

January 2026

parish news

HAPPY NEW  
YEAR

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

- Update on Parish Services
- 2026 Subscriptions
- Village Calendar 2026



Printed for the community by St Mary's church

£1.20



*Our home is your home*

## Wednesday Afternoon Club – January

Join us in the small room, rear of the village hall on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> for our first 2026 meeting.

Hear an enlightening talk from our PCSO Caroline Wilson about her 10 years as a Theatre Stage Manager and her current role with the Police. Caroline says... "There are far more similarities between the two careers than you can imagine!"

Everyone is welcome just £2 per person to cover refreshments.

For more information contact Ann Wells on 01243 555893



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# ST MARY'S WALBERTON WITH BINSTED

## SERVICES IN CHURCH AT ST MARY'S

### Sunday 4 January Epiphany

9.00am Binsted Holy Communion said BCP  
 10.30am Holy Communion CW

### Sunday 11 January Epiphany 1

9.00am Holy Communion CW  
 10.30am iSing Morning Praise  
 5.00pm Families at Five

### Sunday 18 January Epiphany 2

9.00am Mattins BCP  
 10.30am Informal Communion CW with children's groups  
 6.00pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 25 January Epiphany 3

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

CW = Common Worship  
 BCP = Book of Common Prayer 1662

#### 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	

## LETTER FROM THE VICAR



### *Looking Forward in 2026*

I'm not a betting man but England are second favourites to win the FIFA World Cup this year. We are led by a German, Thomas Tuchel, so how can we fail? The last seven winners have all been different so hopefully it's our turn. *(Don't get too excited the chance of us winning is about 14% !)* I have waited since 1970 for us to win - that's a long time in anyone's life. The final is Sunday July 19 at 8pm, handily placed after the evening service.

For myself the other eagerly expected event is becoming a grandfather - something neither of my grandfathers lived to enjoy. God willing, we shall welcome our first grandchild in January. We pray for a safe delivery for Emma and the little one. Catherine, having retired, has taken up knitting industrial quantities of woolly cardigans in neutral colours as we don't know which sex the child is yet. Life is like a chain with not just DNA but skills and faith handed down from one generation to another.

A Happy and Blessed New Year,

*Rev Tim Ward, Vicar*



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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of January**. Craft, drama, stories and more. Please contact **Sandra Cooke or Sue Harris (01243-544077)**

## Walberton in a changing world

Up until the 1980s, Walberton Village had changed very little – just a few housing developments such as Prime Close and Parsons Walk.

That is no longer the case as the pace of development has really been ramped up and, quite extraordinarily, the number of dwellings in Walberton Parish has doubled in the last few years. We are all aware of how this has impacted on traffic, education, health services, etc. We are fortunate in having a very able Parish Council working on our behalf to mitigate the problems and to take advantage of opportunities to improve matters for us residents.

There is one benefit coming from the developments, and that is that, through our rates, the Councils' income has increased and some funding has come directly from the developers to support our community in various ways.



**Section 106 Agreements** These are agreed between the planning authority and the developer which can lead to direct infrastructure projects and capital payments to be paid to Walberton Parish Council to fund works to mitigate problems caused by the development. Recently this has resulted in:

- The surfaced footpath around the playing field
- The new tennis courts
- Improvements to the cycle path
- The new Community Centre at Fontwell
- Redecoration of the Pavilion

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** As we have a Neighbourhood Plan, we receive 25% of this levy which is collected by Arun DC and the South Downs National Park. This source of funding has been used:

- Children's Play Equipment
- Bus shelters
- Matched funding for other projects
- New signage on Parish Council properties

**Walberton Neighbourhood Plan** – this is a plan which looks forward and has to be taken into account by the planning authorities when new development is proposed. The First Neighbourhood Plan was issued in 2016 and an updated one was approved in 2021. That is now being reviewed and updated by the Parish Council who will be consulting all residents for our views. The plan covers such issues as housing needs, employment opportunities, heritage issues and local transport. One issue is the need to plot our biodiversity corridors whose protection is vital. The Parish Council is looking for your support: you can help by recording the wildlife you see in the parish using the I Record [\*\*App 1 iRecord\*\*](#)

Your views are important.

**Peter Brown**

## Open Gardens 2026

It seems a little odd, sitting here writing about Open Gardens while watching the frost slowly fade from the shed roof.

However, as one year closes we look forward to January, when you read this, and the prospect of our gardens slowly coming to life again.

Which leads me to **Sunday June 21st** when once again the village opens our gardens to be admired, and our hard work appreciated.

Two years ago 18 gardens opened and people came from as far as Guildford and Portsmouth to admire them.

Of course it's not just about gardens. There is a charitable purpose and 2024's beneficiaries, Snowdrop, the Binstead church roof and St Mary's, were most appreciative of our efforts.

This year the beneficiaries will again be Snowdrop, (*how can we not support their excellent work*), and Sage House in Tangmere, which provides such outstanding support for those with dementia. Also of course St Mary's.

There will also be plant sales, teas (*provided by Snowdrop*), a Pimms Bar and anything else which occurs to your committees between now and then. Any suggestions gratefully received.

It is your efforts that matter. The Gardeners Club provides the organisation, including insurance and a thank-you party afterwards, but you provide your gardens, however small or large.

So, if you think you might open your garden this year, please let Brenda know at [\*\*WalbertongcShows@outlook.com\*\*](mailto:WalbertongcShows@outlook.com)

**Patrick Dealtry**



# WALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2026

Sunday Mornings Jan - 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

All services at 10.30am.



**“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

As this year of 2025 fades into the distance and the New Year comes into focus, we will probably be wondering what 2026 holds for us, the country and indeed the world. We tend to get excited at the prospect of something new, but our expectations are not necessarily fulfilled as we anticipate them to be. Did you find that your hopes for the past year were realised, or have you been left with a feeling of disappointment for the way things worked out? Whilst some areas of everyday life stay much the same, others are experiencing remarkable changes. Technology has seen amazing advances which have been very welcome but not all of them have had good outcomes. In a world of mass communication, the ingredient most difficult to determine can often be, what is really true? Scammers pervade the internet seeking to deceive and steal from innocent people who are trying to carry out legitimate business. These criminals are prepared to use every means available to them to deceive and extort money from their victims and their techniques can be so plausible and convincing. This illustrates how dangerous it is to believe a lie and how easy it is to be taken in by one. The Australian government has recently implemented a new legislative framework requiring social media companies to take reasonable steps to prevent young people under sixteen from having accounts with them. This is an attempt to protect this age group from harmful content of various kinds until they are more able to cope with such. Other countries are watching this closely to see if they should take similar action.

