

PARISH NEWS



The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate

£1



IN THIS ISSUE

A GREAT ABE TEAM

RIDE & STRIDE 2026

WEST SUSSEX MINIBUS AT 50

www.parishofabe.org.uk

July 2026



PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE SERVICES FOR JULY 2026



Sunday 5

Trinity 5/14th 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
10am	Ice cream Sunday		St George's, Eastergate
10am	Parish Communion		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	No service		St Mary's, Barnham

Sunday 12

Trinity 6/15th Sunday

8.30am	No service		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 <i>with Admission to First Communion</i>		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

Sunday 19

Trinity 7/16th Sunday

8.30am	Holy Communion	BCP	St George's, Eastergate
9.30am	Mattins	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		St Mary's, Barnham

Sunday 26

Trinity 8/17th 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
10am	Family Communion		St George's, Eastergate
10am	Sung Mattins		St Mary's, Aldingbourne
11.15am	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham
6pm	Evensong		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

We invite you to an

OPEN GARDEN

In aid of the Parish of ABE

at

Chases, Level Mare Lane, Eastergate, PO20 3SA

on

Sunday 19th July, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Come and enjoy the garden

and

Refreshments

Entry: a donation of £5 is requested





MANY HANDS MAKE A GREAT ABE TEAM

The below are the Rector's comments at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), which was held in May

Thank you to all of you for coming tonight for our APCM. Thank you for your consideration of the reports that have been put before us and thank you to all those who put themselves forward for election this evening.

And a huge thank you for all that has taken place this last year, 2025! There have been many highlights but riding above all of this is a thank you for the week in week out prayerful, joyful and deeply faithful commitment to the parish, team ABE.

I do not make this journey of faith on my own as Rector, it is as part of a team and of course there is no 'I' in the word team, it's a group, team effort.

I hope that you don't mind me making mention of some of these by name which doesn't mean that the work of all isn't appreciated but by name I want to say thanks firstly to my priestly colleagues, Fr Graham,

Revd Sheila and Revd Susan. Your passion for the gospel, for pastoral care and example and willingness to be part of team ABE enables us to maintain a full show on a Sunday and during the week and enhances our lives beyond measure – thank you.

To our churchwardens this past year, Bradley, Colin, Gary and Steven, who show such pastoral care for our people and buildings, more often than not going above and beyond. Thank you for your service this last year. And, in respect of Aldingbourne, to Sarah and team for their joint stewardship of all things St Mary's.

To Hedda and those gathered around her, for their passion for evangelising the young of our parish, for the work with our very young, young and not so young.

To Vera and Roger for ensuring the Rector is doing what he should be at the right time and the right place with the right bits and pieces, despite his best efforts to throw the odd spanner around.

For sidesmen and women, readers, intercessors, organists, servers, bell ringers, flower arrangers, holy dusters, magazine compiler, rota arrangers, Uncle Tom Copley and all of you/us as team ABE, thank you.

And to Gary who is not seeking re-election this year after 10 years in post for St George's. How we have all grown because of who you are, what you have done and the way that has happened. And thank you to Maggie and Jenny for sharing you with us all. Worry not, emeritus status doesn't mean a totally quiet life from now onwards I suspect. Knowledge is a dangerous thing to have. On behalf of us all – thank you!

Also a huge thank you to Peter who is stepping down as our Parish Safeguarding Officer and to Hazel who is in the process of being appointed in his place and to John who had oversight at St Mary's Barnham as he

has relinquished that role. An area of our life and ministry that is vital to each and everyone of us.

This change in the team of churchwardens got me thinking about this coming year with an old joke – how many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb? CHANGE?

On the whole we are always suspicious of change – what will it mean, what was wrong or right with it in any case, will we like it, will I still fit in, maybe I needn't have worried, I was right all along, isn't it good!

This year will bring change or the start of change for our diocese, parish and churches.

In eleven days time, Bishop Martin leaves our diocese and Bishop Will takes on the role of Acting Bishop of Chichester. The search has already started for a new diocesan bishop. We are very grateful to Bishop Martin for all he has done for this parish and for me in particular, appointing me as Rector and then Rural Dean.

