

St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine

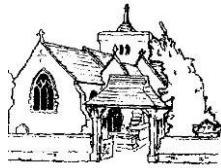
December 2024/January 2025



We would like to send our very best wishes to everyone in the village and to all of those who read this magazine for a very happy and holy Christmas and for a peaceful New Year



From John and Sally Crutchley



St Peter's Church, Ardingly

Who's Who at St Peter's

Rector	Revd John Crutchley	892332
Reader	John Witherington	892277
Wardens	Nigel Cheater John Witherington	892769 892277
Secretary to the PCC	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Treasurer	Jean Jeffery	415317
Organist	Jill Veasey	892442
Safeguarding Coordinator	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Church Centre Manager	Jill Veasey	892442
Church Centre Bookings	Carol Grossman	416707
Magazine Editor	Sue Laker	892117
Pastoral Care Authorised	Kathy James	891047
Lay Ministers	Sue Laker	892117

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.00 am A traditional form of Holy Communion

10.30 am Morning Worship – our main service – see Services page

**The church is also open daily
from 10am to 4pm for private prayer**

See the following pages for full details of all this month's services

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

God has a great deal to teach us about choosing and giving the perfect gift. That He loves to give can be seen throughout the pages of the Bible. From the beginning, through to the end, the pages of the Bible are full of God's generosity, seen in his mercy, love and grace. But seen at its very best at Christmas and in his gift to us of his Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect gift, 'light and life to all, he brings' as we sing it in one of our carols; 'born to give us a second chance.' At Christmas time, when so many of us receive presents we don't really need or maybe perhaps don't want, God gives us a gift that we cannot do without; a gift of eternal value, usefulness and joy.



Sadly, for some people Christmas may be anything but a time of joy. There's the cost associated with it nowadays that may make Christmas more a time of stress than one of joy. And then others will be worrying about ill-health or about the care of a loved one. There will be those who are mourning whilst still others will be worried about family, friends or even about themselves, their job and the future. But this is the point! To all of us, God's gift of Christ at Christmas brings help in our need, whatever that need may be, because the coming of Christ at Christmas reminds us that God is still in control of this confused world, whatever others may say, think or encourage us to believe. He is in control, and he is sovereign over both the wider world and over our world alike and his plans and purposes are good. The apostle Paul writes: "when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman." And that time had certainly come. The world needed Jesus at his birth as the world and each of us continue to need him today. Where we place our faith and our trust in him, his promise is that he is with us in everything. As I say, a gift of eternal value, usefulness and joy.

And a gift that lasts and keeps on giving. When we receive the gift of Christ it is astonishing just how it changes us, transforms us and even encourages us to give different gifts to others. Gifts that are beyond monetary value, but which are instead filled with grace. Like

mending a quarrel we may have had with someone or giving something away anonymously. Perhaps by forgiving someone who has treated us wrongly or by turning anger away with a soft answer. Maybe by visiting someone who is lonely or apologizing if we have been in the wrong. In other words, giving to others as God has given to us in Christ, which is without obligation or announcement, without reservation or hypocrisy. In short by grace.

So, this Christmas let's not forget to open and then to cherish and hold on to the one gift that will last today, tomorrow and for all eternity and which fills our every need, wish and desire. Why not make sure that this Christmas you look into the face of the Father and tell Him that you have received His Christmas gift. The gift of Jesus Christ His Son.

With my prayers for a very peaceful and joy-filled Christmas, and a very happy New Year.

John



Services in DECEMBER 2024

In the season of Advent we remember Christ's Incarnation over two thousand years ago. We yearn for and welcome Christ's presence in our lives today. And we look forward to the future coming of Christ in glory: *A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40: 3*

Sunday 1st December THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am
Holy Communion [BCP] 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

10.30am
Morning Praise 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

5.00pm
Open to God
A service of Evening Prayer, and quiet reflection to celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent and of our journey from darkness to light.

Saturday 7th December Carols and Christingle

4. 45pm
A service for all held around the oak tree in the village with Christmas music and carols, and the story of Christmas told through the CHRISTINGLE.

