

February 2026

parish news

Walberton, Binsted & Fontwell
in this month's edition:

- Churchyard Study Group Article
- Our Parish Natural Assets
- Walberton Players - The 39 Steps



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VILLAGE FRIENDS' VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

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

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY.

LATEST UPDATE

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

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

Wednesday Afternoon Club – 18th February

We do not have access to the small room in the village hall during February so instead we plan to enjoy a local lunch. If you wish to join us you must let Ann know (phone number below) before Monday 9th February when she will be able to share more information with you.



Holly Tree Lunch pre-booked only

Contact Ann Wells on 01243 555893



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ST MARY'S WALBERTON WITH BINSTED
SERVICES IN CHURCH AT ST MARY'S

Sunday 1 Feb Epiphany 4

9.00am Binsted Holy Communion BCP
 10.30am Holy Communion CW
 5.00pm Families at 5

Sunday 8 Feb 2 Before Lent

9.00am Holy Communion CW
 10.30am Morning Praise with children's groups
 6.00pm Evening Prayer BCP

Sunday 15 Feb 1 Before Lent

9.00am Mattins
 10.30am All Age Communion

Ash Wednesday 18 Feb

6.30pm Holy Communion with Ashes CW

Sunday 22 Feb - Lent

10.30am Ising Morning Praise with children's groups
 6.00pm Holy Communion CW with Baptism

CW = Common Worship
 BCP = Book of Common Prayer 1662

If you are aged 2-7 years old or 8-14 years old join us for Sunday school **10.30am at St Mary's Church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of February**. Craft, drama, stories and more. Please contact **Sandra Cooke or Sue Harris (01243-544077)**

ORGANISATIONS OFFERING HELP

Mothers' Union	01243 552292	Mary Lewis
Village Friends	07925 217843	Meg Brackley
Wednesday Afternoon Club	01243 555893	Ann Wells
Parish Clerk	01243 554528	Shona Turner
St Mary's Church Office	01243 552792	Ali Stacker



LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Lent course - Matthew's Gospel

Ash Wednesday falls in half term on 18 February so we will begin our Diocesan Lent course on Wednesday 25 February. Do see me if you would like to join. This year it focuses on Matthew's Gospel and is written by the vicar of Southbourne Tom Robson.

What do we know about the origins of this gospel? Most scholars, whether believing or sceptical, would say that the writer of Matthew's gospel has used Mark's gospel as the narrative backbone for his own work. Mark was written sometime between AD40 and 75 so Matthew comes perhaps five to ten years after Mark. (Personally, I would put this gospel not later than AD60). According to Bishop Papias writing around AD120-130 Matthew compiled the sayings ('logia') of Jesus in the Hebrew dialect or tongue. To me what we have then in Matthew's Greek gospel is a combination of this sayings collection - as for example found in the Sermon on the Mount - and Mark's narrative, together with a new beginning in the Christmas story and a new extended Easter ending which picks up from where Mark left off. In short, this gospel bears Matthew's name because it includes the sayings of Jesus which Matthew, the tax collector, collected and which were subsequently translated into Greek. His Hebrew sayings collection probably predates Mark whereas the full Greek gospel postdates Mark.

So much for origins. But what is the theme of the gospel? In a word this most Jewish of gospels is all about fulfilment - how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies and promises that God had given to Israel. Jesus is the promised messiah/king, the Son of David, he is the one like Moses who gives the final interpretation of the Law, and more intriguingly he is the embodiment of God's people. Both Israel and Jesus spend time sojourning in Egypt. His temptation in the wilderness echoes Israel's wandering in the desert. His death is set in the context of a Passover meal and picks up the promise of a new 'covenant for the forgiveness of sins' given by Jeremiah. And he is the son of Man whom Daniel foresaw as the true ruler of the nations.

Matthew's gospel is magisterial. I read it completely when I was 19. By the time I finished I knew I was a Christian, so powerful are its words and it challenge. Come and read it with us this Lent.

Rev Tim Ward, Vicar



WHERE DID OUR APPLES GO?

AN OLD-TIME ORCHARD

A PROLIFIC Walberton orchard, which was perhaps at its best 60 years ago, was attached to the house of Mr Tom White, by the side of the village street. All the good old sorts of apples were there – Dewsons, Rambores, Strawberry Pippins, Cumberines, Cockle Pippins, as well as “hard-irons”, which grew to the size of a countryman’s fist, whose stone-like qualities are said to have successfully defied even the teeth of the schoolboy, and “sweets” for cider-making. The Cumberines were “a pretty apple,” and looked at their best when laid out upon a layer of meadow hay for ripening. Local opinion connects it with the Blenheim Orange of today.



The “spread” of one of the apple trees in Tom’s orchard would cover ground equal to a small garden, and some years has produced 23 bushels. The first variety of apple ready for the market was the Quarrenden, and they fetched six shillings a bushel. A buyer who was attracted by this Walberton orchard was Tom Scrase, a Slindon butcher, who possessed a horse and cart, and would turn fruit dealer “when there was money in it”. Scrase used to bring his cart down to Walberton in the mornings and drive straight away to Portsmouth with a “piledup” load of apples. Running through the orchard was a ditch with several sloe trees growing on the banks, and when the yield was good Tom White and his sons used to shovel up the fruit from the bottom of the ditch, so thickly did it accumulate, and put it into bushel baskets ready for the buyer. There were two large cherry trees, one a red and the other a black variety, and happy school children got as many cherries for their pennies as a rhubarb leaf, held in the hand cup wise, would hold.

Covering one end of Tom’s house was a grape vine of the white kind, and when a good season these were taken away to the harbour town; there was sufficient to make a load. The orchard also produced bushels of “sweets” (for cider making), and these were piled up in heaps and covered with sacks until carts came to take them away. Mr George Burch, who kept the Holly Tree inn, close by, also had an orchard, and used a cider press. The first stage was to press the fruit by means of the wooden screw, and the juice ran into a tub. It was then transferred by a handle-dish into other receptacles for maturing. Tom’s boys had the press under observation from their side of the hedge and sometimes, when all was quiet, used to slip through and take a draught of the sweet liquor before it had gained, by storage, those exhilarating (stet) qualities dear to lovers of the beverage. Plants of the larger kinds of fruit trees should allow plenty of space for full development, when they may also live to

gather 23 bushels of fruit from one tree as did Tom White in the old days in his Walberton orchard of pleasant memory.

(WSG 11 Feb 1926 Extracted by Harlequin)

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day – 9th February

It’s odd, really, to think that confessing one’s sins to God should be linked to making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day, and is followed by Ash Wednesday, and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an egg, mix it with milk and flour – and out of that gooey mess, to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days, more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes – to the risk of having made nothing BUT a mess of the kitchen.

