

# PARISH NEWS



The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate 50p



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CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL AT 900

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS

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

April 2024



# PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE



## SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

<b>April 1-5</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 6</b>	<b>Saturday in Easter Week</b>		
	9am	Mattins & Mass (9.30am)	St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 7</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>Monday 8</b>	<b>Annunciation of the Lord</b>		
	6.30pm	Mass	St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 14</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
	10am	Family Communion	St George's, Eastergate
	11.15am	Sung Mass	St Mary's, Barnham
	6pm	Evensong and Benediction	St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 21</b>	<b>Easter 4/S George</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 S George	St George's, Eastergate
	11.15am	Sung Mass	St Mary's, Barnham
	6pm	Evensong	BCP St Mary's, Barnham
<b>Sunday 28</b>	<b>Easter 5</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
	10am	Family Communion	St George's, Eastergate
	11.15am	Sung Mass	St Mary's, Barnham
	6pm	Evensong	BCP St Mary's, Barnham

### Other regular weekly services:

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

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

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



THE PARISH OF ABE  
PRESENTS OUR



# Summer Fair

## Saturday 8 June 2024



### 11-3 pm



Manor Farm, Church Lane  
Eastergate, PO20 3UX  
by kind permission of Paul Helyer

## Fun for all the family

Bouncy castle and kids' corner, BBQ

Stalls, Cakes & Home bakes,

Games,

Bric-A-Brac, Train rides,

Craft, refreshments,

Plant Barn



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

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# GOODWOOF

a dog event like no other



at Goodwood  
18 | 19 May 2024

tickets now on sale

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Presented by  
**MARS**  
Petcare



## FAIR ST GEORGE

This month we remember the story of St George defeating the dragon. Although this is the stuff of legend, we face our own dragons today. We are engaged in a spiritual battle against the powers of sin, Satan and death. In this Easter season, we remember that the great battle has been won. By His cross and resurrection, Jesus secured the victory over sin, Satan and death. The resurrection is the proof that they are no longer too powerful to resist. *'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory?'* (1 Cor 15:54,55). *Where is your power, dragon?*

The story is told of a village in India, terrorised by a great bear looking for food each night. Eventually, the villagers decided to take action, and tracked down the bear to

his cave. One man, stronger and braver than the rest, ventured into the dark cave. The villagers outside could hear nothing; eventually they heard a loud shrieking cry and then silence. They waited to see what had happened. Finally, the man emerged from the dark cave victorious! The bear was dead and the villagers were safe.

The victory was won deep within the cave. They could only be confident and celebrate when the champion emerged. For us, this happened when Jesus rose from the grave. The finality of death is no more and the power of sin and Satan no longer controls us. The devil, the biggest dragon, is helpless to prevent Jesus taking us home.

This year, we will be celebrating St George at St George's Church, Eastergate, on Sunday 21 April when Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham, will be our celebrant and preacher. The service will be at the slightly later time of 10.30am and will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. Please make sure that this is in your diaries!

**Fr Paul**

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

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

Contact our Parish Office on 01243 553955  
for more information



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## FROM THE REGISTERS FEBRUARY 2024

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

- 5 Feb Valerie Sanders [93] \*
- 7 Feb John Nordqvist [89] \*
- 9 Feb Jane Wall [96] (A)
- 15 Feb Andrew Robinson [67] (E)
- 22 Feb Andy Mitchell [79] \*
- 22 Feb Antony Charlton [91] \*
- 27 Feb Dorothy Bradley [84] \*

### Burial of Ashes

- 16 Feb Sigrita Carter [70] (A)

\* *Cremation*

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Events coming up in the Parish include:

- **18 April – A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) at Eastergate Village Hall from 12:30-2:30pm**
- **8 June – ABE Summer Fair at Manor Farm Eastergate**
- **22 June – Music at Murrell's Field**
- **29 September – Harvest Lunch at Barnham Community Hall**
- **11 October – ABE Fun Quiz Evening at Barnham Community Hall**
- **7 December – ABE Christmas Fair at Eastergate Village Hall**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Two dates for your diaries this year. The Summer Fete is at Manor Farm on 8 June and the Christmas Fair is at Eastergate Village Hall on 7 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 local churchwarden know if you can help. This year some of those who have helped in the past are not able to do the same amount as before so **YOUR FAIR NEEDS YOU!**

## **PARISH LUNCH**

A Bite to Eat (Parish Lunch) is on 18 April in Eastergate 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.

## **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 (updating) of the Roll and so you only need to fill in a form if you previously have not been listed. Please do this, if it applied to you. Application forms can be found at the back of each church.

