

St. Peter's Ardingly

Parish Magazine

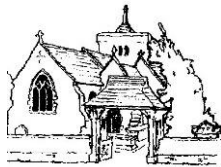
December 2025/January 2026



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



From John and Sally Crutchley



St Peter's Church, Ardingly

Who's Who at St Peter's

Rector	Revd John Crutchley	892332
Reader	John Witherington	892277
Wardens	Nigel Cheater	892769
	John Witherington	892277
Secretary to the PCC	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Treasurer	Jean Jeffery	415317
Organist	Jill Veasey	373091
Safeguarding Coordinator	Jane Taylor Cheater	892769
Church Centre Manager	Jill Veasey	373091
Church Centre Bookings	Carol Grossman	416707
Magazine Editor	Sue Laker	892117
Pastoral Care	Kathy James	891047
Authorised	Sue Laker	892117
Lay Ministers	Jill O'Mant	892464

SUNDAY SERVICES

9.00 am A traditional form of Holy Communion

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

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

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

RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

When you read the gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus you quickly see that there are angels everywhere in the Christmas story.



An angel turns up and informs a man called Zechariah that his elderly wife is going to have a baby boy - who would grow up to be John the Baptist. An angel then turns up to tell Mary that she's going to give birth to the Son of God. It is an angel who then turns up to tell her husband-to-be, Joseph, that his fiancée is pregnant as a result of the Holy Spirit and that he should go ahead and marry her anyway. Later on, it is an angel who warns Joseph to flee with Mary and the child to Egypt because of the anger and threats of Herod.

It is an angel who turns up to tell the shepherds who were watching their flocks that a Saviour had been born in the little town of Bethlehem - and he's followed by a whole choir of angels singing God's praises. "*Hark the Herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king!*" Everywhere you look in the story of Jesus' birth, angels are found to be playing a critical role. Which tells us all something, I believe. It tells us that we need to listen to those angel voices and to all that they have to say, and to give them a place in our hearts' warmest love this Christmas. Because the angels' message is one of delivery but also of deliverance for us all.

The angels call us all to come to Bethlehem this Christmas and to behold the baby Jesus. To come and adore him. But in truth, angels are only messengers. They are messengers of God. So, it is actually he who calls us to come, to behold and to sing his Son's praises. To give him all the glory in the wonderful Christmas season.

In everything else that we have to do this Christmas let's try always to remember that and so to come. To come and adore the Son of God who came into the world to bring us light for our darkness, joy beyond measure, and life eternal.

With my prayers and warmest wishes to everyone for a peaceful, happy and Holy Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John'.

Services in DECEMBER 2025

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

Saturday 6th December Carols and Christingle

4. 45pm

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

Sunday 7th December THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Isaiah 11: 1 - 10; Matthew 3: 1 - 12

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

Isaiah 11: 1 - 10; Matthew 3: 1 - 12

Morning Praise

5.00pm

Open to God

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

Sunday 14th December THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Isaiah 35: 1 - 10; Matthew 11: 2 - 11

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

Isaiah 35: 1 - 10; Matthew 11: 2 - 11

Holy Communion [CW]

Sunday 21st December THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am

Isaiah 7: 10 - 16; Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

Isaiah 7: 10 - 16; Matthew 1: 18 - 25

Morning Praise

6.30pm

Carols by Candlelight

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

The season of Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope and joy.
Joy is the true gift of Christmas: *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9: 6*

Wednesday 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30pm **A Crib and Carol service** for all the family
The message and meaning of Christmas, favourite carols, candles, and fun!

10.00pm **A Christmas Celebration of Holy Communion**
(Midnight in Bethlehem!)
A quiet and reflective candle-lit service for the beginning of Christmas

Thursday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00am *A traditional service of Holy Communion for Christmas Morning*
Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am **Christmas Morning Praise**
A service of Christmas Carols and Christmas Praise to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour and Lord

Sunday 28th December THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9.30am *Isaiah 63: 7 - 9; Matthew 2: 13 - 23*
Holy Communion [CW]



Services in JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4th January

The Epiphany

9.00am

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

Morning Prayer [BCP]

10.30am

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

Morning Praise

Sunday 11th January

The First Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

Acts 10: 34-43; Matthew 3: 13-17

Holy Communion [CW]

