
**£5 PER PERSON**

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY! UP TO 6 PLAYERS**

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**MEETING DATE/TIMES :**  
1st Thursday (of the month) 1000hrs - 1200hrs

**MEETING LOCATION**  
Eastergate Village Hall  
Barnham Road  
Eastergate  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO20 3RP

Find us on FACEBOOK : Eastergate Village Hall  
(<https://www.facebook.com/EastergateVillageHall>)

<https://AFVBC.com>

**BY VETERANS FOR VETERANS**

# CUTTEN COMMUNITY CAFE

At Barnham Community Hall

**Wednesdays**  
10am - 12pm  
(Lunches from 12pm on the first  
Wednesday of the month)

Hot drinks and tasty treats  
Meet new friends  
Friendly dogs welcome

We'd love to see you there!

# REPAIR CAFE

## EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL

EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY  
OF THE MONTH

**11:30 AM - 1 PM**

Offering light repairs by experienced volunteers  
- we aim to keep items out of landfill by making  
them useful again.

Bring items you can carry and pictures of ones  
you cannot!

Passionate about recycling and reusing,  
we all love a challenge and look forward to  
seeing you!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT NINA ON 07849 356097  
OR EMAIL [NINA@EASTERGATEHALL.ORG.UK](mailto:NINA@EASTERGATEHALL.ORG.UK)

## VILLAGE FRIENDS'

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, WHEN IT'S COLDER AND DARKER,  
THE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS INCREASES.

IF YOU CAN SPARE JUST AN HOUR A WEEK, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

VILLAGE FRIENDS RUNS MANY EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE  
YEAR, OFFERING REAL COMMUNITY CARE AND CONNECTION.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY.

### LATEST UPDATE

LOTS HAS BEEN GOING ON WITH VILLAGE FRIENDS RECENTLY!  
WE ENJOYED A WONDERFUL VILLAGE FRIENDS WINTER LUNCH, AND TODDINGTON  
NURSERIES ON LAKE LANE KINDLY DONATED 20 BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIAS, WHICH  
WERE GIVEN AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. WE ALSO HAD A FUN TRIP TO  
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE TO SEE THE BOY CALLED CHRISTMAS.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY,  
PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH — WE'D LOVE TO  
WELCOME YOU.



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## VE DAY AFTERNOON TEA

**FRIDAY 8TH MAY**  
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A Community Project

## THE EASTERGATE HUB CLUB

Board & Card Games

1st and 3rd Wednesday of Every Month  
at the Hub - Eastergate Village Hall

7 - 9 pm

£3pp including refreshments

No other costs - No club fees!

Open for all ages 18+

contact Roy - roy@camcodesignltd.plus.com

BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL

# Easter Market

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL  
10am - 1pm

CRAFT AND FOOD STALLS.  
EASTER EGG HUNT. COMPETITIONS

STALLHOLDERS PLEASE CONTACT  
EVENTS@BARNHAMCOMMUNITYHALL.ORG

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WEDNESDAY	TWICE MONTHLY	BARNHAM, YAPTON, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, FELPHAM, ALDINGBOURNE, EASTERGATE, WESTERGATE	SOCIAL TRIPS / VARIOUS DESTINATIONS	PM
THURSDAY	EVERY WEEK	BARNHAM, YAPTON, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, FELPHAM	BOGNOR REGIS / TOWN CENTRE SHOPPING	AM
THURSDAY	EVERY WEEK	WALBERTON, FONTWELL	SOCIAL TRIPS / VARIOUS DESTINATIONS	PM
FRIDAY	EVERY WEEK	ALDINGBOURNE, EASTERGATE, WESTERGATE	BOGNOR REGIS / TOWN CENTRE SHOPPING	AM
FRIDAY	ONCE MONTHLY	BARNHAM, YAPTON, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, FELPHAM	CHICHESTER / TOWN CENTRE SHOPPING	PM

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PM

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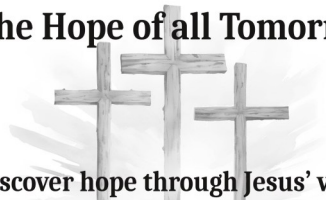
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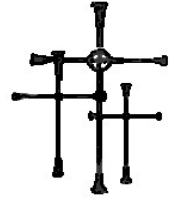


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Secretary: Vacancy  
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Distribution: Anne & Laurence Fosbury, 14 Lidsey Road, Westergate Tel: 543305  
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Estate Agent	36
Fashion	35
Funeral services	33, 37
Garden Services / Landscaping	26, 32, 35, 38, 45
Hall Hire	37, 40
Health & Beauty	32, 36
Healthcare	34, 38, 39
House & Home	30, 35
Medical & Wellbeing	34, 35, 39
Motor Servicing / MOT / Sales	33
Mower Repairs	40
Pest Control	30
Pet & Animal Care/Dog Training	26
Photography	38
Plumbing & Heating	30, 32, 34, 37
Proofwriting & Copywriting	39
Residential Care	26, 27, 29, 43, 46
Tree Surgeon	26, 41
Tyres	31

