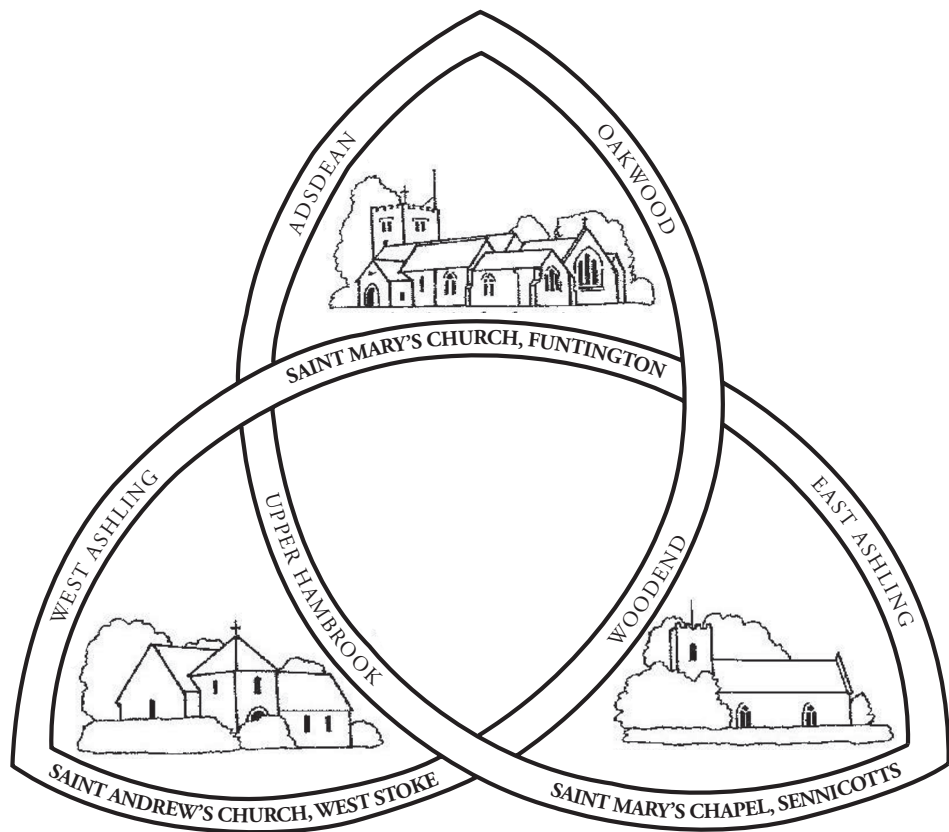


FUNTINGTON

Parish Magazine



DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

£1

Funtington and West Stoke with Sennicotts: Who's Who

St Mary, Funtington; St Andrew, West Stoke; St Mary, Sennicotts www.funtingtonweststoke.com

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St Mary, Sennicotts:		
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An Advent letter from Mother Jessica Reid, Priest in Charge, Apuldram and Fishbourne

As December begins, all our attention turns to a calendar crammed with a myriad celebrations and expectations, and the to-do list with its cards, presents, and plans for Christmas feast. There is such busyness all around, and anticipation that has been building long through November of all things that Christmas ought to be. Christmas, that feast where a lifetime's memories add fresh layers to our traditions every year, as the favourite decorations are brought out of their boxes and one or two newer pieces are added to bring some new light, new joy.

But, this is a December in which joy feels a little further off, as indeed every December has for the last few years. We will sing about Bethlehem, lying dark and dreamless under the silent stars, while the modern Bethlehem is caught up in war; likewise, ransom for the captive Israel in J. M. Neale's peerless O come, O come Emmanuel, will hold new and darker meaning. The safety of our celebration feels at odds with the terror and suffering of the people of Gaza, and the agony of the people of Israel.

I can hope - as I write this piece in mid-November - that by the time you read these words, there will be peace; that somehow the unanswerable will be answered, and the impossible achieved. "How beautiful on the mountains" announces the prophet Isaiah, our companion through many an Advent, "are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation." This is not foolish optimism, but the promise of God summoning us forth from ourselves. How needed is even the promise of peace in this time, so that the very feet of the messenger running to bring it to us would be beautiful.

All our Advent readings are one of hope in something that seems impossible, the promise of light which shines in the darkness and cannot be overwhelmed by it. We read them over and again into the long dark nights, the flicker of candlelight so full of promise. Year in and year out they come to meet us, with their words of comfort to a hurting people, and each year we find new depths to them, new need for them. Their familiarity brings assurance but also challenge: are our eyes fixed on the manger, where the infant Jesus will be laid? Is our heart set on the promised time when he will come again? Do we know where our hope comes from, who it is we are waiting for?

For he has come and he will come again. The first time, born among us, a tiny child reaching out in certainty that hands would reach down to him. His love and confidence in our capacity to love him, transforming and healing humanity. He

will come to bring all waiting to its true end, bringing perfect peace and the end to the suffering, violence, and death. This is the Advent promise.

But what of the time between that first Christmas, and the one to come, what of right now in its confusion of joy and agony? Now we are called to watch and wait, to welcome Jesus' Spirit into our hearts, so that we might transform our every moment with that same love, which stops at nothing and will not rest until all healing is found. The love which teaches us to turn our thoughts, and hopes, and acts to good, to attend to the world around us and bring the good tidings that it needs, because there is wonder and there is joy and there is light shining bright in the darkness.

Mother Jessica

A thank you note to all from Father Andrew

To Everyone at funtington! ^{16/12/23}

Just a quick note to say a huge Thank You for your lovely gifts and messages presented to me at my final service a Harvest Sunday.

Your gifts will have pride of place - in my new home - I have already adorned parts of St Mary's to go into the lovely frames.

Thank You with Love Prayers & Best Wishes for Andrew.

Free logs for those in need in our parish

This winter, the church is again able to offer a free load of dry, seasoned, split logs for those in our parish who are in particular need. If you know of anyone, a neighbour or a friend, who would benefit from a load of logs, please contact Neil Watt (07780364227 wattnwatt@gmail.com) or Pippa Kerr (07779326511 phillipakerr123@gmail.com) and we will arrange a delivery.

FUNTINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

The next issue of the Parish Magazine will be February 2024
Please could all contributors send copy for this by 18th January
2024 to Editorfuntingtonmag@gmail.com

Prayer Tree in St Mary's Church.

