

# PARISH NEWS



The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate

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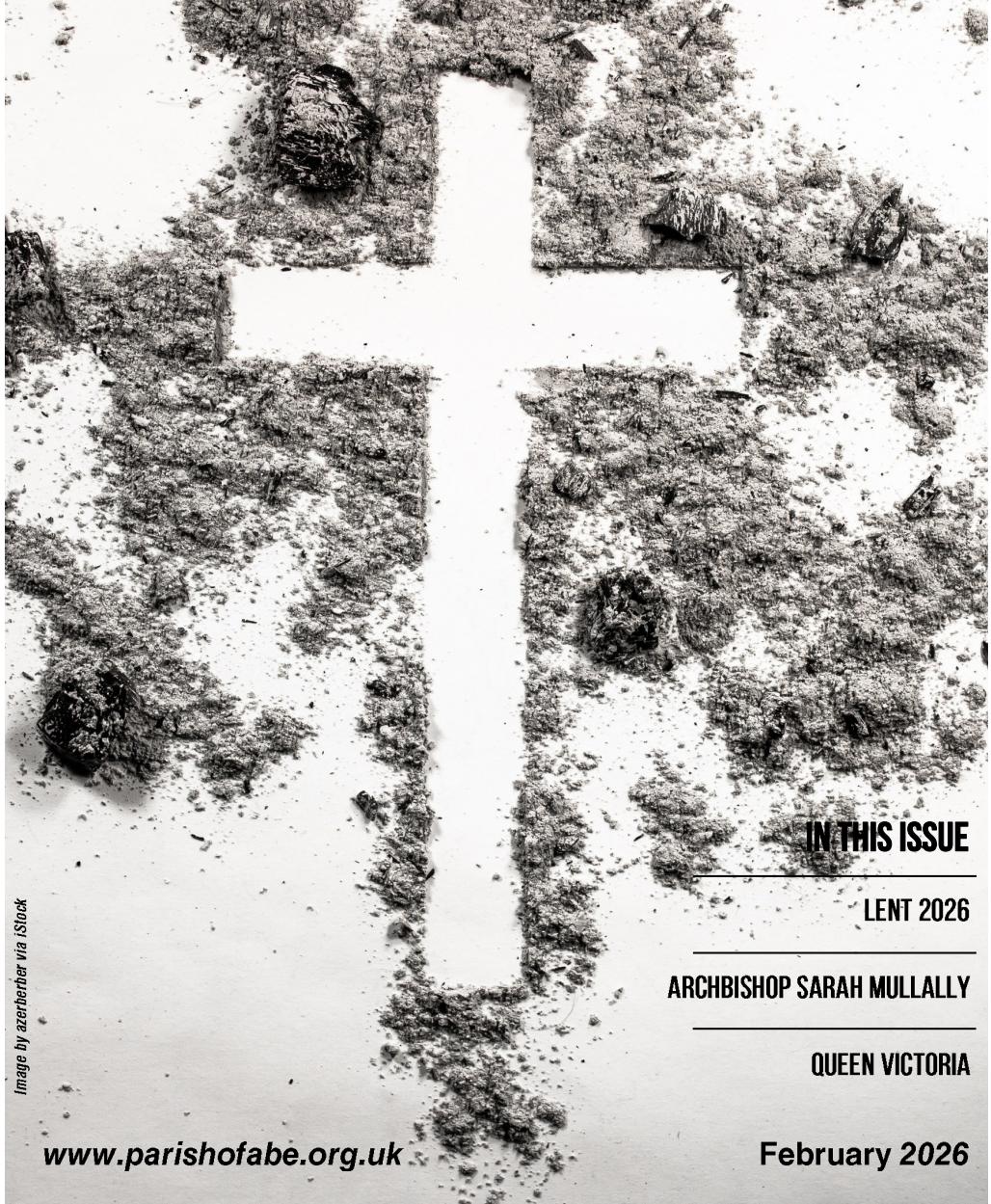


Image by azerberber via iStock

## IN THIS ISSUE

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LENT 2026

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ARCHBISHOP SARAH MULLALLY

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QUEEN VICTORIA

[www.parishofabe.org.uk](http://www.parishofabe.org.uk)