Our parish is growing all the time with the arrival of new housing each and every month it seems and the challenge for us is how does our work of mission reach out to these newcomers and also existing members of the parish whatever their age and situation. The Diocesan Growth Strategy for the next ten years is to 'build a thriving church' and we are in the process of expressing an interest and then hopefully a bid for investment in our children, youth and families work in a joint bid with our parish school. Watch this space and pray for this. It would be no small amount of funding if successful.

Each of churches has or will have investment now and in the future and we must learn how to best utilise the assets of our buildings for the greater glory of God through such investment.

At Aldingbourne, we are about to replace the chancel ceiling after some 150 years. The

boiler is next.

At Barnham we are well underway with thoughts and plans for a toilet, servery and storage at the back of the church and improved accessibility to the building. Once done, the business of fundraising for half of the costs can begin in earnest.

At Eastergate, the introduction of the AV equipment has been a great addition to our offering.

And our partnership with the school has entered a new phase with the arrival of our new permanent head and assistant headteachers – Sarah and Pip.

And finally I want to just think about that word 'team' again. Last year at this meeting I spoke about the dearth in our nation of volunteers and the church at large is not immune and it bears repeating. People are busy! We need to be mindful of the roles and tasks that a parish team, our parish team, needs to fill and at times replace. We have 164 names on the revised electoral roll, many of which have volunteered in the past and handed on the baton, others are currently volunteering and there are those who are needed now or will be.

Which category are you? Which category do see others in? How can we ensure that all of our responses to being called to the body of Christ in this place ensures that we have and will always have the Parish of ABE that we love, continues to love and grow and flourish in the future. What can you do in the team? Where are the vacancies? What's the old adage, many hands ... make a great team! Please don't be shy, come and have a word and join this part of the team.

May God continue to bless team ABE.

Fr Paul

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



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FROM THE REGISTERS MAY 2026

Weddings: We pray for the following couples married in our Churches

- 2 May Toby White and
Sam Boniface (A)
23 May Paul Beck and
Davina Key (B)

Funerals: We commit into God's loving care

- 6 May David Parry [86] (E)
19 May Stephen Sadler (Ashes) (A)
29 May Pauline Baldwin (Ashes) (A)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Events coming up in the Parish include:

- **4 July – Aldingbourne Family Fun Day at Olivers Meadow from 11am-6pm (page 19)**
- **19 July – Open Garden at Chases on Level Mare Lane from 2pm-5pm (page 3)**
- **12 September – Ride & Stride (pages 7 and 10)**
- **17 September – A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) at Eastergate Village Hall from 12:30-2pm**
- **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**

PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE

During this time as we look ahead to the ministry of a new Bishop of Chichester, we are invited to join a monthly diocesan prayer gathering, held on Zoom on the first Monday of each month (6 July this month) at noon.

This will bring together lay and ordained people to pray for the life, mission, and ministry of our diocese, and to commend to God the discernment, calling, and leadership of our new bishop. This time offers a space to seek God's guidance, and to hold the Diocese before Him. All are welcome.

Email Fr Paul for the Zoom link for these meetings.

CHRISTIAN AID 2026

Thank you everyone for transforming lives through your support on the Christian Aid envelope scheme in May. The envelopes were sent out with the parish magazines and also placed in the three Churches in Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate.

Our Parish raised £300 and we know this will be gratefully received by Christian Aid to provide emergency assistance straight to where it is most needed.

Jean Maltby

RIDE & STRIDE

This year's Ride & Stride will take place on Saturday 12 September, A great opportunity to explore local historic churches!

Ride & Stride encourages participants to get sponsored to walk or ride (bike, horse, car, electric buggy) to as many churches across the county as possible.

50% of the funds raised goes to the participant's place of worship. The other 50% goes to the Sussex Historic Churches Trust. Contact Ben Allen or Tony Foot for details.

See page 10 for some suggested routes.

PARISH LUNCH

A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) is now taking a summer break and will return on 17 September. Thank you to all who have made soup and all who have enjoyed it this past year. See you in the autumn.

If you would like to join the soup makers then please get in touch with Fr Paul. The more the merrier!

ABE SUMMER FAIR

More than £6,000 raised!

Our Summer Fair was held on a glorious early summer's day on Saturday 13 June at Manor Farm, Eastergate, by kind permission of Paul Helyer.

The farm grounds looked so spic and span and were soon filled with stalls and people offering wonderful produce, gifts and opportunities to win. The lure of the refreshments, BBQ and ice cream van proved irresistible as well.