We have placed a white 'Prayer Tree' at the back of Funtington church; there is already one at St Andrew's, West Stoke.

It is there for anyone to use. Please feel free to write a short prayer; a prayer of thanks or perhaps for someone who is unwell, or in need, maybe for someone celebrating a milestone occasion. Prayers might also be for the world or for a situation closer to home. There are some cut out leaves beside the tree on which to write a prayer which can then be hung on the tree.

Please do make use of this if you would like to. Prayers will be prayed on the 3rd Monday in the month at 5.30-6.30 in Funtington Church. You would be very welcome to join us if you'd like to. Please do not include a person's name on the prayer, but you could include their relationship to you, eg neighbour, child, parent.

Neil Watt

Home Group – The Bible Course

A group of us are halfway through studying The Bible Course produced by the Bible Society. This week (mid-November) we covered *Judges and Kings*. It is such a good and engaging course which we thoroughly commend to others in the parish, and we are planning to run it again in the new year so others can share the benefits. The course only touches the surface of the Bible, but it is really helping us discover and understand the big picture presented in this amazing book. We often read about Old Testament stories but don't fully understand their huge significance. This week we were taught about the tabernacle in the Old and New Testament. In the time of Moses, the tabernacle was a tent that the Israelites moved along with them and was the place where God had his home and presence with them. Only Moses was allowed to approach God, and only then with great fear and care. Solomon built a permanent grander structure, the Temple in Jerusalem. God dwelt in the Holy of Holies which was an inner building, which no one was allowed to enter except the high priest and only once a year. At Jesus crucifixion and death, the curtain of the of the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom. Because of Jesus' sacrifice there is no more barrier between us and God. We read in the New Testament that Christians are the new Temple. The Almighty, Creator God makes his home on earth with us. It is such an amazing and mind-blowing thought; God



who was once too awesome to approach now makes his home on earth with us. What a privilege, what a responsibility!

I really recommend this course and hope others will be ready to give it a go when we re-run it next year. It uses well-presented video, guided discussion and a helpful workbook and we all look forward eagerly to the next session each week.

Neil Watt

Parents and Toddlers

Many apologies, but the Parents and Toddler Group have temporarily had to cancel the usual Monday group and will restart on Monday January 15th 2024.

Julie Morrow

Christmas Flowers and Decorations for St. Mary's Church

Thank you everyone for your continued support in enabling us to enhance our wonderful Church. We shall soon be decorating the Church for Christmas. Any donations towards the cost of the flowers would be gratefully received. For more details on how you might contribute please contact ***Denise Foster 01243 574251***

News from the WI

On Wednesday November 15th we welcomed David Roberts and his wife Gill to talk to us about the History of Bell Ringing. David is the Steeple Keeper of Chichester Cathedral. He talked about the History of Bells from the 13th century to today. It is too complicated to go into the full details here. There is a history of 800 years of Bell Ringing at the Cathedral and Chichester has the only surviving bell tower. Chichester had five bells, then they were increased to eight bells. All the bells are of different weights, from a quarter tonne to three and half tonnes. They start with the bells in the up position before ringing. Six of us had a session using small hand bells. Standing in a straight line we rang our bell in turn, then by changing places the bells made a different tune, it was really fascinating. It was a really interesting talk.

As usual we finished with our excellent tea and goodies. Our December meeting will be on Wednesday 13th at 2pm for our Christmas party.

January's meeting will be on Wednesday 17th at 2pm. Our speaker will be Kathryn Wignall with a talk on Choreography. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Our President is Sue Nicholson on 01243 574722. ***Jan Dunnett***

A Centenarian remembers: Shopping before the War

When did you last sit down in your grocery store? Shops and shopping arrangements have changed beyond belief during my lifetime. In the grocer's before the Second World War, the customer would either sit or stand at the counter with her shopping list and the Assistant would run round collecting goods from the various shelves and counters. Sugar, dried fruits, coffee beans, lentils and most dry goods were weighed out on brass scales and using small brass scoops were put into brown or blue bags. The bags were made of heavy, coarse paper and were roughly the size of the sugar bags we use today. Butter stood in vast blocks about 1/2 metre high, labelled 'fresh', 'slightly salted', 'Dutch', 'New Zealand' etc. The Assistant would pat into an oblong block any quantity wanted using wooden butter pats, dipped in water to prevent the butter sticking. This was done on large marble slabs.

When all the goods were assembled, the Assistant would ask whether the customer wished to pay or have the things charged to her account and also whether she wished to take them with her or have them delivered – there was no delivery charge. If customers ran an account, they were given an account book, beautifully stamped with the firm's name and with a window, showing one's name, into which the bill would be entered and priced. Hence the expression, "booked" which one never hears in that particular context, today. Goods could be ordered by 'phone for delivery the same day, quite often by errand boys, lads just out of school, who rode specially adapted bicycles to carry enormous baskets on their handlebars. Bigger items would come by van but things like fish, meat and groceries the errand boys brought to the door. At Christmas they would be given a Christmas Box – normally a shilling or two (5p – 10p).

In our town there was a small corner haberdasher's shop used by people who were dressmaking. They sold materials of various kinds, reels of cotton or Sylko, patent fasteners, pins, needles etc. The shop had a small kiosk at the back where the cashier sat and from there at high level ran wires to every counter. On the wires hung a little screw top container into which the assistants would put one's bill and money. She would then pull a little lever on the wire and the container would shoot off at great speed towards the cashier, making a little "ping" as it manoeuvred around the various corners. When it reached the cashier, she would unscrew the box, take the payment, put back the receipt and any change and with

a “ping” would send it hurtling back to its former place – magic for a small girl to watch! I had completely forgotten this until in China in 1985 we found them being used in a large materials store there!

All High Streets had numerous tobacconists’ which only sold cigarettes, cigars and tobacco, matches and lighter fuel. Magazines came from the paper shop and sweets from the confectioners’ – things were far more specialised. We have also lost the Dyers and Cleaners – if people became tired of wearing pale colours, their garments could be dyed to virtually any dark colour. Our woollen fabric was of very high quality and the only synthetic fabric in those days was artificial silk, known as rayon – but even this would dye quite well.

Evening newspapers were sold on the street and men would set up their stands by the station entrance, near the bus stop or anywhere that had good access to the public. The vendors would shout the names of the various papers – “Star”, “News” (Evening News) or “Standard”(Evening Standard) at commuters racing for their trains home. In the West End of London these stands were quite often left un-manned and people would take their paper and leave their pennies on the remaining pile. During the war, I remember seeing a placard outside Oxford Circus tube station which read, “Trains, Noses, Italians (bracketed) - All running!”