Not everyone in the older generation has a computer, but deceptions can still come through the telephone, newspapers and television. When I was a child, I couldn't understand why my father was so interested in the news but now I am older I have developed the same behaviour, only now there are so many more versions of the truth. Somewhere among the speculation, imagination and interpretation is what was actually, said or done. The BBC itself has been in the news recently accused of being biased towards one group or another and this prompted the resignation of its Director-General, Tim Davie, particularly over the editing of a Donald Trump's speech. This is only one casualty but there have been many others over the years. Looking back, we can see that this battle for truth has been going on throughout human history, only now there are so many sophisticated ways of propagating deceptions. If you've been to a place of worship over the Christmas period, you

may have heard the following passage being read from John's Gospel chapter 1 verses 1 and 2. **“In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God. He (Jesus) was in the beginning with God.”** John wrote in these specific terms because he found it necessary to combat the misinformation that was being propagated in his day by people who had no understanding of who Jesus was. He wanted to provide a written record of the truth as he himself had witnessed it. In chapter 20 and verses 30 and 31 he writes, **“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”** When I read this, I feel that John is writing directly to me through two thousand years of history, to tell me that Jesus is indeed the Son of God! He had his battles to fight - we have ours. Whenever a potential scandal comes to light, an inquiry is often instigated to obtain the facts of the case and discover what the truth is. The phrase, “lessons will be learned” is all too familiar but recurrent issues of the same nature suggest that it is not the outcome the public expect. There is currently a major investigation, led by Baroness Valerie Amos, into the national maternity and neonatal services in the UK and this has been deemed necessary because of harm and bereavement experienced by many families over years. Initial responses suggest that the situation is much more serious than previously realised. Another example in the search for truth is what went on regarding the ‘Troubles’ in Northern Ireland during the period from the late 1960's to 1998. Despite all attempts to expose the truth of this conflict, much still remains hidden with no closure for the loved ones involved. We now understand that nearly £11 billion was defrauded by criminals from the government's furlough scheme during the Covid 19 pandemic and they did this by pretending to be legitimate businesses who were safeguarding their employees. They lied and cheated so that they could extract large sums of money to which they were not entitled. The truth about these matters may never be fully known on earth, but heaven has an exemplary record of what has taken place and who was responsible. Jesus said, **“For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.”** (Luke 12 v 2)

I started this article by quoting the words from John's Gospel chapter 8 v 32, **“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** That means the truth about us in that we are all sinners and have fallen short of God's standard. Unless we recognise that, we will never appreciate why Jesus came into this world and took upon Himself the consequences of our wrongdoing. Knowing that truth and putting your faith in Jesus will be the best way to navigate the challenges ahead. Rejecting Him has an outcome too dire to contemplate. Every blessing to you and your family and may God grant you a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Pastor Ray



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**Listening to God Group** - The Listening to God group will be taking a break in January and starting again on Tuesday **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.**

Thanks, **Vanessa**

### HOW CAN WE HELP?

For January St Mary's is praying especially for:

Residents of Hedgers Hill and Havenwood Park, Binsted.

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

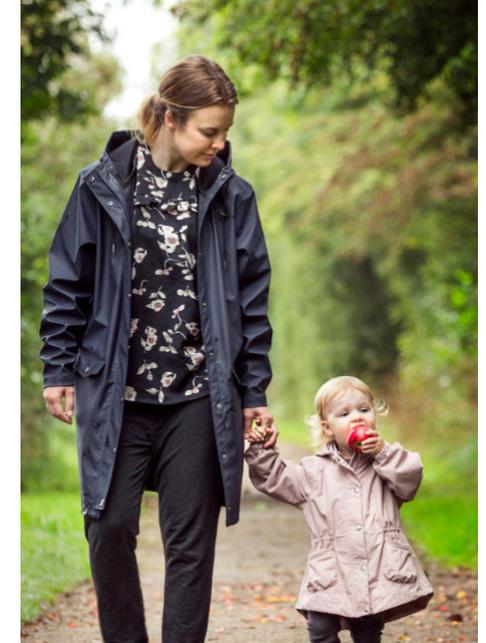
## At Beaulieu Abbey

I spy them now,  
 a mother with her son,  
 she, young and fair,  
 he, very small, his feet  
 swinging far from the ground;  
 they sit there, side by side,  
 so peacefully,  
 on the bench by the old abbey wall,  
 busy with their lunch.

She has brought a plastic box of sandwiches,  
 one of which he holds in his hands,  
 and bites at eagerly, his eyes on me anxiously  
 as I approach through the cloisters,  
 although his mother is unaware.

She is removing the wrapper from a chocolate bar,  
 and his attention rather falls to that,  
 his little hand held out for it;  
 chocolate! – far more exciting than the ghost of a monk,  
 as I pass from prayer into the power of the sun.

**William Foot**



## WALBERTON GARDENERS CLUB

We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning seems a lifetime ago now, held in late November at the Village Hall. There was a lovely joyous atmosphere with a wonderful selection of cakes to choose from. Holding this event in the hall, gave everyone so much more room so you could get round to see other friends. The raffle looked very festive with all the prizes relating to Christmas. Hope the lucky winner, who guessed the weight of the beautifully decorated homemade Christmas cake may still be enjoying a slice.

What will be happening with the Gardeners Club during 2026? At the moment the committee are busy with the new schedule, removing some classes that have proved unpopular recently, but adding new ones, so there is something for all our gardeners to enter. If you would like something added, please contact us and we will see what we can do. New ideas always welcome in all the classes.

Unfortunately the talk by Franchise Seeds scheduled for February has been cancelled by the seed company as they decided it was too far to travel. We are trying to replace it.

So the first event for 2026 will be the Spring Flower Show Saturday 21st March 2026

There are sixty classes for you to choose from to enter. Don't forget you will find all the details in your current 2025/2026 schedule together with the entry form, or on our website

[www.walberton-gardeners.com](http://www.walberton-gardeners.com)

If you've been growing leeks, don't eat them all but leave three to enter into the show with some rhubarb and parsnips. You may already be planning the bulbs to enter but don't forget crafters, during the long dark days of January you could be well on the way to making a winning piece of handicraft. There are seven classes on this section.

### Annual General Meeting Saturday 11th April 2026 10.30.

As usual coffee and homemade cakes will be available. A chance to pay your annual subscription and pick up the new 2026/2027 Schedule, and presentation of the Annual Awards.

