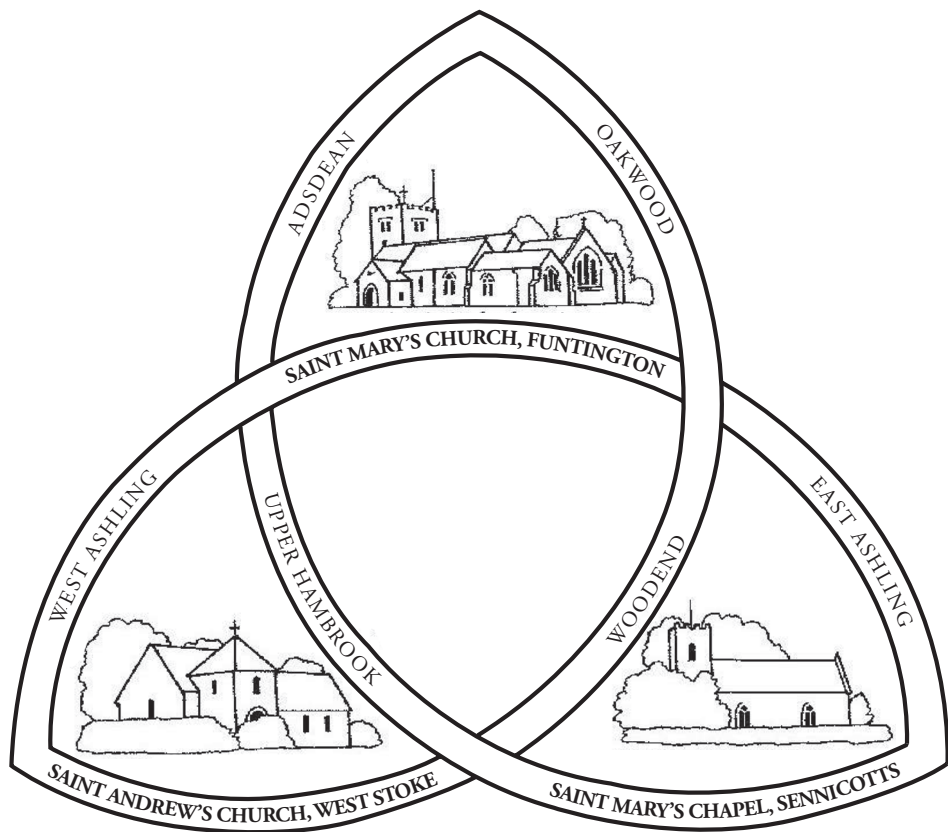


FUNTINGTON

Parish Magazine



DECEMBER 2021

£1

Funtington and West Stoke with Sennicotts: Who's Who

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

*Revd Andrew Birks, Priest-in-Charge for the Parishes of Funtington and West Stoke with Sennicotts,
and the Parish of Chidham rev.andrew.birks@hotmail.com 01243 341323*

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	<i>Claire Hoare (St. Mary's Funtington)</i>	575464
	<i>Caroline Noble (St. Andrew's West Stoke)</i>	07540 690212
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Treasurer	<i>Tricia Dry</i>	07788 506213
Gift Aid Secretary	<i>James Rank</i>	784480
Gift Aid Treasurer	<i>Neil Watt</i>	575566
Electoral Roll Officer	<i>Andrew Lillie</i>	576755
Choir Director	<i>Vacant</i>	
Church Room Bookings	<i>Chris and Jan Harvell</i>	575314
LaMoC Co-ordinator	<i>Kay Knowles</i>	575406
Safeguarding Officer	<i>Tony D'Alton</i>	574360
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Steeple Keeper	<i>Andrew Rose</i>	573168
Church Flowers & Brass Rotas	<i>Denise Foster</i>	574251
Prayer Group	<i>Jane Gummer</i>	573002
St Andrew, West Stoke:		
Flowers	<i>Barbara Cowans</i>	575614
St Mary, Sennicotts:		
Advisory Council Secretary	<i>To be confirmed</i>	

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Christmas letter from Father Andrew, Priest in Charge

Christmas is a time which we all associate with family, friends, good feelings, food, wine, laughter. It is a time of reflection, celebration, affirmation, joy. They are all positive emotions, and for most of us, they put us in a more generous and better frame of mind, and we are a little more open to others, a little more patient – we come a little closer in touch with what we are supposed to be about all year around, all our life. It sounds like the kind of Christmas we all dream of.

Dreams are strange things. We can do things in dreams that we can't do during our waking hours. Most of our dreams, we don't remember. Some we do, and often they bring us messages we need. Musicians tell stories of memorising pieces of music in dreams, or composing in dreams. Our minds – amazing things that they are – keep on working. Dreams tell us things about ourselves that we aren't always able to face otherwise. There are lots of logical explanations, but it is still miraculous what the mind can do, and how it can help us see ourselves.

For Scrooge, Christmas Eve could have been described as a nightmare. The story of Scrooge is a story of past, present, and possible futures. What would have happened if he had no made changes? The first possibility – a despised man finally dead, and people celebrating. Scrooge himself, when he awakens in his own room and realises it is Christmas Day, and he hasn't missed it, exclaims! I will live in the Past Present and Future! The spirits of all three shall strive within me!

The Church year is also designed as a journey, with Past, Present and Future. I don't think we can say it enough – that Christmas would be nothing without Easter. Christmas and Easter take their meaning from each other – they are, to some extent, the bookends. Without the birth, there would be no Easter. If there were no Easter, there would be no Christmas.

Christmas past – the historical birth of a small baby in a backwater town; Christmas present – the celebration of that birth, Jesus reborn within us each Christmas; Christmas yet to come – that Jesus will continue to be reborn, and continue to come into the world.