A huge thank you to all who ran stalls, provided items for the Fair, set up and cleared up, who came and spent time and money on the day and to Colin Mouque who co-ordinated it this year. Also we are indebted to all our sponsors who provided raffle prizes, sponsored adverts in the programme and supported us in so many ways.

At the time of going to print we made a wonderful profit in excess of £6,000 which goes to support the work, life, mission and outreach of our parish of ABE.

Next year – the Summer Fair will be on Saturday 12 June. Please put it in your diaries now! And our Christmas Fair is at Eastergate Hall on 5 December!

Fr Paul

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.

PCSO COME & MEET ME DATES

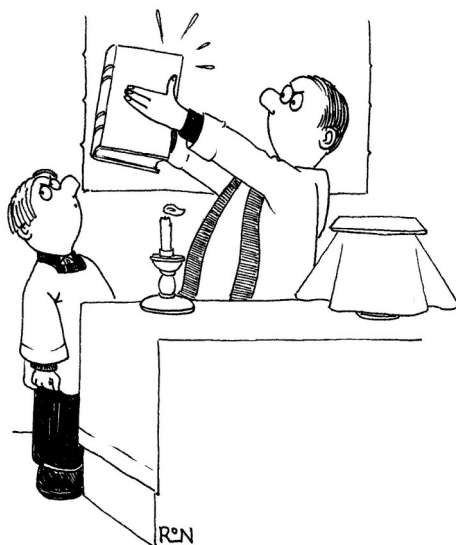
PCSO Caroline Wilson's next 'come and meet me' dates in the area are as follows:

7 July: 10:30-11:30am at Eastergate Village Hall.

20 July: 4-5pm at Westergate Co-Op on Westergate Street, Woodgate

5 August: 10:30-11:30am at Barnham Community Hall

26 August: 2-3pm at Westergate Co-Op, Westergate Street, Woodgate



*Fortunately it was a perfect mosquito,
without spot or blemish*

PRAYER DIARY FOR JULY

For our three church communities: We pray for Bishop Will as he stands in as our diocesan Bishop and Bishop Ruth and we pray for the choice of a new diocesan bishop for Chichester. We give thanks for the new volunteers who have stepped into posts of responsibility. We also pray for those newly arrived in the area that we are welcoming and alert to them joining our congregations.

For the wider community of ABE: We give thanks for the beauty of the area in which we live and pray that wisdom will be given to those who plan for the future in this lovely place.

As the school year draws to its close we pray for all young people who will be moving on to a new environment either in a more senior school or to further education or training and

employment; that they will be wisely guided and given the confidence they need.

We give thanks for our hard working teachers and pray that they will be refreshed by the summer break.

For our nation and the world: We pray for the politicians of our nation; that they will be given wisdom and compassion as they make difficult decisions for our country. We also pray for ourselves, the electorate, as we choose and support them.

We give thanks for all in our armed services as they protect our nation and join with other nations in keeping our world safe.

It is now fifty years since Ebola was first identified, we pray for all medical workers who are still treating those affected by this disease and for those still developing vaccination and treatment.



WESTERGATE

We were told to sit up straight and look serene. A difficult task when having a fit of the giggles.

Our speaker was David Allen who was trying to turn us into Victorian ladies who would act with more decorum than we could manage. Mr Allen was a delightful speaker who talked of the way that ladies were supposed to behave. We had to practice our curtsies while pretending to wear the large crinoline skirts and learnt something of the language of the fan. A lovely afternoon with a mixture of history and humour.

This was our birthday meeting. We enjoyed a finger buffet and a lovely cake made by Sue.

Sue had also made a cake for Elizabeth who was 95 that day. The cake was pink with a marbling effect. Elizabeth blew out the candle and the cake was then boxed up so that she could take it home to share with her family.

Last month we enjoyed a coffee morning in Jill's garden. Members took the time to exchange news and enjoy the weather. There was a raffle and a stall with plants to buy.

In the coming months we have visits planned to gardens, houses and lunch venues. Let's hope the summer weather returns so that we can enjoy being outside.

Catherine White-Aldworth

SOME TIPS FOR A COOLER HOUSE

If the summer heat is getting to you, you might consider the following:

Close your curtains and blinds during the day. Block out the sunlight. That may be hard to do in a country where we don't see the sun as often as we'd like, but sadly that sunlight pouring through your windows will not only brighten but also heat up your house.