Sunday 8th December THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am
Holy Communion [BCP] Philippians 1: 3 - 11; Luke 3: 1 - 6

10.30am
Holy Communion [CW] Philippians 1: 3 - 11; Luke 3: 1 - 6

Sunday 15th December THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am
Holy Communion [BCP] Philippians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 3: 7 - 18

10.30am
Morning Praise Philippians 4: 4 - 7; Luke 3: 7 - 18

Sunday 22nd December

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Hebrews 10: 5 - 10; Luke 1: 39 - 45

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

Hebrews 10: 5 - 10; Luke 1: 39 - 45

Holy Communion [CW] with Prayer for Healing

6.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

A traditional service of readings, words, music, and carols for Christmas presented in a beautiful candle-lit church and followed by mince pies and mulled wine

The season of Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope and joy.

Joy is the true gift of Christmas: *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9: 6*

Tuesday 24th December

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30pm

A **Crib and Carol service** for all the family

The message and meaning of Christmas, favourite carols, candles, and fun!

10.00pm

A Christmas Celebration of Holy Communion

(Midnight in Bethlehem!)

A quiet and reflective candle-lit service for the beginning of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am

A traditional service of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

Christmas Morning Praise

A service of Christmas Carols and Christmas Praise to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour and Lord

Sunday 29th December

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9.30am

Colossians 3: 12 - 17; Luke 2: 41 - 52

Holy Communion [CW]

Services in JANUARY 2025

Sunday 5th January

The Epiphany

9.00am

Ephesians 3: 1 - 12; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Morning Prayer [BCP]

10.30am

Ephesians 3: 1 - 12; Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Morning Praise

Sunday 12th January

The First Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am
22

Acts 8: 14 - 17; Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 -

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am
22

Acts 8: 14 - 17; Luke 3: 15 - 17, 21 -

Holy Communion [CW]

Sunday 19th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11; John 2: 1 - 11

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11; John 2: 1 - 11

Morning Praise

Sunday 26th January

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a; Luke 4: 14-21

Holy Communion [CW]

With prayer for healing and wholeness

NOTICEBOARD for December/January

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

The Meeting Point Christmas Party will take place in Hapstead Small Hall on 9th December from 10.15 to 11.30. Help is appreciated in setting up tables etc. Meeting Point dates in 2025 will be 13th and 27th January.



VILLAGE LUNCH: In Hapstead Hall on Wednesday 11th December. Tickets are £10 and will be available from the Village Shop.

FSW – TOYS FOR CHILDREN

Once again we will be collecting presents/toys/vouchers for the children of families being supported by the Cuckfield Deanery support worker. Wrapping paper and cellotape are also very welcome. Please bring items to the services on **Sunday 1st December**. Many thanks, Deb Ruse - FSW Cuckfield Deanery Rep.



HAPSTEAD HALL CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year's Fair will take place on Saturday 7th December 2024 from 2pm to 4.30pm. Stalls of all types will be selling cards, gifts and other produce for Christmas and also fundraising for local organisations. Christmas Trees will be on sale outside the Hall. After the Fair, at

about 4.45pm under the Oak tree, there will be Christmas Carols and the story of the Christingle. There will also be mince pies and mulled wine. **DO PLAN TO COME!**

St Peter's Church will be having our usual Handmade & Homemade stall at the Fair, so offers of goods to sell will be very welcome, as will offers to help set up and/or man the stall for an hour or so. If you can help please contact Jill Veasey (892442) or Sue Laker (892117) Thank you!



POSTBOX in Church



As in previous years, we will have our Christmas Postbox in church from 1st to 22nd December. You are welcome to post in it your Ardingly village cards but please no cards for outside the village! If you would like to give a donation towards this service please put it in an envelope and post it into the box. The total raised will be given to a local charity. Deliveries will be made on Monday 23rd December, and help with this will be much appreciated! Sorting will begin at 10.00am in the Church Centre that day. Jill Veasey

ARDINGLY CHORAL SOCIETY

Advent Carol Concert
at 8pm in the College Chapel
On Tuesday 17th December 2024
Schubert Mass in G and Carols
In aid of St Peter & St James Hospice

Music & Mince Pies Wednesday 4th December

An event for the senior citizens of Ardingly. Join the Prep School Choir for individual & group performances at 11.00am in the Recital Room, Music Department, Ardingly College, RH17 6SQ

Transport starting at 10:35a.m. from Turnpike Court, then from the Village Hall & Priceholme.