In the traditional Christmas story, the shepherds rushed to Bethlehem to see the baby born in a stable. We sing about three wise men who later travelled from afar to pay homage to that special child, guided by a star shining in the darkness. They all knew how special Jesus was. Today we too have come to worship, perhaps to stand in awe around a crib with all the usual figures. But as we gaze on the baby lying in a manger,

we also remember the grown man who reached out to anyone in need, regardless of their background, and died to save us all.

In the darkness of doubt and despair God's light can shine in our lives. And we can help it shine into the lives of others through our words, actions and attitudes. Are we willing to allow Jesus to approach the Christmas light switch in our hearts that is simply waiting for his touch – not just at Christmas, but every day?

That was, I believe, the message in Dickens great drama – in words of Scrooge 'I will live in the Past, Present and Future. I will keep Christmas in my heart!

Past, Present Future.

What we were once – what we are today – what we may yet be.

Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas yet to come

Christmas in all of live, and the story is actually unfinished! Amen.

Special Services at Christmas

Friday 3rd December, 7pm, St. Mary's Funtington

Carol Concert in aid of Family Support Work, followed by food and drink in the Church room, Everyone welcome, please come and support

Sunday 12th December,

Christingle Service , 4pm St. Mary's Funtington

Sunday 19th December

Nativity Service , 4pm St. Andrew West Stoke

Sunday 19th December St. Mary's Funtington

Carol Service 6pm St. Mary's Funtington

Wednesday 22 December

Carol Singing at the Fox & Hounds Funtington 7.30pm

Friday 24th December

Nativity Service, 4pm, St. Mary's Funtington

Carol Service, 6pm, St. Andrew West Stoke

Midnight Eucharist, 11.30 pm St. Mary's Funtington

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Holy Communion, 11 am, St. Mary's Funtington

Hope Springs Eternal - A Saviour is born

Dear Friends,

Someone once said that in all of us there is a God-shaped blank. A space that only He can fill. Our hearts are restless, till they find their rest in Him. He came to rescue us from sin and shame, to lead us into the ways of righteousness and peace. In these difficult and testing times, we are in need of His presence. His healing touch on our lives.

No wonder the shepherds in the fields above Nazareth were full of praise and gladness. Here was the Lord of power and glory come to us, in the form of a tiny baby. The Lord of all creation, coming to us in great humility, to be our Saviour. No wonder the angels sang and all the bells rang, when he came to earth at Christmas, all those years ago.

Of course, we want to celebrate this great event. It is the season of goodwill. To worship Him, laid in a manger, because there was no room for Him in the inn. 'To cast our crowns before Him, lost in wonder, love and praise'. This should be our response. Our thank you, to God.

It is no easy task following Christ. It calls for guts. 'If at first you don't succeed, try and try again'. It calls for dedication. He should be the love of our lives. It calls for self sacrifice, the giving up of ourselves to His service. His is a Love which never lets us go. 'In Him we live and move and have our being'.

Christ is the greatest God character in History. So let us step out into the New Year resolved to make the world a better place. To love God with all our hearts and our neighbours as ourselves.

He will not fail us. He holds us in the palm of His hands. There is no end to His love for you and for me. Hold onto that and discover that it is true for time and for eternity.

O come to our hearts Lord Jesus, there is room in our hearts for Thee. 'How wonderful are the Messengers who bring us the Gospel of Peace'. He only can unlock the gate of heaven and let us in.

May I wish all my readers a truly Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Jane Gummer

Services & Bible Readings at St Andrew, West Stoke and St Mary, Sennicotts

December 2021				
<i>Date:</i>	<i>St Andrew, West Stoke</i>		<i>St Mary, Sennicotts</i>	
Fri 3 rd December	9.00am	Morning Prayer	-	-
Sun 5 th December Advent 2	10.00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Baruch 5.1-9 Luke 3.1-6	-	-
Sat 11 th December	-	-	11.00am	Matins (PBS)
Sun 12 th December Advent 3	-	-	9.00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Zephaniah 3.14-20 Luke 3.7-18
Tue 14 th December	1.30pm	Pilgrim Blessing. No Service	-	-
Sun 19 th December Advent 4	10.00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Micah 5.2-5a Luke 1.39-55	-	-
	4:00pm	Nativity Service	-	-
Fri 24 th December Christmas Eve	9.00am	Morning Prayer	-	-
	6.00pm	Carol Service	-	-
Sat 25 th December Christmas Day	8:00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Isaiah 52.7-10 John 1.1-14	-	-
	-	-	11.00am HC (BCP)	Isaiah 52.7-10 John 1.1-14
Tues 28 th December	10.00am	HC (BCP)	-	-
Sun 2 nd January Christmas 2	10.00 a.m. HC (BCP)	Jeremiah 31.7-14 John 1.10-18	-	-

The First Christmas

It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land.

Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sands,

and years ago a stable and a most unusual star

and three wise men who followed it, by camel, not by car,

while, sleepy on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry.

He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlit sky.

In the stable, ox and ass stood very still and calm

and gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arms.

And Joseph, lost in shadows, face lit by an oil lamp's glow

stood wondering, that first Christmas Day, two thousand years ago

By Marian Swinger

Funtington Parish in the Past

Memories of the Farrier

A memorial bench in memory of Don and Hazel Wilkinson is to be placed by the Wilkinson family in Funtington churchyard. The editor has suggested that I might write about them this month. The farrier and his wife bought the forge and Forge Cottage next to the Fox and Hounds in Funtington. Some of us may just remember seeing the tower of horseshoes outside the forge and Don with Ray Jupp in the pub playing cribbage every Sunday morning.