## **FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES**

First Communion classes begin on Sunday 21 April and will take us up to the Sunday when First Communion will be given (Sunday 7 July). This is ideally aimed at those in Years 3 or 4 at school. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please could you e mail

details to Fr Paul.

For those who are older and those who have already been admitted, we will be running Confirmation classes in the autumn leading to a Confirmation Service in Chichester Cathedral on the morning of 23 November. Confirmation is offered to anyone from year 6 to ... well there is no upper limit!!

If you have any questions or want further information then please contact Fr Paul.

## **PILGRIM COURSE**

Over the winter months we ran a course called 'Being With' and twelve of us took part. At the end we discussed what to do next and the suggestion is that we could start looking at parts of the 'Pilgrim Course' and in particular we would like to start by looking at the Lord's Prayer in a six week session (Thursdays - 2 May, 9 May, 16 May, 23 May, 30 May and 6 June).

The format of the course has a theme, some opening prayers, a conversation starter, bible reading to reflect on, a video reflection on the theme, some questions to address, a journeying on section and some closing prayers.

If you would like to join then please could you e mail Fr Paul.

## **SONGS OF PRAISE**

On Sunday 28 April at 4pm we will holding a Songs of Praise at St Mary's Aldingbourne when we will be joined by members of the Chichester City Band as well as organists from each of our churches. We will be singing hymns from throughout the church's year. There will be afternoon tea available from 3pm. Donations on the day will be split between the Parish of ABE and the Band. Let's raise the roof with our singing on this late Spring afternoon. Do bring others along with you.

## PCSO VISIT

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Caroline Wilson will visit us on Saturday 20 April at 10am in Aldingbourne Church. She will be updating us about online and other scams. Refreshments provided. All welcome.

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

## CHICHESTER FRINGE

The Chichester Fringe is back and has announced its 2024 line-up! This year, the Fringe will be packing 70+ performers and over 50 shows into 2 weeks, from Friday 31 May to Saturday 15 June. There will be an range of performances, ranging from circus, theatre, music and comedy to musicals and cabaret.

Tickets go on sale soon. Keep-up-to date via the website at: [www.chichesterfringe.co.uk](http://www.chichesterfringe.co.uk)



## WESTERGATE

Would you believe the bulb catalogues are out for next spring already? Yes, the W.I. booklets were on the table for us to fill in the order forms. This is before many of this year's bulbs have flowered yet. We don't stand still in the W.I. and have many plans being formed for this year and next. We are hoping to see Oliver and visit the Wetlands amongst other things.

One of our members took part in a rowing challenge. She rowed (indoors) over 63 miles

in 12hrs 45.12 minutes and beat the world record by 2.5hrs. Very well done Sandy. (Sandy is over 80)

For our talk this month we were visited by three police officers from The Community Liaison Section. They told us of the many scams there are nowadays and how to take precautions against them. The main message being "Be on your toes and never give them any pin numbers or part of pin numbers". It was horrifying to hear that children in parts of Nigeria are being groomed from an early age to put scams into operation. We thank the officers for the work they are doing to help keep us vigilant.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month in the Westergate Methodist Church Hall at 2pm. Come and join in.

**Catherine White-Aldworth**



## EASTERGATE & BARNHAM

It has been 5 years since Eastergate and Barnham WI was founded. Since then, our WI has continued to flourish and welcome new members.

During our March 2024 AGM we celebrated our increasing membership and all that we have achieved together. Members voted unanimously to re-elect our president and we welcomed three new committee members. We shared our exciting and informative programme for the year ahead, and members enjoyed cheese and wine and a bumper raffle. Our WI is currently open to new members. We meet at Eastergate Village Hall on the second Friday of each month 7.30-9.30pm.

Pop along to a meeting or contact us at: [eastergateandbarnhamwi@gmail.com](mailto:eastergateandbarnhamwi@gmail.com).

**Sam Leath**



# CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL AT 950

*I have received the following note from Canon Vanessa. If you have any comments, articles, items, information etc that you think the Cathedral would like, could you let me know as they want one submission from each parish and by May 19. I will then collate and send in on our behalf.*

**Fr Paul**

2025 is a special year. It will mark 950 years since this Cathedral moved from Selsey to Chichester. It will also be the Diocesan Year of Faith, as it will be 1700 years since the Council of Nicea, one of the key defining moments in the Christian faith. Throughout 2025 we will be celebrating our faith, both in the Cathedral and across the Diocese. (There will be more detailed publicity about this later in the Spring and we look forward to sharing this with you). The Cathedral needs your help. We are planning an exhibition in the Cathedral from February – November 2025 and we would like you, the parishes of the Diocese, to help us tell the story of our faith – what it means to us and why it matters.