Of course we will be holding the Summer and Autumn Shows, summer tea party, coffee morning and two or three visits to gardens of interest, and a couple of speakers or demonstrations throughout the year.

It's never too early to start thinking about summer planting and why not try some unusual vegetables or something you've never grown before, ready for the Autumn Show. Can the entries beat those we had in 2025?

### Open Gardens Sunday 21st June 2026

Due to the success, and the money it raised for local charities at the last Open Gardens June 2024 we have decided to repeat this event.

Firstly we need the gardens. Would you be willing to open your garden. You don't have to have vast acres with manicured lawns, just a tiny plot with lots of pots or your garden may just grow vegetables, or you may have left yours to re-wild. Our visitors enjoy all types of gardens and know they will get a good tea in the Village Hall. If you require more information about opening your garden then please contact one of the Gardeners Club Committee.

### Jobs to do in the garden in January

It is preparation time now, if you want to produce a wonderful garden full of flowers in the summer. Here are a few ideas.

1. Clean all your seed trays and small pots.
2. Stock up on compost.
3. Make sure that all your gardening tools are in good order.
4. Check through your seed catalogues and make a list of your choices.
5. Order your seeds.
6. If you want to grow Lobelia, remember that it is a slow germination plant and the seeds need to be sown towards the end of January. Antirrhinums can also be sown around now too.
7. Hydrangea heads – leave these on as long as possible to protect your plant and its new buds from the frost
8. If you are a vegetable grower, remember that the frost is your friend. If you have dug your ground over, the frost will break it up for you and save you a lot of work.

Who knows what the weather will throw at us this year!  
Happy gardening.

Liz Hewson



Walberton MU would like to wish all readers a happy and healthy 2026.

At the start of a New Year, I thought it might be an idea to summarise the start of the Mothers' Union.

So the organisation was founded during the reign of Queen Victoria by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife who witnessed many women in their parish struggling to cope with the challenges of motherhood. Possibly influenced by the burgeoning Trade Union movement, (hence union in our title?) she viewed motherhood as a vocation as valid and important as any other. Gradually her message spread, first in this country, then across the British Empire and beyond. Today MU is recognised as a worldwide Anglican women's organisation welcoming both sexes in the promotion and support of family life.

So, from the global to our branch in Walberton and an outline of our plans for the year ahead:

Our first visiting speaker is Ben Applin, who works for the Fire Service. He is giving a talk on living safely in our homes. Something relevant to us all. Visitors are most welcome so why not come along to St Mary's, Church Lane at 2pm on 8th January.

A few days later some of us are off to see a traditional Pantomime at Eastergate Village Hall. If last year's panto is anything to go by this year's offering of Goldilocks and the Three Bears should be a real treat.

In February we shall have our AGM, in church, and in March there will be a Lenten meditation with music and words led by Sue Hyland, one of the Diocesan speakers, this will also be in church. April will be a tea and chat gathering either in church or one of our homes.

As for the rest of the year we have quite a bit more in the pipe-line, including, hopefully, talks on diverse subjects such as prison work and alms-houses, one or two other speakers on topics yet to be confirmed, a couple of fund-raising events in aid of MU projects both in this country and overseas. Then we usually have an outing in the summer, and also in the summer we gather to commemorate Mary Sumner Day in August. We hope to have one or two services in church during the year, plus we'll be busy packing shoe boxes for eastern European countries in the autumn and then we're back to Christmas 2026 and our Eucharist and lunch.

And as I'm sure I've forgotten something it's maybe worth keeping an eye on future editions of the Parish News and also the weekly news-sheet to see if anything takes your fancy. We'd love to see you.  
**Sandra Pegram**



## **FIRE SAFETY**

### **KEEPING SAFE & WELL IN YOUR HOME**

talk

by **Ben Applin**

**West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service**

at

**Walberton Mothers' Union**

**Thursday 8th January 2026**

at 2pm

**St Mary's Church**

**Walberton**

All are welcome



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**WALBERTON HISTORY GROUP**

Present an Illustrated Talk by Geoffrey Mead  
"Hearth and Home - Sussex Local Building Materials"

Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm

In the pavilion - Walberton playing field

All welcome - Non members £2

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Join us for a drop-in coffee morning  
Fontwell Community Centre, 10.30-12

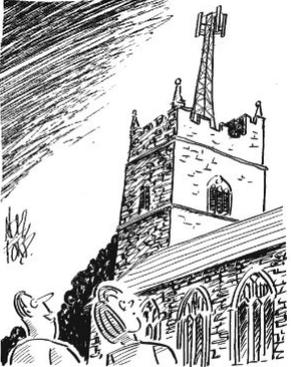
2026 Dates:  
Tuesday 17th February  
Tuesday 14th April



It takes a great person to give sound advice tactfully, but a greater to accept it graciously. – J C MacAulay



The hard core fans were at the back, playing air-organ



"The vicar's hoping providing a really strong mobile signal will attract more young folk to the church."



## WALBERTON VILLAGE HALL

Happy New Year All.

Last month at the Village Hall there were some wonderful community

events, I would like to thank everyone involved in our Christmas wreath making workshop, it was really successful again this year, lots of creativity, fun and some amazing designs were made. A huge Thank you to our local Floristry teacher Caroline for a fantastic morning and giving us your expertise and time, There was great feedback from all that attended.

I thought I would include an image of how the small hall was transformed into our magical Santa's Grotto, this is the third year the hall has created this firm favourite with the children in the community. Our Thanks to Santa who at this busy time of year had time to see all the excited young ones!



All our fundraising events supported by you all are appreciated and continue to support the Village Hall to thrive. Lots more to come in 2026!

Lastly, a huge Thank you to every one of the volunteers making cakes, running refreshments, setting up, clearing away, you are invaluable to the success of our Village Hall, a hub for all to enjoy.

I hope you all have a wonderful New Year!

**Penny**



## WALBERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I hope that all of you had a very happy Christmas and that you're looking forward to 2026 with renewed hope that many of the conflicts and hardships in the world will improve, and we can all get on with our lives in a more peaceful and loving world. Perhaps I am being too optimistic!

Nearer home I would strongly recommend that you join the Walbinfont-Parish Bulletin if you have not already done so. Our Parish Council emails this to subscribers monthly and has a lot of important news and information on our three villages, including a section from Caroline Wilson, our PCSO on various crimes or suspicious activities that have taken place locally in the preceding weeks. She can

always be contacted on [caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk) or **07912 893617** if you have a matter you would like to discuss with her.