February 2026



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



<b>Sunday 1</b>	<b>Epiphany 4/Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)/Week 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	
10am	All-age Service		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>Monday 2</b>	<b>Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)</b>			
6.30pm	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham	
<b>Saturday 7</b>	<b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>			
9.30am	Said Mass		St Mary's, Barnham	
<b>Sunday 8</b>	<b>2nd before Lent/Week 5/Sexagesima</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 & Benediction		St Mary's, Barnham	
<b>Sunday 15</b>	<b>Next before Lent/Week 6/Quinquagesima</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	
<b>Wednesday 18</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>			
9.30am	Said Mass	BCP	St Mary's, Barnham	
10am	Holy Communion		St George's, Eastergate	
6.30pm	Sung Mass		St Mary's, Barnham	
<i>All services with imposition of ashes</i>				
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>Lent 1</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 and Benediction		St Mary's, Barnham	
<i>*with imposition of ashes</i>				

**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 – Said Mass every Tuesday at St Mary's, Barnham

*In Lent 6.30pm – Ecumenical Stations of the Cross every Friday at St Mary's, Barnham*



## WINNIE THE POOH AND LENT 2026

Two favourite books as a child, which were read to me, and I was helped to read (if my memory serves me right), were '*When We Were Very Young*' and '*Now We Are Six*' which were by A A Milne with illustrations by E H Shepard. They had such wonderful poems such as 'Halfway Down' and 'Vespers' which were later set to song and featured both Christopher Robin and perhaps more famously in the end, Winnie the Pooh, in some of them.

How well do you remember the Winnie the Pooh stories? There is the one story about Kanga's insistence on Baby Roo's taking his Strengthening Medicine? It's 'really quite a nice taste when you get used to it', she explained, although I'm not convinced Baby Roo always agreed.

It can be helpful to think of Lent as a sort of medicine; an opportunity to strengthen us in the things that are good, rein in other facets of our personality, and reset the compass to the true North of following Jesus. A spring-clean of the soul, if you like.

Baby Roo (and Piglet on the one occasion he was subject to it) found Strengthening Medicine not to their liking, and we may

groan inwardly at the thought of 'giving up something for Lent'. Think of what lies behind this 'giving up'. It's so that we may be strengthened, our character refined, our prejudices examined, our junk thrown overboard, and we may come to Passontide and Easter more fit to walk the way of the Cross, and rise in new life with Jesus at His Resurrection.

Nor is Lent just a case of giving up chocolate. Or, maybe, instead of giving up, why not take up something you've been meaning to do but never got round to; something life-affirming, something good for God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on 18 February. Many Christians go public with their intention to keep a good Lent by being 'ashed' - the sign of the Cross made on the forehead in ash at a special service that day (or the following Sunday). The ash is the burnt remains of the palm crosses from last year. Having been ashed, the intention of the 40 days of Lent is to maintain a steady course closer to God, symbolised by the giving up of something - like chocolate - which has a hold on us. We walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross, mindful of the 'riches of God's kindness, forbearance and patience' as St Paul has it, and mindful too of Jesus' choice of the Cross as a way for us to enter those riches more fully.

And to face the immensity of that sacrifice, and the immensity of God's riches made available to us in Jesus, we need all the Strengthening Medicine we can get!

Have a most Happy Lent

**Fr Paul**

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

# PARISH NEWS

The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastgate



[www.parishofabe.org.uk](http://www.parishofabe.org.uk)

February 2026

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## FROM THE REGISTERS DECEMBER 2025

### Ashes

12 Dec Jennifer Rogers [69] (A)

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Events coming up in the Parish include:

- **19 February – A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) at Eastergate Village Hall from 12:30-2pm (page 20)**
- **20 February – Rosie-Lee Afternoon Tea at Barnham Community Hall from 2-4pm (page 10)**
- **1 March – Spring Wedding Fayre at Barnham Community Hall from 10am – 2pm (page 10)**
- **13 March – ABE Fun Quiz at Barnham Community Hall**
- **13 June – ABE Summer Fair**
- **20 June – Music at Murrells Field**



...and yet the Church Mice still put it about that they were poor

## PARISH LUNCH

A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) is on Thursday 19 February 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!