We have four questions for you.

1. As you think back over the last 950 years of

the Christian faith in the Diocese of Chichester, do you have any particular heroes or heroines? Who are they and why do they matter to you? (If your church is an Anglo-Saxon one, you can think back to the arrival of St Wilfrid in 681!)

2. Is there anyone or anything commemorated in your church that is unusual or that you find interesting? Who or what is it? How does it speak to you of the Christian faith? (For example, you may have a Bible donated in memory of someone who died in battle. You may have a memorial or tombstone to someone who did something memorable).

3. Do you have any Christian memorabilia in your house or church? (For example, a pocket Gospel handed to a soldier on the beach at Dunkirk or a medieval pilgrim badge. Perhaps you have a cookery book in which someone has written prayers or a child's sampler with verses from Scripture).

4. What makes an exhibition interesting for you? What would it need to include to make you visit the Cathedral?

Finally, if any church has any Medieval manuscripts or missals; if there are any Tudor or Stuart Bibles out there, please would you let us know.

**The Revd Vanessa Baron**

**Canon Treasurer of Chichester Cathedral**

## TYLERS TRUST

Thank you to the ABE parishioners who have raised £1,010.74 in aid of Tyler's Trust at events during the year.

Tyler's Trust chief executive Jan Ellis said "This will help us to provide the much-needed support for our families. Thank you all so much."

Tyler's Trust supports children with life-threatening illnesses and their families in Sussex, Hampshire & Dorset. Further information can be found at [www.tylerstrust.co.uk](http://www.tylerstrust.co.uk) or via [tylerstrust@gmail.co.uk](mailto:tylerstrust@gmail.co.uk)



**Fr Paul gives the cheque to Tyler's Trust**

# THE STORY BEHIND THE HYMN: CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

Jesus's death on the cross, and His resurrection on Easter morning are both part of the redemption story. Paul links them in this way: 'He was delivered for our offences [the Cross] and raised again [the Resurrection] for our justification' (Romans 4:25). Charles Wesley does likewise in his glorious Easter anthem.

Christ the Lord is risen today!  
Sons of men and angels say.  
Raise your songs and triumph high  
Sing, ye heavens, thou earth reply.

Charles wrote the hymn in 1739, a year after his Pentecost Sunday evangelical conversion, and the year in which he began his open-air preaching. Like all his hymns that followed in the next four decades, this hymn is full of New Testament references and allusions. A great stone was rolled into the opening of the grave where Jesus was laid, and as Matthew records, the Jewish authorities 'made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a guard' (27:66). But all to no purpose! Christ, the Lord of Life, could not be imprisoned by death!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.  
Death in vain forbids Him rise  
Christ hath opened Paradise!

The NT teaches that Christ's resurrection was the Father's seal of approval on His obedient life and atoning death. His resurrection was the proof that He was indeed Jesus Christ the Lord, as Paul argues in Romans 1:4. 'Declared

to be the Son of God ...by the resurrection from the dead.' Charles Wesley works these great salvation truths into his verses. 'Love's redeeming work is done.' 'Once He died our souls to save.' 'Lives again our glorious King.' 'Where, O death, is now thy sting?' 'Second life we all receive.' In our Heavenly Adam live.' As our Lord promised His disciples long ago – and still promises us; 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19).

The Resurrection of Christ, viewed as a historical fact, is only part of the NT teaching. His conquest of death He now shares with all His people. Christians are the people of the Resurrection! We are now 'made alive with Christ;' 'raised up with Him,' and already seated 'in heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:4-6). And Charles Wesley takes up this great theme of how believers share in their Lord's resurrection power.

Risen with Him we upward move  
Still we seek the things above ...  
Soar we now where Christ hath led  
Following our exalted Head.  
Made like Him, like Him we rise  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Christ has conquered hell! Death has lost its sting! The grave is spoiled! What a Saviour! What a gospel! What a glorious hope!



Charles Wesley

Image via Wikimedia

# BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE COMMUNITY TRUST

As we move into April the clocks have changed and the birds are singing we look forward to welcoming you to our community halls. 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. Please contact Nina for more information.

- **Weekly Coffee Mornings:** Nina's Friendly Coffee Morning on Tuesdays at Eastergate Village Hall, 10.30am – midday (quiet space also available). Wednesdays at Barnham Community Hall, 10am – midday. Just pop along, you will be made very welcome.