Sunday 18th January

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9; John 1: 29 - 42

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

1 Corinthians 1: 1 - 9; John 1: 29 - 42

Morning Praise

Sunday 25th January

The Third Sunday of Epiphany

9.00am

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Holy Communion [BCP]

10.30am

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

Holy Communion [CW]

With prayer for healing and wholeness

Advent Carol Concert

conducted by
Robert Hammersley

*Haydn
Nelson Mass
& Carols*

Tuesday 16th December
ARDINGLY COLLEGE CHAPEL

Concert begins 8:00pm
(6:15pm for those wishing to participate)

**FREE
ENTRY**

Concert in aid of



St Peter & St James Hospice
Hospice care in the heart of Sussex

Registered Charity No: 1056114

For further information contact
Secretary on 07878 315901

www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1123464

NOTICES FOR DECEMBER and JANUARY

Meeting Point Coffee Mornings

The Meeting Point Christmas Party will take place in Hapstead Hall on 8th December from 10.15 to 11.30. The next Meeting Point dates will be 12th and 26th January 2026. All are welcome.



Angels & Urchins dates

Our last morning before the Christmas holidays will be on Thursday 18th December. We'll meet again on Thursday 8th January 2026. Happy Christmas!

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Village Christmas Lunch will be on Wednesday 10th December in Hapstead Hall. Tickets are £12 and will be available from the Village Shop. ***Please buy your ticket early*** in order to be sure of getting a place, and also so that the caterers know how many to cook for!

Ardingly Evening WI will round off the year with a festive Christmas party on 18th December, featuring fun and games, food and drink, and plenty of good cheer. On 15th January we're delighted to welcome Fiona Humpreys, who will be giving a talk on the William Robinson Gravetye Charity. The charity preserves the legacy of pioneering gardener William Robinson, known for his naturalistic style and commitment to biodiversity. His estate at Gravetye Manor continues to inspire through its woodland trails and conservation work.

The Hapstead Jam Tarts WI will be busy from 10am on Wednesday 19th November making Christmas decorations for the village fair in December at Hapstead Hall. Our speaker for January is yet to be confirmed. We always welcome visitors and would love to see you. You will receive a warm welcome and lots of tea and cake ! Please contact Fiona for more details : 07513411893 or email hapsteadjamtartsardinglywi@wsfwi.co.uk

POSTBOX in Church



As in previous years, we will have our Christmas Postbox in church on 7th, 14th and 21st December. You are welcome to post in it your Ardingly village cards but please no cards for outside the village! Please post donations towards this service in the box. The total raised will be given to a local charity. Deliveries will be made on Monday 22nd December, and help with this will be much appreciated! Sorting will begin at 10.00am in the Church Centre that day. Please let me know if you can help. Thank you!

Jill Veasey (373091)

IMARA COFFEE MORNING

We raised £370.90 at the coffee morning on 3rd November. A big 'thank you' to all who baked cakes and scones, made or donated goods to sell, helped on the day and those who came along to enjoy the coffee morning and support the charity. Belinda



Pilgrimage to Chichester

We thoroughly enjoyed planning, organising and leading this pilgrimage and would like to thank all those who generously supported us in the walks from St. Peter's, Ardingly, to Chichester Cathedral either by joining one of the sections, offering lifts to and from start and finish points or by sponsorship. To date the sum of £500 has been raised for St. Peter's Church to which gift aid is still to be added. Well done everyone! Glynis & Esther

Poetry and Audience Group

(P A A G)

Next meeting on 11th December
7.30 to 9.00 pm in The Reading Room,
Hapstead Hall, 13 High Street RH17 6TB

Please call Richard Hughes for further information:
07963226432

NEW YEAR WALK AND LUNCH

To mark the start of 2026 we are planning to have a meal at St Peter's Centre on Thursday 1st January, as we have done in previous years. George Ruse will lead a walk (weather permitting) for those who would like to work up an appetite. This will probably begin at 11.30 from the Centre (more details to follow) and the walkers will join the rest of us for a meal at about 1.00pm. Coffee will be available before and after lunch, and we will pack up at about 3.30. The meal is free but donations are welcomed and the proceeds will be shared between Old Jeshwang and IMARA.

If you would like to come to the meal please contact Deb Ruse (892717) – preferably *before* Christmas! We look forward to seeing you there.