RSVP for attendance & transport: Debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com or Tel. 01444 893289. Admission is free. All welcome.



ANGELS & URCHINS

Our last morning before the Christmas holidays will be on Thursday 19th December. We'll meet again on Thursday 9th January 2025.

Ardingly Evening WI

19th December at 7.30 pm: Christmas party evening in Hapstead Hall good food, a quiz and fun company.

The Hapstead Jam Tarts WI :

18th December at 10.00am in Hapstead hall. A blind food tasting challenge with Christmas themed refreshments.

15th January at 10am. Speaker to be confirmed. Visitors are always very welcome. Contact Fiona O'Leary tel. 07513411893



NEW YEAR WALK AND LUNCH

We are hoping to have a New Year's Day walk and lunch as usual, but unfortunately this cannot be confirmed until nearer the time.

NEXT ARDINGLY FILM NIGHT: Thursday 30th January. Details to be announced.

Link to Hope Shoeboxes – Thank you!

A very big 'Thank You' to all who supported the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal this Autumn. With some wonderful help from St Peter's Primary School and the 3rd Worth Brownies we sent a total of 25 shoeboxes to the collection centre. The boxes are now on their way to Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

We also sent a very heavy bag of old/foreign coins! Thank you to everyone who contributed to that.



Sue Laker

Need a helping hand?

Serving the community in simple ways
If you have a problem there are people willing to help



AT YOUR SERVICE

Call 892442 or 892307

A community project managed by St Peter's Church

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2025

Firstly a very big 'thank you' to the many people who contribute to the parish magazine during the year – to the team at Ardingly College who print it for us, to Glynis Doerr who bundles and distributes all the magazines each month, and to all the deliverers who put them through our doors! **THANK YOU!**



Now it's the time of year when annual subscriptions become due. If you would like to have the magazine delivered to your door (in Ardingly) the minimum subscription will still be £3 (and grateful thanks go to all those who round it up to £5). For those people who receive it by post, the subscription for 2025 will remain at £14.00.

Subscriptions can be delivered or posted to Sue Laker at 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN or to Michael Denman at 35 High Street, Ardingly. Cheques should be made payable to "St Peter's Church, Ardingly" please and if you need our bank details please let me know (emails4sue@gmail.com).

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas, and God's blessing in the New Year,

Sue Laker

REPAIR CAFÉ DATES

LINDFIELD

Saturday 7th December
and Saturday 4th January
10am - 1pm

United Reformed Church, 52 High Street, Lindfield RH16 2HL

REPAIR CAFE

FOREST ROW - Saturday 18th January 2024

Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ. 10am-1.00pm

NB. There is no Repair Café in December



IMARA-UGANDA EDUCATION FUND

St. Mary Goretti Secondary School, Uganda

Our new secondary school has been open for nearly a year. It offers inclusive education where students with visual impairment and other disabilities know that they are loved and valued as they learn alongside students without disabilities.



Picture: St. Mary Goretti Secondary School

Kevin, our team leader in Uganda, takes a real interest in each individual student. Through her initiative, they have been learning "blind football", improving their school grounds by planting grass, and recently she taught a group of children from the school and the primary school next door to dance. In the group were four totally blind children, a girl in a wheelchair and a boy with cerebral palsy. They had such fun. Within their home communities many feel they are of little value. At school a world of possibilities is opening up for them.

We are so thankful for the support that has been given in helping some of the poorest children with school fees and paying for much needed furniture and equipment for the school. The school has received donations of braille books and desks, and a grant of £1000 from "World Day of Prayer" enabled us to buy two computers and to install JAWS screen reader for the blind. Every gift leads to great excitement from the students and staff.