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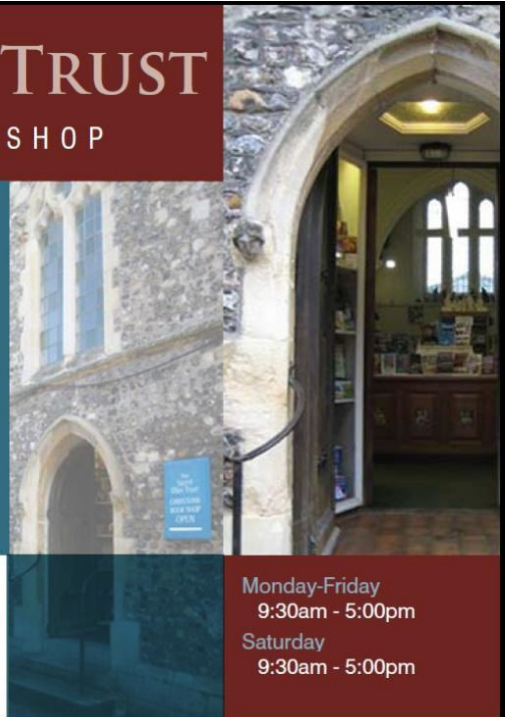
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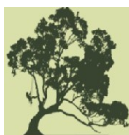


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LOCAL SOCIETIES & INFORMATION	CONTACT DETAILS	LOCAL SOCIETIES & INFORMATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Aldingbourne Bell Ringers Monday 7-9pm	Claire Tunnell 01243 778950 <a href="mailto:claire.tunnell@gmail.com">claire.tunnell@gmail.com</a>	<u>Arun Councillors</u> Paul Ayling Anita Lawrence Sue Wallsgrove	<a href="mailto:cilr.paul.ayling@arun.gov.uk">cilr.paul.ayling@arun.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:cilr.anita.lawrence@arun.gov.uk">cilr.anita.lawrence@arun.gov.uk</a> 07896 972222
Aldingbourne and District Bowls Club	Lynn Kendall 01243 552033	Police Community Support Officer Caroline Wilson	<a href="mailto:caroline.wilson@sussex.police.uk">caroline.wilson@sussex.police.uk</a>
Aldingbourne and District Target Shooting Club	<a href="mailto:shooting@acsc.org.uk">shooting@acsc.org.uk</a>		Aldingbourne Parish Council (Clerk)
Aldingbourne Tennis Club	Shelagh Tasker 07471844534 <a href="http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/AldingbourneTennisClub">www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/AldingbourneTennisClub</a>	Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council (Clerk)	Alison Crabb 07565 052617
1st Barnham Scout Group Mark Guy <a href="mailto:gsl@1stbarnhamscouts.org.uk">gsl@1stbarnhamscouts.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.1stbarnhamscouts.org.uk">www.1stbarnhamscouts.org.uk</a>		Aldingbourne Community Sport Centre <a href="mailto:enquiries@acsc.org.uk">enquiries@acsc.org.uk</a>	01243 543948
Eastergate Cricket Club Chairman: Steve Grant Junior Director: Kirsty Booker <a href="mailto:info@eastergatecricketclub.com">info@eastergatecricketclub.com</a> <a href="http://www.eastergatecricketclub.com">www.eastergatecricketclub.com</a>		Barnham Community Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Ali Tarbard 01243 278110
		Eastergate Parish Hall Bookings/Enquiries <a href="mailto:assistantclerk@barnhamandastergate-pc.gov.uk">assistantclerk@barnhamandastergate-pc.gov.uk</a>	Nina-Maria McMaster 07849 356 097
		Five Villages Community Minibus	Mr B David 01243 553635
Eastergate Players	Vicky Wake 07939 143965 <a href="mailto:torwake@hotmail.co.uk">torwake@hotmail.co.uk</a>	Eastergate Primary School Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Rachel Wheeler 01243 542297
Peregrine Explorer Scouts 14—18 years	Carl Monk <a href="mailto:carl.monk.scouts@gmail.com">carl.monk.scouts@gmail.com</a>	Five Villages Society	Joanna Williams 01243 551524
		Village Friends	07925217843
Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows	Join Girl Guiding at: <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/">www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/</a>	WI, Westergate 2nd Tuesday, 1pm	Jill Parnell 01243 544096
		WI Eastergate & Barnham, 2nd Friday 7.30pm <a href="mailto:eastergateandbarnhamwi@gmail.com">eastergateandbarnhamwi@gmail.com</a>	WI Eastergate Friends, 2nd Monday, 10am <a href="mailto:eastergate.friendsWI@hotmail.com">eastergate.friendsWI@hotmail.com</a>