However most of our reflections upon the lives of Don and Hazel are based on the memories of the horse owners, riders and families who knew him well. Don, like Fred Ewens the saddler, was one of the last craftsman in our village. However Fred died in 1948 with memories of the Victorian age, but Don's is a story about life here in the 20th century. There are several magazine stories and a video about his work as a farrier.

From the Parish History ¹ "Don, formerly a member of the Royal Horse Guards succeeded the Muggeridge family who had been blacksmiths here for nearly 200 years". Don bought the forge from the owner, Mr Muggeridge, but most of his predecessors did not own the forge as they were tenants of the Adsdean estate where there were race horses. Indeed one of them had been told to reduce the price by "*a ha'penny a shoe*"

Born in Blidworth, a mining village, near Mansfield, in Notts, Don had moved to Derbyshire when he was young, where he met Hazel and their first daughter was born. Don had been a miner but in 1957 he took his young family to Essex. He learned his craft as a farrier in the army with the Royal Horse Guards in London before moving to Funtington.

As a younger farrier and a new arrival in the parish, any doubts about Don's professional skills were quickly allayed. In Don's words "They are different sorts of horses round here but in the end they are all the same. They've all got four feet. Shoes for my racing horses have to be very light and then there are the hunters, the hacking horses and the driving ponies. They all have different needs"

"The skills that I use are ancient but they bring modern science into it nowadays. They have x-rays and movie cameras and of course they bring vets into it too".

Canon Donald Johnson knew Don Wilkinson well, sharing his farming interests and with a great admiration for his work. A few months before his own death, he spoke at Don's funeral in 2014 when he likened Don to the Village Blacksmith in Henry Longfellow's famous poem. "*The smith, a mighty man is he, with large and sinewy hands; and the muscles of his brawny arm are strong as iron bands.*" He recalled the way in which Don started his life as a miner and had ridden in the Royal Horse Guards at the rear of the Troop holding a ceremonial axe.

The Wilkinson seat will be on the south side of the church near the seat in memory of Shirley Denyer ². Both the Wilkinson and the Denyer families were much involved in our community for more than fifty years and some of them are living here still. Nearby is the grave of Col Patrick Porteous VC ³ who will also be remembered as he lived in Funtington for more than 20 years. *Geoffrey Boys*



¹ The Parish of Funtington A History for the Millennium published in April 2000.

² Shirley Denyer of West Ashling died in July 2000 at the age of 58.

³ Colonel Patrick Porteous won the VC in 1942 at Dieppe in the Second World War. He was in the leading car at the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday Parade in August 2000 just before his death in October 2000 aged 82. *Geoffrey Boys*

News from the Parochial Church Council

Over the past few months we have said farewell to two longstanding members of the PCC. Since his election in 2013, **Brian Craven** has held many roles within the PCC, several of them unannounced, unrecognised or unsanctioned in the first instance, as he most generously and willingly stepped in to fill vacancies created by illness, absence or premature resignation of others. Almost all were unheralded yet all were carried with admirable timeliness and efficiency. He will mainly be remembered for the official roles he held at different times as Treasurer and Secretary. However, he also acted as Minutes Secretary, took responsibility for Human Resources and Contracts Liaison, principally arranging and monitoring the roles of the various gardening contracts for the churchyards and Vicarage and the cleaner. He also conducted the essential liaison with the Charity Commission and compiled the annual financial returns to them and the Diocese and the PCC annual report. His calm and methodical approach was especially valued during the amalgamation of the three parishes in 2015. Brian has always proved to be a fountain of beneficial and timely advice and of great assistance as well as being a reliable and responsive sounding board when issues arising were being considered. When others stalled, he also tried to update and keep the website and external references to our parish churches such as *A Church Near You* current. Perhaps more visibly to many, he frequently took his turn among the sidesmen and lesson readers and willingly stood in for those unable to fill their allocated turn. Additionally, he often collected less able members of the congregation driving them to and from services.

Whilst mentioning Brian, the efforts of his wife, Angela, must not be forgotten. She was for many years a loyal and diligent sacristan, regularly preparing the altar before Communion services and cleaning up afterwards. She also was a member and officer of the Mothers Union for many years. Together they have both been and remain regular members of the small congregation at Wednesday morning eucharist services as well as attending Sunday services.

Since 2015 **Sue Smithers** has also served on the PCC and she too felt it was time to stand down. Sue has been actively involved in organising and supporting many of the fund-raising social events of the church including the Village Fete, Quiz nights, Hoe-Down and her famous 'Vintage Cream Teas' at West Stoke. For many years Sue has taken a very active role in enabling the church to begin the Advent Season by marking it with the very successful Christmas Fair. On a regular basis she managed the coffee rota and ensured high standard refreshment supplies were replenished

We are extremely grateful to them both for the contributions they have made to the life of St Mary's.

The Parochial Parish Council

The Church Roof at St. Mary's Funtington

Some parishioners may have noticed the Planning Application notice beside the church lynch gate.

Several years ago the Parochial Church Council were alerted by our architect that the church roof was showing evidence of "nail rot" (corrosion of the nails securing the roof tiles.) A further inspection in 2012 also reported beetle rot in the roof timbers and by 2017 it was deemed that urgent repair action was required.

Concurrently, the same report indicated a defect in our electrical power and lighting systems, a situation that was observable in the church with regular bulb failures involving working at height to change them. John Smithers kindly offered to lead in getting the church rewired and the lighting upgraded, an offer that was most gratefully accepted with the much better LED lighting now a well-received feature of the safer church.