Picture: Sarah who is totally blind is using a computer for the first time.

Kevin visits the students at home from time to time. Isaac is an orphan boy who lives with his grandparents. His grandfather is blind and sick and was unable to pay for Isaac to attend secondary school. With support from kind donors, we have been able to help and Isaac is doing really well in school now.



Picture: Kevin bringing a gift for the family. Isaac is on the right.

There has been a delay in starting the construction of much needed dormitory accommodation for the girls but we are hopeful that the work will start very soon and the new dormitories will be ready for the next intake of

students in February.

Items for prayer:

- Praise God for the wonderful support that is already making a difference to the lives of children at the new school.
- That an application for the school to be government aided will be successful. This will help the Catholic diocese with the running costs.
- That the dormitories will be completed on time.



A big thank you to all those who have given us generous support this year.

Belinda, Kevin and the students of St. Mary Goretti Secondary School.

NEWS FROM CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY



CPAS offers support, resources and training to churches and their clergy in many different ways and they are our Patrons here at St Peter's.

2024 marks an incredible **100 years of CPAS holidays** – a century of fun, friendship and the enduring faithfulness of God. This was celebrated at an atmospheric Campfire in the Cathedral centenary service in Coventry Cathedral on Friday 15 November 2024 and was followed by hotdogs and marshmallows. Leaders, volunteers, supporters and attendees from across the decades came together to give thanks and share stories over a cosy fire. Tim Friend, 'Ventures and Falcons' Principal, said: 'By celebrating the past, our heart is to fire our faith afresh for a new season of CPAS' ministry among children and young people. We pray that God will continue to equip and empower us as we pursue the goal of providing every child in the UK with the opportunity to explore Jesus.'

The Beginning

In 1924, in the fields of Coldharbour, Surrey, 24 children aged between twelve and fifteen years old huddled around a crackling campfire. Away from their harsh lives as factory workers, they sang, shared stories and heard the good news that has changed lives for two millennia. The first CPAS holiday was an exciting, bold new direction of ministry. Looking back, the camp leader wrote: 'How we sang! At first we shouted! But as the days went on, one knew that the girls were realising the truth of what they were singing... we had the joy of knowing that girl after girl sought and found the Saviour.' One of the first attendees wrote back about the impact it had on her: 'I am having some children... I am going to learn them some of the choruses and tell them about the Lord Jesus who is my Shepard, and that is all I want. My little brother and I has gave our whole selves to Jesus.'

Today, 100 years since that first holiday, young people across the UK are still gathering around campfires, singing songs and sharing faith in life-changing moments on Venture and Falcon holidays. Eden has attended Venture holidays for the last four years.

Reflecting on her story, she said: 'I've always gone to church since I was a baby and I've known Jesus. But there was a time at the Venture holiday last year where we were sat around the campfire, and we were all just singing songs of worship. Seeing how much God meant to people made me realise how much he meant to me. It sealed my certainty of my faith in Christ and led to me getting baptised.'



We give thanks to God for every campfire story like this and can't wait to see what the next century brings.

The Patron of CPAS is His Majesty King Charles III.

(taken from the CPAS magazine 'Connect')



The Big Sleep Out 2024 (organised by Stonepillow)

Stonepillow in Chichester has 120 staff and numerous volunteers and is best known for its annual fundraising September Sleep Out. This year the Big Sleep Out was on 21st September, when up to 100 sleepers took part and an entertainment programme was put on during the evening. During the Sleep Out each year participants build a cardboard shelter on the Cathedral Green for the night to raise awareness and give a small insight into the harsh realities of rough sleeping.



New for this year was a special photography exhibition by social documentary photographer Andrew Cameron, entitled *1 in 300,000*, on display in the Cathedral during the Sleep Out. It highlighted the human stories behind homelessness and also the transformative work of Stonepillow.

The charity works across all sectors of society, tackling the many issues that contribute to people becoming homeless or at risk of homelessness. Staff go out at 4.00am to complete checks on people, to try and engage with them to come and seek support.