- **Roast lunch at Eastergate Village Hall:** Sunday 7 April at 1pm. £12 per person. Two delicious courses. Raffle and bar. Very friendly and welcoming. Please contact Nina to book (details below).

- **Motown and Northern Soul Evening:** on Saturday 13 April at Eastergate Village Hall. Dance the night away with DJs Toni Cassini, Roger Moffatt and Colin Slater. 7.30–11.30pm. £5 on the door. Limited seating so please arrive early!

- **Quiz Night at Barnham Community Hall:** Friday 26 April at 7pm. £4 per person. Teams of up to 6. Booking essential. Fully licenced bar and snacks. Please contact Ali, details below, for more information.

- **Artisan and Craft Fair at Eastergate Village Hall:** Saturday 11 May, Midday–4pm. Free entry, 20 local crafters with wonderful gifts and goodies. Kitchen open serving cakes, scones, bacon rolls, savouries and hot drinks with comfy seated area.

- **Barnham Bark Fest at Barnham Community Hall, Murrell's Field:** Sunday 19 May from

10.30am – 4pm. Dog show, shopping, fresh coffee, hot food, bar and live DJ. For more info: [www.barkfest.uk](http://www.barkfest.uk). Free entry.

- **Music at Murrell's Field:** Saturday 22 June 2024 - please see our website for more info: [barnhamandeastergatecommunitytrust.com](http://barnhamandeastergatecommunitytrust.com)

- **Fun Quiz at Eastergate Village Hall:** Friday 28 June. £4pp, max 6 in a team. Doors 6.30pm. Please book in advance. Fully licenced bar, pizzas and raffle. Please contact Nina, details below for more info.

- **Table Top Sale at Eastergate Village Hall:** Saturday 29 June, from midday until 3pm. Just £15 a table – booking in advance only. 6 ft table provided. Kitchen open serving cakes, scones, bacon rolls, savouries and hot drinks with comfy seated area. Please contact Nina to book (details below).

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 at [ali@barnhamcommunityhall.org.uk](mailto:ali@barnhamcommunityhall.org.uk) or 07714 456482, Kathy Lanigan 07521 404630 or at [kathy@bneqct.org.uk](mailto:kathy@bneqct.org.uk) (both based at Barnham Community Hall).*

# HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS

## 19 April – Alphege, the archbishop taken captive by Danes

Alphege is the saint for anyone who refuses to let others suffer on their behalf.

His is a tale of courage and self-sacrifice, with some details that are still poignant, even down 1,000 years of history.

Alphege began like many other leading churchmen of his time; born of a noble family, with a good education, he decided to become a monk. Alphege joined the Benedictine Abbey at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire, and then became a hermit at Bath, before becoming Abbot of Bath. From there, he was appointed to be Bishop of Winchester, where he was loved for his frugal lifestyle and great

generosity towards others.

In 954 King Ethelred the Unready sent Alphege as a peace envoy to the Danes, seeking some relief from the constant Viking raids against England. Alphege secured a time of peace, and in 1006 was made the 29th Archbishop of Canterbury.

But the Viking raids increased again, until the south of England was largely overrun. In 1012 they surrounded Canterbury, and with the help of a treacherous archdeacon, Elfmaer, captured and imprisoned Alphege. A vast sum was demanded by his captors, so much that it would have ruined the people of Canterbury. And so Alphege refused to be ransomed.

This infuriated the Danes, who wanted the gold of Canterbury, not the Archbishop. After seven months of ill-treating him, one night they got very drunk and began pelting him with ox-bones from their feast, until in a frenzy they hacked him to death with an axe.

Alphege was mourned as a national hero and venerated as a martyr: he had given his life in order to protect his people from harm.

## 23 April – St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor



Image via Wikimedia

**A statue of Alphege on the west front of Salisbury Cathedral**

Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost.

However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died

and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

***St George's Day will be observed on Sunday 21 April at the following services at St George's Eastergate:***

- ***8.30am Said Holy Communion with Sermon***
- ***9.45am Sunday Seekers (in Eastergate Primary School)***
- ***10.30am Family Communion - Celebrant and Preacher, Bishop (of Horsham). This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch***

***Please do come and welcome Bishop Ruth for her first visit to the parish and stay and share in the lunch afterwards.***



***St. George Kills the Dragon, by Edward Burne-Jones, 1866***

# NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS



## BARNHAM & EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

The latest meeting of Barnham and Eastergate Parish Council took place on 12 March 2024. The agenda was focused on updates on various ongoing projects being undertaken by the Parish Council to support the community it serves and decisions on funding for some of these.