Deb and George Ruse (deb_ruse@hotmail.co.uk)

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2026

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

Now it's the time of year when annual subscriptions become due. If you would like to have the magazine delivered to your door (in Ardingly) the minimum subscription will be £3 (and grateful thanks go to all those who round it up to £5!). For those people who receive it by post, the subscription for 2026 will be £15.00.



Subscriptions can be delivered or posted to Sue Laker at 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN . Cheques should be made payable to "St Peter's Church, Ardingly" please.

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

Sue Laker

Music & Mince Pies



ARDINGLY
College



World Ready

Wednesday 3rd December 11.00 AM

For the Senior Citizens of Ardingly.
Join musicians from Ardingly College
for individual and group performances

Transport starting at 10:35am from
Turnpike Court, followed by the Village
Hall car park and Priceholme car park

RSVP for attendance & transport

01444 893 289

debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com

Admission Free, All Welcome

Recital Room, Music Department

Ardingly College

RH17 6SQ

SAMARA'S AID APPEAL

Over the last couple of months our teams have again been distributing aid to people in need. They have distributed hundreds of school bags filled with the stationary the children need for studying at school (it is not free, as it is in the UK, so if children do not have everything they cannot attend). We have also distributed dignity bags, winter clothing and food.

I'm very pleased to say that we now have three outreach centres open and supporting orphans and vulnerable children in Syria each day.

The first is our city centre (*right*) - our very first centre - which has been serving increased numbers of children in need this year. On some days we have 200 or close to this number coming for education and food.



The second is our rural outreach centre which we were forced to close earlier this year for security reasons. 'Mother M' is so happy to be serving these poor children again. She gains a huge sense of purpose in doing so and she adores these children as if they are her own grandchildren, and they adore her back. It feels like the family



that so many of them don't have. The level of deprivation in the children coming to the centre now is beyond anything that it has ever been before. Many of these children come simply to eat because they're so hungry. They haven't eaten since the day before, and they don't know when they will next be able to eat at home. Life is incredibly tough for them, and the time they spend in our outreach centre is a ray of light in their terrified little lives. They are able to have moments of games, friendship, laughter and joy.



I'm so pleased to say that we have now also been able to open our desert outreach centre (*left*). This is such an enormous achievement under the circumstances this year!

Here the children are queueing to go into the newly opened centre.



Left: activities at the Rural Outreach Centre

We're also making plans to open our mountain outreach centre, hopefully soon.

Link to Hope Shoeboxes

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, whether by putting together a box, by donating money or by passing on old or foreign coins. In the end we had a total of 24 boxes, which is 5 more than last year! These will soon be on their way to Eastern Europe, bringing a little joy to the people who receive them. Sue Laker



Waiting for Christmas by Elizabeth English

Herman and I finally locked up and dragged ourselves home. It was 11 p.m. Christmas Eve. We'd sold almost all of our toys; and all of the reserved packages, except one, had been picked up. But the person who had put a deposit down on that package never appeared.

Early on Christmas morning our 12 year old son Tom, Herman and I were out under the tree opening up gifts. But there was something humdrum about this Christmas. Tom was grown up, and I missed his childish exuberance of past years. As soon as breakfast was over, he left to visit friends and Herman disappeared into the bedroom, mumbling, "I'm going back to sleep." So there I was alone. It was nearly 9 a.m.

Sleet mixed with snow cut the air outside. "I'm so glad I don't have to go out on a day like today," I thought to myself. And then it began — something I'd never experienced before. A strange, persistent urge. "Go to the store," it seemed to say. "That's crazy," I said to myself, "no one opens shop on Christmas day." For an hour I fought that strange feeling. Finally, I could stand it no longer. I got dressed. I put on my coat, placed my hat on my head, then my galoshes, scarf and gloves. Once outside, the wind cut right through me and sleet stung my cheeks. I felt ridiculous. I had no business being out in the bitter chill.

There was the store just ahead. "But, what in the world?" I wondered. In front of the store stood two little boys—huddled together, poorly dressed, and half frozen. One was about nine, the other six.

"Here she comes!" yelled the older one. "See, I told you she would come," he said. The younger one's face was wet with tears, but when he saw me his eyes opened wide and his sobbing stopped.

"What are you two children doing out here?" I scolded, hurrying them into the store.