Wrap around services provide mental health support and domestic abuse support. They also work with partners around interventions for those with addiction problems and they support people into university and into employment. In addition, they work with those being released from custody so they are housed as opposed to rough sleeping and with young people who are leaving care, to support them with independent living skills so that they can thrive in the adult world despite some difficult beginnings and experiences.

In the last two years Stonepillow has engaged with 69 young people who are either leaving care, or unaccompanied and seeking asylum. 38 of these have moved positively into adulthood.

This year, since April alone the charity has supported nearly 800 people, and the numbers are still rising.

Visit St. Peter's Church this December and follow the trail around the church to see the Nativity Story brought to life in 5 Lego animated scenes. Complete the trail and you can collect a free activity pack.



Christmas at St. Peter's Church

Follow our Christmas Trail around our beautiful church and, using your phone, watch as the Nativity Story comes alive. Find the story cards, scan the code and watch as the story of that first Christmas is told.

LEGO CHRISTMAS STORY TRAIL

Welcome! We need your help!
Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, the Wise Men and Jesus are lost in our store! Find them and they'll tell you their story.

5 TO FIND

Find the 5 story cards and use your phone to watch the stories!
Paul Here's a hint: start with Mary!

1 **2** **3** **4** **5**

hope Go **Chatter**

SCAN **CLICK** **HOLD** **WATCH!**

When you have completed the Trail and enjoyed the stories don't forget to collect your free activity gift before you leave.

The Church will be open and Christmas Trail available daily from Sunday 8 December to 31 December.

Mince Pies Throughout History

For hundreds of years the delicious mince pie has been enjoyed as a tasty, warming and filling treat. Warm, spicy mincemeat and the crisp pastry crust complement each other - but that has not always been the case.

The reason mincemeat is called *meat* is because that's exactly what it used to be: most often mutton, but also beef, rabbit, pork or game. Mince pies were first served in the early middle ages, and the pies were quite sizeable, filled with a mixture of finely minced meat, chopped up fruit and a preserving liquid. Mincemeat originally came about as a good way of preserving meat, without salting, curing, smoking or drying it.

In 1413, King Henry V served a mincemeat pie at his coronation. Henry VII was fond of the meaty Christmas pie as a main dish, filled with minced meat and fruit. Mince pies have been known under several names over the years. *Christmas pyes* indicate their popularity at this time of year, *shrid pies* refer to the shredded suet and meat, *crib cakes* which allude to baby Jesus in his crib, and *wayfarer's pies*, as they were a traditional treat served to travelling visitors. They have been referred to as mince pies in literature by countless dignitaries and important historical figures.

Today's mince pies bear little resemblance to the early versions, but as the recipes, methods and ingredients available have developed over the years, we have ended up with a tasty treat using the finest ingredients, made in the same way it has been for years – but quite a difference from the original recipes driven more by necessity than by delight.



The reasons mince pies are so intricately linked with Christmas are complex. With its original content of meat and fats, it was superb for eating in the lean, dark winter months. A warm mince pie would feed you well and keep you happy as the storms raged outside the window! The trio of spices used - nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon - is said to be symbolic of the gifts given to the Baby Jesus by the three wise men in Bethlehem. Originally, mince pies were often made in an oval shape, reminiscent of the crib in the manger where Christ was born, while the top represented the cloth he was swaddled in. Later on, different shapes became ways of showing off the skill of the best pastry makers, who would create intricate mince pies with stars, crescents, hearts, flowers and sugar knot gardens.

As with many traditional recipes, mince pies are steeped with tradition and customs. Mincemeat would often be made on stir-up Sunday along with the Christmas pudding, the last Sunday before Advent. Stirring the mincemeat was quite an event, and English tradition dictates that it should only be stirred clockwise. Stirring the mincemeat anti-clockwise was said to lead to bad luck and poor fortune in the coming 12 months. To spread the joy, it was tradition in England that each member of the family gave the mixture a stir, while making a wish. And if you wanted to be ensured of good health and happiness in the upcoming year, you should eat one mince pie every day for the Twelve Days of Christmas, from Christmas Eve until the 5th of January.