Both these repairs were likely to be costly and regrettably the well supported applications made for both tranches of a Government grant scheme for church roof repairs were unsuccessful. Church Cottage was therefore sold to provide the necessary funds. When these funds were received they were credited, on advice from the Diocese, to the general funds rather than becoming a restricted item. The present result is that the PCC is repeatedly told that they have plenty of money which, if the essential work is to be done, is totally untrue.

With the increasing encouragement to adopt energy efficient "green" solutions to all work, as had been done with the use of LEDs for the lighting, it was proposed to incorporate solar panels within the roof renovation. Advantages of having the panels were perceived as:

- An eco-friendly contribution to the environment
- The necessary scaffolding for the work would only be required for one event.
- The number of new tiles required would be reduced.
- A reduction in the church's future energy costs

The major problem with fitting solar panels could be their visibility on a Grade 2* listed building but it was considered that this could be ameliorated by only placing panels in the south facing roofs of the nave and north aisle. As the north aisle roof is behind the higher roof of the nave these panels are most unlikely to be visible from ground level but the easternmost panels on the nave roof could potentially be seen from the public footpath running to the east of the churchyard (see attached photograph). From an

efficiency perspective this is most regrettable as these panels would be the most productive, suffering almost no shading at any elevation of the sun.

Because there are bats roosting in the existing roof all work must be conducted within the terms of a licence from Natural England and since St Mary's lies within the South Downs National Park and the Conservation Area, Planning Permission from the SDNPA is needed before we can apply to the Diocese for the necessary faculty. This is the stage the programme has now reached. Some members of the Planning Committee of the Parish Council, who are a statutory consultee in the planning process, are understood to oppose the placing of panels on the church roof, particularly where they are visible from ground level.

There are computer-generated photographs displayed at the back of the church for anyone wishing to look at the proposed changes.

Views (positive or negative) of parishioners and residents on this matter should be addressed to the South Downs National Park Planning under the reference SDNP/21/04706/FUL.



Image showing architect placing card representing solar panel in proposed eastern most position. Further panels on the nave roof would lie west along the roof. View taken from south of wicket gate on footpath east of the church.

‘And we’ll take a cup o’ kindness yet’

I blame Charles Dickens, and a hazy memory of primary school ‘snow days’ in the late seventies, because at this time of year, every year, I have expectations of snow falling constantly throughout December, closing the roads, shutting the schools, and drifting over the beehives.

Of course, the reality is very different. As the screw top cracks open on our annual bottle of Baileys as late into the month as we can resist (usually around the 10th...) it’s on average about 8.5c and there’s not a snow flake in sight. Ergo, as I write, it’s a glorious sunny morning in late November and the bees are still out foraging for what they can find at this time of year, mainly Common Ivy by the looks of it.

The three week run into the festive period is a quiet time in the bee-keeping year, a period to make lists and plans for next year; how many colonies do we want, how many could we cope with, how much equipment do we need to mend or replace? Because, in the final week of December, as well as celebrating Christmas and the New Year, visiting family and friends, and finishing off the Baileys, there are two very important bee-keeping jobs to do.

The first is a quick peek inside the hives to check the bees have enough food stores to last them through the real winter, that they are fit and well, and if they need it we can put some treatment in the hive to help fend off the varroa mite.

The second job, quickly becoming an institution, is the rare night I stay up past midnight. Not to watch Jools’ Annual Hootenanny (although that is a staple in our house) but a few days before that when the Winter Sale opens on one of the popular bee-keeping websites. Having already made a detailed list of what I will need for the forthcoming year, as the clock strikes midnight it’s a race against other savvy bee-keepers to snap up the bargains, seconds quality beehive parts, and occasionally a gadget that it will transpire I didn’t actually need. I was never one for queuing outside John Lewis on Boxing Day, but I do now allow myself just one shopping day a year. Usually with a large glass of Bailey’s.

Talking of annual events, the ‘2-week cold’ that is doing the rounds has descended on our house here in Watery Lane. As well as a constant supply of Beecham’s tablets, our remedy of choice is a cup of hot lemon and honey first thing in the morning. We don’t yet grow our own lemons but it’s comforting to know the heaped teaspoon of honey is as local as can be. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.



Good Neighbours held their first get together since 'lockdown' during November.



If you know anyone who needs a little help with transport or might like to join Good Neighbours at their social events please let us know – 07761 027416



And if you are interested to learn more about how you can volunteer please also give us a call.

Jo Laird

**Christmas Craft Fair with Music
St Mary's Church Funtington
Saturday 4th December 10am-2pm.**

This is the season for Christmas preparations and in a safe, well-ventilated space we are bringing back our annual craft fair with musical performances by the choir and other local talents.



Please come along to hear the music and view a lovely array of stalls. You may be tempted to buy art, crafts, pottery, jewellery, homemade preserves, cakes, decorations, plants, cards and photography.

Lunch and other refreshments will be available and entrance is free.

We support a number of charities each year: local; national and international. Profits in previous years have gone to Stonepillow, St Wilfred's Dreambuild, Grassroots Tanzania, The Multiple Sclerosis Society and Starlight, Hounds for Heroes and the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

We look forward to seeing you all!

For more information contact Pippa at phillipakerr123@gmail.com



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Funtington, the Ashlings, West Stoke and Sennicotts

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Ducks (part 1)

At this time of year our wetland areas come alive with a significant increase in the number of our ducks and geese. We are fortunate to have a large number of different species of duck locally. Ducks are generally divided into two types, those that dabble and those that dive. This month I will concentrate on the dabblers and next month I will discuss the divers.