To start the new year off, I would like to give you a list, from Sussex Police, on how to protect your home and belongings. Most are very obvious but I'll list them as they were given to me. Being a victim of burglary can be deeply distressing and affect your sense of safety.

### Inside your home

Always lock your doors, even when you're in.

Consider installing a burglar alarm or CCTV.

Keep windows closed or fit restrictors if left open. Strong locks make a difference.

Use timer switches to leave lights or radio on when you're out.

Keep valuables and car keys out of sight and away from doors or letterboxes.

### Outside your home

Lock away ladders and tools that could help a burglar break in.

Keep sheds and garages locked.

Trim back overgrown shrubs to remove hiding places.

Never leave spare keys in obvious places like under plant pots, doormats or letter boxes.

Secure side and back gates with locks that cannot be accessed from outside.

### Keeping your bike safe this winter

Keep your bike out of sight when not in use.

Store it in a secure location, consider bolting it to a ground anchor or locking it to an immovable object.

Left in a garage? Upgrade your garage door locks.

Having an alarm or tracker on your bike can be a deterrent to thieves.

Property mark the parts, by marking as much of your bike as possible, to make it more difficult to sell parts if stolen.

Marking parts will also help police identify parts and return stolen bikes.

Unfortunately security measures can't guarantee your bike will not be stolen but by using multiple security measures, you can make it harder and less attractive to thieves.

If you hear or see anything suspicious, please call a much improved 101. If someone is trying to break in, call 999 immediately.

A happy, healthy and crime free New Year to you all!

**Laurie King**

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

## DIARY FOR JANUARY

Jan 3	2.00pm	Downland Art Society meeting (P.27)
Jan 7	9.45am	Downland Art Society Workshop (P.27)
Jan 8	2.00pm	Fire Safety Talk (P.17)
Jan 13	7.00pm	St Mary's Games Evening (P.28)
Jan 15	10.00am	'Little Lambs' pre-schoolers and carers (P.23)
Jan 21	2.00pm	Wednesday Afternoon Club (P.2)
Jan 22	7.30pm	Walberton History Group (P.19)
Jan 27	2.00pm	The Arts Society Boxgrove (P.53)
Jan 31	10.00am	Chantry Quire Workshop (P.47)

## FUTURE EVENTS

Feb 5	10.30am	Snowdrop Coffee Morning (P.40)
Feb 17	10.00am	Fontwell Community Hall Coffee Morning (P.19)
Feb 19 - 21	TBC	Walberton Players
Feb 21	11-3.00pm	Wedding Showcase (P.50)
Apr 11	10.30am	Walberton Gardeners Club AGM (P.14)
Apr 14	10.00am	Fontwell Community Hall Coffee Morning (P.19)
May 28-30	TBC	Walberton Youth Theatre
Jun 21	TBC	Walberton Open Gardens (P.15)

## COMMUNITY MINIBUS SERVICE FOR JANUARY 2026

Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Jan Sainsbury's Bognor Regis  
Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Jan Pulborough Garden Centre  
Thu 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan Sainsbury's Chichester  
Thu 29<sup>th</sup> Jan Runcton Farm Shop



**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 JANUARY 2026 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 the following dates: **January 9 and 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 January 15 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



If you have visited St Mary's Binsted recently you may have noticed the damage to the porch. So, this year, we hope to repair our wooden porch, re-point the west window, redecorate inside the church and the replace the window guards. The estimate for this work is about £48,000, with architects fee on top of that!

We will be applying for grants towards the costs and hope to hold another 'Strawberry Fair' next summer to raise the necessary funds. In the meantime we are selling Binsted calendars to raise more money towards the project. So, why not buy a great present for someone and help our church in Binsted at the same time! (see next page).

**Sandra Cooke**



## Binsted 2026 Calendar

**It's not too late!**

We are selling our Binsted Calendars this year to raise money for urgent repairs to St Mary's Church Binsted.

**Calendars are £10 each or 5 for £45.**

Please contact Sandra Cooke [sdpcooke@gmail.com](mailto:sdpcooke@gmail.com) or Carolyn Coles 01243 814608



### Thank You

Madeline and Chris Domen would like to thank their church family and village friends for all of their help and support over the last year.

### Flower Rota for St.Mary's Walberton

**January 2026**

2 **Water and Clear** - Discuss at next rota meeting

**Pauline Blumer**



**Arundel and District Branch  
Poppy Appeal 2025**

**Thank You**

In these very difficult economic times, it is so heart-warming to report how very generous everyone has been during this year's Poppy Appeal. This year we have raised £3,003.67 for this wonderful cause in our three villages – Walberton, Fontwell and Binsted – an increase on what was collected last year. On behalf of the British Legion, thank you so much.

Not for the first time, Walberton & Binsted School have topped the 'league table' of biggest tin with a fantastic figure of £300.55 – a special Thank You to everyone at the school for your generosity.

As always, a heartfelt Thank You goes out to all the collectors and everyone who kindly supported the appeal - whether to a knock on the door to one of our collectors or to one of the boxes in the various shops and other locations in the villages. This year, we were very fortunate that Suzi Clarke, Christina Garlick, Richard Riordan and Sarah Caffyn all answered the call to join the team as collectors and we are very grateful to them for stepping forward.

As a charity, we are totally reliant on the generosity of our collectors in giving up their time to help make the appeal work. Unfortunately, we still do not have enough volunteers to cover all parts of the parish but if you would like to offer your services for a couple of hours in late October / early November, please feel free to contact me, Richard Gooding, on 01243 542465 or [richardg@farplants.co.uk](mailto:richardg@farplants.co.uk) and I will be very happy to add you to the team for 2026.

**Trivia Question of the Month ;**

What kind of animals raised Mowgli in 'The Jungle Book'?

(Answer on P. 56)



**SATURDAY 3RD JANUARY 2 - 4PM** Brush away any lingering post Christmas blues with an afternoon of a watercolour demonstration. DAS warmly welcomes the return of Catherine Beale, an artist from Bath. Catherine's subject, this time is a Fisherman's Hut. She uses the subtle light of the atmospheric British weather to inspire her watercolours.



**WORKSHOP - WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY 9.45 for 10 to 3.15pm**

Catherine will be encouraging members to produce their own beautiful watercolour paintings.

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](mailto:pjbrown294@btinternet.com) ([www.downland.org](http://www.downland.org))  
(All DAS meetings are held in Walberton pavilion).