BRIDGING AGES 2025

Bridging Ages will resume on Friday 17th January
1.30 – 2.30 in the Lower Library at Ardingly College
It's a place to bridge the ages, where young & not so young can
chat, play a game of Scrabble or Chess or have some basic IT
support over a free cup of tea and biscuits



ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

First, a very large thank you to Reverend Crutchley for leading a moving Remembrance day service. It was a lovely day and very well attended by members of the village, and a moment to reflect on both historic conflicts and the events of today.

As the nights draw in and the trees lose their leaves, we begin to focus on the festive holidays soon to come. So, please be sure to mark your calendars to join us on 7th December for the Hapstead Hall Christmas Fayre from 2:00-4:30pm followed at 4:45pm by the Christingle and Carols around the Ardingly oak tree. As usual, the Parish Council will be providing complimentary hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies for all.

As we look forward to 2025, the improvements to the Recreation Ground car park will be completed which will facilitate school drop-offs and provide parking that will ease the use of the car park on Street Lane. There are also plans being developed by the Traffic Committee to investigate how to best manage parking in the centre of the village. We are looking to see whether we can keep some spaces for short term parking to provide essential spaces for people visiting the shops and using Hapstead Hall.

At the allotments, we have dug a drainage ditch to help improve the soil condition. We will now shift focus to improving the fencing and filling the vacant plots. Should you wish to take up an allotment plot, please contact our clerk, Tracy on clerk@ardingly.org.

With Tracy now in post, we are going to increase our regular communications. We are updating the website more regularly and also post on the Ardingly Parish Council Facebook page.

If you use Facebook, please do follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/ardinglyparishcouncil/>. Should you not use social media, we have created an email notification list so that the news will arrive in your inbox. If you would like to sign up for this, please go to <https://ardingly.org/subscribe-to-get-email-updates/>. Along with the Village Voice, we hope that everyone is kept informed and included. And of course there is always the opportunity to come along in person to either the Parish Clerk's surgery (2-4pm) or a full Parish Council meeting (7:30pm).

Our next Council meeting is on 11th December.

Wishing you all the best for the holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

NOT TOO SERIOUSLY...

Toy store customer: "That's a terrific train set. I'll buy it."

Clerk: "Great, I'm sure your kids will love it!"

Customer: "Maybe you're right. I'll take two."



In the USA an old country preacher needed to have a sign made that would tell the people passing on the freeway about The Wonder of Christmas. He lived quite a way out of town and did not have access to any of the modern conveniences of phone or email. In fact, he was only able to send quick messages via Telegraph from the local General store.

Since telegraphs charge by the letter, he tried to make his message succinct so that the sign builder would know exactly what he wanted, but without wasting extra characters. He rushed down to the General Store and sent his message off.

At the sign-making company the clerk watched the message print out. As she read it she gasped, and nearly fainted. The message said, "Unto us a child is born 6 ft long and 3 ft wide."



AROUND THE VILLAGE

NEW TREE IN THE RECREATION GROUND

In 2017 A Chestnut tree was planted in the Recreation Ground to mark the Girl Guiding Centenary, but recently it disappeared. Now a replacement tree – a Liquid Amber tree - has been planted, provided with a grant from the Ardingly Horticultural Society. Thanks go to Jim and Josh from the Showground for planting for us. Deb Ruse



The Combat Stress walk

A big thank-you to everyone who has supported Combat Stress by sponsoring my walk. Enthusiastic and generous friends sent lovely messages which gave me great encouragement. **We have exceeded our target (with Gift Aid), and the total stands at more than £3,159.** That is a fantastic result.

It was a lovely day for walking, although the rain the previous day made the surface a bit difficult coming off the Downs. Lots of slipping around slowed me up a bit, what with having to climb over trees (well, actually, only one!), which took a bit longer than I hoped. The distance was 18.99 miles on the Garmin, which is pretty much 19 miles.