Looking back over the years, the only one constant is that of rising prices! A two ounce bar of Cadbury’s chocolate then was two old pennies! ***Bee Kenchington***

Bosham Chidham & District Horticultural Society

Annual Christmas Party

Thursday 14th December 2023 – 7 for 7.30 p.m.

Bosham Village Hall

Members Christmas buffet, wine, raffle and Quiz

Obituary Peter Bulfield

Peter Bulfield passed away at his home in East Ashling on October 14th at the age of 93. He will be missed by his family and their many friends.

Peter and his wife Pamela moved to East Ashling 25 years ago. They knew the area well as they had been sailing in Chichester Harbour and walking on the Sussex Downs for some years. Cobden Cottage, renamed as Snowgoose Cottage became their home. For many years they had a second home in Cornwall which they shared generously with friends and family. He was an enthusiastic sailor and taught all his family to sail.

After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant and working with Peat Marwick for 12 years , Peter worked for the Schrodgers Bank for 27 years. He travelled widely in Japan and South America and later he was Chief Executive of the Japanese Bank Yamatchi.

In retirement he was a member of the committee of CAFOD (The Catholic Agency For Overseas Development) and in recognition of this service he was award a KSG by the Pope. (Knight of St Gregory).

For a time he was also Treasurer of the West Sussex Institute for the Blind. At the end of his life his own sight sadly no longer allowed him to read and to paint or to go bird watching. Donations in his memory have been invited tor the RNLI and the RSPB.

A sincere Catholic gentleman, he will be fondly remembered for his involvement in a range of local activities and by his wife, two daughters and five granddaughters.

Poppy Appeal – The Results

It was lovely to see the excellent attendance at St Mary's Churchyard on Remembrance Sunday by the assembled ranks of Scouts, Brownies Cubs and Beavers looking so smartly turned out for the Wreath Laying at the base of the War Memorial.

They all came for a rehearsal on the Saturday afternoon and soon learnt the art of carrying their Flags. `Practice made Perfect` and the standard was very high on Sunday. Thanks to Paul Hughes and Clare Hosking, the Bell Ringers and The Rev John Dane, who told us of his childhood experiences in the East End Blitz.

Finally, thanks to the Volunteer Poppy Sellers, the schools, the pubs, the cafes, restaurants and businesses of our spread-out Parish for their efforts in collecting what has so far turned out to be nearly £3,000 for the Poppy Appeal. We are still yet to hear how much was contributed by the Poppy Appeal QR Code. Just this year I scattered the Ashes of my friend who had his leg blown off in 1971 in Northern Ireland. He has been supported during his life in many ways by your contributions to this very worthwhile cause. Thanks to all of you who helped this year. ***Tony D`Alton, Poppy Appeal***

FUNTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

At our November meeting we were very happy to have Nick Baird attend to talk about the future of Broadly Copse and the outdoor pig unit. Sadly, Nick informed us that the outdoor pig unit would cease operating as a unit in the spring of next year, it will be a very sad day when this finally happens. The pigs have been so much a part of our community for such a long-time, I still remember Rev John Holiman declaring that it was quite unique to serve in a Parish where his parishioners were outnumbered by pigs!

There are now no pigs at Broadly Copse, but this unit will continue to operate and to be run using maize to power the unit.

We have received 3 more applications for additional Gypsy/Traveller pitches in Newells Lane, the PC has submitted objections to all three of these applications.

We have appointed contractors to replace some fences in the playground, to install the new notice board in Funtington and put up a handrail on the steps in The Dell, this work will begin on the 20th November.

After many emails we finally managed to get WSCC to cut back the vegetation along the pavement in West Ashling, from the village hall entrance to Portal Close.

The PC has now submitted an insurance claim to replace the finger post sign in West Stoke, this sign was knocked down some weeks ago and then subsequently stolen, we shall keep a look out on Ebay for this sign to reappear!

We continue to battle on with many flooding issues across the Parish, and we hope to have some solutions to alleviate these problems, in the future.

Thank you to Tony D'Alton for organising the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 12th November, the PC laid a wreath in Remembrance of those in our parish who gave their lives for us!

I always find it immensely moving when the names of those who died in our Parish are read out, as I know that some of the families of those people's whose names are also on our War Memorial, still live on in our villages today.

Jane Mottershead.



Parish of Funtington
with West Stoke
and Sennicotts

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Open Air Nativity 4pm, 10th December

at St Mary's, Sennicotts (weather permitting)

9 Lessons & Carols by Candlelight 6pm, 17th December

at St Mary's, Funtington

Crib Service 3pm, 24th December

at St Mary's, Funtington

Christmas Eve Carols 6pm, 24th December

at St Andrew's, West Stoke (limited capacity)

Christmas Eucharist 10am, 25th December

at St Mary's, Funtington

Christmas Service 11am, 25th December

at St Mary's, Sennicotts

For the latest information about events and church services please see the Parish Magazine,
funtingtonweststoke.org.uk or a church notice board.

If you would like a lift to a church service or event then please contact a churchwarden



**We wish all our Contributors, Distributors and of course our
readers a Very Happy Christmas**



Robin Redbreast



Everyone is familiar with a little garden bird the Robin and the fact that this bird is often referred to as 'Robin Redbreast'. In fact the bird's original name in the English language was 'Redbreast'. The word Robin was not used to describe the bird until the fifteenth century when it was popular practice to call familiar birds by human names and so the Redbreast became known as Robin or Robin Redbreast. But have you ever wondered why the bird was called a Redbreast? For if you look closely the

Robin's breast is actually not red but is distinctly orange. Orange was a colour which for much of our history, our language did not have a word to describe.

Orange is a word derived from the Anglo-Norman word '*orange*' or *pomme d'orange*' which has its roots in the Sanskrit language. The word was not known in the English language until the thirteenth century where it was used to describe the fruit and it was not actually used to describe the colour until 1502 when it was used to describe the colour of Margaret Tudor's dress. In England prior to the use of the word as a colour, orange was described as yellow-red or '*geoluhread*'. In anyone's language that is a bit of a mouthful, so one can see why the word red was simply used to describe the breast of a little bird.