In many parishes they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.



Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity. – **E H Chapin**

WALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

February 2026

Sunday Mornings Feb - 1st, 8th, 18th, 15th and 22nd

All services at 10.30am.



To Change or not to Change? – that is the question!

The Labour Party went into the 2024 General Election with the single word slogan, "Change", and this was prominently mentioned in their manifesto policies which they issued in the hope of governing the United Kingdom. My immediate thoughts when I first heard this were that change can be for better or for worse. I'll leave you to decide in which direction you think we are heading at present. However, whilst change might be necessary, it is not universally popular as some feel that altering the status quo will negatively impact them. Christmas may seem a dim memory now, but you may still be able to recall the presents you received and are hopefully benefitting from. Members of our family gave us a DVD of 'The Grand Finale' of Downton Abbey because they know that we like period dramas and have watched many of the previous episodes of this one. As the Crawley family and their staff entered the 1930's, the issue that most concerned Lord Grantham (played by Hugh Bonneville) was that the world he was familiar with was changing rapidly and despite his best efforts, it seemed beyond his ability to control or do anything about. After staunch resistance for some time, he eventually relinquished his desire to maintain family protocols and allowed the next generation to lead his descendants into the future where they would face new opportunities, but also very real uncertainty.

It seems that we all find ourselves in a similar situation today with the present world order being undermined, and another one instituted, largely without our knowledge or consent. The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already having a profound impact on the technology industry, and no one really knows what it will mean for employment and national security. We have already seen how it can be used to misinform and corrupt, especially the younger generation, who are said to spend many hours accessing dubious content online. Of course, it has extremely valuable contributions to make in the field of science and medicine from which we may all potentially benefit. Incredible changes are taking place in the world of politics, and this is where we are seeing increasing instability with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and now Donald Trump's threat to take over Greenland, by force, if necessary, in order to bolster America's security. The consequences of such action would be far reaching since it would undermine the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) which was brought into being in 1949 following the aftermath of the Second World War. In Article 5 of the Treaty, the member states agree to provide collective security for each other so that an

attack on one constitutes an attack on all. One Nato country invading another would bring the very existence of the Alliance into question. Events are moving so rapidly that the picture may look very different by the time you read this article.

Most of us can only stand on the side lines and watch in awe and amazement as the world we grew up in is dismantled and another one constructed in its place. Power, wealth and influence seem to be the order of the day, and the weaker members of society find themselves increasingly struggling to survive. World events, social media and governmental changes impact us all in one way or another and the future can look dark and foreboding. There has been a steep rise in the value of precious metals like gold and silver as investors look for safe havens to put their money, but the fact is that there is no absolute security in this world because all that we hold onto so dearly is passing away.

On New Year's Eve, a tragedy overtook a gathering of predominantly young people as they were celebrating the arrival of 2026. A fire started in the Le Constellation bar in Crans-Montana at 1.30am local time and caused the deaths of at least 40 people with injuries to 115 others. Investigations are still ongoing and will be for some time. Those who died could have expected to have many years of life before them, but that privilege was suddenly snatched away. No one wanted to see the change that occurred then however, precious lives are being lost every day through deliberate acts of wickedness perpetrated by armed groups or sometimes individuals' intent on inflicting suffering on others. The attack on Sydney's Jewish community at Bondi Beach in Australia on the 14th of December, where they were gathering to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah, is another example of man's inhumanity to man and a warning for the future.

The world is changing whether we like it or not and undoubtedly serious challenges lie ahead. A lady saw a minister walking down the road and crossed over to speak to him. She asked this question, "Where was God when my son was killed?" "In the same place He was when His own Son was killed" was the reply. The Good News is that God has instituted a rescue plan for all who will put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing and no one can thwart that plan because the victory has already been won! Even death itself has been conquered, and eternal security is available to all who take God seriously and seek His help. Nothing takes Him by surprise and today's turmoil has been foretold in the pages of Scripture as a warning to us all. Change is inevitable as the aging process takes its toll on our lives, but Jesus is the same today as yesterday and will be forever. God's Promise is that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Seek Him today.

Pastor Ray



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Seen In The Town

She with three kids – if I must call them that –
 one on her front in a type of pack,
 another in her belly, that's for sure,
 and a third on a toy scooter at her feet;
 and she, by her looks, scarce out of school,
 in the town's main street on a shopping trip:

a sudden clatter and the scooter falls,
 its wheel caught by a broken paving crack,
 the boy on his knees but does not howl;
 his mother lifts him up and hugs him tight,
 then raises his head to the babe at her breast,
 no crying, no fuss, just a mother's love,
 and the comfort brought into her little world:

and I watch, astonished by the scene,
 she, mature and wise, yet very young herself,
 so utterly capable and self-possessed,
 skills not learnt in any book, for sure.
 inbred most likely from more resolute times
 when people coped and did not wail;
 so don't tell me today all youngsters are weak,
 and foolish and helpless compared with their elders,
 for I saw the very opposite this day –
 fool that I am, it brought tears to my eyes!

William Foot



WALBERTON GARDENERS CLUB

The very cold snap at the beginning of the year took most of us by surprise. So lovely to see clear blue skies and sunshine during the day and starlit night skies, and the wolf moon. What a change from the usual dull wet winter days we have had these last few years, but oh, so cold.

We have been working hard on the 2026/2027 schedule. We are still open for new ideas for classes, speakers and gardens to visit. Hopefully the first Gardeners Club event will be a Floral Art Demonstration preceding the Spring Show Saturday 21st March. Now gents, don't be shy, some of the best flower arrangers are men so come along and get inspired.

Only a few weeks to go before our first show. Hope you have earmarked the classes you hope to enter. Pottery and wood have been added to the Handicraft Classes. It's time to make the marmalade that you hope to enter and plan your recipes for the other cookery classes.

Don't forget to put your clocks forward by one hour on the last weekend of March. British Summer Time begins with the extra daylight there is no excuse not to get out into your garden.

Annual General Meeting Saturday 11th March. 10.30 am Village Hall

Three weeks after the Spring Show is the Walberton Gardeners Club AGM. Coffee and homemade cakes available from 10.00 and a chance to pay your subscription. The annual awards will be presented after the AGM business; these are the points accumulated for various classes throughout 2025 show season.