"We've been waiting for you," replied the older one. "My little brother Jimmy didn't get any Christmas presents. We want to buy some skates. That's what he wants."

I looked at the five coins in his hand and at their expectant faces. Then I looked around the store. "I'm sorry" I said, "but we have no ska...." Then my eye caught sight of the 'reserved' shelf with its lone package. Could it be? I walked over and unwrapped the package. Miracles of miracles, there was a pair of skates! Jimmy reached for them. "Lord," I said silently, "let them be his size." And miracle added upon miracle. They were his size.

When the older boy finished tying the laces and saw that the skates fitted perfectly, he stood up and presented the coins to me. "No, I'm not going to take your money," I told him. "I want you to have these skates and use your money to get some gloves for your hands." What I saw in Jimmy's eyes was like a blessing. It was pure joy, and it was beautiful. My low spirits rose.

As I locked the door, I turned to the older brother and said, "How amazing that I happened to come along when I did. How did you boys know I would come?" I wasn't prepared for his reply. His gaze was steady, and he answered me softly. "I knew you would come. I asked Jesus to send you."

The tingles in my spine weren't from the cold. I knew God had planned this. As we waved good-bye, I returned home to a brighter Christmas than I had left.



Lindfield Repair Café

Saturday 6th December, 10am-1pm

Saturday 3rd January 2026 10am-1pm

United Reform Church, High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HL

REPAIR CAFE

Forest Row Repair Café

No Repair Café in December

Saturday 17th January 2026, 10am-1pm

The Community Centre, Forest Row RH18 5DZ

East Grinstead repair café

No Repair Café in December

10th January 2026 , 10am – 1pm

Glen Vue Centre, Railway Approach, East Grinstead RH19 1BS

St PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY



In the vast majority of Primary Schools in the UK, the end of November/beginning of December heralds the start of Nativity practice. St Peter's is no exception, and Christmas preparations are well underway!! However, that is just a small part of our busy days!

Autumn is also the classic time for cross-country races, with mud, glorious mud AND puddles everywhere! Our teams at St Peter's recently raced against teams from six other schools on the St Giles cross-country run. Both the girls' and boys' teams did really well, finishing in overall fourth place (girls) and third place (boys). The teams were a real credit to the school - thank you to them.

Anti-bullying Week is recognised wholeheartedly at St Peter's. Its message aligns closely with our school values and feeds into the work we do promoting kindness, respect and inclusion across the whole school community.

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal is a charity-based appeal, working in Eastern Europe. It aims to rebuild lives and communities in Eastern Europe through education and social care. The idea is to fill a shoebox with a variety of items such as shower gel, shampoo, warm hats, family games, toys, sweets etc. These shoeboxes are then transported to Eastern Europe and distributed to families (and elderly people). Our families managed to donate lots of items and we filled SIX (very full!) shoeboxes. Thank you to all our families who contributed to this - we are very grateful.



Returning to our Christmas preparations, of course our nativity play is underway but don't forget our Christmas decorations day, our Christmas tree decoration competition, the FOSPS Christmas fair and, very importantly, our Christmas Carol service. All this

and we are also planning another Grandparents afternoon at the school - it's a very full term indeed!!

ARDINGLY CONNECTED TOGETHER



For Ardingly Connected Together (ACT), there are always things to do, whatever the season. However, autumn and winter are particularly busy as we head rapidly to Christmas!! It's a fantastic time for us to look at what we can do in the village. Our aim, as always, is to bring a bit of joy, happiness and help to anyone and everyone who needs it.

Of course, Christmas is a busy time for everyone. ACT will be doing its food deliveries as usual and in December, with fantastic support from Ardingly College, we hope to do our Christmas special delivery. This entails our normal provisions to the families plus presents for the children, along with some festive treats.



We will be repeating our Reverse Advent calendar this year. We will put up a calendar on Facebook and hopefully on the village noticeboards, detailing specific items for people to collect each day. Then we will be asking those taking part to bring the produce to Hapstead Hall on 20 December so that we can distribute them in the new year. Don't worry if you don't want to commit to collecting an item every day through December - we are delighted to receive any donations.

One important note for your diaries - we are planning a Christmas get together for EVERYONE on December 20th, 6.30-8.30 at Hapstead Hall. Food will be provided and the Legion will be open for drinks. Come with existing friends and come and make some new ones. We'll be awarding prizes for the best dressed house AND the best Christmas outfit!!!