At night, aim to create a breeze that flows through your house. This is easy to do - simply open windows on opposite walls or at opposite sides of your home. Let the air circulate as much as possible.

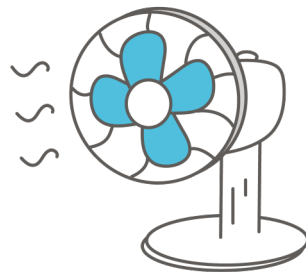
Try to reduce heat from your appliances. Your stove, television, dishwasher, hairdryer, fridge and freezer all generate some heat. Can you do without any of these during the daytime?

Aim for cool flooring. Try and use wood

flooring and ceramic or porcelain tiles in that is why we like them in the winter.

Consider using breathable fabrics over your sofa and chairs. Sitting on natural fabrics such as cotton or linen throws is cooler than sitting on man-made fabrics.

If all else fails, try an electric fan, placed on the floor in front of a bowl of ice water, and aimed at the opposite wall of your room. But they are expensive to run, and do not cool the air. They merely increase the velocity of it, so that it feels cooler.



RIDE & STRIDE 2026

Summer is here and the days are long so what better than to explore the beautiful Sussex countryside on your bikes? In doing so, you could be training for a most important fund raising event for our three churches and indeed all historic churches in Sussex and Hampshire if you have the stamina.

One route might be to cycle to our three churches with different exits from Barnham or Aldingbourne. Immediately to the south of St Mary's Barnham is the cycle track to Flansham from which Middleton, Felpham, Bognor, Aldwick, and Pagham are easily reached in that order. In Bognor you have Our Lady of Sorrows in the centre and St Wilfrid's off Victoria Road. Travelling further inland you have South Bersted and North Bersted churches before coming back towards the coast and St Richards in Aldwick, St Anthony in Rose Green and St Thomas a Becket in Pagham. It is a bit of a drag past Lagness but you can turn off for St Giles, Merston, St Andrew, Oving and back to St Mary's Aldingbourne. Perhaps you can work out the route the other way round?

For the more adventurous why not take a train to Pulborough, go to Wiggonholt Church, Parham, Amberley, (diverting to North Stoke?), Houghton, Bury, Coldwatham, Hardham and back to Pulborough. The train fares are cheap on a Saturday.

If you want to bag masses of Churches, Chichester is the place for you. Go on the cycle track from Aldingbourne to Westhampnett, at first alongside the A27, crossing over by the bridge and then just below the second roundabout, pick up the old road to Maudlin perhaps diverting to Boxgrove and Tangmere on the way. After Chichester, Fishbourne, Bosham, Chidham, Nutbourne, Southbourne, Emsworth, Westbourne, Woodmancote, Fittleworth,

Lavant and Chichester could be a great loop. It's not as far as it sounds and there are plenty of train station to bring you back to Barnham when you get tired.

Each church has a star rating depending on how easy to find it and there is a prize for the person who gets the most. But get as much sponsorship as you can on the basis of the number of churches visited or miles travelled. Half of what you raise goes to the Parish and half to Sussex Historic Churches Fund. In turn the Parish has received grants and loans for the upkeep of our churches over the years.

There are some fantastic jewels along the way. St Botolphs, Hardham has the most amazing biblical stories painted on its walls by monks from Lewes in the 12th Century. Boxgrove has beautiful features. In St Wilfred's Bognor are all the old memorials from St John's Church which stood in London Road and was demolished in the 1970's including a memorial to a young sailor who graduated from the Navy School in Bognor and early work by Edward Gill.

St Richard's Aldwick sets out the spot where a Canadian deserter in World War 2 shot and killed a policeman.

Wiggonholt is an amazing church in itself and look at the pews in Parham, how the other half lived is vividly shown between those for the aristocracy and those for lesser mortals.

Local churches are more problematical as St Mary's Walberton and St Mary's Climping (Atte Climping!) are often not open but St Mary's Yapton is always, as are St Margaret, Binsted, St Andrew's Ford, and St Mary Tortington and then the churches in Arundel and South Stoke.

So get ready for 12 September and enjoy the fresh air and beautiful countryside while training and raising sponsorship. See page 5 for further information.