Open Gardens Sunday 21st June 2026

Due to the success of Open Gardens 2024 we have decided to run this again and hopefully it will become a biannual event for Walberton Gardeners Club. The success of Open Garden begins with you, the residents of Walberton offering to open their garden. With all the new houses being built around the village it would be lovely to include some of these gardens. If you are interested in opening your garden but not sure what it entails, then please contact Brenda Bailey 07881 552980. You don't have to have manicured lawns with stripes, a patio with pot plants, a cottage garden, you may have rewilded your patch or just grow vegetables. The visitors enjoy the diversity of Walberton gardens, that's why they come. Obviously, a lovely summer's day helps! Cream teas, or a refreshing glass of Pimms, will be available at the Village Hall.

Summer Flower Show, Dog Show and Village Fete Saturday 4th July. July does seem a long way off, but these events do take a lot of planning, and require lots of help from volunteers especially for the Village Fete.

Could you spare a few hours to help stall holders erect their gazebos, park cars, deliver tables or perhaps run a stall? Hopefully this year it won't be too windy so we can have the Bouncy Castle and stall holders won't be hanging onto their gazebos and stock. If you feel

you could help please contact one of the committee.
www.walberton-gardeners.com.

Last Year's Spring Flower Show. I wonder what this year will bring.



Jobs to do in the Garden in February

1. Cut down deciduous Ornamental Grasses ie: standing over the winter. Divide if necessary.
2. Cut back Wisteria side shoots to three buds from the base, to encourage abundant flowers in Spring
3. Prune Buddleia and elder to the base to keep these vigorous shrubs to a reasonable size.
4. Spread a layer of well-rotted manure or compost around the bases of roses and shrubs.
5. Check first-early potato tubers, by standing them in trays in a light frost-free place.
6. Put cloches or fleece over strawberry plants to start them into growth and encourage an early crop.
7. Sow Sweet Peas in deep pots and keep them frost free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill.
8. Think about making or buying a cold frame in preparation for hardening off plants.

Winter will soon be over so this is the the time to make changes in your garden and plan for the future. Have fun.

Liz Hewson

Why Mothers' Union Still Matters

In a world that often feels hurried, fragmented and demanding, family life can be under great pressure. Many people feel isolated, relationships are stretched, and the needs of children, parents and carers can easily be overlooked. This is why Mothers' Union still matters today.

At its heart, Mothers' Union is about care, prayer and presence. It offers practical and spiritual support to families in all their diversity, both locally and across the world.

Whether through listening, friendship, prayer, or quiet acts of service, MU responds to real needs with compassion rather than judgement.

Mothers' Union also matters because it understands that strong families build strong communities. From supporting parents and carers to standing alongside those facing hardship, conflict or loneliness, MU works where hope is most needed — often without fanfare or recognition.

Importantly, MU is not just for mothers. It is a Christian movement open to women and men, parents and non-parents alike, united by a concern for family life and a desire to live out faith in action.

In changing times, the values of Mothers' Union remain constant: faithfulness, kindness and service. These are not outdated ideals — they are deeply needed ones. That is why Mothers' Union continues to matter, here in our parish and across the world.

Caroline Sewell



Can you get across the pedestrian crossing in time?

Have you ever had to hurry to make it to safely across the street because the pedestrian crossing light is about to turn red again?

If so, you are not alone. A recent study has found that pedestrian crossing timings are simply too brief for many elderly people and especially those with mobility problems.

The length of time given at crossing points usually assumes a walking speed of 1.2m per second. But the study found that the average speed of adults aged over 65 is only 0.77m per second.

So more than half of older people need to increase their normal walking speed by about 50 per cent, just to reach the other curb safely.

One of the researchers said: "This isn't just a safety issue – it's potentially a barrier to independence, physical activity, and social connection, all of which often decline in later life."

Another said: "Allowing enough time to cross the road can boost confidence, support independence, and help them remain engaged in their communities, all key to a better quality of life."

The study was published in the journal Age and Ageing.

Nigel Beeton



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WALBERTON HISTORY GROUP

Presents an illustrated talk by Bill Gage

Tales of the Rails
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Thursday February 26th 2026 at 7.30 pm

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Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

We congratulate our youth group for raising nearly £500 for drug abuse.

We apologise for the following typo in last Sunday's bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct it to read '12 noon.' "

St. Mary's Loving God-Loving Community
walberton

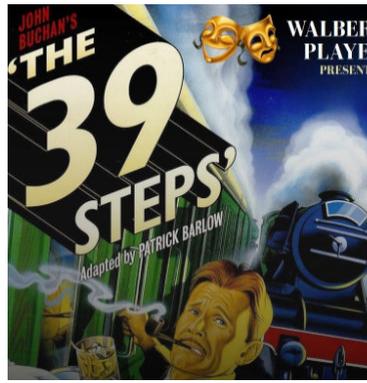
Join us for a drop-in coffee morning
Fontwell Community Hall, 10.30-12.00

2026 Dates:
Tuesday 17th February
Tuesday 7th April



The 39 Steps - This stage play adaptation of *The 39 Steps* is a fast-paced, extremely humorous spoof of the classic John Buchan spy novel and Alfred Hitchcock's film. Only four actors play numerous characters!

The story follows the wrongly accused hero Richard Hannay as he races across London and the Scottish Highlands to clear his name and stop a spy ring. Characters ride on a train, fly a plane, drive a car, all on the Village Hall Walberton stage! Do come and see how we do it. **(See Page 26)**





WALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

So, this will be my third year working for the village hall and I have absolutely loved meeting you all in

the community, as Regular hirers, Event creators, Dog walkers, Parents and Parish council members. I have been hugely supported by the trustees, and the village hall is now busier than ever. The various new and existing clubs and groups continue to grow for 2026. All details of clubs and groups are available on our website and our Facebook page, and of course anyone can email me for any further details they may be interested in at

manager@walbertonvillagehall.org

A new group Joining the hall from January 14th and every week, is Chair Yoga on Wednesday mornings at 11am. This class is designed to combine gentle movement, breathing and mindfulness to improve strength and flexibility, balance, and circulation. It can reduce stress, lift mood, sharpen focus, and support better sleep. if you are interested in joining please contact reignited health - www.reignitedhealth.co.uk alternatively call 07446010199

Just some dates for your diary for 2026

- 20th and 21st February, Walberton Players production of the 39 steps tickets available via www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberton-players
- 1st March, Vintage toy fair
- 14th March, Gardeners Horti show
- 1st August, our annual music night

Lots more exciting events and new groups are happening throughout the year, keep up to date by following our Facebook page Walberton village hall, or look out for information on our notice boards and posters.

If you are interested joining in any future events by volunteering some of your time we are always extremely grateful, please get in touch.