## JAR OF COMPASSION

In 2025 our Jar of Compassion collection was for My Sister's House and we raised a total of £1,441.61. For 2026, we are delighted that our partner for the jars in our three churches this year is St Wilfrid's Hospice.

St Wilfrid's Hospice is an independent charity that has been supporting local people from our community who are living with a life-limiting or terminal illness for over 35 years. Their vision is for all dying people and their loved ones to have access to the support and care they need. Please do consider supporting this charity by using the jars which are in each of our three churches.

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

The results are now in and we raised the wonderful amount of £3141.11 (last year £2813.80) net of expenses at ABE's Christmas Fair. A huge thank you to everyone for all their hard work before, during and after the event. What a superb result!! The Summer Fair is on Saturday 13 June – please ensure that it is in your diaries!

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone who came to the Christingle Service at Aldingbourne Church at Christmas; we were able to send a donation of £76.17 to the Children's Society to help with their work with vulnerable children. For more details of their work with children, visit: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk).

## PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

The Parish Christmas Card, in which we sent greetings to each other, raised, with Gift Aid, a total of £422.50, to be shared between Stonepillow and our Parish funds. Last year we raised £457.50.

## LENT COURSES 2026

It is a delight that there are two different courses being run in the parish this Lent, the year of Matthew, for people to come to. You do not have to attend all sessions of a particular course, but please come to as many as you can.

- **Tuesday evenings at St Mary's Barnham:** Fr Graham will be leading his course when we look at the Gospel of Matthew on Tuesday evenings at St Mary's Barnham starting at 7pm (before which there is Evensong at 6pm and the 6.30pm mass). The first session will be on 24 February.
- **Wednesday lunchtimes at Westergate Methodist Church:** These sessions run jointly with our Methodist neighbours and others will be held during Lent in the Methodist Hall in Westergate Street. A soup and cheese lunch will be provided and will be followed by a discussion as we look at the gospel of St Matthew and in particular the readings from that gospel that were read in church the previous Sunday. The first session will therefore be on 25 February. All are welcome. For further information please contact Rev Sheila via phone at 01243 553901 or by email at: [smhandaway@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smhandaway@hotmail.co.uk).

A lot of the material for our Lent courses this year will be taken from the Diocesan Lent Course ([www.chichester.anglican.org/lent](http://www.chichester.anglican.org/lent)).

If you would like to use it in a family context at home for example, then go to the Diocesan website for further information and/or speak to one of our clergy.

## EASTERGATE FRIENDS

December was highly successful for Eastergate Friends. Following a lovely Christmas brunch, we were all amused by Dawn Gracie with her wonderful Christmas entertainment. Dawn sang and danced, involving us all with her seasonal songs and anecdotes. She certainly knows how to captivate an audience!!

Our members also enjoyed a superb Christmas lunch cooked and served by the students at Chichester College. We all enjoyed each other's company in a lovely atmosphere. The students were a credit to themselves and their teachers.

Our January meeting was all about the life of William Blake, who lived and worked in Felpham for three years of his life, and whose cottage opposite The Fox pub is currently being renovated by a hard working group of people.

William Blake is well known for writing the words of the hymn 'Jerusalem' but he was also less well known for his artistic works, many of which are displayed in London art galleries and across the world.

Eastergate Friends have regular walking days and coffee meetups in local cafes, garden centres and other venues. We are a friendly group of ladies and all are welcome to join us on the second Monday each month between 10 and 12 o'clock at Eastergate Village Hall.

Debbie Mead

## WESTERGATE

"It's behind You!" to quote a well known phrase. We laughed, we sang and we booed. We were at the Eastergate pantomime of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. It was a very happy traditional show and we are eagerly waiting to book for next year. It was a lovely evening.