John took me to the start and then the beautiful South Downs. We are very lucky to live in such a lovely part of south England, and the weather was stunning. I can also recommend the Nutmeg Cafe in Ditchling for a very good breakfast. And another recommendation is for The Farmers pub in Scaynes Hill.

You have all been kind, marvellous and generous, and I can't thank you enough. You've given and given, and Combat Stress are so grateful for your efforts. Without sponsors, we could not have raised so much money. Thanks to your support, the result speaks for all of us.

Caroline Rich

Ardingly Connected Together

Ardingly Connected Together has continued to work behind the scenes, supporting young families where possible, and looking to connect our community together with shared joy. Of course, as



Christmas approaches, we are looking at what we can do to bring our lovely village together at this wonderful time of the year. Doubtless we will have some groups in the village carol singing – watch the notice boards and Facebook page for details – and, with the help of Ardingly College, families will receive bags not only of provisions

but with Christmas goodies and presents for the children. The hub will still be functioning (apart from Christmas week!) so don't forget that you can find a book to read over the holiday period.

ACT supports the Ardingly Community Choir which runs during term time in St Peter's School Hall. The Choir will be singing at the school's Christmas Fair and keep an eye out for us popping up in other locations too.

In previous years, we have run a competition for the best dressed house – keen competition year on year! We would love to know if you think this is a good idea to continue. Do please let us know, as well as any ideas you have for bringing people together to celebrate. Happy Christmas everyone!!

The poster features a background of various natural materials used for wreath-making, including green pine branches, brown pinecones, dried orange slices, and red berries. A pair of purple-handled scissors is visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area.

Festive Wreath Making Workshops

£40pp

Enjoy making a festive wreath from locally grown foliage with a glass of fizz and mince pie

Fri 6th Dec - 6:30pm - 9pm at
Ardingly Church Hall

Sat 7th Dec - 2:30pm - 5pm at
Wivelsfield Church Hall

To book please email:
ammiantgreen@gmail.com

Parish Register

There are no entries in the Parish Register this month.

Father,
Thank you that Jesus came into the world as Your Light;
That He shines today as brightly and powerfully
as He did then, and will do forever.
Help us to open our hearts and minds to allow His light
to fill us with the assurance that,
no matter what is going on, we are safe in Him.



Flower Rota

- 19th December - All flower arrangers, please
(Candle decorations)
- 20th December - All flower arrangers, please
(Flowers for Christmas)
- 3rd January - All flower arrangers, please



Meeting Point Rota

- December 9th - All (Christmas Party – Set up from 9.15 am)
- 13th January: Belinda, Alison, Dilys
- 27th January: Jill, Deb & George, Kathy

General Information

ANGELS & URCHINS: At St Peter's Centre on Thursdays, 9-11.00 during term time. Contact Jill Veasey (892442) or Jane Taylor Cheater (892769).

BELL RINGING: If you are interested in joining the team of bell ringers please contact Lynn Wilson (892113)

BIBLE READING NOTES: Regular reading helps us to grow as Christians. Bible Reading Fellowship notes are available from Glynis Doerr (892431). Email: glynismdoerr@gmail.com

BOOKS can be borrowed from the back of church, free of charge

BRASS CLEANING: Help with brass cleaning is always welcome. Contact Adele Collins (892189)

BRASS RUBBING: Appointments may be made via the Churchwardens (John 892277 or Nigel 892769). Fee: £10.00

FLOWERS: Belinda Maclean (892368) is always glad to hear from anyone who would like to arrange/give flowers for the decoration of the church.

GIVING: Special weekly or monthly envelopes or bankers' order forms are available from Jean Jeffery (415317). It is also possible to donate on our website. Anyone paying income tax or capital gains tax is encouraged to sign a Gift Aid declaration which would enable the church to claim tax (currently 25 %) on all their giving. Cheques should be made out to *St Peter's Church, Ardingly* and please email the editor if you need our bank details.