This aberration of colour description has continued through our culture. Have you wondered why the Robin is associated with Christmas? Legend has it that when the baby Jesus was in his manger in the stable, the fire which had been lit to keep him warm started to blaze up very strongly. A brown Robin, noticing that Mary had been distracted by the inn-keeper's wife, placed himself between the fire and the face of baby Jesus. The Robin fluffed out its feathers to protect the baby, but in so-doing its breast was

scorched by the fire. The tinged plumage was then passed onto future generations of Robins. The more factual explanation however has to do with our postal service. Postmen in Victorian Britain were nicknamed "Robins" because of their red-breasted coloured uniforms. So the Robin on the Christmas card came to represent the postman who delivered the card. Both explanations still allude to the Robin's breast being coloured red!

Whatever the colour of its breast, the Robin is a beautiful bird and a real star that lights up our garden fauna. As a species it is very territorial and so can be often seen in the open

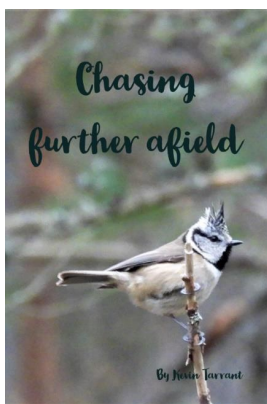
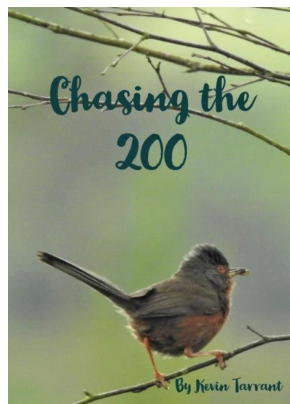
defending its territory from other Robins and even other species which are sometimes a lot larger than him. This behaviour can be very aggressive but often very entertaining. And if you cannot see him, then you can usually hear him, for another characteristic of this bird that is so endearing is his most wonderful song. He uses this also to declare his territory but as spring arrives he sings to attract a mate. He will sing all year around and from dawn to dusk. From January through to early spring his song will become more and more complicated and acoustically pleasing as it he adds in more and more phrases to entice his beau.

The Robin Redbreast; a beautiful, entertaining little bird found in our garden. Definitely a little bird to enjoy.

KevinTarrant

A Christmas Present Idea: Local bird watcher, Kevin Tarrant, has written two books recounting how he went about transitioning from casual bird watching, where he would go out for a walk with his binoculars often seeing the same birds again and again, to a more successful approach where he could actually go out with the intention of finding specific birds. The books relate stories of some of his successes (and failures). Most of his accounts and are set in the local area. Each book is over 450 pages long and is illustrated with lots of coloured photographs. His experiences often stimulated the writing of a short verse which he has included at the end of some of the chapters. Anyone with a love of nature will appreciate them.

And don't forget Kevin's book 'Musings of a Birder' which is a collection of articles written for the Funtington Parish Magazine over the years.



The books can be purchased through Amazon but can also be obtained at a very discounted price directly from the author at £25 each (kntarrant@icloud.com).

Editors note: I gave 'Chasing the 200' to my son-in-law last Christmas and he was absolutely delighted with it!

Sawbills

There are a group of ducks that visit us in the winter which are well worth looking out for and these are the 'sawbills'. The sawbills are relatively large fish eating ducks. To aid retention of their slippery catch they have long thin bills with serrated edges which give their group the name 'sawbills'. They are classed as sea-ducks but can often be found on inland lagoons and in riverine habitats. They are diving ducks which makes them an interesting watch.



Female Red-breasted Merganser

During the winter the most easily found sawbill locally is the Red-breasted Merganser. The male in particular is a very handsome bird. A long bodied duck about the size of a Mallard, it has a green head and neck with a long thin red bill. It sports a wispy crest which flows back

behind the head. Its body is grey and white and it has a chestnut coloured chest. The female is a grey and brown coloured with a reddish brown head which merges into the colours of its chest and body and also sports a crest. These birds breed in Scotland and northeast England where they tend to reside all year, the birds we see have bred further north and migrate south. They arrive usually in late October where they can be seen on the sea around Chichester Harbour and on the lagoons created in the harbour. The Red-breasted Merganser is, of our three sawbills, the happiest on the sea.

The second sawbill we can see locally is the Goosander which is also called across 'the pond', the Common Merganser. These birds arrive a little later and again probably are birds from northern Europe, rather than our breeding birds from Scotland, north England and Wales. They are less common in our patch and generally prefer to spend the winter in riverine locations, lakes and large reservoirs. We had several females at Church Norton last year and others at Pulborough RSPB. They are similar in shape to the Red-breasted



Male Goosander



Female Goosander

Merganser but a little larger. The male again has a green head and long thin bill but lacks the fluffy crest and its body is whiter with a black back. The female is very similar to the Red-breasted Merganser but her body has a more greyish tinge and the demarcation between her reddish-brown head and neck and the pale chest is very marked. This is the easiest way to tell them apart.



Female Smew



Male Smew

The last sawbill that occasionally visits the UK is a true winter migrant and has been seen less and less often over the last couple of decades. Once a regular visitor from eastern Siberia and north Scandinavia very few are now turning up. The bird is globally getting scarcer and it is thought to be due to degradation of its breeding habitat. They are slow migrators who leave their breeding grounds in September and slowly work their way south and west. If some do arrive in the UK, it is often not until December. They occasionally turn up on large lakes and reservoirs. This I think is the smartest of the UK sawbills. The male has a black eye patch, but otherwise is dressed mainly in white with some artistic black lines decorating its

plumage. It has a gun-metal blue bill which is shorter than the other sawbills. The female is known by birders as a 'redhead' because of its distinctive reddish-brown crown and nape which contrasts nicely with its white throat. It is otherwise a grey bodied duck. Both sexes have small crests and are significantly smaller than the other UK sawbills. The last local sightings of this fabulous duck have been at Pulborough Brooks and around Hayling Island but were several years back. Even at Dungeness, which was considered a hot spot for these winter migrants, have only had the sporadic bird over the last couple of years. However if you do want to see this beautiful bird the Wild Wetland Centres at Arundel and Slimbridge do have specimens on their pools.

These are the sawbills, well worth looking out for over the next couple of months.