Tony Foot

KEEP ON KEEPING ON

In the church year, we've now come to that long season- it seems to go on forever- variously called 'Trinity' or 'Ordinary time'. Each of those labels tells us something about the approximately six months between Pentecost and Advent Sunday. 'Trinity' reminds us that with Pentecost, God has made himself known to us in all his fullness (or at least as much as we can bear) as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Ordinary time' tells us that this is the season where, now armed with the insights and power of the Holy Spirit, we can revisit the life of Jesus with new eyes, new heart, see new things in the faith, see new opportunities to serve God.

This is the time when those words of Jesus (John 15 v15) *'I have made known to you everything I have learned from the Father'* come into play. It may seem a long season, it may feel like the drudgery of 'Keep on keeping on' without the excitement of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost to lift our spirits, but it is ordinary time charged with the knowledge that we have everything we need in the resources

of God. The love of the Father, the words and works of the Son, the power of the Spirit will energise us as we 'keep on keeping on' through this long season.

This long season up to the end of November is a reminder that working out our love for God in our community is probably more about perspiration than inspiration. Few are called to be heroes of the faith, but all are called to faithfulness, and somehow or other, with the transforming power of the Spirit, we are all able to keep on keeping on, doing little things with great love.

Here's a lovely prayer which captures some of the mindset of the Trinity season/Ordinary time; it may help you 'keep on keeping on' through the months ahead;

Let not our soul be busy inns that have not room for thee and thine, but quiet homes of prayer and praise where thou mayest find fit company; where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, and wide sweet space is kept for thee.

Amen to that. Ordinary - but challenging!

THE BIBLE THAT MAY HAVE SAVED THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Spanish Armada may have indirectly helped save the Welsh language.

For at the time when the Spanish were threatening England, Queen Elizabeth decided to commission a Welsh Bible, to help to secure the Church of England in Wales.

She chose to ask William Morgan, Bishop of Llandaff in 1595 and then of St Asaph in 1601. He spent ten years at the task, and in the end one thousand copies were printed, and then distributed to every church in Wales.

Nowadays Bishop William Morgan's 16th-century Welsh-language Bible, *Y Beibl Cyssegr-lan*, can be found in a farmhouse at

Ty Mawr Wybrnant, near Penmachno, in north Wales. The copy at Ty Mawr attracts hundreds of pilgrims and visitors every year.

Fflur Medi Owen, programming and partnership officer for the National Trust, says the translation of the Welsh Bible was pivotal for the preservation of the Welsh language. Not only that, but she says the timing of the translation was significant, because the language had become "very dialect-heavy".

"I do think we would have been able to understand each other, but things were falling out of shape," says Ms Owen. "The green light to commission the Bible into Welsh by William Morgan came at a time that meant the language could be given a form and structure."

HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

14 July – John Keble, priest, Tractarian and poet

John Keble is remembered for the spirituality of his hymns, and for being one of the leaders in the conservative Tractarian Movement of the 1830s, which aimed to defend the Church's Catholic heritage from the power of Parliament. Keble College Oxford was dedicated in his memory.

Keble was born into a clergy family in 1792, and his brilliance at Oxford led to him being elected a Fellow of Oriel College when only 19. In 1815, aged 23, he was ordained deacon and worked at Oriel as a tutor. But Keble yearned for parish life and so left Oxford in 1823 to be curate in his father's church in

Gloucestershire. His new life gave him time to write hymns, some of which are still known today, such as New Every Morning and Blest are the Pure in Heart. But then in 1831 his poetry and hymns gained him election as Professor of Poetry back at Oxford.

The 1830s were a troubled time for the Church of England. Many conservative clergy were concerned by the reforms being carried out between Church and State by the Whig government. In 1833 Keble used his Assize Sermon to clearly protest against the Church of England being made subordinate to Parliament, as it was no longer exclusively Anglican. His views were very popular in the clerical circles of deeply conservative Oxford.

But although Keble went on to write nine of the 90 Tracts for the Times, and engaged in some debate, he did not enjoy controversy or the limelight. He was at heart a scholarly parish priest, and so in 1836 he left Oxford again, for 30 years of parish life in Hursley, where he sought to revive sacramental confession in the Church.