Dabbling ducks forage for their food by dipping their heads under the water and are often seen with their tail up while they either filter crustaceans from the water or crop weeds from the bottom. The dabbling duck most people are familiar with is the Mallard. The male is a beautiful bird. Next time you see one, just take a moment to reacquaint yourself with its plumage because it is so easy to quickly dismiss common birds. Like most ducks the females are a drab brown colour but even they will have complex feather patterns to camouflage them when they are



sitting on the nest. Mallard are resident all year round as are Teal and Gadwall. Teal are smaller more delicate ducks and the male has an iridescent green eye-patch which is set off by his chestnut head. Gadwall are a greyer duck with a characteristic black tail end. All three are quite common locally.



At the Ferry Pool in Sidlesham you are almost guaranteed to see some Shoveler. These are large ducks with enormous spatula type bills. They have a green head similar to a Mallard but have more white on the body. Although these are resident ducks at this time of year their numbers swell with the further arrival of migrants.





Two more dabbling ducks arrive in the winter migration. These are the Wigeon and Pintail, The male Wigeon can be identified with an orange/yellow shield on its forehead, slightly smaller than a Mallard, and it has a chestnut head and a greyish body. Most of the local salt marshes will have on them an enormous numbers of Wigeon by the end of the year.



The lovely whistling sound that is so atmospheric on the winter marshes is made by the Wigeon accompanied by the Teal. The Pintail male is an extremely elegant duck. Slimmer than other ducks, it swims in a very upright position and the male has a white stripe running down its neck, which is set off by its chestnut coloured head. If seen close up one can see two long tail feathers which give it its name.



We have one summer migrating duck called the Garganey which is uncommon but we did have one or two visit Pagham RSPB this summer. This is a brown and grey duck but has a dramatic white stripe above its eye which is key to its identification.

Our last dabbling duck is the exquisite Mandarin Duck which was introduced originally in the 16th century. The male's plumage is almost impossible to describe because it is so bizarrely colourful. These can be seen swimming in the ditches around Arundel Castle and we did have a pair visit West Ashling while the pond was being dredged earlier this year, sadly they chose to move on.



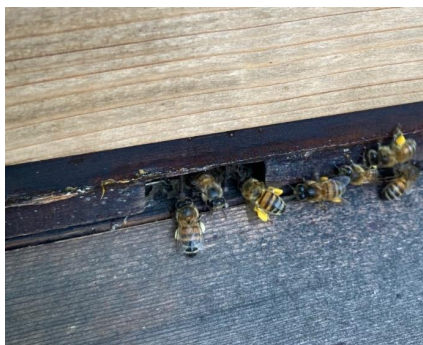
Kevin Tarrant

Two bees? Or not two bees...

During the spring and summer months, when the colony is working flat out to rear their young, forage for nectar, and protect the hive, a worker bee lives for only 6 short weeks. The ravages of all that hard work take its toll, flying back and forth miles every day dodging predators that might regard you as a tasty morsel, but also a worker bee's physiology changes over her short lifetime to dictate what jobs she needs to do from week to week; nursing young bees calls for different skills than guarding the hive entrance and fighting off wasps.

But in autumn and winter, when the days are short and it's way too cold to fly, the only thing our bees can do is stay indoors, keep warm and hang in there until springtime nudges the horizon. And this calls for a different sort of worker bee, one who can live for up to 6 months – a *winter bee*, if you like.

Winter bees, born during October and November, differ from their summer sisters in that their physiology changes a lot slower – they in effect take longer to grow old (now, who wouldn't want to do that!). This allows them to live all the way through the winter when it's so cold the colony is unable to rear any young. And



then, just as the days start to warm up in January, and the first snowdrops provide a little food, the colony will once again raise summer bees; just the same, but a little different, from their winter sisters.

During one of our checks two weeks ago we realised that one of our colonies no longer had a queen – perhaps she met an untimely end or the colony raised a new queen but she failed to mate after her act of matricide – and a colony without a queen is doomed. So

we merged this colony with an existing one by placing one hive on top of the other, separated with sheets of newspaper. The newspaper prevents a mass brawl taking place between the colonies by allowing them a couple of days to get used to each other as they nibble holes through the paper. And the result is a nice big, healthy colony that will stand a greater chance of making it to next spring.

Around the time that you read this we will be doing our final pre-winter inspections, making sure that the colony and their queen are healthy before we strap down the roof to protect them from chill winds. And we'll be thinking about what we did right this year, what we did wrong, and what we'll do differently next year...

Jason & Kate Boswell

(Apologies to Jason and Kate. This article was supposed to be featured in the November edition of the magazine but got lost in the ether between Funtington and Cornwall)

Runway too short at West Ashling Pond



An ungainly ending in October for one of the cygnets during a practice flight. Sadly it hit the overhead telegraph cables and crash landed into The Duck House gates. The RSPCA was very responsive in this instance and took the injured party, with what looked like a broken leg, away in a sling, heading for Downland Veterinary Practice. It would then be cared for at Brent Lodge. (Donations always welcomed by all three parties!) Open Reach are responsible for placing bird deflectors on their cables but, despite requests following similar dramas in past years, they seem reluctant to comply.

Anne Cole

Why we remember those that have died for our way of life!

As our world is again going through great existential challenges in Climate Anxiety, Population Sustainability and Mass-Migrations we are reminded on Remembrance Sunday as to what happens if we stop listening and talking. When Nations and Peoples only consider their own narrow interests without consideration of the interests of the other peoples on Planet Earth. It ends in War!

We must all work to ensure it never happens again.

So Funtington again staged a fine Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the War Memorial in the St Mary's Church Yard.