Kevin Tarrant

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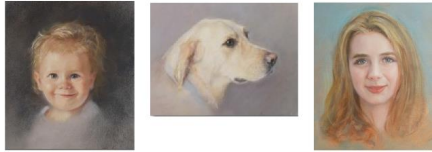
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Fabulous Fireworks at Funtington

The evening was postponed by a day due to the weather and what a sensible decision that was! More than 200 people attended. The bonfire and fireworks were spectacular.



A big thank you goes to Tim and Claire Hoare for the use of their land and for providing the excellent sausages. To all those who helped build the bonfire and provide wood: David Heaver and Giles (his farm manager), Trevor Phillips (who also provided pallets) and to Andrew Hughes and Neil Watt who

masterminded the whole thing. A profit of over six hundred pounds was made of which half will go to charity. Thank you everyone for your support.



Armistice Day Service at St. Andrew`s Church, West Stoke



‘They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.’

In honour of the 60 young service men killed in both wars from the Parish of Funtington, West Stoke and West Stoke 60 poppies signifying each one decorated the altar

Remembrance Day Parade and Service at St. Mary's Funtington





The New Year will mark the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Funtington Players, our local dramatic society. We hope to celebrate the occasion with two major productions, in April and November, but also with a fund-raising event for the West Ashling Village Hall in the summer with a revue drawing on local stories, local history and local musical talent, for which we will be seeking contributions from residents.

These days Funtington Players is locally renowned as a dramatic society that regularly and reliably produces amateur theatre of the highest standard. But where did it all start?

Our earliest documented production was a 1946 programme for a pantomime, *Mother Goose*, attributed to St Mary's Youth Fellowship and Funtington Scouts. Not quite the Funtington Players as yet, but significantly it featured some of the stalwarts whose names would be synonymous with the Players throughout their earliest days, including the Reverend Norman Dunlop, newly returned from five years in a prisoner of war camp.

The name "The Funtington Players" was first published in 1949, for a production of 'Wasn't it Odd' by Kenneth Horne.

For several years the FPs produced a steady stream of three act plays, and evenings of a variety of one act plays. Attendances were good, and the productions proved popular with audiences, who paid between 1s 6d (7½p) and 3s 6d (17½p) for their tickets. A proposal to increase the number of 3s 6d tickets "by making a Dress Circle by raising chairs on builders' planks" was set aside. It was implemented thirty years later (in a much safer form!) when our fully raked auditorium seating was developed.

Such was the popularity of the productions that, in 1963, the possibility of extending the presentations to three nights was discussed, although the consensus was that "two fairly full houses would be better". Despite these successes, however, it often proved difficult to find sufficient actors to cast the productions.

At the 1964 AGM it was announced that the Women's Institute Hall would be closed down indefinitely because of concerns over its safety. Despite having no home, The Funtington Players soldiered on. The indefatigable Enid Dunlop devised and produced a succession of Passion and Nativity Plays, which were performed at St Mary's Church. In 1966 the Christmas play featured an extra cast member, Amos the donkey, a much loved local inhabitant!

Finally, after much fund raising and a Government grant, enough money had been raised to repair the hall and transfer the ownership to a Village trust. In October 1970 the Players were once again back at the hall with a presentation of *The Black Sheep of the Family* by L. du Garde Peach and Ian Hay. So successful was the play that, along with an increase in the annual subscription to five shillings, the year-end balance of the club soared to £72. The Funtington Players revival, and the modern phase of the society, had begun.

The 1975 production of *Anastasia*, directed by Henry Parkinson, set the standard for future presentations. The final ballroom scene was a galaxy of red, white and black costumes set against red velvet and gold furniture. The acting of Pam Parkinson and Enid Dunlop (in her farewell performance) were widely acclaimed.

The following year marked another first, when the Players broke away from the proscenium arch and performed *The Heiress* in the body of the hall, surrounded by the audience. 1976 saw the first offering of two major productions a year, a practice that continues to the present day, with the recent addition of two autumn evenings of short 10-minute plays written 'in house' by Society members under the overall heading of 'Act, Write, Direct'.



Pam Parkinson, Macro Wilson and Edith Dunlop in 'Anastasia' in 1975



Robert Horton, Holly Shakespeare, Sybil Grindrod, Noel Edwards, Anna Mallam, Pam Parkinson, Muriel Carnegie in Victoriana 1983

And even earlier in 1957



Finally from a recent production last year 'The Titfield Thunderbolt'



The website funtingtonplayers.org.uk provides full detail of our activities Please contact us if you have any memories or photographs.

@teamfuntington Update



The eight members of @teamfuntington for the 2023/2024 season are very enthusiastic and ready to start building their electric racing car. The club, whose members are from Hawthorn Class (years 5&6) at Funtington School, has been running for ten years and is more popular than ever. The children are encouraged to work as a team to design, build and race their electric kit car against other teams at local events. This helps to spark an enthusiasm for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) through the excitement of motorsport!

Look out for further progress updates during the year and if you would like more information or feel that you could donate or sponsor the team please contact funtington.goblin@gmail.com or see @teamfuntington on Instagram

Funtington Parish in the Past - Cobden Cottage now Snowgoose Cottage

Snowgoose Cottage in Sandy Lane, East Ashling used to be called Cobden Cottage. It was originally a farmhouse, the home of the Cobden family. The adjacent cottages were also called Cobdens and so the name was changed to avoid confusion.

The farmhouse probably dates from the early 17th century and the Cobdens would have held it in copyhold from the Manor of Bosham. In West Sussex there are Cobdens



Jessie and Trevor Weston outside their cottage

in many of the villages with a large Cobden family in Singleton.(1) I suspect that the Cobdens in Sandy Lane or Lake Road (2) as it used to be called were there in the early 1600s although parish records show no sign of them. The farmhouse probably dates from the early 17th century and the Cobdens would have held it in copyhold from the Manor of Bosham. In West Sussex there are Cobdens in many of the villages with a



Cobden Cottage during winter 1963

large Cobden family in Singleton.(1) I suspect that the Cobdens in Sandy Lane or Lake Road (2) as it used to be called were there in the early 1600s although parish records show no sign of them.

I can remember eight families at Cobden Cottage, none them farmers like the Cobdens in the past. They illustrate the way in which our community has changed in 70 years. Most recently **Pamela and Peter Bulfield** have lived there for the last 25 years. Peter was a banker and his death is recorded elsewhere in this magazine.

The owner of Cobden Cottage when we came to live in East Ashling was **Miss Daphne Johnson**. Her nephew Richard Johnson (3) became well known actor. He was not interested in the family paint business.