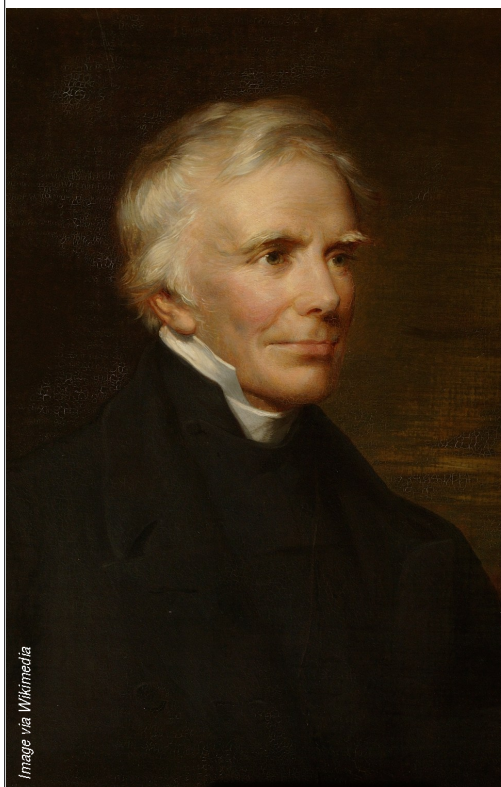
As in the words of one of his hymns, his prayer was always above all: Only, O Lord, in thy dear love, Fit us for perfect rest above; And help us, this and every day, To live more nearly as we pray.

Keble died in 1866, and four years later, Keble College was founded at Oxford, in his memory.

16 July – St Helier, losing a loved one to violence

Take the book of Samuel in the Bible, add a bit of Luke Skywalker father/son conflict from Star Wars, stir in a dash of Pirates of the Caribbean, and you sort of have the story of St Helier – the first saint and martyr of Jersey.

According to the legend, it all began in 6th century Tongeren (now in Belgium). A pagan couple badly wanted a child, but the wife was



Portrait of John Keble (1792-1866)

Image via Wikimedia

barren. In desperation they sought the help of a local Christian, Cunibert. He advised them to pray to the Christian God, and to promise that any child born would be 'given back' to God. So, they did, and then the wife fell pregnant and gave birth to a son, Helier.

The parents were delighted – at first. But as the baby grew into a boy, it became clear that Helier was different from other children – he was precociously intelligent and could perform miracles. Helier's father found this unsettling and grew jealous of Cunibert's influence over his son. Finally, he plotted to have Cunibert murdered.

In horror at such treachery, Helier fled. He wandered far, eventually reaching a monastic community in Normandy, run by Saint Marculf. Here he settled, seeking a life of contemplation, but it was not to be. Marculf had received pleas for help from the very few residents of an island called Gersut, or Agna (now called Jersey). They, too, had had bitter experience of violent men who killed their loved ones without warning: the Vikings and Saxons and Vandals had each visited the island in turn. Now they sought some comfort from the Christians: would someone bring them the Gospel? They had no one to shepherd them.

Marculf could not ignore such a plea, and so he sent Helier and a companion, Romard, to Jersey. The two monks found a small community of fishermen on the sand dunes where the modern town of St Helier would later grow. Helier chose to settle on a tidal islet, nowadays known as the Hermitage Rock. Romard, it was agreed, would act as the 'go between' between Helier in his hermitage and the fishing village.

Helier had chosen a remote spot for the peace and quiet it would give him as he approached God. But one day he discovered that his tidal islet had another great advantage as well. While looking out to sea and praying, he

suddenly saw the sails of attacking pirates, stealthily approaching the island in boats.

Frantically, Helier signalled the shore of danger coming, and the fishermen and their families scattered into the surrounding marshes, beyond the reach of the bloodthirsty, lustful pirates. This happened time and again and became so well known in island history that even today, small dark clouds on the horizon are still known as les vailles dé St. Hélyi (the sails of St Helier). As if that were not enough, Helier's prayers and the sign of the cross on another occasion stirred up such a storm that a raiding party was driven clear off the island.

One day the pirates finally caught up with Helier on his tidal islet. They beheaded him. Helier was deeply mourned and has always been revered in Jersey for having brought Christianity to the island.

When his head and body were sent back to France, a healing spring is reputed to have sprung up on the place where the boat came ashore, and so Helier is better known there as a healing saint. The traditional year of his martyrdom is 555AD. His feast day is still marked in Jersey by an annual municipal and ecumenical pilgrimage to the Hermitage, on 16 July.