Penny



WALBERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I am pleased to say that since my last report before Christmas, very little has occurred in our villages with regard to criminal activity, so you will be relieved to hear that my first summary of 2026 will be very short! The festivities seemed to go off well with no reported incidents. I did hear however, and have seen the damage myself, where a vehicle or vehicles were driven across the grass by the pond making deep tyre tracks. The grass will grow again and no permanent damage will be done, but not the sort of mindless activity we want to see in our villages.

Have you read the January edition of Walbfont news, which is the Parish Council's online magazine? I would strongly recommend this detailed newsletter to residents. It contains really useful information and covers many local topics which are of interest to us all including any roadworks and road closures for the following month. To subscribe, email the Parish Clerk, Shona, on clerk@walberton-pc.gov.uk and she will add you to the mailing list.

Please note that our PCSO Caroline Wilson will be available for a Meet and Greet session and to answer your questions at the Coffee Stop on Friday 13th February between 10.30 - 11.30 in the Pavilion. You can report crime and incidents online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>.

There has of course been the usual scams throughout the month especially before Christmas, but none that I have not reported on already. Just be suspicious of any phone call, text or email that you feel just does not seem quite right. Lets make 2026 very hard for the scammers and fraudsters.

Laurie King



SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2 - 4PM in the pavilion.

Marieta Sotirova will be demonstrating a portrait in oils. She is a Plein Air and Studio oil painter, approaching subjects with a fresh and contemporary style. Her biggest inspiration is the ever-changing light and atmosphere.

Come and watch her work and maybe follow it up with her

workshop on the 11th February.

Contact Liz for more details or visit the Downland Art Society's website for details of the complete New Year's programme. Perhaps a new hobby for 2026!

New members and visitors are always very welcome. Come along and meet people in an informal setting, sharing a love of art, new techniques and ideas.

For more information of 2026 events, see our website.

Liz Brown

pjbrown294@btinternet.com
www.downland.org

(All DAS meetings are held in Walberton pavilion).



REGULAR EVENTS Friday - Outreach Post Office 9.00am [p.23]
Coffee Stop 10.30am [p.23]

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

Feb 3	6.45pm	Listening To God Group (P.25)
Feb 5	10.30am	Snowdrop Coffee Morning
Feb 7	2.00pm	Downland Art Society meeting (P.21)
Feb 10	7.00pm	St Mary's Games Evening (P.29)
Feb 11	TBC	Downland Art Society Workshop (P.21)
Feb 17	10.00am	Travelling Tales (P.46)
Feb 17	10.30am	Fontwell Community Hall Coffee Morning (P.19)
Feb 18	TBC	Wednesday Afternoon Club (P.2)
Feb 19	10.00am	'Little Lambs' pre-schoolers and carers (P.23)
Feb 19 - 21	2.30/7.30pm	Walberton Players - The 39 Steps (P.26)
Feb 21	11-3.00pm	Wedding Showcase (P.50)
Feb 24	2.00pm	The Arts Society Boxgrove (P.53)
Feb 26	7.30pm	Walberton History Group (P.19)

FUTURE EVENTS

Mar 11	10.30am	Walberton Gardeners Club AGM (P.14)
Mar 21	7.30pm	Chantry Quire Concert (P.47)
Mar 22	11.00am	Snowdrop Stroll- A Meaningful dog walk (P.40)
Apr 11	10.30am	Walberton Gardeners Club AGM (P.14)
Apr 7	10.30am	Fontwell Community Hall Coffee Morning (P.19)
May 28-30	TBC	Walberton Youth Theatre
Jun 21	TBC	Walberton Open Gardens (P.14)

COMMUNITY MINIBUS SERVICE FOR FEBRUARY

- Thu 5th Feb Waitrose, Chichester
Thu 12th Feb Newbridge Garden Centre (+£4)
Thu 19th Feb Sainsbury's
Thu 26th Feb Lunch outing TBC



Friendly Door to Door escorted service :

Please call Mary Lewis 07946 523969 for bookings and enquiries

Wishing all our wonderful passengers and dedicated volunteers a very happy and joyful New Year.

SAINSBURY'S FREE BUS SERVICE FOR FEBRUARY EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Departs: Walberton bus stop, Maple Parade at 09:56am

Arrives: at Sainsbury's Rustington 10.31am

Departs: from Sainsbury's Rustington: 12.00 noon

NOTICEBOARD

FRIDAY COFFEE STOP

Do come and join others at the pavilion for coffee and biscuits from **10.30am to 12.00 noon**.

For more information please contact Jean Strickland 07966734298 or 01243 552825.

Come and meet our Community Police Office, Caroline will be at Friday Coffee Stop from **10.30am to 11.30am on February 13**.

You can report crime and incidents online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/report-online>

Parish Magazine Subscription 2026

To All Our Readers

We are delighted to announce that we are keeping 2026 subscriptions at:

£12 for the year or £20 for postal delivery

We hope you will continue supporting this publication

Little Lambs

If you have pre-school children, why not come along to our 'Little Lambs'; with toys, songs and crafts. A great opportunity to chat and meet others. **St.Mary's Walberton Thursday February 19 at 10.00am**

Walberton Place Coffee Morning

A coffee morning is being held every **Thursday** at Walberton Place Nursing Home. All visitors are warmly welcomed,

St Mary's online Prayer meeting

Every Tuesday morning from 8.15am, via Zoom.

(Please ask Tim for the details)

OUTREACH POST OFFICE

Don't forget that the **Outreach Post Office** is open every Friday from 9.00am to 12.00 midday. All the usual Post Office services are available. **Please support** Tracy as she provides this invaluable service to our community. Greetings cards also available.
(Held in the Pavilion)

The Binsted Bugle



W.S.Rogers lived in Brewery Cottages in Binsted and worked in Arundel as a solicitor's clerk. In his leisure drawing the countryside around Arundel. (Possibly 1873 - 1951.)

There are about 50 drawings he made of Binsted in the 1930s and 40s, amongst others, in the West Sussex Record Office. This one shows the late 17th-century stable block at the old Binsted House, demolished in the 1950s; nicely picking out the Georgian added 'dentil course' of bricks under the roof as shown in the Victorian photo on the right.



(W S Rogers' drawing of Binsted Church with its weathercock, is the inspiration of our logo above.)

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. – **Martin Luther King Jnr**

HOW CAN WE HELP?

For February St Mary's is praying especially for:

Residents of Arundel Road, Barnfield Cottages and Orchard Crescent, Fontwell.

If you would like prayer for any needs you might have phone Jean Strickland (552825) or email houseofprayer@stmaryswalberton.org.uk

Listening to God Group - The Listening to God group will be on Tuesday **3rd February**. We arrive from 6.45pm for a 7pm start finishing around 8pm.