## Are you taking a mid-winter break?

If you are preparing to take off for foreign climes, do keep an eye out for signs that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning! In hotels and train stations and airports all over the world there are polite little signs that will bring a smile to the lips of even an exhausted traveller. For instance, how about these\*:

**Switzerland:** We have nice bath and are very good in bed.

**Romania:** The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret you will be unbearable.

**Russia:** If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

**Italy:** If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

**Spain:** Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

**Denmark:** In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in seemly manner.

**Canary Islands:** If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

\*With thanks to 'Lost in Translation: Misadventures in English Abroad' by Charlie Croker (Michael O'Mara Books, £9.99)



## St Mary's Games Evening Tuesday January 13 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)**



## Birds in your gardens

Approximately 30 species of bird are regular garden visitors, although more than 140 bird species have been recorded in British gardens. Some are seasonal visitors such as house martins in summer or red-wings in winter.

Others such as robins and blackbirds are resident year round and can become very familiar faces in the garden or allotment. A good population of birds in the garden is part of a healthy garden ecosystem, helping to keep caterpillars and aphids in check which can damage garden plants.



## Choosing feeders and providing water

Use wire mesh feeders for peanuts and seed feeders for other seeds.

Specially designed feeders are required for the small niger seed, which is a favoured food of goldfinches.

Food placed on wire mesh held just off the ground will entice ground-feeding birds such as robins and dunnocks

Place fat blocks in wire cages.

Plastic nets around fat balls must be removed as birds, such as woodpeckers, can get caught up in the mesh. Create your own fat blocks by melting suet into moulds such as coconut shells or into holes drilled into logs.

To help limit the spread of infections and diseases keep feeders clean, refill little and often (1-2 days worth of food) and, if possible, change their position in the garden to avoid fouling the ground underneath. Here's some best practise guidance from Garden Wildlife Health on feeding garden birds. Water is essential for bathing and drinking throughout the year. Provide water in a shallow container, preferably with sloping sides and no more than 5 cm (2 in) deep. As with feeders, clean bird baths regularly to reduce the risk of disease spread in wild birds. During frosty weather, remove the ice so birds can continue to have access to water.



## Preferred foods

Use different foods and recipes to entice a range of birds. Although fat is important, particularly in winter, also provide a grain mix or nuts to maintain a balanced diet. No-mess seed mixes are more expensive but the inclusion of de-husked sunflower hearts means there is less waste and debris under the feeder. **(Continued on P. 30)**

**(Continued from P.29)** Inferior mixes are often padded out with lentils and wheat.

Many birds have 'favourite' foods, so choosing certain types can affect what you see feeding in the garden. These are just some of the preferences:

- Insect cakes for tits
- Berry cakes for finches
- Finely chopped animal fat and grated cheese are welcomed by small birds, such as wrens
- Sparrows, finches and nuthatches enjoy prising the seeds out of sunflower heads. Also, leave seed heads on herbaceous plants over winter
- Niger seed is liked by goldfinches
- Peanut cakes for starlings
- Fruit is favoured by thrushes and blackbirds.

Scatter over-ripe apples, raisins and song-bird mixes on the ground for them. Consider planting berrying shrubs and trees, including favourites such as Malus, Sorbus, Cotoneaster and Pyracantha. Mealworms are a favoured food of many garden birds.

Find out more about feeding garden birds from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and RSPB.

Our thanks to the RHS for this article, which you can find more on: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/garden-birds>







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# BANKS

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## NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS from 100 years ago

The recent share-out among the 33 members of the Walberton Working Men's Benefit Club, who hold their meetings in the Village Hall, amounted to £1 6s 7d per member. Contributions, fines and Savings Bank interest amounted to £52 0s 5d and £3 8s 6d was disbursed for sick benefit. The Club's new year has started well with 44 members. Mr R Harfield is secretary.

The income for 1925 of the Holly Tree Inn Slate Club was £91 0s 9d and £20 11s 9d was paid out for sickness. Members received £1 3s each. Mr R T Isted acted as secretary.

Mrs Jones, the licensee of the Royal Oak inn, reports that a Share-out Club was conducted in the inn during 1925 on the "Tontine" principle, and adds: "I had 30 members in the Club, and paid out well. On sharing out we had a supper, and a most enjoyable evening with songs and smoking was spent." WSG 14 Jan

### RIVALS COMBINE – Bognor & District Radio and Gramophone Society.

*At a well attended meeting of gramophone and wireless enthusiasts, held at the Picturedrome Cafe, Bognor, by the kind permission of Mr Flude on Tuesday evening of last week, it was unanimously decided to form a society for Bognor. It was decided to call the new society the Bognor and District Gramophone and Radio Society and to combine the two, it was felt that the soundbox and loud-speaker had much in common, and that the experience gained in experimenting with diaphragms would be of mutual assistance. That the gramophone and wireless enthusiasts of the district were fully alive to the usefulness of such a society was evidenced by the fact that besides a considerable number of Bognor residents, members were enrolled from Eastergate, Westergate, Chichester and Fontwell..... Mr F S Crowe appeared in his official capacity as the representative of Messrs Dyson & Sons, the well-known musical instrument manufacturers and dealers. BRO 27 Jan 1926*

**The Village Hall was filled to overflowing last week when Lieut-Col V A Haddick F.R.G.S., gave his popular lantern lecture describing the last Mount Everest Expedition in which he took part as a member of the photographic section and Commandant of the Trans-Himalayan Tractor party from India to Tibet. A large number of pictures depicting transport difficulties as well as gems of scenery from the valleys to within but a comparatively short distance of the summit of Mount Everest, were displayed on the screen. Mr W Sargent jnr was the lanternist.** WSG 14 Jan

*Extracted by Harlequin, who for this month couldn't decide which articles to choose, hence as a one-off we have 2 pages for January.*

**Westhampnett Rural District Council invites tenders for the erection of fifty-four houses proposed to be built on the Council's sites in the Parish of Lavant and on the Chichester to Arundel Road near Balls Hut Inn in the Parish of Walberton.** Chi Obs 20 Jan

## NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS contd..

The snow-covered landscape presented a pleasing spectacle on Saturday and Sunday and the woods well repaid a visit. The branches of the firs were bent low with a heavy weight of snow, and whitened twigs of the undergrowth presented a veritable fairyland. Walberton well remembers the snowfall of 1881, when there was a general covering of snow 3ft deep, which drifted on the roadsides and hedges in many places to depths of more than six feet. A few days after the fall the Surveyor of Highways had engaged 26 men to make cuttings for cart traffic and pedestrians. WSG 21 Jan

**Edward Pxxxx of Barnham was fined 2s 6d for riding a bicycle without a light on December 27<sup>th</sup> at Walberton, at 8.30pm. P.C. Hubbard, who proved the case, said that defendant's excuse was that he was saving the battery.** BRO 6 Jan

**PRE WAR SEMI DETACHED HOUSE TO LET** 3 bed, bath, 2 sitting, kitchen, scullery, usual offices, Gas water; garden. Rent £35 exclusive of rates. Apply Booker, Dairy Lane, Walberton, Arundel. WSG 7 Jan

*Extracted by Harlequin*



Gentleman fined 2s 6d for not having a working cycle light...