All we need now is some snow...:



FSW November Update

Dear Friends,

October is always a busy month here in the office, with the harvest collections flowing in and our stores being replenished for the coming months when we see high demand with the food bank. It is also the time when our minds turn to Christmas and the needs that we have for gifts and festive food for the families.



One of our recent successes was supporting a mum who was living in a damp, mouldy and dark basement flat with her toddler and young baby. There was a small sleeping area with no windows for ventilation which the family had to share. This often resulted in the parent having to sleep on the sofa. There was no heating and no space for a washing machine. The flat above was occupied by an anti-social neighbour who made a great deal of noise during the nights, keeping the family awake and causing distress and anxiety. The partner had to live separately due to the cramped conditions in the flat. We supported the family as they went through the system and now, they are living in a house in a part of their area that they love, with space for the children that is free from the concerns of antisocial behaviour.



All that we do FSW is in partnership, firstly there is the link between the family and the practitioner but equally as important is the link between FSW and you. We can only do our work because of the generosity of people across Sussex, so thank you for your ever generous support. Together we can support our families as they make lasting changes to their lives.

Martin Auton-Lloyd CEO, www.familysupportwork.org



MARGARET DALE

*sends her very best wishes to
everyone for a very happy
Christmas*

NOT TOO SERIOUSLY



Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs:

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE..."

"I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO..."

His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf," to which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!"

When my daughters were little I would always tell them at Christmas time that 'this is Jesus' birthday and he only received 3 things, so do not be disappointed in what lies under the tree'. When it was time for worship on Christmas morning, I asked the children what they thought Jesus would think of Santa and all the hype. Would he ask Santa a question? My youngest daughter replied, "I think Jesus would ask how come I only got three things and none of them were toys?"





ARDINGLY PARISH COUNCIL

As the leaves turn and the footpaths grow muddy, there's been plenty happening quietly behind the scenes. The Parish Council has been working to strengthen partnerships with both Wakehurst Place and the South of England Agricultural Society (SEAS). Excitingly, we're exploring new joint projects with Wakehurst and continuing to work together on the development of Hapstead Garden. We've also had constructive discussions with SEAS to review the summer's events and find ways to reduce disruption and improve collaboration going forward.

You may have spotted some visible improvements around the village. Two new benches have now been installed, thanks to grant funding secured jointly by the Parish Council and the Hapstead Hall Management Committee. The bench in front of the British Legion has also been repaired - thanks to Martin Angus for his craftsmanship. Do stop for a coffee and cake from Fellows Bakery or Ardingly Café and take a moment to enjoy a break on the new benches.

The playground area has also benefitted from improvements. The lower playground has been secured with new fencing - special thanks to Phil Knight, who donated his labour. The lower play ring is painted with new racing lines, and the multi-use games area at the top has been painted with lines to encourage its use. The Ardingly Rambling Dads - our local heroes raising funds for the playground - are developing exciting plans for new equipment in the spring. New signage will also be appearing soon, both for safety and to offer a warm welcome to our village spaces.

We'd also like to acknowledge some changes in the village. Dandylyon Style Tailoring is closing, and we thank Igor for his wonderful contribution to the Ardingly community. We wish him every success in his next chapter. The Ardingly Inn is also up for sale. Let's hope that with the new year, new opportunities will come for our village.

Finally, our thanks to Reverend Crutchley, who led a beautiful Remembrance Day service outside the Ardingly Community Pavilion — a poignant moment to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Next up is the Hapstead Hall **Christmas Fair on 6th December, followed by Carols and the Christingle Service at 4:45pm**, led by Reverend Crutchley and the St Peter's Church Choir. Mince pies and mulled wine, provided by the Parish Council, will help make this a most festive occasion. We hope to see you there!

Wishing you and your families a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

Margaret Meldrum (Chair)

RAISING FUNDS FOR ST PETER'S CHURCH THE EASY WAY!

Raise valuable funds for St Peter's whilst doing your Christmas shopping!