HOME GROUPS meet for bible study, prayer and fellowship on various afternoons/evenings of the week. New members are always very welcome. Contact: John Witherington (892277)

MAGAZINE: 2025 Annual Subscription £3.00. Can be delivered or posted (if posted the cost is £14.00 per annum). **MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Sue Laker, 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN (892117). Please submit items for inclusion by Friday before the penultimate Sunday in the month. Email to: emails4sue@gmail.com

ST PETER'S CENTRE: Hire of Centre, crockery, cutlery and chairs: contact Carol Grossman 416707

TRANSPORT: If you require transport to church, or if you could provide it for others, please contact Jill Veasey on 892442 or Jonathan Summers on 892307.

PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2024



"Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens; your faithfulness to the skies" (Psalm 36 v 5)

- 1 Advent Sunday. May Christ's light shine in all dark places
- 2 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 3 Cities in Spain and other places recovering from natural disasters
- 4 Pray for peace where there is conflict, and all world leaders
- 5 The NHS and all healthcare workers
- 6 All who are struggling financially
- 7 The Christmas Fair and carols/Christingle under the Oak tree
- 8 Our services today. Pray for the church in Ardingly
- 9 Meeting Point: Belinda, all helpers and all who attend
- 10 Sir Keir Starmer, the government and all in positions of authority
- 11 Ardingly Connected Together and our local foodbanks
- 12 The election of a new Archbishop of Canterbury
- 13 AOJA and its work in The Gambia
- 14 Single parents, juggling family and work
- 15 Church services today. May God speak and be heard
- 16 Prison Fellowship. All who live and work in prisons
- 17 All Nativity plays which are taking place; may they have a lasting meaning
- 18 Open House and all who support the homeless
- 19 Belinda & Kevin and IMARA's new school in Uganda
- 20 Those who will find Christmas difficult this year
- 21 Salvation Army, Samaritans & Crisis, so busy at this time of year
- 22 Our services today, especially the Carols by Candlelight
- 23 All who will spend Christmas away from home
- 24 All the Christmas services. Pray for all bishops and clergy
- 25 The Saviour is born! Give thanks and praise
- 26 The emergency services, especially busy in this season
- 27 King Charles and all the Royal Family
- 28 Compassion, love and help for all refugees around the world
- 29 Our combined service this morning. Pray for all who lead worship
- 30 Pray for all who are grieving
- 31 Give thanks to God for all the blessings of the past year



PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY 2025



"Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord is the Rock eternal" (Isaiah 26 v 4)

- 1 Commit the New Year to God and pray his blessing on it
- 2 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 3 Samara's Aid, supporting the poor, sick and vulnerable in Syria
- 4 Pray for opportunities to share God's love this year
- 5** Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
- 6 Staff, pupils and governors at our village schools as term begins
- 7 Our Churchwardens, Nigel and John, and home group leaders
- 8 Climate Change and our care for the environment in 2025
- 9 World leaders and organisations like the UN and UNESCO
- 10 Pray about the trafficking of migrants
- 11 Bambi & Andreas and their work in South East Asia
- 12** Today's services. Praise God for his love & all he has done for us
- 13 All who are housebound or lonely
- 14 Tearfund, working to alleviate poverty and suffering
- 15 St Peter's Centre and all who use it
- 16 Journalists and all who work in the media
- 17 Chaplains in hospitals, universities, prisons, the military & police
- 18 Our PCC and all who serve on it
- 19** Our services today. May our faith and love grow this year
- 20 The new administration in the USA & its worldwide relationships
- 21 CPAS, training clergy, resourcing leaders & running youth camps
- 22 Give thanks for good health. Pray for those who are suffering
- 23 Pray for a fresh awakening in this country to God's love and care
- 24 Milan & Shusma and the work of the Aanandit church in Nepal
- 25 All who clean the church, arrange flowers and help in other ways
- 26** Our worship today. Praise God for the gift of new life
- 27 Young people in this country and all Youth Workers
- 28 Heather Johnstone and her work with the Rehema Project
- 29 Our local hospices; Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses
- 30 Christians suffering persecution for their faith
- 31 Praise God that he hears and answers our prayers

**The deadline for copy for the February magazine
is Friday 17th January**