Daphne Johnson let her cottage during WWII as she was unable to use her car and after the war she let it to **Commander Tom Fowke**, then a student at Chichester Theological College. We knew his family quite well but I had not heard of them since Rev Tom Fowke became the Vicar of Fletching 70 years ago. I have recently made contact with his family again and I look forward to catching up on those lost years.

The **Misses Elsie and Ruth Kirkby** bought the cottage c1956. They were returning to the village where they had lived during WW1. Their mother, a clergyman's widow, with six daughters and two sons had bought East Ashling House from the Oakwood Estate in 1913. Elsie had been the warden of a Dr Barnardo's Home (4) and Ruth had worked with evacuees.

Trevor and Jessie Weston bought Cobden Cottage c1965. Jessie, a former model, could earn enough in a few weeks to keep her throughout the year. They had met when Jessie was managing shop on a merchant ship where Trevor was the engineer. In her spare time Jessie restored old houses but when she found Cobden Cottage, she said that she had found her ideal home. In East Ashling she was a keen member of the Funtington Players. She was also a keen gardener and planted the Bramley apple trees which are still very productive.

We did not know the **Vaiseys** well but one Sunday in June in the 1980s they invited us to a garden party, which was disrupted by a hailstorm with hailstones more than an inch in diameter. They attempted a world tour in their sailing boat.

The **Elsons** were from an old Sussex family with a business in Chichester. Their son returned to live in the village with his family.

The **Cunninghams** were here for only a short while in the 1990s. Sadly Mr Cunningham discovered that he was seriously ill soon after they arrived. Mrs Cunningham changed the name to Snowgoose Cottage.

It was suggested that some readers might like more recent history in this column. I would be pleased receive any errors and news of former residents of the parish.

(1) Richard Cobden MP who campaigned for the abolition of the Corn Laws in the 19th century was a member of this family.

(2) Lake Road in East Ashling is now called Sandy Lane. During this wet autumn, there might be reasons for restoring its old name of Lake Road!!

(3) Richard Johnson's last role at the age of 85 was in the film The Man Who Knew Infinity about the Indian mathematician, Srivanasan Ramanujan.

(4) Probably the Dr Barnardo's Home at Adsdean House during WWII.

Geoffrey Boys

Daffodil planting on the triangle in Sandy Lane, East Ashling – something to look forward to!



Rain, rain, go away, come again another day

I can't help thinking it's been a bit of a shocker, this autumn. In the first couple of weeks of October we had some of the warmest autumnal days for over a decade, but this was soon followed by what now seems to be just one constant rain cloud over us all – if my reading of the Met Office charts is correct, there were less than 10 days in October when it didn't rain and November is set to be the wettest on record. Oh, and two named storms with gusts of wind up to 60mph!

The erratic climate concerns us all, but anyone who cares for animals, be they pets or livestock, will be in a state of constant anxiety when the weather turns extreme. The piggies and sheep in the fields around the parish, and the horses and donkeys in the paddocks, must all be front of mind for their owners, and the same goes for our honeybees. On the eve of storm Ciarán I was out in the apiary strapping beehives together, weighting the roofs with bricks, and even resorted to moving a few of them up to the house as an insurance policy in case we had a tree come down and smash the others apart. All I could think of during the night, as the storm blew through the parish, was how our bees were doing and keeping my fingers crossed we didn't lose any colonies.

And then the rain came. Which isn't particularly an issue for bees on any given day, ensconced in their watertight hive. But in early autumn, when a colony is still quite large, there are a lot of mouths to feed, and if they are not able to forage then all the bees can do is start to eat the honey stores they set aside for winter. Last year I recorded that our colonies each added about 1.5kg of honey stores to their hives during October, whereas this year, because they have been trapped inside by the rain, our colonies each ate about 2kg of honey stores in the same period. That's a large chunk of the stores they have to last them until April, so all we can do is ~~pray daily to Apollo for an early and warm start to spring~~ spend a fortune feeding our bees with baker's fondant this winter.

So in anticipation of the large fondant budget deficit to be announced in my Autumn Statement, there follows a shameless plug: if you are short of unique stocking fillers, or planning a sumptuous honey-glazed ham on Boxing Day, or preparing for copious hot lemon and honey cold remedies, or already thinking ahead to a month of healthy porridge breakfasts in January, then our local honey is available in the Grange Farm Shop or you're welcome to knock on our door in Watery Lane and buy direct (look out for the white beehive).

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas, and a dry, sunny, and abundant new year.

Jason & Kate Boswell

Editor's Note: *This book is in the top ten of books that I have loved. I lent it to a friend of mine on the understanding that he would write a book review. He was also captivated and here it is.*

The Hare with the Amber Eyes A Hidden Inheritance

Do not be put off by the weight of this tome! Published in 2010, I think we might be looking at a modern classic! It is a quest, a detective story, an archaeological dig through an extensive family history. It is formed by a renowned contemporary potter, Edmund de Waal, around the device of pursuing the fate of a large collection of diminutive Netsuke.

It is meticulously researched, exploring family records, visiting archives and libraries, galleries and the dusty streets of Paris, Vienna, Odessa and Tokyo. I was struck by the author's use of language. I found I needed a dictionary at hand as I learned of a tunic's "frogging" and the Caryatids supporting the roof of the Palais Ephrussi on Vienna's Schottengasse. I found myself frequently returning to the family tree provided in the book's opening pages in order to build an understanding of the complex inter-relationship between the parts of the dynasty.

The reader is treated to an extraordinarily sensual feast covering key events in our recent history. The background is the movement of a wealthy Jewish family, contemporaries of the Rothschilds, as they flee the persecutions of Pogroms in Eastern Europe to settle in Paris where they become patrons of the arts in the time of the Impressionists, befriending Renoir, Dürer, Schiele and Marcel Proust. They rub shoulders with Freud and other formative intellectuals and we share their experience of the extraordinary Renaissance of the Fin de siècle across Europe. We move with the family as they savour fashion and palatial architecture. We are given an insight into the social mores of the day, the everyday life of a family positioned at the top of the social hierarchy.

We share the family's experience of the dreadful rise of Nazism in Austria, the Anschluss, the destructive force of hatred and intolerance. For those of the family that escape, they are scattered to the four corners of the World, New York, England, Tokyo. Some convert to Christianity, one becoming a pastor in the North of England. It is a rich text, beautifully crafted. Perhaps it serves as a warning for our time?