Please email Vanessa Church on vchurch@btopenworld.com if you would like to attend.

Thanks, **Vanessa**

Trivia Question of the Month ;

What was the first song ever played on MTV?

(Answer on P. 56)



Flower Rota for St.Mary's Walberton

February

- 6 Di and Christine
- 13 Sue and Janette
- 20 Lent begins - No flowers -Sue and Janette to clear

Pauline Blumer

JOHN BUCHAN'S
'THE 39 STEPS'
 Adapted by **PATRICK BARLOW**

WALBERTON PLAYERS
 PRESENTS:

FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY – 7:30PM
SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY – 2:30PM AND 7:30PM

WALBERTON VILLAGE HALL | TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:
[HTTPS://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/WALBERTON-PLAYERS](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/walberton-players)

THE 39 STEPS: ADAPTED BY PATRICK BARLOW, FROM THE NOVEL BY JOHN BUCHAN, FROM THE MOVIE BY ALFRED HITCHCOCK, LICENCED BY ITV GLOBAL ENTERTAINMENT LIMITED, AND AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY SIMON SORBLE AND NOBBY DIMON.

NODA

The funeral of Queen Victoria

Exactly 125 years ago, on 2nd 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. The Boer war was still in progress, and the previous year the Prince of Wales had been shot at in Belgium, by a boy who was protesting against the war.

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 (£4.5 million). 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".

Tim Lawton

The Slime Moulds of Binsted Woods

Slime moulds (*also known as Myxogastria or Myxomycetes*) are a group of organisms that are quite distinct from plants or fungi. They can be found in a range of habitats – but most notably damp woodlands. They have a very complex biology; some forms exist as single cells, while others can form a slimy aggregated organism (plasmodia) that can be mobile and display a form of collective intelligence. A science-fiction writer could not make it up!



They feed mostly (but not exclusively) on decaying plant material - you might find them on fallen leaves, twigs or branches. Binsted Woods are an ideal habitat, but they can still take some effort to find. Look carefully at the upper and lower surfaces of decaying material, quite often you can spot them in the gap where bark is peeling away from the heartwood of a rotting branch.

If you go looking for 'slimes' it is best to carry good glasses (if you need them) and a hand lens (x10 or stronger) as they can produce some minute reproductive structures with quite intricate detail. There is a bit of a craze in macro (extreme close-up) photography to capture their diverse forms.

I have photographed two, easier to find, species with larger plasmodial structures in Binsted woods this year:

Fuligo septica – also known as 'Scrambled Egg' or 'Dogs Vomit' slime mould – for obvious reasons.

Ceratiomyxa fruticulose – 'Honeycomb Coral Slime' – which does look like something pulled out of a rock pool.

In Slindon woods I have found *Hemitrichia decipiens* the 'Salmon Eggs Slime', with its bizarre bright orange reproductive structures – measuring only 1-2 mm in diameter. It is very photogenic!

There are many other species to be found locally – we are fortunate to have mixed-species woodland on our doorstep. Have you got time to find some slime!

Martin Emmett

Three in four car thefts unsolved

Keep a close eye on your car this year, because sadly, no one else seems to be able to do so. Recent figures have revealed that more than 121,000 car theft offences were not solved in 2024-25.



The British Transport Police, South Yorkshire, City of London, Sussex and Warwickshire police forces reported that more than 80 per cent of car thefts were unsolved. 35 of the 44 police forces in England and Wales had a total rate of 60 per cent of all cases going unsolved. Some critics even say that the dismal figures shows that car theft has been decriminalised in the UK.

Of course, theft has been around for a long time. For this very reason, Jesus warned us not to over-value the things that we own. He said: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where ... thieves break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19).

Sadly, no data exists from the 1st century, to tell us how many stolen camels and donkeys were ever recovered.

You can of course take some simple steps, such as always make sure your car is locked and no valuables are on display, these simple actions can deter the opportunist thief.

Have you had your car stolen and what was the outcome? Do let us know.

Andy Harris

St Mary's Games Evening Tuesday February 10 from 7.00pm

Why not join us for a fun evening where we get together to play modern board games for a few hours.

Second Tuesday of each month,

It is a games night on a Tuesday evening once a month.

Please contact Peter Allday if you would like to come along. (peter.allday@gmail.com)



Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally – the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th 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?



1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, 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.
4. 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 outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. 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.
6. 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".
7. 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.
8. On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden

(Continued on P. 43)





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BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

All The Colours of The Dark

By Chris Whittaker



I really enjoyed *All the Colours of the Dark*. It's one of those books that pulls you in quickly and keeps you turning the pages before you quite realise how invested you've become.

We meet the main characters, Saint and Patch, at the tender age of eleven in 1975, in the small fictional town of Monta Clare, Missouri. Their friendship starts as an unlikely one, but soon grows into something deeply loyal and unshakeable. When Patch mysteriously disappears after saving a young girl, Saint refuses to give up on him, continuing her search even when hope feels thin on the ground.



Chris Whittaker creates a powerful sense of mood throughout the novel. The story is dark and tense at times, but it's balanced beautifully with warmth and heart. The characters are so well written that it's impossible not to care about them, making this a genuinely moving read with moments that linger long after you've finished.

Gripping, emotional, and thoughtfully written (without giving too much away), this is a book I'd happily recommend.

Lisa Amos

Posting a Parcel

On Sunday 18th January, I wanted to post a parcel.....

.....so what did I do? I went to the new 'Parcel Post Box' on Maple Parade!

Alas. I pressed the button: nothing happened. I pressed it again, and held up the barcode to the scanner 'window': again, nothing happened!

I went home and found a video on Instagram which showed that when you press the button, a green circle should light up round the button. Had I missed that? I went back and tried again. Same result.

I searched online for how to tell Royal Mail that it was not working. Ten minutes later, I found there was a phone number that worked on Sundays until two o'clock...what was the time? 13:06! Rapid action was required.

Wait time of at least 20 minutes. A Tedious - but ineffably a polite messages from the robot and, at 1337, voice: 'hallelujah'! I was connected.

I explained the situation, and patiently answered questions. Two were bizarre. 'What colour was the post-box?', Well, *Pillar-box Red*: obviously! And 'did it have a Royal Mail logo on it?', yes, *certainly it did!* And I was glad to see that it did too....

I asked for two messages to be passed to higher authority. One, that if they were introducing an experiment, it would help if there were at least some indication on the post-box itself as to how and where to seek help; and secondly, to wonder if several days of overcast weather maybe meant that the solar panels had run out of electricity. Of course I also asked that it should be mended that I had, hopefully succeeded? Well, the jury is out - but I have my prized reference number '09687326' May it bring us all success!