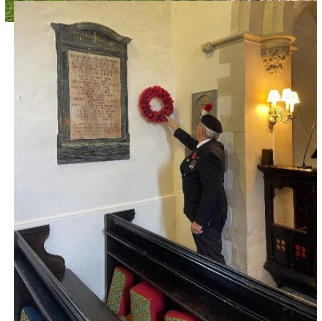


The Scouts, Brownies, Cubs and Beavers set a new standard in their turn out. There must be a budding or a retired Sergeant Major in their ranks. Congratulations to all of them. It is after all the only time when the Parish, especially us older members, have an opportunity to witness their existence and I have to say I felt a great pride in their presence. Thanks to all those 'Often un-thanked volunteers' that spend so much time and energy in helping our younger members of the Parish preparing for the future challenges of adult life.

I must also thank the house



Sincere thanks to our Bugler



West Stoke Armistice Day 11.11.21

to house collectors who have had the Post Covid nerve to 'Knock on Doors' exchanging poppies for a donation to the Poppy Appeal, as well as the many Pubs, Restaurants, Shops, Schools, Nursing Homes, Garden Centres and the Bosham Co-ops who allowed us to place Static Poppy Tins and Boxes on their premises. We have nearly finished counting and we have just touched a record £4000!

Tony D'Alton

Remembrance Service at St. Mary's Church Funtington

by Solomon Sutton, Funtington and West Stoke Scout

A few weeks before the service our troop started talking about Remembrance. It was interesting to hear stories about other people's families who had been in one of the world wars. On the day of the Remembrance Service, members of Scouts, Beavers and Cubs gathered outside the church. When the service started we marched to the War Memorial. We had four flag bearers, one from each group plus the Union Flag. All of us had made our best effort to look our smartest. At the War Memorial there were prayers and a 2-minute silence signalled by a bugle. It was a very special moment to remember all together those lost in war. In the church we enjoyed singing hymns and listening to the sermon on why it is so important to remember.



Pilgrimage to Mondemont, the Site of the First Battle of the Marne.

In mid September, I went with 45 other Veterans from all three services to attend the Memorial Ceremony of the French Nation's First World War equivalent of our Battle of Britain. The service was very European Union orientated with members of all the Armed Services from all the EU nations present. We represented the British Expeditionary Force that held the line on the Marne with 6 Divisions of French Troops. We were given a heartfelt welcome by the citizens of the area between Epernay and Paris, who after each of the 4 ceremonies offered us a 'Vin D'Honneur'.

The main Service was set around the Mondemont Memorial just outside the Chateau where General Joffre commanded the battle. The last Ceremony was at a German War Cemetery. The whole experience was very touching and reminded us all of the price of our Freedom and the futility of War. It was also a special reminder of the great strides that have been made over the last 100 years in bringing the Continent of Europe to a Peaceful Coexistence in spite of one major and a few minor hiccups. The aggressors were finally pushed back 10 days later to the River Aisne where my Irish Great Uncle, a surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps, was killed on 18th Sept 1914 whilst setting up an hospital under enemy fire.

Tony D'Alton

A Happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers!

It is nearly a year since we took on the task of editing your Parish Magazine. It has been a learning curve for us both as we had no experience of desk top publishing so we have learnt a lot along the way.



We would like to thank all of our regular contributors – *Birds, Flora, History, Cricket, Scouts, Bees, Good Neighbours, Book Reviews, Recipes, Poems* and not forgetting *Jane Gummer's letter* – without them there wouldn't be a Magazine. Please, please do send us anything that you think might interest your fellow residents – we always need Book Reviews and Recipes.

And finally, we would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Anna D'Alton

Jo Laird

Carols by Candle Light - St Andrew's, West Stoke

Christmas Eve, December 24th at 6 p.m.

*Mulled wine and mince pies after the service – Everyone very welcome –
Please do come along.*



Good Reads for Christmas (*Two Fiction and One Non-Fiction*)

Hamnett by Maggie O'Farrell

In *Hamnett*, Maggie O'Farrell reimagines a week or so in the short life of Shakespeare's son, Hamnet. Her extraordinary story telling transports us to another time where we see a young boy ritually leaping down the stairs of his home, the journey of a flea joining a ship in Alexandria with fatal consequences, the romance between the boy's unconventional parents and the special bond he has with his beloved twin sister.

This beautiful book is well researched but does not pretend to be historically definitive. What it lacks in academic accuracy is more than compensated by vivid imagery bringing to life Shakespeare's family and the tragedy which befalls them.

The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell

Esme has not been seen for some time although an image of her quietly lurks in her great niece's flat.

Esme is an unconventional character and a likeable rebel. Her behaviour however is used against her to hide her away. She is abandoned by her immediate family, including her only sister who has a cruel ulterior motive.

All of this is discovered by her unsuspecting great niece, following an unexpected phone call.

The Future We Choose, by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

The authors (who, incidentally, helped negotiate the Paris Agreement in 2015) present two future scenarios – that in which we take no action in relation to climate change and that in which we manage to turn our backs on fossil fuels.

Despite the plethora of doom and gloom surrounding the climate, this is ultimately an uplifting book. It is accessible and well written by two people who really do know a lot about the climate. So don't let the subject deter you from giving it a read – it is surprisingly enjoyable.

Anita Binning



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Cranberry Mincemeat (veggie)

300 g cranberries

75g soft brown sugar

80m port

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp ground ginger

½ tsp ground cloves

75 g currants

75g raisins or sultanas or both

30g dried cranberries

1 orange, zest and juice

(1 lemon, zest and juice – if you like things a little more tart)

25 m brandy

Few drops of almond extract

½ tsp vanilla extract

2 tbsp honey

In a large pan dissolve the sugar in the port over a gentle heat.

Add cranberries and stir and simmer for about 20 minutes or more until the fruit has broken down – you may need to squish the cranberries a little with a wooden spoon.