This month we don't have a regular meeting. Instead we enjoy a sausage sizzle. This is a sit down lunch of hot dogs and salads followed by a choice of puddings. There were three different trifles and a blackberry crumble so we were spoilt for choice. The atmosphere was warm and happy so that we completely forgot the awful weather outside.

Our president reminded us of a meeting to learn about a proposed building site that will add another eighty nine houses to our area and no doubt twice that number of cars.

We also learnt of W.I. workshops in Littlehampton.

The resolutions were read out and we voted on which one we wanted to go forward to the national meeting in the summer. Most people voted for accessible loos for all women.

We have several trips coming up and the next one, in February, is for lunch at the Sportsman in Amberley. We hope it will have stopped raining so that we can enjoy the view across the valley.

We meet at Westergate Church at 2pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Catherine White-Aldworth

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

Contact our Parish Office on 01243 553955 for more information

# PRAYER DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

**For our three church communities:** We pray for our clergy in their planning and preparation for our services week by week. We give thanks for those whose continued hard work makes our three churchyards places that are evidently cared for and we pray for all those who visit them to remember their loved ones.

This Epiphany we pray that the light of the Gospel will shine out from our communities through love and care.

We also pray especially for those members of our churches who are very sick and need our love and support at this time.

And we continue to pray for the Alpha course at St George's and all who attend it regularly this month.

**For the wider community of ABE:** We pray for the work of the three primary schools and two

secondary schools in our parish; that the staff and pupils alike may find enjoyment together in learning. Our prayers especially are for our new headteacher in our church primary school in Eastergate, Mrs Sarah Davy. That she may settle in quickly to a happy and fulfilling time with us.

We continue to pray for the health provisions in our parish area... the health centre and pharmacies; that they may not be overwhelmed by the magnitude of their task.

**Our nation and the world:** We pray for wisdom for the Prime Minister and the members of the government in all their decisions and actions.

We also pray for the NHS and all who work in it during these pressured winter months.

And we continue to pray for all who suffer in the war torn areas of our world and pray that settlements for stable peace may be made.



# DAME SARAH MULLALLY

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury on 28 January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

- She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother. After school and sixth form college, she went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London.
- She worked as a nurse in the NHS, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
- In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her contribution to nursing.
- She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
- She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".
- In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.
- On 12 May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
- As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
- She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
- As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.
- Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
- Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
- She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
- In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.



# 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](mailto:general@stwh.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.stwh.co.uk](http://www.stwh.co.uk)**



# BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE COMMUNITY TRUST

At last we are starting to have a few more daylight hours! 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 (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 13 and Friday 27 February (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).

**- Textile Workshops:** Wednesday 11 and 25 January at Barnham Community Hall from 10am-12noon.

**- Rosie-Lee Afternoon Tea:** Friday 20 February at Barnham Community Hall from 2-4pm. £12pp. Wear your heart on your sleeve by wearing shades of pink and red. Please contact Sally-Ann to book, details below.

**- Artisan and Craft Fair:** Saturday 21 February at Eastergate Village Hall. 20+ fabulous local stalls with amazing gifts and ideas. Free entry, free parking. Hot food, homemade cakes and scones available from our kitchen. Lovely friendly community atmosphere.

**- Quiz at Barnham Community Hall:** Friday 27 February. £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](http://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](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).

# ALDINGBOURNE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

## Warm Hub @ ACSC

Need a warm, welcoming place to relax this winter? Then come along to the Warm Hub @ Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre (ACSC) – open to everyone!

Enjoy a cosy, friendly space; hot drinks & chats; board games, newspapers and company; and a safe place to connect with others.

The Warm Hub is completely free – just drop in. Whether you're popping in for a warm drink, a friendly hello, or simply to get out of the cold, you'll always be welcome.

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

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

## Venue Hire (Events, Parties, Groups, Clubs)

Looking for the perfect place to host your next event?

From big birthdays to children's parties; from regular group meet-ups to community activities, we've got the ideal space for you!

At the ACSC, you'll find a large warm community hall and social club (bar) suitable for all sizes; flexible spaces for clubs, groups & workshops.