Edward Martineau

(Editors Note: I too passed this box as a lady, who just wanted to post a letter, was trying to read the instructions and it took both of us a few minutes to identify a small slot above the main machine!).



Lieutenant Colonel Shadwell John Murray DSO - Grave 0362

Shadwell John Murray was born on the 26th August 1867 to Edward and Emily Murray in Upton-cum-Chalvey, Slough, Bucks. Two older children, Edward and Frances comprised the Murray household. He was educated at Haileybury School, Hertfordshire followed by the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

On passing out as a gentleman cadet he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion, Connaught Rangers in 1888, age 20. The Connaught Rangers was an Irish Infantry Regiment of the British Army, raised largely in Ireland, with Galway as its Home Depot. Haileybury had a connection with the Connaught Rangers through former students who served with the regiment. Whilst serving in Ireland he married Mary Shedden Lombe in September 1894 in Cirencester. He was also promoted to Captain in 1894. **(Right: Connaught Rangers regimental badge)**



The next record we have of Captain Murray is 1910 when he was now serving in Ferozpur in the Punjab where there was considerable tension over colonial policies. While serving in India in 1911 he was promoted to Major. With the outbreak of the First World War his regiment was redeployed to the Western Front in 1914.

While serving in France and Belgium his regiment was engaged in all the significant battles on the Western Front and suffered very heavy casualties, with Major Murray wounded at Ypres. He subsequently recovered to continue his command. During his service in France, he was Mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the Star with Clasp, both distinctions suggested he was serving bravely under fire where a large number of officers and ranks were killed and wounded.

In 1916 he is in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) where his regiment has been redeployed to defeat the Turkish Ottoman forces who controlled large areas of the Middle East during World War One as allies of Germany. During this deployment he was again wounded and recovers. Continuing campaigns against the Turks meant a further deployment to Palestine until the collapse of the Ottoman Turks in October 1918. The victory over the Turks brought the war to a close in the Middle East and the Connaught Rangers were demobilised.

The regiment was disbanded in 1922 on the establishment of the Irish Free State. He completed his military service in December 1919 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1918 he was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal followed in 1919 by the Distinguished

Service Order (DSO) for leadership and command in wartime.

There is little record of his life after he left military service until recorded in the 1939 Register as living at Woodcote, Lee on Solent, Hampshire. In 1940 we find him living at Park Cottage, Fontwell where he died on 11th September 1940, aged 74. Lt Col Murray is buried in Walberton Churchyard leaving a widow Mary and children Ruby, Keith and Alec. Mary died on the 11th September 1943 and is buried in Moretonhampstead, Devon.

Churchyard Study Group and with Terry Scragg

Churchyard Study Group

A Seaman's Life

Harry Weakford 1855-1880.

For my research as part of the graveyard project, looking particularly at our village artisans, I chose a branch of the Weakford family. Thomas and Ann Weakford are buried side by side in 1867 in Grave 0027. They had five surviving children, sons Thomas Richard (full name) and George and daughters Charlotte, Ellen and Amelia. Thomas was a blacksmith as were both Thomas Richard and George. Interestingly, Ellen married William Booker and was there at the start of the prosperous Booker Building business. Amelia married another George, George Burch of the well known local Thatching family and they lived on The Green. So, the Weakfords were unwittingly an important Walberton family, their name now barely remembered.

George's eldest son was Harry (Ann and Thomas's grandson). The Stone inscription reads as follows: 0668 In memory of Harry Weakford RN / son of George and Ann Weakford / who died November 13th 1880 / age 25 / his remains are interred in / the Royal Naval Cemetery Bermuda. An intriguing entry that demanded further enquiry.

Harry signed up as a Boy 2 Class (65141) in the Navy in 1870 and the 1871 Census records Harry as training in the Navy. He was initially a volunteer Boy Sailor on HMS St. Vincent and also on HMS Thalia and HMS Shearwater from 1870 prior to enlisting for ten years on 19th May 1873 at age 18. Both Harry and his father, George, signed the Consent for Continuous Service and their signatures were witnessed by the Vicar of Walberton, Rev Thomas Stuart Lyle Vogan MA. As part of his consent Harry's father declares that Harry 'has never had fits and that he has never been an inmate of a Reformatory'.

Harry served on HMS Excellent (Gunnery School, Portsmouth) and on HMS Northampton in Bermuda. Bermuda was a British base from the mid 1740s to 1956 with the purpose of countering threats from the United States and for refitting of naval vessels. It provided safe anchorage for ships to take refuge. A small battalion of circa 500 men was based there.

Harry rose rapidly through the ranks to Petty Officer, 2nd Class and it seemed that he had a promising future. Sadly, Harry's naval career was prematurely cut short when he died of pneumonia in 1880. He was buried in an unmarked grave in the RN Military Cemetery, Ireland Island, Bermuda. In Walberton his name is recorded on the gravestone alongside Ann and George's baby Frederick W who died aged 19 months.



Compiled by Jane Chew

Sources: Sussex Family History Group, 1871 Census, The National Archives, Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services 1848-1939

Our Summer Visitors

Although it seems a long way off, it will not be long before we hear the high-pitched notes of our summer visitors the Swift, Swallow and House Martins. In past years our villages have been a hive of activity with nests in many houses and barns. But their numbers have declined over the past few decades resulting in the loss of many breeding pairs. However, we do not have to accept this and with a little bit of help and encouragement our friends can again thrive in our villages, by encouraging nesting sites.



Here is some advice from the RSPB.

Create a high home for Swifts - Set up a nestbox to give summer-visiting Swifts a place to nest and breed year after year. Swifts come back to the same nest year after year. They like high, deep crevices for nesting, but the loss of many old buildings and the filling in and mending of roof spaces are shutting Swifts out of their favourite sites.



Their numbers have declined dramatically and they're now on the UK Red list of Birds of Conservation Concern. But you can help. Fix a wooden Swift nestbox to the outside of your home to give them somewhere to nest.

You can buy a ready-made box from our RSPB shop or if you fancy a bit of DIY, there is a full instruction set on the RSPB website (See end of this article).

Where to put a Swift box

First you'll need to check you have a suitable spot for your nestbox. Place it on the wall of a building, tightly under the eaves (where the roof hangs over the walls). It should be at least 5m (16 feet) above the ground and easy for Swifts to fly into. Think of how a Swift will approach the nest – it flies down and then up to the nest site at speed, the upward swoop helps it slow down to land. The box shouldn't be in direct sunlight, so place it on a wall that faces north, east or somewhere in between. (Note: If you are having major

renovation works done, you can use a special Swift brick. These fit into the fabric of the outer house wall. However, it should only be done by a qualified builder.)