Remove from heat and allow to cool a little

Add brandy, almond extract, vanilla extract and honey and mix well to a kind of paste.

Spoon mixture into sterilised jars and store in fridge.

I have kept it in the fridge for well over 2 weeks.

This is very simple and you can add more or less of what you like but keep all the cranberries.

I usually make a double quantity.

JL

Solution to Crossword no. 8 (compiled by Paul Pridmore)

ACROSS.

1 Wages 4 Lurker 7 Sneak preview 9 Idle 10 Sculptor 12 Donors 13 Zenith 15 Autumnal 18 Mean 20 A piece of cake 21 Eyelid 22 Rakes.

DOWN.

1 West Indian 2 Gremlin 3 Sikh 4 Lyric 5 Revolver 6 Elect 8 Archangels 11 Cromwell 14 Ice ack 16 Tipsy 17 Ahead 19 Afar.

Social Activities

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

Monday afternoons (term time) 2.30pm 'til 3.30pm

St. Mary's Church, Church Lane, Funtington PO18 9LH

Contact Kathryn Wignall at kathryn.wignall@tiscali.co.uk>

Eucharist on Wednesdays You are invited to come to Eucharist and Coffee held every Wednesday morning at St. Mary's Church Funtington for a short service. Do join us for coffee and biscuits afterwards at 11 am in The Church Room. A good time for meeting others, sharing and laughter.

News from the Funtington and West Stoke WI

We were delighted to welcome Kerry Jackson from the RSPB to our November meeting. She gave us a really interesting talk on her trip to the Falklands and to Antarctica.

To reach the Falklands she flew from RAF Brize Norton on a 24hr flight stopping at Cape Verde Islands. In the Falklands she stayed in people's homes and toured around the West and East Islands taking some wonderful photos of birds, long tailed morning larks, vultures, snipes, and all sorts of other birds and sea birds. An exciting moment when she spotted a South Georgian Pipit - a rare treat, not seen before.

Antarctica was magical with the sea life, dolphins, seals and of course the wonderful penguins such fascinating birds. The scenery in Antarctica is so beautiful. An evening enjoyed by all. *Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party on Wednesday December 8th at 2pm. Xmas tea and a quiz.*

Jan Dunnett

Christmas Fair with Music

St. Mary's Church, Funtington 10am – 2pm

Entrance Free. Crafts, Art, jewellery, cakes and plants

Lunch and other refreshments will be available

Bosham Chidham & District Horticultural Society

Annual Christmas Party, Thursday 9th December 2021 7pm for 7.30

Member's Christmas Buffet with Wine, Raffle and Quiz

Happy Christmas to all our Members and look forward to seeing you in February 2022

Letter from Gillian Keegan MP

Following the recent vote on the Environment Bill, some of you have been in touch about storm discharges. We're so lucky to live in an area with beautiful waterways and coastline, and I know many are concerned about the number and duration of discharges taking place – I share these concerns and I've been working on this issue since I was elected in 2017.

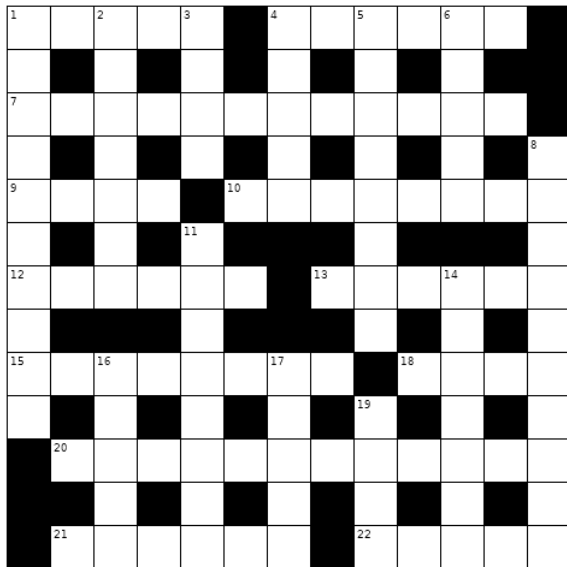
Since my election, I have pushed for better outcomes locally including significant investment in our villages and treatment works, and greater inter-agency working. Progress is being made. Today, every key agency involved with monitoring, enforcement, operations, environmental management, planning, governance and policy have now come together to improve water quality. Further, in the Chichester constituency alone, recent investments in wastewater treatment works total over £81 million. I know that many residents take a strong interest in these issues, so I have set up a page on my website where you can keep up with my work: <https://www.gilliankeegan.com/campaigns/improving-water-quality>

Some will also be aware of the amendment put forward by the Duke of Wellington that sought to place a duty on sewage companies in England and Wales to demonstrate progressive reductions in the harm caused by discharges of untreated sewage. Let me be clear, I fully support the ambitions behind this amendment, but my colleagues and I were concerned about the lack of detail on how this would be delivered and the associated costs. Thankfully, my colleagues at Defra have been listening to the concerns from communities like ours and have agreed to introduce their own amendment that will achieve a similar outcome as the Duke's, whilst ensuring its implementation is both compatible with existing legislation, such as the Water Industry Act 1991, and that the ambitions of the legislation are met in a manageable and realistic timeframe.

This will build on other measures within the Environment Bill, including a new duty on the Government to publish a plan by 1 September 2022 to reduce sewage discharges from storm overflows and to publish a report on the 'mechanics' of eliminating overflows entirely. Some will be aware of the recent £90million fine handed to Southern Water for offences that took place between 2010 and 2015. Many have raised concerns about the length of time taken to reach this stage, and a large part of this is due to the extensive evidence gathering process involved in reaching the criminal standard of proof. The Bill also includes provisions to improve transparency, monitoring, and a legal requirement to formulate management plans that will improve the quantity and quality of data. This, in turn, will ease the burden on the Environment Agency when they take enforcement action against water companies that fail to meet their obligations to the environment.