Christmas is just around the corner, and if we shop online we have an ideal opportunity to raise funds for St Peter's Church without leaving the house! You simply need to go to the website www.easyfundraising.org.uk and sign up, then choose St Peter's Church, Ardingly, as your chosen charity. You can then select the online 'shop' at which you wish to make your purchases and you will be directed to that site. When you have completed your purchases a percentage of what you have paid will be sent to St Peter's, completely free of charge.

There are over 4,000 retailers which will donate to us when you shop this way and they include some of the most popular ones – Amazon, Argos, Sainsbury's, Ebay, Marks & Spencer and many others. You just need to remember to go to *easyfundraising* before beginning to shop!



AROUND THE VILLAGE

ARDINGLY REMEMBERS

I don't think we have ever seen as many Remembrance poppies bedecking our village as we saw this year! They were in the church, on the bus stops, the benches, the post box, the Pavilion, the lamp posts and a lot more places!

Many thanks to the W.I. for creating the poppies and decorating the village and church, and helping us to remember how much we owe to those who gave their lives for our freedom.



BIN COLLECTIONS

The change to bin collection dates was a bit chaotic wasn't it?! Now that we've all settled into the new system there will be a change of dates over the Christmas and New Year period so here are the dates given on the WSCC website:

1st December: Food bin and Recycling

8th December: Food bin

15th December: Food bin, Recycling and Rubbish

22nd December: Food bin

30th December (Tuesday): Food bin and Recycling

6th January (Tuesday): Food bin and Rubbish

12th January: Food bin and Recycling

ICE SKATING IN ARDINGLY!

The Showground is hosting an ice-skating rink from 22nd November to 23rd December! I think this is a first for Ardingly (since we skated on ponds years ago)?

TELEPHONE OUTAGES

As I write this, many Ardingly residents are still experiencing intermittent telephone outages which began in the first week of November and which are causing both worry and inconvenience – particularly for those who do not have a mobile phone as backup. When we pick up the phone to make a call the call seems to go nowhere, although it does ring at the other end.

BOBBY ON THE BEAT

On two occasions recently the police officer whose beat includes Ardingly has visited St Peter's Church and explained that he covers several villages in Mid-Sussex. It was very reassuring to see him walking round Ardingly, including Ardings Close, one day last month.

CHURCHYARD TIDY UP

On 18th October about 12 of us, armed with trowels, weed extractors, secateurs, loppers and various other gardening items, set about pruning shrubs in the churchyard and clearing the drainage channel round the church building. The weather was perfect – dry and neither hot nor cold – and a couple of hours later the end result was very satisfying to see! We discovered quite a few mining bees as we worked, but they are solitary creatures and do not sting.

Mid-morning, a large group (we counted at least 38) bell ringers arrived from Maidstone and we were treated to some first class ringing, accompanied by Jill Veasey doing some organ practice! It was a very pleasurable morning. Sue and Gina

Before:



After:



Email: debbie.nicholson@ardingly.com
College Tel: 01444893000
Transport Available on Request



ARDINGLY
College



World Ready

Bridging Ages Cafe

Where: Lower Library

(Visitor Car Park)

When: Every Friday

1:30pm - 2:30pm

IT Support

Board Games

Conversations

Free Tea and Coffee

16th January
23rd January
30th January **Music Recital**
6th February
XXX

A place to bridge the ages, where young & not so young can chat, play a game of Scrabble or Chess or have some basic IT support over a cup of tea & biscuits.

This is offered as a volunteering opportunity for our students on a termly basis.



Parish Register

The funeral of Ian Rickland Smith 'Ricky,' of Orchid Park, Haywards Heath, who died 15th September 2025 aged 76 years was held at The Surrey & Sussex Crematorium on Friday 24th October 2025.

The funeral of Philip 'Phil' Golunsky, of Gowers Close, Ardingly, who died 29th September 2025 aged 58 years was held at St. Peter's Church on Wednesday 29th October 2025.