Saint Helier

Image via Wikimedia

WEST SUSSEX MINIBUS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

You may have seen our minibuses travelling through local villages, picking passengers up from their homes and whisking them off for days out. All of which is made possible through the commitment of our volunteers.

The story of West Sussex Minibus began in the 1970s, when funding pressures led to a significant decline in rural public transport services. A determined group of residents stepped in, committed to helping their neighbours get to the shops each week so they could collect essential supplies and maintain their independence.

In 1974, armed with a borrowed minibus and a great deal of community spirit, the first trial service left Pulborough and headed to the local shops.

The idea quickly proved its value. Before long, neighbouring villages began asking whether they could benefit from a similar service. A route from Fittleworth was soon established, using a shared ambulance as transport.

Thanks to successful fundraising efforts and a generous donation from the Chanctonbury Lions Club, we purchased our first minibus in 1976, and West Sussex Minibus was born.

Over the decades, new village services have been introduced, our fleet has expanded, and countless journeys have been made. Remarkably, that original idea - to help people stay independent - remains just as relevant today as it was 50 years ago.

However, we are much more than a transport provider. Our organisation is about helping people stay active and connected to their community. There is nothing better than seeing new friendships form on journeys, knowing every passenger by name, and witnessing the care and dedication shown by our volunteers.

Even during the challenges of the pandemic, when our transport services were temporarily paused, our volunteers continued to support our members by delivering shopping and providing practical help.

In 2016, this remarkable contribution was recognised nationally with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service — a fitting tribute to the people who make everything possible.

As we celebrate 50 years of service, we celebrate the people behind it all. This story belongs to every volunteer, passenger and supporter who has played a part in helping our charity thrive.

As we look to the future, we invite you to become part of our next chapter. Please get in touch to find out more.



ALL IN THE MONTH OF JULY

It was... 250 years ago, on 4 July 1776 that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

250 years ago, from 12 July 1776 to 4 October 1780, that the British explorer Captain James Cook made his third and final voyage. He travelled to New Zealand and Hawaii, where he was killed in a violent exchange with the local people.

175 years ago, on 24 July 1851 that the Window Tax was abolished in England and Wales. The tax was introduced in 1696 and was based on the number of windows in a house.

125 years ago, on 9 July 1901 that Dame Barbara Cartland, romantic novelist, was born. She wrote 723 novels, including 23 in a single year, and sold more than one billion books.

100 years ago, on 15 July 1926 that Leopoldo Galtieri was born. As president/military ruler of Argentina, he ordered Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands.

60 years ago, on 30 July 1966 that the 1966

FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 – 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

50 years ago, on 4 July 1976 that Operation Entebbe took place. Israeli commandos staged a counter-terrorist hostage-rescue mission at Entebbe Airport in Uganda, following the hijacking of an Air France plane on 27 June.

40 years ago, on 28 July 1986 that British estate agent Suzy Lamplugh failed to return from an appointment in London, sparking the biggest missing person investigation since Lord Lucan. She has never been found.

30 years ago, on 5 July 1996 that Dolly the sheep was born. She was the first cloned mammal at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. Died in 2003.

25 years ago, on 2 July 2001 that Barry George was convicted of killing British TV presenter Jill Dando in April 1999. He was sentenced to life imprisonment, but later acquitted and the case remains unsolved.



'Resolution' and 'Discovery' off the coast of Tahiti during James Cook's third voyage

THE US DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

It was 250 years ago, on 4 July 1776, that the US Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

The original signed parchment still exists, behind bullet-proof glass at the National Archives in Washington, but copies were quickly printed and distributed on the day – not all of them totally accurate. Its creation followed considerable conflict between the colonies and the British Parliament, reaching a head in late 1775 when Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies. This followed other measures, including what was regarded by some as unfair taxation without representation.

An original draft of the Declaration was made by Thomas Jefferson, but it was amended by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, who omitted passages likely to offend the more conservative colonists, such as the suggestion that King George III was to blame for transatlantic slave trade, or anything that

accused the British people rather than their government.