Putting up your Swift box

Use the projections on the backplate of the box to screw it firmly to the masonry of the house, tightly under the eaves. Avoid fixing it over any doors or windows.

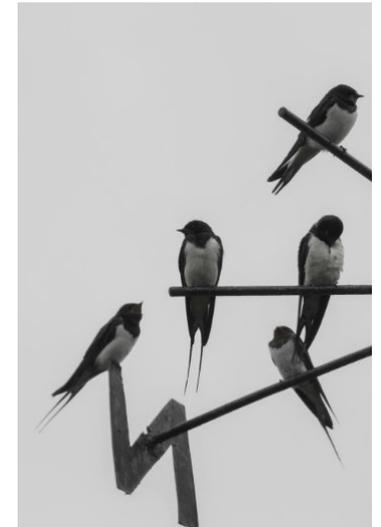
Ready-made nestboxes

You can download the instructions to build a box from the RSPB website, but if you'd prefer to buy instead of building a nestbox, take a look at the RSPB Shop.

Create a Swift colony

Swifts are sociable birds that like to nest, feed and migrate in groups. They mate for life and like to return to the same nesting site year after year. So if you have space, why not put up a number of boxes, near each other?

We can make a difference - It may seem a lot to do, but the rewards are considerable. All the help you need and a great video is available from the RSPB on <https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/create-a-high-home-for-swifts>.





Walberton Parish Maintenance of Natural Assets

The Parish Council has many assets to look after throughout the Parish. A complete list of Assets is being compiled at the moment to include every dog bin, noticeboard, bus stop and, of course, the land owned by the Parish and the hope is that parishioners will be able to see this Asset list on the Parish Council website by next year.

All of these items require ongoing maintenance and forward planning for repair and replacement as necessary. Here we highlight two of the Assets that have had recent maintenance or are being looked at for next year.

Tree maintenance: old and new

Braving the stormy conditions in December, through hammering rain and high winds, John Bentley and his team, with due diligence, executed their craft and carried out essential tree maintenance around the recreation field in Walberton, removing dead and overgrown branches to leave good foundation for the inevitable start of the regrowth in the Spring.

When asked about the history of the trees around the perimeter of the playing field, Brenda Bailey told us that, in the early 1980s, the Chair of the Parish Council was Mrs. Sheila Shrubsall of the Dower House. Barnham Nurseries were closing around about this time and Mrs. Shrubsall managed to acquire a lot of trees. Amongst these were Silver Poplar and Poplar Lombardi. These trees were planted on the East, North and part of the West boundary of Walberton Playing Field by Mrs. Shrubsall, Roy Jackson and Brian Bailey. These are some of the quickest growing trees. Unfortunately, the Silver Poplar trees are very prone to wind damage and several of these have been lost over the years. One of the acquired trees was a Walnut tree which was planted in the garden of Avondale and still stands today.

The Cubs will soon be planting new trees along the hedge line as part of one of their badges and we look forward to seeing how these grow and develop in future years.

Village Pond: History, Challenges, and Future Plans

Walberton Village Pond is a valued and historic landmark in our community. Since the pond dried up in 2022, requiring the rescue of its fish, the care and maintenance of this cherished site have been a consideration for the council. The Parish Council is actively seeking guidance from the West Sussex Rivers Trust and other advisory organizations to address known issues.

Insights from Brian Allsopp's history of the Parish, Moments in Time, reveal that the area now occupied by the pond was originally marshland. In the late 1700s, this land was cleared and became known as the Sheep wash, serving that purpose until around 1926. The pond, known to have existed since 1756, both fed by and feeding into the rife that flows toward Barnham, was formed by damming the stream and constructing two artificial waterfalls. This transformation created a place where horses and cattle could drink. During World War Two, the Army used the pond to wash their lorries, an access point that remained until it was built up in the 1980s.

Recreationally, the pond has long been a community hub. Its natural pools once teemed with sticklebacks, newts, and frogs, and during winter, it often froze solid enough for children to play on. Originally, the pond lacked defined sides, ebbing and flowing across the road with the seasons. In 1951, the first concrete kerbing was installed and shortly afterwards the central island constructed and the willow planted. In 1983, the stream that feeds the pond was diverted along a ditch behind the former allotments on Eastergate Lane, now a cycle and footpath.

In recent years, the pond has faced several new challenges:

- Fish Population: the fish, in particular Carp, have grown to a significant size, having previously been introduced.
- Impact on Wildlife: Fish feed on invertebrates and amphibian eggs, reducing the pond's ability to support a diverse range of wildlife. The Council is exploring successful schemes from other parishes to create refuge areas along the pond's edge, encouraging both plant and animal life to thrive in places inaccessible to fish. This initiative could be affordable, especially with the help of local volunteers, including children, to make the necessary bundles of faggots for habitat creation. Planting would focus on native species and require careful planning.
- Fishing Concerns: Fishing has a long history at the pond, but national regulations are often ignored. Problems have arisen with fishing lines being left behind, becoming tangled in trees, and causing issues for wildlife, especially ducks.
- Ducks and Other Wildlife: Ducks, like fish, consume invertebrates and amphibian eggs, further reducing the pond's possible ecosystem. While their presence poses challenges, they can bring charm and joy.

Louise Higham

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PRAYER DIARY FOR FEBRUARY

"Create in me a pure heart O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51 v 10

St Mary's

Pray for parents and grandparents bringing children to church; may families be places where faith is shared.

Our Community

This month we pray for residents of Arundel Road, Barnfield Cottages and Orchard Crescent, Fontwell.

Pray for those who are sick and for those who care for them, may they have support from friends, family and local services.

Our Nation

Pray for wisdom in the government's foreign policy and response to international developments.

Pray for our local food banks that they would continue to receive donations to be able to support those seeking their services. Pray for those seeking help from debt charities.

Pray for those campaigning to end human trafficking and for protection for those vulnerable to exploitation.

The World

Pray for the future of the Venezuelan people, for the rule of law to be upheld, and for the human and civil rights of all to be respected.

Pray for an end to violence in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen; for humanitarian aid to reach those displaced from their homes.

Pray for children and teachers returning to school activities in Gaza; pray for the work of trauma counsellors working alongside teaching staff.

Four years since the invasion of Ukraine pray for a just peace in the region.