**It was a new experience for Walberton footballers to play on a snow-covered ground, which they did in their match with Eastgate Rangers (Chichester) on Saturday. Mr P Miles was referee and after a keen contest the result was Eastgate Rangers 2 goals Walberton 4.** WSG 21 Jan

Walberton orchards still produce apples of the good old sorts, named in Mr James Dean's (Slindon) letter, which appeared in last week's issue of the "W.S.G". Sixty years ago the orchard (about ¾ acre) owned by Mr S. Short Snr. was in full profit, and during more than one season 400 bushels of Blenheim's, Cumberines &c., were gathered and sold readily for 2s 6d a bushel. Sth Eng Advert. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

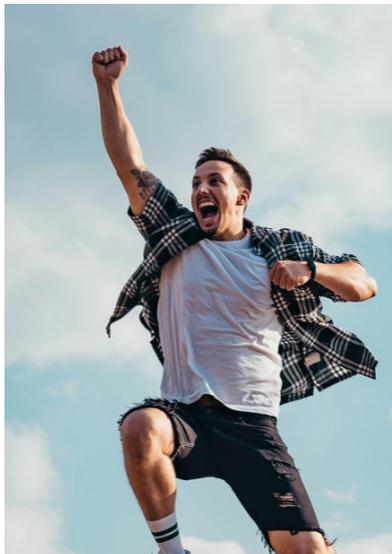
## How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we usually fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

**Be realistic.** If you have several goals, don't attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

**Be specific.** For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

**Write it down.** There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!



**Tell other people.** If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

**Focus on GAIN, not loss.** Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round – instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

**Give yourself rewards.** If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money that you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

**Break your resolution into steps.** Some goals will take months to achieve. So, break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

**Finally, don't let failure defeat you.** You will make mistakes. But the

secret is to simply get up again and to keep going. Only if you stop are you really defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

**Dr Ruth Bancewicz**

## Crufts welcomes mongrels

The Royal Kennel Club, which runs Crufts, is going to admit mongrels for the first time in its 150-year history.

Crufts will become a 'year-round community', available to all dog owners, whatever kind of dog they have. Its new online platform will launch in February 2026.

Jannine Edgar, chief executive of the RKC explains: "While our initiatives in areas such as health, research and breeding have historically been focused on pedigree dogs, we recognise that dog ownership has evolved and therefore we must too.

"So now our remit extends to all dogs, and we will be investing our efforts to do more for every dog and their owners through the Crufts brand, which will be much more than an annual show."

This year Crufts Dog Show takes place 5th to 8th March at the NEC in Birmingham. Crufts has also held events aimed at non-pedigree dogs since 2000, after launching the crossbreed competition 'Scruffts'.

The late Queen, who was devoted to her corgis, was patron of The Kennel Club for 70 years. Following her death, the King granted the organisation a royal prefix in 2023.

**The Rev Paul Judson**



## Science and Miracles

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in text-books are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that "We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches." For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith'* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: "Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions...on how all Jesus's miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it's obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses."

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don't seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don't.

Many in Jesus' audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God. The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what 'your kingdom come' looks like in our communities. God works through us in words, works and wonders.

**Dr Ruth M Bancewicz**



## Michael Bond, creator of Paddington Bear

It was 100 years ago, on 13th January 1926, that Michael Bond, the children's writer, was born. He has an assured place in any literary Hall of Fame, for he created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Paddington Bear padded into Michael Bond's life quite by accident. It was back in 1956 that Michael was on his way home from work at the BBC when he spied a lonely looking teddy bear on the shelf in a shop window in London. On the spur of the moment, Michael decided to take it home as a stocking filler for his wife.

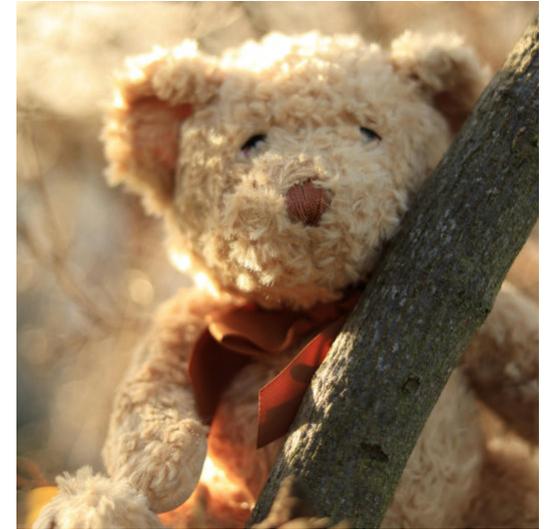
Michael called the bear Paddington, because they lived near Paddington Station at the time. Two years later, in 1958, while daydreaming over a typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, Michael wondered what might happen if an unaccompanied bear turned up at a railway station looking for a home.

The rest is literary history.

His first book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was written in ten days and published by Collins in October of 1958. 28 more books followed, and in all more than 35 million Paddington books have been sold worldwide, in more than 40 languages. More than 27 million Paddington Bear soft toys have been sold, just since 2021. The films alone have grossed more than \$778 million.

Paddington made his most famous appearance at Buckingham Palace in 2022, where he had tea with Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee, and exchanged tips with her about the best place to store marmalade sandwiches.

Bond was born in Newbury in 1926 and served with the RAF and army during WW2. He started writing in 1945 while stationed in Cairo, and began his career at the BBC, where he later worked on *Blue Peter* as a cameraman. He died in 2017, aged 91.