It is an ideal party venue for children or adults – with very reasonable hire rates, free parking and easy access

If your group needs a new home — or you've got a celebration coming up — we'd love to welcome you.

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

**Tamryn Buys  
Centre Manager**

**Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre**



# HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

## 3 February – Anskar, the busy evangelist

Anskar (801-865) should be the patron saint of any Christian who loves doing mission... and who discovers that evangelists meet the most amazing people, and that their lives are full of surprises...

It was the 9th century, and Anskar had grown up in a noble family in Amiens. He decided to forsake it all in order to become a monk. It may have sounded dull to his non-Christian acquaintances, but it opened a life of international adventure and a lasting achievement that has affected millions down the centuries.

Anskar began by going to Picardie and becoming a monk. Soon he felt called to Corvey (Westphalia) where he began apostolic

work - or in modern parlance, evangelism and church planting. But that was just the start. For here Anskar met the king of Denmark (as one does). King Harold was in temporary exile, and during his stay in Westphalia, had become a Christian. When the time came, he persuaded Anskar to return to Denmark with him, and under his royal patronage to evangelise Denmark. The trip was a success, and then in 832 Anskar was made Bishop of Hamburg.

When the Vikings sacked Hamburg in 845, another unexpected opportunity came Anskar's way. The Pope made him archbishop of both Hamburg and Bremen, with some responsibility over Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It was an enormous job, but Anskar was up to it. He seems to have worked around the clock, establishing schools, giving great sums to the poor, and preaching the Gospel at every opportunity. Somehow, he even found time to tackle the Viking slave-trade, and somewhat diminish this cruel practice.

But Anskar's most lasting success was as a Christian missionary to Denmark, whose patron he became. It is said that he dressed austere, ate only simple food, and added short personal prayers to each psalm in his psalter, thus contributing to a form of devotion that soon became widespread. He died and was buried at Bremen.

## 24 February – Matthias the Apostle, the chosen one

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make **PERFECT** sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task...

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron

*Image via Wikimedia*



*A depiction of Saint Anskar by Siegfried Bendixen*

saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early Church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from His Baptism to His Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is



*St Matthias by Peter Paul Rubens*

thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things – because you never know what the future might hold!

## SMILE LINES

### *God made us*

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

### *Portrait*

A teacher told her young class of children to try and draw the portrait of someone they knew. While they worked, she walked about, keeping an eye on their progress.

One little girl was working diligently, and the teacher asked who she was drawing. The child replied: "I'm drawing God."

The teacher protested that no one knows what God looks like. Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

### *After Eden*

Adam was out walking with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the ruins of the Garden of Eden, one of the boys asked, "Father, what's that place?"

Adam replied, "Boys, that's where your mother ate us out of house and home."

# ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

It was... 300 years ago, on 20 February 1726 that William Prescott, an American colonel in American Revolutionary War was born. Famous for giving the order: "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

200 years ago, on 4 February 1826 that James Fenimore Cooper's historical romance novel *The Last of the Mohicans* was published.

175 years ago, on 1 February 1851 that novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53. Best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*.

125 years ago, on 2 February 1901 that the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

80 years ago, on 11 February 1946, that the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version in 1611.

Also 80 years ago, on 14 February 1946 that the Bank of England was nationalised.

70 years ago, on 11 February 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean,

announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.

65 years ago, on 9 February 1961 that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.

50 years ago, on 11 February 1976 that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating.

Also 50 years ago, on 23 February 1976 that artist the L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.

40 years ago, on 12 February 1986 that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It was the agreement to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.

30 years ago, on 1 February 1996 that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

Also 30 years ago, on 15 February 1996 that the oil tanker *Sea Empress* ran aground near Milford Haven in Wales, causing a major oil spill along the coastlines of Wales and Ireland.



*The French portal of the Channel Tunnel*

Image by Björn Höglund via Wikimedia CC-BY-SA 4.0



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!

Quiz

Raffle

Lifts available



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## THE FUNERAL OF QUEEN VICTORIA

Exactly 125 years ago, on 2 February 1901, the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.

She had died at the age of 81 on 22 January, having ruled for nearly 64 years, and her death took her family, courtiers and subjects by surprise in difficult times.