### Road closures and flooding

There was discussion on the continuing issues of road closures, flooding and sewage problems and it was noted that Sue Wallsgrove, Parish and District Councillor, was in continual dialogue with Southern Water about bringing forward a solution to the

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council's Annual Parish Assembly is due to take place on Tuesday 30 April at 7.15pm at Barnham Community Hall.

This meeting gives residents the opportunity to influence the council's agenda and is organised and hosted by the Parish Council

If anyone has any ideas on what they might like to see discussed then do get in touch.

The council team are contacting various groups to see if they'd like to exhibit at the event - if you run a local group and would like a stand let us know.

Publicity for the event will be communicated through our various channels in the next few weeks.

problem at the earliest opportunity. The main issue is that until the water table levels drop there is little Southern Water can do as they need to work on pipes that are currently below the water level.

The Council will continue to apply the necessary pressure to ensure works are carried out as soon as possible and that disruption is kept to a minimum for residents, but unfortunately we are in the hands of others in this area.

### Working groups

As previously reported the council has now established working parties to take forward various projects the council has identified as areas they'd like to improve within the community it serves within the funding it has available.

The People, Places and Spaces (PPS) Working Party continues to work on improving the look of the Parish. Spring bulbs and flowers have been planted around our gateway signs, the lamppost planters have been planted and hung in the village and tidying up and planting around benches in the Parish has taken place. Work continues to create the Village Garden at Murrells Field and hopefully with Spring around the corner things can move on more swiftly.

The Community Resilience Team continues to prepare the community for emergency situations arising and continues to hold First Aid Training courses, available to all, and has hosted a joint training session with the WSCC Resilience Team.

A working party has also been established to take forward the project to undertaken improvements to Murrells Field using section 106 funds received from the Angel's Nursery development. The first phase will be improving the drainage and establishing some

recreational sports pitches. A public consultation will take place before the final plans are agreed.

### **Annual Parish Assembly**

A Communications Working Party has also been established to investigate better ways of keeping in touch with our residents and some good ideas will be progressed in due course.

The first thing they are planning is the details for the Annual Parish Assembly which is due to take place on Tuesday 30 April at 7.15pm at Barnham Community Hall.

This meeting, which is the annual meeting for residents to have the opportunity to influence the agenda, is organised and hosted by the Parish Council and if anyone has any ideas on what they might like to see discussed then do get in touch.

We have some ideas and the team are contacting various groups to see if they'd like

to exhibit at the event so again if you run a local group and would like a stand let us know.

Publicity for the event will be communicated through our various channels in the next few weeks.

### **Planning**

The Planning & Environment Committee continues to consider all planning applications in the parish and to respond accordingly to Arun District Council. They also carry out air quality checks and vehicle speed and volume checks which will be used to support responses to development applications.

Finally, the new front porch extensions at our Community Halls should be completed by the time you read this article.

**Alison Crabb**

**clerk@barnhamandeastergate-pc.gov.uk**

## **SMILE LINES**

### ***Who?!***

Seen in a West Country church:  
Whenever I see a little church,  
I always pay a visit.  
So when at last I'm carried in,  
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

### ***Heaven***

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

### ***Problem***

I don't have a problem with caffeine. I do have a problem without it.

### ***What am I?***

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrraaaaaacccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

### ***The 5<sup>th</sup> commandment***

In reply to a question in Sunday school, one little boy said that the fifth commandment is: 'Humour thy father and thy mother.'

# NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

## Walberton Pre-School

We have been celebrating World Book Day. There has been a lot of publicity in the media about the pressure that parents feel to create or purchase an outfit for their child so that they can dress up and go to school as their favourite book character. At Walberton Pre-School, we were ahead of the game... We had signed up to World Book Day and this meant that we were able to give each of our pre-school children a token which can be redeemed for a World Book Day book, or used as part payment for another book of their choice. We sent a message to all of our parents, giving them the option for their child to come to pre-school wearing their pyjamas - bringing their favourite bedtime story with them. Everyone has pyjamas, so there is no cost involved.

The children loved it! Because we were still having 'normal' pre-school days, they were layered up underneath their PJs, and some had cosy dressing gowns on so they could still play outside...

We had one day which focussed on the Michael Rosen classic story, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We recreated all the obstacles of the story in the Village Hall, one of the staff had literally dug up some 'long wavy grass' from her garden and bought it in, we had a Tuff Tray full of 'mud', wooden blocks to represent the 'wood', a large piece of blue fabric representing the 'river' and white sheets hung across the room representing the 'snowstorm'. The bear was hiding in a cave, and of

course he got found. So, it was back, through all the obstacles, climbing up and down the stairs and eventually returning to our 'cosy corner', where everyone hid under a large blanket, "we're not going on a bear hunt again!"