The Church

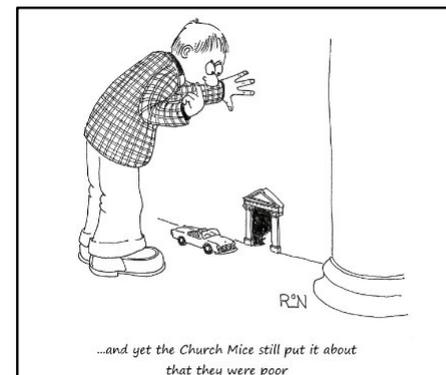
Pray for protection and courage for Christians in unregistered churches in China as arrests have intensified.

As Lent begins let us commit ourselves to seeking God in prayer and reflecting more fully his love and compassion to others.

(Continued from on P. 30) Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally – the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury

speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.
11. 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.
12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
13. 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.
14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.
15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. 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.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.



The Ven. John Barton

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli...

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



It happened again.

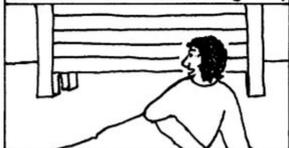


The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.

The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.

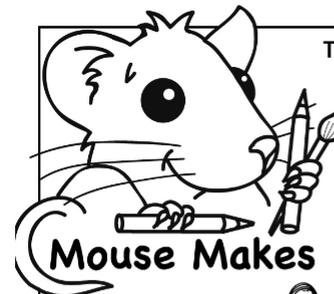


Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:
Put God first
Worship only Him.



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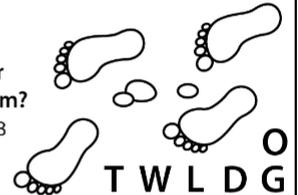
FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:
Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



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THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."
Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:
God cares, trust
Him do not test Him.





Travelling Tales



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NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS from 100 years ago

Walberton's opponents in the football field on Saturday were Eastgate Rangers (Chichester). The game was keenly contested and ended in favour of the home team. Cyril Booker played remarkably well at centre-half and the 3rd successful shot was by him.

Walberton 3, Eastgate Rangers 0.

WSG 25 Feb

Chauffeur-Handy Man, single, requires sit. Help in garden or home. Good references. Apply Hill, care of Walberton Post Office.

WSG 18 Feb

Local people will hear with regret of the death at Castle Rock, Colorado, USA of Mr Claude Lyell Lewis (aged 62), 2nd son of the late Rev H C Lewis, former rector of Binsted.

Portsmouth Eve News 25 Feb

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The Lyttelton Times NZ, 1 Feb

At the fortnightly meeting of the "Mutual", Major JJ Grubb lectured on the life and times of Queen Elizabeth. The Major said that during the reigns of Queens in England many notable benefits had come to the world and reforms effected. Lantern pictures added to the enjoyment of the audience, and Mr W Sargent, jun., operated the lanterns.

WSG 18 Feb

British Legion won the league match at Walberton on Saturday last in no uncertain fashion..... The ground was very heavy and water-logged in places. The scientific side of football was impossible but the "Badgers" adapted themselves much better than their opponents to the bad conditions....LEGION 7 WALBERTON 0.

West Sx Recorder 3 Feb

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To all our Readers

We are pleased to be able to hold subscription prices at £12 (£20 for addresses outside the parish) for 2026. We hope you find the content interesting and informative. Don't forget, all contributions from you are always welcome.

Wishing you all the best for 2026.

The Editorial Team

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Trivia Question of the Month (Answer)

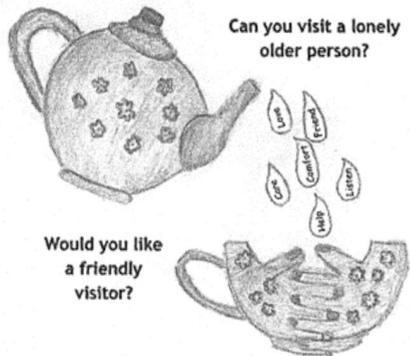
What was the first song ever played on MTV?

Answer: The first song to ever be played on MTV was "Video Killed the Radio Star" by The Buggles in 1981.



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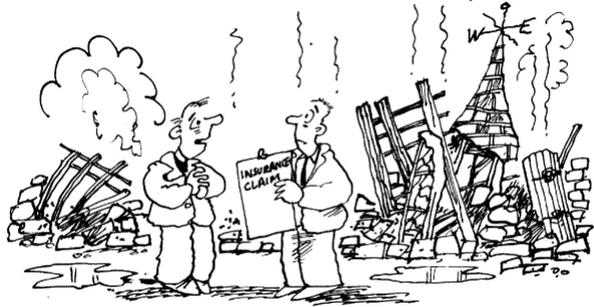
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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10

All contributions **must** be in by this date, any received after this may be held over until the next issue. Thank you for your co-operation.

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* **email:** parishnews@stmaryswalberton.org.uk

* **hard copy** by post to the Church Office for the attention of the editor

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Office Hours:- Wednesday to Friday 9.00am-11:00am email:

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Churchwardens:

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PCC Secretary: Julie Allday

PCC Minute Secretary:

PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid: Tom Evans 544672

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2nd Thursday of the month, 2pm e-mail: lewismaryp@hotmail.com

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Sandra Cooke 551493

PCC Secretary: Judith Walker 07713 156667

PCC Treasurer: Edward Martineau 07725 033763

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Chairman: Douglas McElvogue 554528

Clerk: Shona Turner 554528

e-mail: clerk@walberton-pc.gov.uk

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(For bookings and enquiries) e-mail manager@walbertonvillagehall.org

Fontwell Community Hall Hall Manager: Richard Riordan
richardriordan@walberton-pc.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch Walberton Co-ordinator:

Laurie King 551938/07710 521373

Village Friends: 07925 217843

Community Minibus Service: Mary Lewis 07946 523969/552292

Sue Young 07778 785273

Walberton, Binsted & West Barnham Support Fund:

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Walberton & Binsted C of E School:

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Chairman: Catherine Purdie 931848

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Walberton Cricket Club: Chairman: BJ Smith 07712 893155

Walberton Cub Scout Colony: Stuart Thorne 545424

The Art Society Boxgrove:

General Enquiries (Chair): Diana Windram 01243 551008

Membership: Elaine Clarke 555644

Walberton History Group:

Chairman: Vince Cooper 551544

Membership Secretary: Debbie Froggatt 542796

Walberton Gardener's Club: Liz Hewson - Chairman 07785 307487

Walberton Players:

Sandra Cooke - Chair
chair@walbertonplayers.org.uk

Junior players Claire Dorey 07903 634822

Wednesday Afternoon Club:

Secretary: Ann Wells 555893

3rd Wednesday of the month 2.15pm



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For more information or to book a show round please see our contact details below

www.communityplaycentre.org Info@communityplaycentre.org 01243 931848



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