The most important effect of the Declaration from a diplomatic point of view was to make possible relationships between the colonists and friendly foreign governments. But it had a substantial effect elsewhere. Anglican clergy felt conflicted because they had sworn an oath to the King as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and supporting independence would mean breaking that oath. Many colonies made public prayers for the King acts of treason, and this in part led Anglicans to recreate themselves as the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The Declaration itself could be described as a Christian document, reflecting Judeo-Christian values, as Abraham Lincoln made clear in his Gettysburg Address in 1863, quoting its second sentence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

REMEMBERING DOLLY THE SHEEP

Thirty years ago, on 5 July 1996, Dolly the sheep was born at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh.

Dolly had three mothers: one provided the egg, another the DNA, and a third carried the cloned embryo to term. Her existence was announced the following February, resulting in much media attention and controversy.

Dolly was widely featured as the scientific breakthrough of the year. Even though she was not the first animal cloned, she was the first cloned from an adult cell. The process was extremely inefficient, with Dolly the only lamb surviving to adulthood from 277 attempts in 1996.

Several animals had been cloned before Dolly, including frogs in 1952, sheep in 1984 and cows in 1987. The key difference with Dolly was that she was cloned from a reprogrammed adult somatic cell, instead of embryonic cells.

Dolly lived for six and a half years. She was euthanised in 2003 after developing a progressive lung disease not uncommon in sheep, particularly those spending their lives indoors, like Dolly. Sheep of a similar breed usually live for ten to twelve years, but scientists did not think her life was shortened because she was a clone.

Her body was preserved and is on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

WHEN ENGLAND WON THE FIFA WORLD CUP

Sixty years ago, on 30 July 1966, the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4 – 2. English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

Hurst is also the only surviving member of the England team that started the 1966 final, held at Wembley, where England played all their matches. Others were spread around the country.

The 1966 World Cup was unique in that it was the only one in history that had no matches played on a Sunday, because of the Sunday observance laws in force at the time. Professional football was in fact not played on a Sunday in England until 1973-74, and then to a much lesser extent than it is now.

The 1966 tournament was also significant in other ways – not least for the famous

commentary snippet from Ken Wolstenholme, still quoted today. This occurred when it seemed the crowd might be invading the pitch as Hurst advanced on the German goal. “They think it’s all over!” said KW. Pause, then as Hurst’s shot hit the back of the net, “It is now!”

Many matches in the tournament were marred by violent play and contentious sendings-off. Vicious tackles on Pelé, the world’s leading player, put him out of the tournament, and one angry player in another match had to be escorted off the field by police. As a result, the yellow and red cards familiar to us today were introduced, as was the use of substitutes. Inconsistent refereeing was also tackled through training and clearer interpretation of the laws of the game.

Before the tournament started, the Jules Rimet trophy was stolen from an exhibition. A dog named Pickles discovered it wrapped in newspaper under a bush in a South London garden.



The World Cup Sculpture featuring Moore with the World Cup trophy, on the shoulders of Geoff Hurst and Ray Wilson, together with Martin Peters

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Booking opens Monday 3 August

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CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE TO SEE THE BOY CALLED CHRISTMAS.

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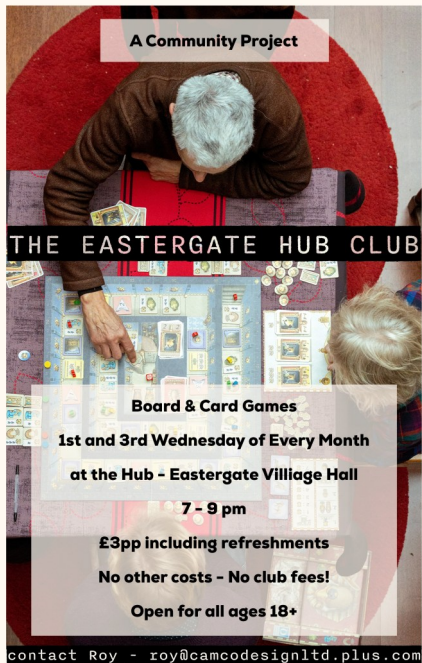
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THURSDAY	EVERY WEEK	BARNHAM, YAPTON, MIDDLETON-ON-SEA, FELPHAM	BOGNOR REGIS / TOWN CENTRE SHOPPING	AM
THURSDAY	EVERY WEEK	WALBERTON, FONTWELL	SOCIAL TRIPS / VARIOUS DESTINATIONS	PM
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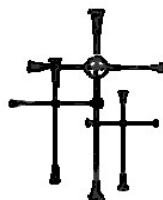
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