One of our younger children was overheard later talking to his Mummy, "there was mud and a river and a cave that had a bear in it. But it wasn't a scary bear it was little and then we ran up the stairs and down the stairs to shut the door and then we hid under the covers!" How impressive is that? He has just turned three!

Some other children expanded on the famous classic, 'The Gruffalo'. They were fascinated about the mouse in the story and were pretending to be the animals who wanted to eat him... Too good a storyline not to expand on so we made some 'mice' and hid them around the classroom and the children had a great time finding them all!

At least one child fell asleep at lunchtime during this week - full on face plant, head in lunchbox! 'Play' is childrens' 'work', and we work them hard!

**Helen Baxter**



# ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

It was... 300 years ago, on 7 April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

175 years ago, on 10 April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

90 years ago, on 3 April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

75 years ago, on 4 April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

Also 75 years ago, on 7 April 1949 that the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South

Pacific was opened in Broadway.

60 years ago, on 15 April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6 April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

20 years ago, on 1 April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.

10 years ago, on 14 April 2014 that the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.



**NATO's new headquarters in Brussels**

## 50 YEARS OF ABBA!

Fifty years ago, on 6 April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who

was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.

## APPRECIATING JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Three hundred years ago, on 7 April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best

composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier *Passion*, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

## REMEMBERING BILL COLLINS

Bill was born on 30 June 1921 to his mum, Ellen, and his father, who was also called William. They lived in the London borough of Wandsworth.

Bill left school at 14½ and started work in a local radio and bicycle shop. His mum didn't think that held any future for him, so took him down to a local factory, Gambrell Bros.

### The war years

With the permission of his parents, Bill, along with some of his friends, joined the local searchlight regiment Territorial Army in early 1939. Bill was called up a month before war was officially declared. A month later, Bill was sent back to 'civvy street', as his firm wanted him back in reserved occupation war work.

Bill was given an indefinite leave pass with permission to wear civilian clothes and sent back home. The ensuing three years saw the blitz and, through the factory, a Local Defence Volunteers unit was formed. In his own words, Bill said, "we were a motley crowd – no uniform, no weapons, just an armband with 'LDV' on it."

Bill was made a sergeant and worked through the daytime, then on home guard patrol at night, helping police to direct traffic. It was during this period that he got to know Gladys, his future wife. Gladys was an unofficial member of the home guard, and she and Bill often kept her dad, George, company, as he was an air raid warden in Acuba Road and Bodmin Street, where Gladys lived.

Bill was eventually re-called to the Royal Engineers in 1944. After a period of intense training, they set sail from Southampton and through the Med. They spent a week in fly infested Egypt and then moved on by rail to Port Tufick. They then boarded a Marine Commando Ops ship for the journey to India. Once they arrived in Bombay, they spent a period of time in intense training, and were

eventually told that they were joining 'Special Force' for operations in Burma behind enemy lines. After three weeks of travelling to the borders of Nepal, they were allocated to various columns. Another three weeks of marching followed, and they finally entered Burma. Their job there was to destroy enemy dumps and general sabotage, whilst avoiding conflict wherever possible. After nearly four difficult months there, with limited supplies and rations, they were flown out of Burma and back to India. Despite the ordeal of survival in the jungle, Bill felt incredibly lucky to be alive and to have avoided conflict. From there, Bill spent some time preparing landing strips in Malaya until he received the good news that it was his time to go home and be reunited with Gladys, and with his mum and dad.

### Marriage and London Transport

Bill and Glad were determined to get married as soon as possible, and their wedding took place on 29 March 1947. He described this as the greatest day of his life – despite the fact that he fell over a wall on the morning of the ceremony and split his trousers! Thankfully, a neighbour who was a Canadian Soldier, had a pair of trousers that matched Bills uniform, so he borrowed those.

Shortly after this, Bill was released from the armed forces and he managed to get a job with London Transport at their Chiswick depot, a job that he would have for the next 38 years. During his time there, he became involved with the Transport and General Workers Union, becoming Branch Secretary for a period of over 20 years.

Bill and Glad's first son, Doug, was born in December 1947 and then 2 ½ years later, their second son, Bob, was born in June 1950. With 2 babies, working, and running a rifle club, which they had been involved in for several years, it's safe to say that Bill and Glad were very busy – but this is exactly how they liked to be.