### The future of refuse, recycling and food waste collection in Arun

From April 2026, all councils in England - including Arun - will be legally required under the Environment Act 2021 to provide weekly food waste collections. This is part of the government's 'Simpler Recycling' reforms, which aim to create a more consistent approach to waste and recycling across the country. This will take place alongside the fortnightly rubbish collection from a council-supplied 180 litre bin and continuation of the fortnightly dry mixed recycling collection.

The new contract will also continue to include small waste electrical and electrical equipment collections, a subscriber-based garden waste collections service and the introduction of recycling opportunities for items such as textiles, batteries and coffee pods.

In areas where it is physically not possible to have a wheeled rubbish bin for each resident, an alternative solution will be introduced.

#### Why is it changing?

Analysis shows that around 40% of black bag general waste in Arun and West Sussex is food waste, and 13% is recyclable material. Separating food waste collected from across the whole of West Sussex (including Arun) allows it to be recycled via anaerobic digestion into biofertiliser and energy. The biofertiliser will be used as fertiliser for farmers fields and the energy will power the plant, with any excess exported to the national grid to be used in homes.

The council previously operated a very successful food waste collection trial for 1,350 properties in the district.

Participation of more than 85% with satisfaction of 85% for food waste collections and 73% for three-weekly residual collections was very high for the trial. It proved that the majority of residents would make use of a weekly food waste collection and accept less frequent residual waste collections.

Currently residents receive 78 core collections per year (52 rubbish and 26 recycling). Under the proposals in this report residents will receive 104 collections per year (52 food waste, 26 rubbish & 26 recycling).

The council's most recent confirmed annual recycling rate is 42.93% of which approximately 25.33% is dry mixed recycling and 17.60% is garden waste. What you will receive:

- a black 180-litre wheeled general waste bin
- a 23-litre outdoor food waste bin
- a 5-litre indoor food waste caddy and a starter roll of 26 liners

for the indoor food waste caddy

- some communal properties and flats may be provided with shared outdoor general waste & food waste bins where appropriate.

The new general waste bins will also reduce loose black bags, helping to keep streets cleaner.

How to opt out or request more capacity

If you already have a 180-litre or smaller wheeled bin that you can use (a standard recycling bin is 240-litre) you can either contact Arun as soon as possible to tell them you don't need a new bin delivered or wait for the new bin to be delivered and then tell Arun that your old bin can be collected and recycled once it's empty.

If you live in a house with 5 or more people and think you will need a bin larger than 180litres you can apply for an extra bin.

When the changes will happen

New bins will start being delivered to households between January and March 2026. The new collection system of weekly food waste/ fortnightly general waste is expected to begin shortly after Easter 2026. Once the start date and new collection rounds are confirmed, residents will be able to check their updated collection schedules in several ways:

Arun District Council app - the easiest way to stay informed. Sign up with your postcode to receive collection reminders and helpful guidance

Online postcode checker for new collection days (not currently available) - this will be available here once new rounds are finalised nearer to the introduction of new services

Customer contact centre - call 01903 737754 if you don't have access to online services

For more details go to: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/simpler-recycling> or



Scan the QR code for more information or visit  
<https://www.arun.gov.uk/arun-mobile-app>

Happy New Year

to all

our wonderful supporters!

Thank you for your kindness and  
generosity throughout 2025!

It was great to see so many of you at our  
Christmas Coffee Morning,

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We look forward to seeing you at our next  
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Thursday 5th February 2026 10.30am

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## PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29 v 11*

### St Mary's

Pray for God's wisdom as we reflect on our worship and activities for the coming year.

Give thanks and pray for those who work behind the scenes, including in our churchyard and cleaning the church each week.

### Our Community

This month we pray for God's blessing on those who live in Hedgers Hill and Havenwood Park, Binsted.

Pray for the Head, all teaching staff and pupils at Walberton and Binsted CE Primary school as they return for the Spring term and prepare for the change in Headship after Easter.

Pray for those who are taking on a new role or responsibility and for those actively seeking a change in employment.

### Our Nation

Pray for wisdom for the Prime Minister and members of government in their decisions and actions.

Pray for those working in the NHS during the pressured winter months.

Pray for those who will be sleeping rough and for local centres to have sufficient resources to offer shelter and support.

Holocaust Memorial day, 27th January; pray for those who face antisemitism, racism or any form of prejudice, for greater tolerance of those from different backgrounds.

### The World

Pray for communities affected by flooding and landslides in recent weeks, for those who have lost loved ones, and those left homeless.

Pray for effective coordination in supplying aid.

Pray for continued openness in negotiations to end the war in Ukraine and for a just peace to be reached.

### The Church

Epiphany season: pray that churches would be a light, making a positive difference to the communities they serve.

Father, I surrender my plans for 2026 to You. Lead me into Your perfect will. Let Your presence guide me in all I do.

## Wreath making workshop

The wreath making morning was an amazing success raising funds towards the repair of the village hall.

A big thank you to Caroline, who donated her time and expertise, and Jean and Lynne who kept everyone supplied with tea, coffee, mulled wine and warm mince pies and sausage rolls.

Look out for more wreath making courses in the Spring.

**Sandra Cooke**

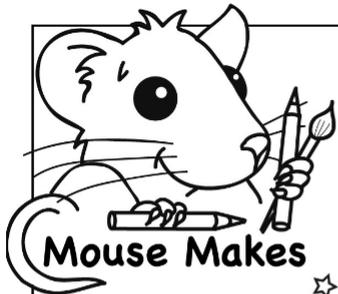


## Light

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said.

"Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked.

"Oh no," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."



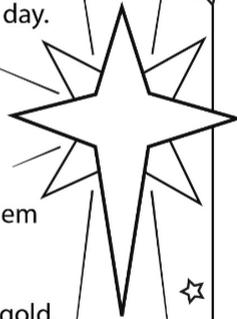
### WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

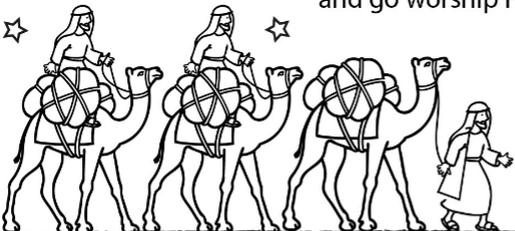
The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



**DID YOU KNOW ?**  
Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.



Read the story of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12

S B E T H L E H E M J O I Y  
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R I U M E S S I A H G R S I  
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I T N G O L D M Y R R H M I  
N S E I J V S I G N B I E T  
G O Y A C H R I S T C P N M

Can you find these words in the word search?  
WISE MEN • MAGI  
STAR • SIGN  
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM  
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH  
CHRIST • KING  
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH  
FRANKINCENSE  
WORSHIP • JOY  
EPIPHANY

### The Good Samaritan

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.  
...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.  
A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. ON THE WAY...