John Parker Rees

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Social Activities

Parents and Toddlers Group

Every Monday from 15th January 2024 during term time from 10 – 12 am during school year. Grannies most welcome too! Toys, teas and coffee plus biscuits of course! Please contact Julie Morrow on 01243 575356 or juliemorrow7@gmail.com for further details.

Let's Dance (for the not so young!)

Monday afternoons (term time) 2.30pm 'til 3.30pm
St. Mary's Church Room, Church Lane, Funtington PO18 9LH
Contact: Kathryn Wignall at Kathryn.wignall@tiscali.co.uk

Funtington and West Stoke W1

January's meeting will be on Wednesday 17th at 2pm. Our speaker will be Kathryn Wignall with a talk on Choreography. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further information contact Sue Nicholson on 574722 about the W1, contact Sue Nicholson on 574722

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Open Air Nativity, Sunday 4th December 4pm St. Marys Sennicots
Carols at the Fox & Hounds, 7pm Wednesday 13th December
9 Lessons and Carols by candlelight 6pm 17th December, Funtington
Crib Service St. Mary's Funtington, 3pm 24th December
Christmas Day Service, 11am, 25th December, St. Mary Sennicots

Funtington Bridge Club

The club meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Room, Funtington. Rubber Bridge from 1.30pm until 5pm £3 per person including tea, coffee and biscuits. Contact Roger Freeguard for details 01243 576650

Solutions to Crossword 28

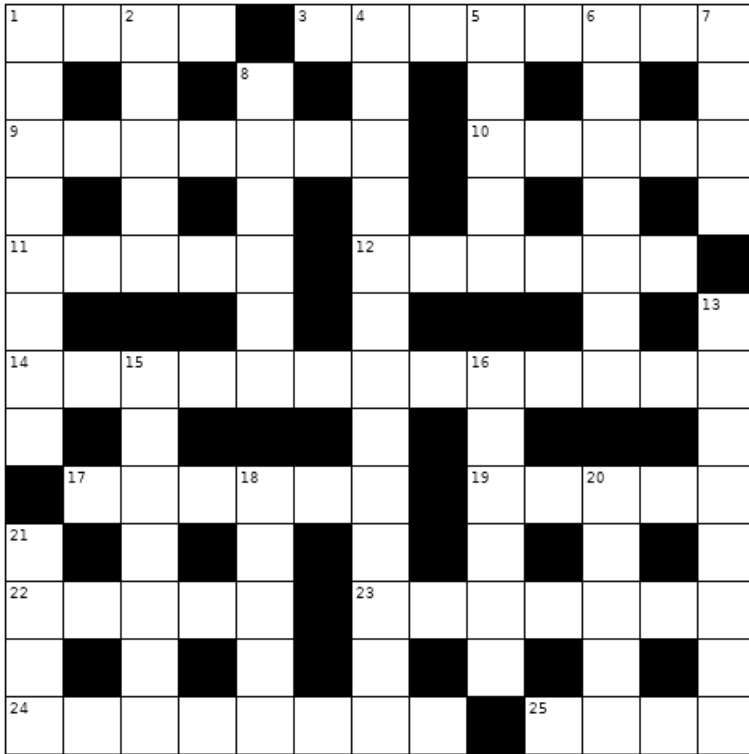
ACROSS:

1 Cuff 3 Star Wars 9 Italian 10 Nears 11 April 12 Urchin 14 Electric piano 17 Static 19 Fusty 22 Apron 23 Epitome 24 Fishcake 25 Peck.

DOWN:

1 Chicanes 2 Flair 4 Tongue-in-cheek 5 Runic 6 Arabica 7 So-So 8 Violet 13 Holy Week 15 Extorts 16 Puffin 18 Tunic 20 Stone 21 Waif.

Crossword no. 28



ACROSS

- 1 Light blow; end of sleeve (4)
- 3 Interstellar conflicts on film (4,4)
- 9 The 'it' in gin and it (7)
- 10 Approaches (5)
- 11 Chaucer's cruellest month (5)
- 12 Gamin (6)
- 14 Does it have shocking keys? That would not be grand (8,5)
- 17 Not mobile (6)
- 19 Stale, old-fashioned (5)
- 22 Hovercraft part; type of stage used at CFT (5)
- 23 A typical example (7)
- 24 Cod and mash, fried (8)
- 25 Quick kiss (4)

DOWN

- 1 Sets of bends on a car racing track (8)
- 2 Natural talent (5)
- 4 In an ironic or insincere way (6-2-5)
- 5 Written in mystical Scandinavian symbols (5)
- 6 Coffee of Far Eastern origin (7)
- 7 Mediocre (2-2)
- 8 Bluish purple (6)
- 13 The run-up to Easter (4,4)
- 15 Obtains (money) by threats (7)
- 16 Seabird with colourful beak (6)
- 18 Close-fitting jacket (5)
- 20 A weight of 6.35 kg (5)
- 21 Orphaned child or slender model (4)

St Marys Funtington Church Interregnum Rota January 2024

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Element	LaMoCs	Intercessor	Sidesperson	Readers
Sunday 7th January Baptism of Christ Epiphany 1	10 am Family Service White/ gold JM	Plants	Sue Simms		-----	Jo Borbone	Nigel Brown Pippa Kerr	Neil Macaulay Gen1.1-5 Mini Elliott Mark 1.4-11
Sunday 14th January Epiphany 2	8 am Eucharist White /green TBC	Plants			Nigel Brown	Liz Lancaster	Claire Hoare Judy Meeke	Deborah Hughes 1 Sam 3. 1-10 (11-22) Andrew Hughes Rev 5.1-10
Sunday 21st January Epiphany 3	10 am Eucharist White/green DN	Plants	Debbie Hughes		Kay Knowles	Neil Watts	Anne Maddock	Ann Maddock Gen 14.17-20 Clare Hosking Rev 19.6-10
Sunday 28th January Epiphany 4 Homeless Sunday	9 am Joint Eucharist Sennicotts DN? White /Green	Plants			-----		-----	Deut 18.15-20 Rev 12.1-5 Mark 1.21-28
Sunday 4th February 2 nd before Lent Creation Sunday	10 am Family Service Green JM	Plants	Miriam Sewell		-----	Jo Borbone	Liz Lancaster	Jo Borbone Prov 8. 1,22-31 Mini Elliott John1.1-14

NB These are the new Interregnum service times.