A Christmas prayer

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been.
Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again,
there is light in the darkness of this world's mess.
Light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome.
Jesus is the Light of the World.
Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



Flower Rota

12th December: Pat & Sheila (Advent/foliage)
19th December: All flower arrangers please (Advent/foliage)
20th December: Belinda & others available (Christmas)
2nd January: All flower arrangers please
16th January: Pam & Jean
30th January: Belinda & Jill



Meeting Point Rota

8th December: All (Christmas Party – set up from 9.15 am)
12th January and 26th January: helpers tbc

Brass Cleaning Rota

13th December: Caroline Rich

General Information

ANGELS & URCHINS: At St Peter's Centre on Thursdays, 9-11.00 during term time. Contact Jill Veasey (373091) or Jane Taylor Cheater (892769).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAGAZINE: 2026 Annual Subscription £3.00. Can be delivered or posted (if posted the cost is £15.00 for the year). **MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Sue Laker, 19 Ardings Close, Ardingly RH17 6AN (892117). Please submit items for inclusion by Friday before the penultimate Sunday in the month. Email to: emails4sue@gmail.com

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

TRANSPORT: If you require transport to church, or if you could provide it for others, please contact Jill Veasey (373091).

PRAYER DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2025



"He will be called 'Emmanuel', which means 'God is with us' " (Matthew 1 v 22 GNB)

- 1 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 2 Our Prime Minister and government and all MPs
- 3 The NHS, under extra pressure at this time of year
- 4 Jamaica & The Philippines, recovering from super typhoons
- 5 IMARA-Uganda and the students helped by the charity
- 6 The Christmas Fair and Carols round the Oak Tree today
- 7** Our services today. May our love and faith grow this year
- 8 Meeting Point and today's Christmas Party
- 9 The situation in Gaza and the Middle East
- 10 Childline/NSPCC and the children who call them for help
- 11 All those who are grieving the loss of someone
- 12 Open House and Off the Fence. All who are homeless
- 13 The situation in our prisons. Inmates and their families
- 14** Our worship today. Pray that God's kingdom may grow in Ardingly
- 15 The situation in Syria and the work of Samara's Aid
- 16 The Salvation Army and Church Army, so busy right now
- 17 Bambi and Andreas on Home Leave following the death of Andreas' father recently
- 18 Foodbanks, Ardingly Connected Together and other organisations helping people in need
- 19 All who will find the Christmas season difficult
- 20 Teachers and pupils as term ends and holidays begin
- 21** Our worship today and the Carol Service this evening
- 22 Samaritans and Crisis – extra busy during the Christmas season
- 23 The military and others who will spend Christmas away from home
- 24 All the Christmas services and those who lead them
- 25 The Saviour is born!** Give thanks and praise
- 26 Countries where there are food shortages and poor healthcare
- 27 Our local hospices and Care Homes. Adelaide at Compton House
- 28** Our services today. Give thanks for the gift of new life
- 29 Give thanks for friends and family and all who encourage us
- 30 The Police and emergency services
- 31 Look back over the year and give thanks

PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY 2026



*"His compassions never fail. They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3 v 22-23)*

- 1 Commit the year to God and ask his blessing on it
- 2 John and Sally Crutchley and their family
- 3 Pray a blessing on our village businesses this year
- 4** Our services today and our witness this year
- 5 Pray for opportunities to share Jesus this year
- 6 Our churchwardens, John and Nigel
- 7 King Charles and all the Royal Family
- 8 Milan & Shusma and the work of the Aanandit Church in Nepal
- 9 World leaders, the work of the UN and UNESCO
- 10 Those who are persecuted for their faith
- 11** Our services today. Pray for Renewal and growth
- 12 Young people and all the pressures/dangers they live with
- 13 CPAS, supporting parishes with training and resources
- 14 Ardingly Connected Together and the families they support
- 15 Heather Johnstone and the work of the Rehema Project in Tanzania
- 16 All those who live with a disability or long term illness
- 17 Our home groups and their leaders
- 18** Our services today. Pray for all clergy and others who lead worship
- 19 Our church finances and St Peter's Centre
- 20 All who are housebound, frail or lonely
- 21 Refugees and aid workers, in the UK and around the world
- 22 Victims of domestic abuse or violence
- 23 Beach Head Pastors, helping people who have lost hope
- 24 All who clean the church, arrange flowers and help in other ways
- 25** Our services today. Pray God's blessing on Ardingly
- 26 Dame Sarah Mullally as she prepares to be Archbishop of Canterbury
- 27 Tearfund, working to alleviate poverty and suffering
- 28 Climate Change and the world's response to it
- 29 Journalists and all who work in the media
- 30 AOJA and the work of the clinic in The Gambia
- 31 Praise God for his promises and help in difficult times

Deadline for copy for the February magazine is
Friday 16th January