## The move to Woodgate

Bill and Gladys had a few house moves over the years, and in December 1986 they made the move to Orchard Gardens in Woodgate. Gladys' mum, Eleanor, moved in with them.

True to themselves, Bill and Glad immersed themselves into the local community by joining the local rifle club and helping to form the Aldingbourne and District Horticultural Society, together with the Short Mat Bowls Club. Bill also became involved with the parish council, becoming chairman before retiring in 2000. He also spent time as the driver for the community transport group, latterly using the service himself when he gave up driving.

Sadly, Gladys was diagnosed with Myeloma, a type of blood/bone cancer in 2006, and whilst treatment was successful for five years, she passed away on 24 April 2011, surrounded by her loving family.

## Special memories

Bill and Glad were married for 64 wonderful years. During the next 12 years, Bill slowly came to terms with life without Glad, supported by his family and friends.

Bill's family was very important to him and he was delighted to see his grandchildren marry, and very proud of his five great grandchildren.

Some of our special memories from over the more recent years include his 95th birthday, where the family held a very special 1920's themed party for him. And, of course, he celebrated his 100th birthday with his friends and family, and not forgetting the special card from the Queen.

Bill celebrated his 102nd birthday in June 2023, and was again joined by his family to celebrate this very special milestone.

The Church and church community were very important to Bill, he found great comfort from Reverend Sheila who would provide Bill with Communion and Prayer at home, and latterly at Claremont Lodge.



**William (Bill) Collins - 1921-2023**

Bill will be remembered fondly for his love of model railways and his garden, in which he and Glad had taken great pride. And let's not forget his beloved Wimbledon and Fulham Football Club, who he had followed up and down the Leagues over the years!

Bill was always positive and his main concern was always for others. He always felt blessed with his wonderful family and friends, who gave him great love and support to the end, and he will be greatly missed by all. We can take comfort in the knowledge that he is now reunited with his beloved wife Glad, and all those who have sadly passed before him.

So finally, in Bills own words: "Goodnight & God Bless."

***The words above were written by Bill's family as part of the Eulogy for his funeral, which was held at St Mary's Aldingbourne on 5 December last year.***

# OUR COMMUNITY

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



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 Teams of up to 6 people  
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- Tell us how you think the parish can be improved
- Could YOU become a Parish Councillor?