Her third adult child – Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh – had just died, another was near death, and she herself had been confined to a wheelchair, almost blind and often confused. She died at the remote Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, and when it happened there was no-one alive who could remember how to bury a monarch.

Victoria had asked for a full military state funeral, and there were secret instructions concerning mementoes of her personal servant, John Brown. The official service in St

George's Chapel was chaotic because of timing errors, but it was followed by an emotional ceremony for the family on 4th February, in the mausoleum the queen had built for her husband at Frogmore, adjoining Windsor Castle, where the Queen was laid to rest beside her much-loved Prince Albert.

The total cost was £35,500 (£4.5m). Victoria had outlived all the members of her Privy Council alive in 1837; all the members who had sat in the House of Commons at that time; and all nine of her bridesmaids.

What has been described as the godly domesticity of the Victorian era appealed to a mainly Protestant public, centring more on morals than on radical evangelicalism and effective prayer. One historian noted the transformation in the general British attitude from "aggressive, brutal, rowdy, outspoken, riotous, cruel and bloodthirsty" to "inhibited, polite, orderly, tender-minded, prudish and hypocritical".

## MARY SHELLEY AND FRANKENSTEIN

It was 175 years ago, on 1 February 1851, that the novelist Mary Shelley died. She is best known for her Gothic novel Frankenstein.

Her parents were the influential philosophers William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, a strong advocate of women's rights who died 11 days after Mary's birth from complications.

She started on the novel Frankenstein – not the name of the eight-foot, lovelorn 'Christian' monster but of the scientist who created him – at the age of 18 after a conversation about ghosts with her husband, the atheist Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, and others. After her book was published anonymously, many suspected that her husband had written it or was co-author, but this was not the case: he may have done some light editing.

Mary, a baptised Anglican who came to despair and doubt, wrote several other books, but her life was tragic on many levels. Her husband had affairs, and they mixed in circles where that was encouraged. A four-year period in Italy with Byron and others, initially welcomed by Mary, became especially hard for her to endure. According to him, she had described Naples as "a paradise inhabited by devils".

Three of her four children died at a very young age; only the fourth, Percy Florence, reached adulthood. And her husband died, aged only 29, in a mysterious sailing accident in 1822 in The Gulf of Spezia near Genoa.

Her last book, however, was a travel narrative about rambles in Germany and Italy which she had undertaken with her son Percy in the early 1840s. She died aged 53, perhaps of a brain tumour or a stroke. She was buried at St Peter's Church in Bournemouth.

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Contact Nina on 07849 358097 for more information or just come along!



## BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL

### QUIZ NIGHTS 2026

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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

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## 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,  
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EASTERGATE VILLAGE HALL

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BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL

# Rosie-lee AFTERNOON TEA

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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February**  
2pm-4pm

Wear your heart on your sleeve by wearing shades of pink and red.

**£12 per person**

To book email [events@barnhamcommunityhall.org](mailto:events@barnhamcommunityhall.org)

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Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026  
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Saturday 21st February  
Midday - 4pm



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Refreshments available

Stall holders contact Nina for more information:

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BARNHAM COMMUNITY HALL

## Easter Market

WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL  
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CRAFT AND FOOD STALLS.  
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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
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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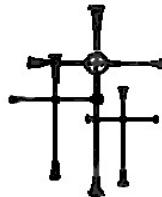
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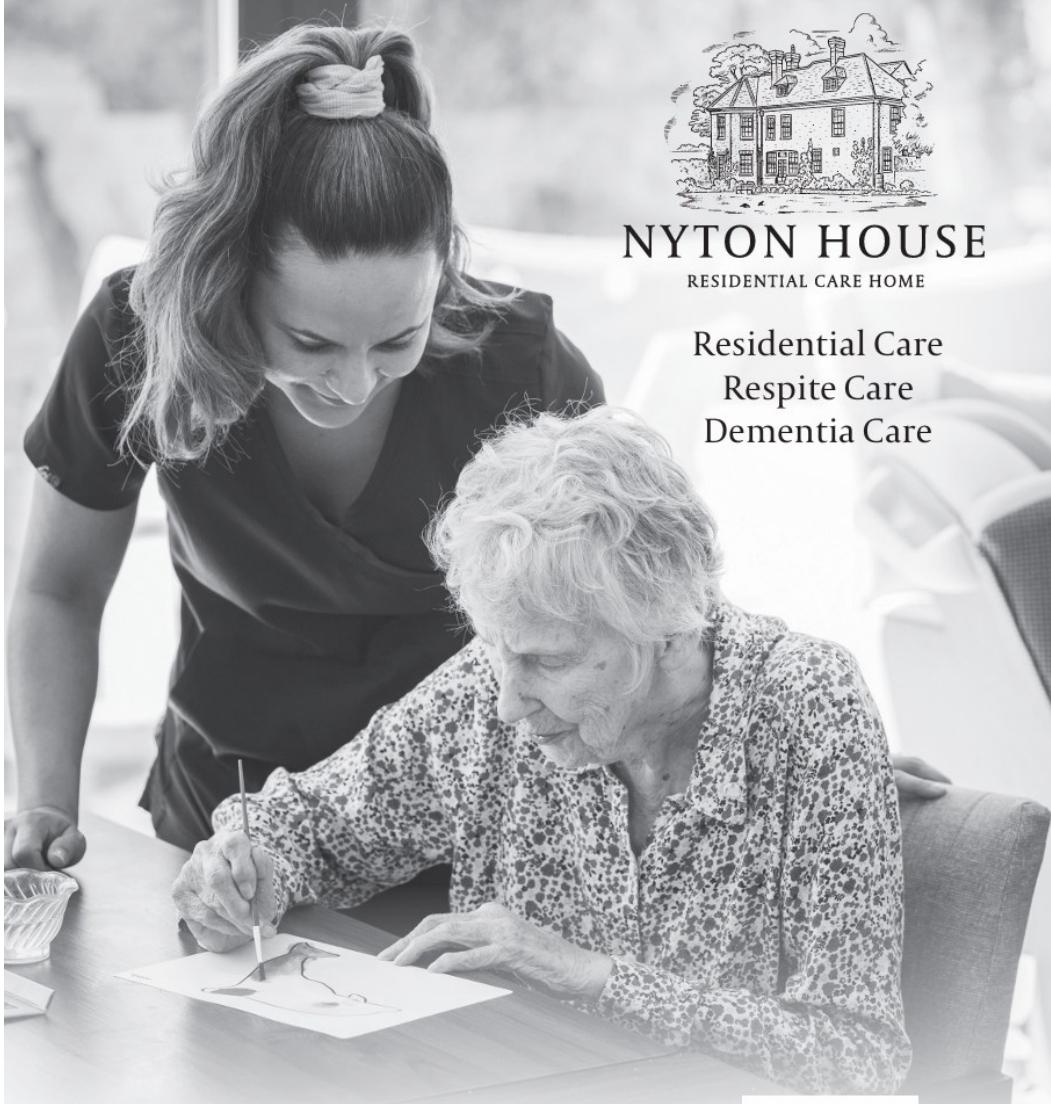
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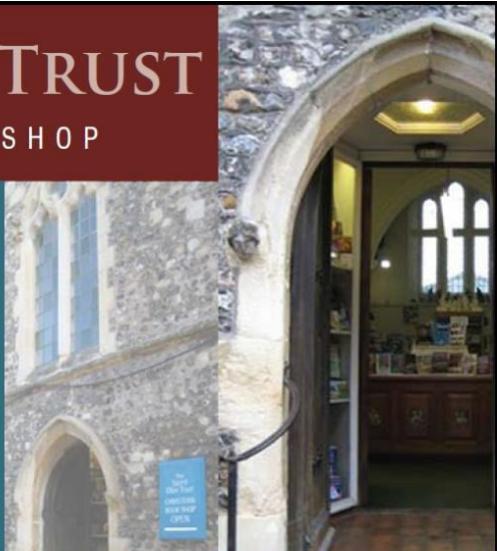
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