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!  
HELP!

THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!

LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE RELIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!

BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.

JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"  
 PRIEST  
 TEMPLE MAN  
 FOREIGN MAN  
WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

## Menai Suspension Bridge celebrates 200 years

If you have ever gone to Anglesey, chances are that you used the Menai Suspension Bridge (Pont y Borth, in Welsh). A lot of people do – an average of 13,300 vehicles a day, or about 4.8 million vehicles a year.

The bridge celebrates a big anniversary this month: it is 200 years old. It was formally opened on 30th January 1826, to link Anglesey (Ynys Mon) to mainland Wales (Gogledd Cymru).

The bridge is special – it is the world's first ever major suspension bridge, with a 176-metre span. Designed by Thomas Telford, it took seven years to build and has been a huge success. It made the crossing safer (*until then farmers had to swim their livestock across the strait*), and it also made the crossing more dependable and quicker for everyone, cutting hours off the trip from London to Holyhead.

The bridge has changed a bit over 200 years – the original wrought-iron chains were replaced with high-tensile steel chains in 1940, the bridge was reconstructed after a fire in 1970, and in 1998 it was brought under the management of UK Highways A55 Ltd.

But the Menai Suspension Bridge is still a much loved and critical road bridge for Anglesey, and there will be warm celebrations for it this month.

To put the history of the bridge into perspective: it was built nearly 25 years before Big Ben (in 1859) and more than 60 years before the Eiffel Tower (in 1889).

**Anne Coomes**



**making music**

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## BOOKS YOU MAY ENJOY

### Currahee!

By Donald R. Burgett



For any fan of the TV series, a few years ago, 'Band Of Brothers', will love this book. Donald tells the story of the legendary 101 regiment of the American paratroops from their training through to the end of the second world war.

It was written and published back in the 1960's, so was not influenced by the TV and book in the early 2000's, which means that some of the subjects only touched upon by the TV, are covered in much more detail in Donald's book. For example the song the paratroops sang, and obviously it was sung by a group of men facing death, so was a little rough and laughed at the dangers they faced. One line goes, 'His chute did not open and he hit the ground like a lump of strawberry jam! And he ain't goner jump no more!'



The book is an honest look at daily life of a paratrooper facing danger and finding both camaraderie and support from his fellow troopers.

The title is the cry men made as they went into battle 'Currahee!' and became famous as it focused men facing unbelievable odds in the face of danger. This was probably the reason for their nick name 'The Screaming Eagles', due to their cry and the eagle on their 101 Airborne regiment insignia.

I first read this book as a young man and it gave me a great respect for these men and their bravery, I hope you get the opportunity to read it for yourself.

**Andy Harris**

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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 kind of animals raised Mowgli in The Jungle Book?

**Answer: Wolves**

The author of the book, The Jungle Book, is Rudyard Kipling.



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

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**Office Administrator** Ali Staker

### ST. MARY'S WALBERTON

**Parish Readers:** Julie Allday 544615

### Churchwardens:

Steven Phillips 828346

**PCC Secretary:** Julie Allday

### PCC Minute Secretary:

**PCC Treasurer and Gift Aid:** Tom Evans 544672

**Safeguarding Officer** Mrs Katarzyna Nichols 551113

**Bell Ringers:** Colin Spencer 824952

**Church Flowers List:** Elizabeth Gammon 01903 882722

Pauline Blumer 945491

**Mothers' Union:** Mary Lewis 552292

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

### ST MARY'S BINSTED

**Churchwardens:** Carolyn Coles 814608

Sandra Cooke 551493

**PCC Secretary:** Judith Walker 07713 156667

**PCC Treasurer:** Edward Martineau 07725 033763

### PARISH NEWS:

**Editorial and Advertising:** Andy Harris and Sandra Cooke

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parishnews@stmaryswalberton.org.uk

**Distribution & Subscriptions:** Susan Martineau 078 133 11 941

susanmart953@gmail.com

### OTHER LOCAL CONTACTS

**Walberton Baptist Church:** Pastor Ray Brinkley 542388

### Walberton Parish Council:

**Chairman:** Douglas McElvogue 554528

**Clerk:** Shona Turner 554528

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Office opening hours: Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am to 12.30pm

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**Walberton Village Hall:** Hall Manager: Penny Osborne-West  
(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:

**Secretary:** Vanessa Church 554872

### Walberton & Binsted C of E School:

**Head Teacher:** Laura Brockhurst 551398

**PTA Co-chair:** Lisa Pena

**PTA Secretary:** Viki Lutyens

### Community Playcentre @ Walberton:

**Chairman:** Catherine Purdie 931848

info@communityplaycentre.org

**Playcentre Manager:** Kelly Townsend 931848

kelly.townsend@communityplaycentre.org

**Walberton Toddler Group:** Antonia Smith 07961 437890

### CLUBS & SOCIETIES:

**Downland Art Society:** Campbell Askew  
web site: www.downland.org

**Five Village Society:** Joanna Williams 551524

**Walberton Allotments Association:** Liesma Mezulis lzulis@btinternet.com

**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

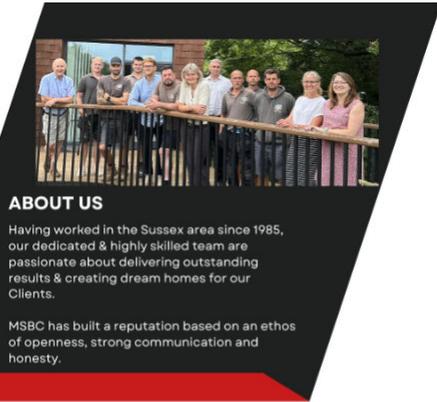
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.15pm



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Located in the beautiful village of Walberton, we offer a full range of childcare for babies to children aged up to 12 years in our purpose-built premises with indoor and outdoor play space. Our team is made up of highly qualified and experienced practitioners who put our ethos behind everything we do.

We are open 7.30am until 6.00pm, 5 days a week, 51 weeks of the year.

We offer a range of nursery sessions including school days, full days, term time and all year. Early years funding accepted for eligible children.



Breakfast and afterschool sessions also available for children attending Walberton and Binsted C of E Primary school, and holiday club for children in Walberton and surrounding villages.

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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