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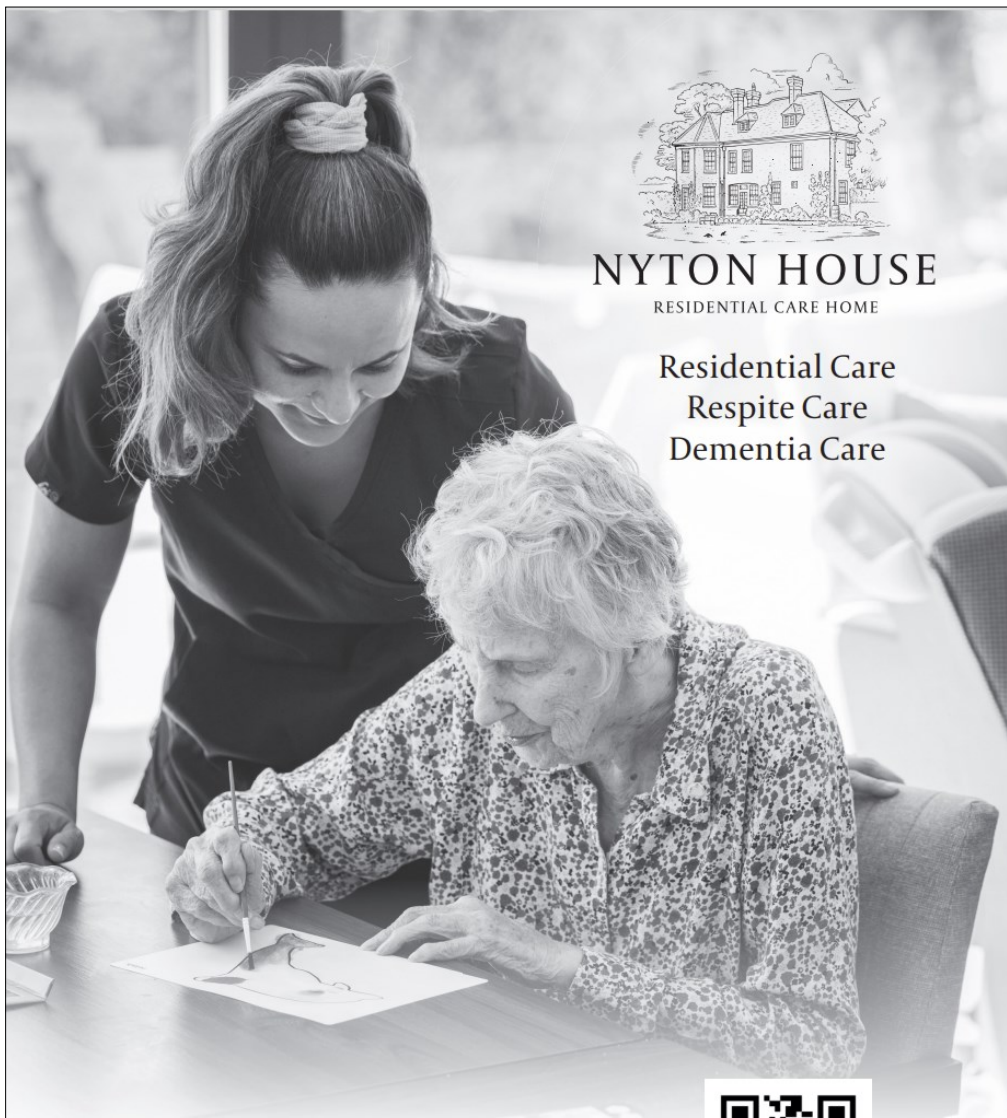
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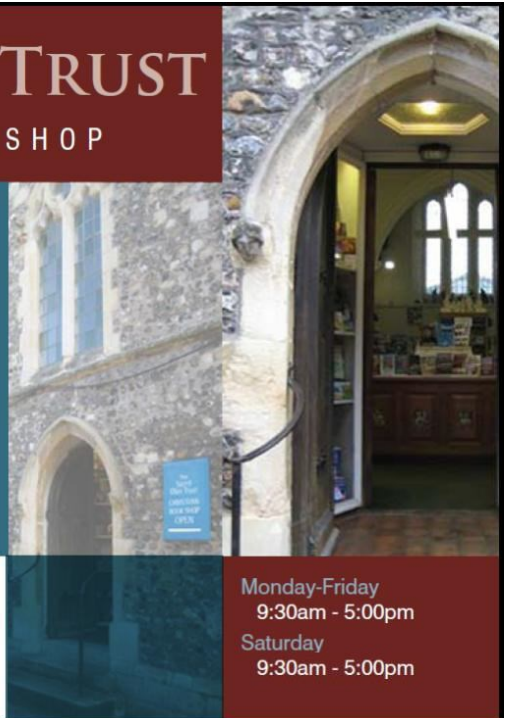
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Aldingbourne Bell Ringers Monday 7-9pm	Claire Tunnell 01243 778950 <a href="mailto:claire.tunnell@gmail.com">claire.tunnell@gmail.com</a>	Arun Councillors Christopher Hughes Isabel Thurston Sue Wallsgrove	07479 211391 07410 441589 07896 972222
Aldingbourne and District Bowls Club	Lynn Kendall 01243 552033	Aldingbourne Parish Council (Clerk)	Marie Singleton 07889 988612 <a href="mailto:clerk@aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk">clerk@aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk</a>
Aldingbourne and District Target Shooting Club	<a href="mailto:shooting@acsc.org.uk">shooting@acsc.org.uk</a>	Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council (Clerk)	Alison Crabb 07565 052617
Aldingbourne Tennis Club	Joy Gardiner 01243 552049 <a href="http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/AldingbourneTennisClub">www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/ AldingbourneTennisClub</a>	Aldingbourne Community Sport Centre enquiries@acsc.org.uk	01243 543948
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>		Barnham Community Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Ali Tarbard 01243 278110
"B.E.A.D.Y.S" St Wilfrid's Hospice Support Group	Gill Kelly 01243 552230	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
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>		Five Villages Community Minibus	Mr B David 01243 553635
		Eastergate Primary School Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Clare Pascoe 01243 542297
		Five Villages Society	Joanna Williams 01243 551524
Eastergate Players	Chris Playford 01243 930624	Village Friends	07925217843
Peregrine Explorer Scouts 14—18 years	Carl Monk <a href="mailto:carl.monk.scouts@gmail.com">carl.monk.scouts@gmail.com</a>	WI, Westergate 2nd Tuesday, 2pm	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>	
Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows	Mrs Sue Simpson 01243 542387	Six Villages Archery Club	<a href="http://www.sixvillagesarcheryclub.org.uk">www.sixvillagesarcheryclub.org.uk</a>