Please arrange your own cover if you are unable to help on the day you are rostered

Parish Services and Events January 2024

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES IN BOTH PARISHES!

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Thursday 4th Dec	10.30 am	Eucharist - Canon David Nason Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfrid's Nutbourne
Sunday 7th Jan	8 am 10am 10am	Eucharist – Can David Nason Eucharist – Can David Nason Family Service - John Manning	Chidham St Andrew's West stoke St Mary's Funtington
<i>Monday 8th Jan</i>	<i>5.30- 6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community – Ideas Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 11th Jan	10.30 am	Eucharist - Canon David Nason Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfrid's Nutbourne
Sunday 14th Jan	8am 10am	Eucharist - <i>Canon David Nason</i> Eucharist - <i>Canon David Nason</i>	St Mary's Funtington Chidham
<i>Mon 15th Jan</i>	<i>5.30- 6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary's, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 18th Jan	10 30 am	Eucharist - <i>Canon D Nason</i>	St Wilfrid's Nutbourne
Sunday 21st Jan	8am 10 am 10 am 10 am	Eucharist - Canon David Nason Morning Prayer Edward Mynor Eucharist -Can David Nason Morning Prayer Edward Mynor	Chidham St Andrew's West Stoke St Mary's Funtington St Wilfrid's Nutbourne
<i>Monday 22nd Jan</i>	<i>5.30- 6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary's, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 25th Jan	10.30 am	Eucharist – Can Stephen Hoy Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfrid's Nutbourne
Sunday 28th Jan	9 am 10 am	Eucharist - <i>Canon David Nason</i> Eucharist - <i>Canon David Nason</i>	Sennicotts Chidham
Thursday 1st Feb	10 30 am	Eucharist - ?	St Wilfrid Nutbourne
Sunday 4th Feb	8 am 10am 10am	Eucharist – ? Eucharist – Can Stepen Hoy Family Service - John Manning	Chidham St Andrew's West Stoke St Mary's Funtington

CHURCH NOTICEBOARDS for ALL INFORMATION & UPDATES:www.funtingtonweststoke.org.uk

The times and types of Service may vary from the above at this time due to Interregnum from Nov 2023
please check

St Marys Funtington Church Interregnum Rota December 2023

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	LaMoCs	Intercessor	Sidesperson	Readers
Sunday 3 rd December Advent 1 Year B	10 am Family Service JM Purple	Rachel Hammond	Phyllis Goulding	-----	Jo Borbone	Nigel Brown	Neil Macaulay Isa 64.1-9 Mini Elliot Mark 13.24-37
Sunday 10 th December Advent 2	8 am Eucharist Canon DN Purple		Ann Jones	Nigel Brown	Anne Maddock	Anne Maddock	Deborah Hughes Isa 40. 1-11 Andrew Hughes 2 Pet 3.8-15
Sunday 17 th December Advent 3	10 am Eucharist Rev JD			Carolyn Watt	Neil Watt	Liz Lancaster	Anne Maddock Isa 61.1-4,8-11 Clare Hoskin 1 Thess 5.16-24
Purple	6 pm 9x Lessons and Carols JM			-----	-----	Claire Hoare Pippa Kerr	Volunteers x 9
Sunday 24 th December Advent 4 Christmas Eve Purple	Eucharist Sennicotts 9 am DN 3 pm Nativity Service JD	Christmas Flowers Dec Sat 23 rd	Miriam Callas	-----	-----	-----	2 Samuel 7. 1-11 16 Romans 16.25-end TBC
Monday 25 th December White	10 45 pm Eucharist Chidham 10 am Eucharist TBC			-----	-----	-----	-----
				Carolyn Watt	Nigel Brown	Judy Meeke David Callas	Neil Watt Isa 52. 7-10 Mini Elliot Heb 1.1-4,5-12

Parish Services and Events December 2023
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES IN BOTH PARISHES!

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Sunday 3rd Dec	8 am 10am 10am	Eucharist - Fr Charles Howard Eucharist – Canon David Nason Family Service - John Manning	Chidham St Andrews West stoke St Marys Funtington
<i>Monday 4th December</i>	<i>5.30-6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community – Ideas Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 7th Dec	10.30 am	Eucharist - Canon Stephen Hoy Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfred Nutbourne
Sunday 10th Dec	8am 10am 4 pm	Eucharist cover – Canon David Nason Christingle Service - Fr Charles Howard Outside Nativity Service -Eloise Rank	St Marys Funtington St Wilfreds Nutbourne Sennicotts
Wed 13th Dec	7 pm	Carol singing Fox and Hounds	Funtington
Thursday 14th Dec	10 30 am 1.45-3 pm	Eucharist - Mother Jessica Funtington School Christingle -John Manning	St Wilfred Nutbourne St Marys Funtington
Friday 15th Dec	6 pm	9 x lessons and Carols - Colin Ottwell	Chidham
Sunday 17th Dec	8am 10 am 6 pm	Eucharist - Canon Stepen Hoy Eucharist - Rev John Dane 9 x Lessons and Carols – John Manning	Chidham St Marys Funtington St Marys Funtington
<i>Monday 18th Dec</i>	<i>5.30-6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>St Marys, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 21 st Dec	10.30 am 7 pm	Service of prayer and reflection Coffee (all welcome) Carol singing	St Wilfred Nutbourne Outside St Wilfred, Nutbourne
Sat 23 rd Dec	7 pm	Carol singing	Outside Old House at Home,Chidham
Sunday 24th Dec Christmas Eve	9 am 10 am 3pm 4 pm 6 pm 11.30 pm	Eucharist -Canon David Nason Eucharist - Fr Charles Howard Nativity service – John Manning Nativity service – David Nason 9x Lessons and Carols- Canon David Nason Midnight Eucharist – Canon D Nason	Sennicotts Marys Chidham St Mary, Funtington Chidham St Andrews West Stoke Chidham
Monday Sunday 25th Christmas	9.30 am 10am 11 am	Eucharist- Rev John Dane Eucharist - Canon David Nason Eucharist- Rev John Dane	St Mary, Funtington Chidham Sennicotts
Sunday 31st Dec	10 am	Joint Parish Eucharist- Rev John Dane	Chidham
Thursday 4th Jan	10.30 am	Eucharist – Canon David Nason Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfred Nutbourne

During interregnum please check all service times on website: www.funtingtonweststoke.com