Beyond this, I've co-founded a forum of MPs that covers the Solent Region, we are collectively holding Southern Water's feet to the fire and ensuring the Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, is aware of the issues we face locally, and I was pleased to hear her speak about our efforts in Parliament. I will continue to do whatever I can to support efforts to end discharges and improve our water quality. Legislation has a key role to play in solving the problem, but it must be carefully thought through to ensure there are no unpleasant unintended consequences.

Crossword no. 8



ACROSS

- 1 "The --- of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life" (5)
- 4 Someone who lies furtively in wait (6)
- 7 Showing of a pre-release film to test audience reaction (5,7)
- 9 To tick over in neutral (4)
- 10 Rodin, Gormley or Moore, for example (8)
- 12 Those who give blood or money (6)
- 13 Highest point in the sky (6)
- 15 Like the American's fall (8)
- 18 Niggardly; middling (4)
- 20 Madeleine, to some extent, not much of a challenge? (1,5,2,4)
- 21 It is inflamed if you have blepharitis (6)
- 22 Tools to gather 15A leaves (5)

DOWN

- 1 From the Caribbean (4,6)
- 2 Unexplained technical problem or fault (7)
- 3 A religious follower of Guru Nanak (4)
- 4 Type of poetry; Hammersmith theatre (5)
- 5 Recoil from this Beatles album? (8)
- 6 Vote into office (5)
- 8 Celestial beings from Russia? (10)
- 11 Thomas ---, subject of *Wolf Hall* (8)
- 14 Chilled bag to soothe pain (3,4)
- 16 Drunk as 20A? (5)
- 17 In the lead; earlier than predicted (5)
- 19 At a great distance (4)

Saint Mary, Funtington Combined Rota.

St. Mary, Funtington – Early December 2021 Church Rota

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Elements	LaMoCs	Intercess	Sidesmen	Readings
3 rd December	18:00 Carol Concert for Family Support		Miriam Callas	-	-	Clergy	Jimmy Faure David Callas	Special List
	10:00 Family Service			-	-	Borbone family	Andrew Hughes Kay Knowles	Andrew Hughes Baruch 5.1-9 Liz Lancaster Luke 3.1-6
12 th December Advent 3	10:00 Sung Eucharist	Advent – no flowers		In Sanctuary	Liz Lancaster	Liz Lancaster	Claire Hoare Neil Watt	Neil Watt Zephaniah 3.14-end Claire Hoare Philippians 4.4-7
	16:00 Christingle							
19 th December Advent 4	10:00 Morning Prayer		tba	-	-	Nigel Brown	Denise Foster Anne Maddock	Denise Foster Micah 5.2-5a Anne Maddock Hebrews 10.5-10
	18:00 Carol Service			-	-	-	Jimmy Faure Nick La Hive	Special List

If unable to carry out a duty please arrange your own relief & amend notice at back of Church

St. Mary, Funtington –2021 Christmas & New Year Church Rota

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Elements	LaMoCs	Intercess	Sidesmen	Readings
24 th December Christmas Eve	16:00 Nativity Service			-	-	-	Kay Knowles Neil Watt	Special List
	23:30 Midnight Eucharist	Christmas Flowers	tba	In Sanctuary	Kay Knowles	Clergy	Andrew Hughes Nigel Brown	Nigel Brown Isaiah 62.6-12 Andrew Hughes Titus 3.4-7
	09:30 Sung Eucharist			In Sanctuary	Kay Knowles	Clergy	David Callas Carolyn Watt	Carolyn Watt Isaiah 52.7-10 Jane Gummer Hebrews 1.1-12
26 th December St Stephen	10:00 Morning Prayer (said)			-	-	Jane Gummer	Liz Lancaster Jimmy Faure	Jimmy Faure 1 Samuel 2.18-20+26 Liz Lancaster Luke 2.41-52
Happy New Year 2022								
2 nd January Christmas 2	10:00 Family Service	tba	Denise Foster	-	-	Borbone Family	Ann Tupper Anne Maddock	Neil Macaulay Jeremiah 31.7-14 Anne Maddock John 1.10-18

If unable to carry out a duty please arrange your own relief & amend notice at back of Church

Parish Services December 2021

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES, SERVICES & EVENTS!

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Wed 1 st December	10:30am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Fri 3 rd December	9:00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew, West Stoke
	7:00pm	Carol Concert in aid of Family Support Work	St Mary, Funtington
Sat 4 th December	10:00am	Christmas Fayre	St Mary, Funtington
Sun 5 th December	10:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Andrew, West Stoke
	10:00am	Family Service	St Mary, Funtington
Wed 8 th December	10:30am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Fri 10 th December	10:00am	Oakwood School Carol Service	St Mary, Funtington
Sat 11 th December	11:00am	Matins	St Mary, Sennicotts
Sun 12 th December	9:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sennicotts
	10:00am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	4:00pm	Christingle	St Mary, Funtington
Tue 14 th December	1:30pm	Pilgrim Blessing (no service)	St Andrew, West Stoke
Wed 15 th December	10:30am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Thu 16 th December	5:00pm	Funtington Primary School Carol Service	St Mary, Funtington
Sun 19 th December	10:00am	Eucharist	St Andrew, West Stoke
	10:00am	Morning Prayer	St Mary, Funtington
	4:00pm	Nativity Service	St Andrew, West Stoke
	6:00pm	Carol Service	St Mary, Funtington
Wed 22 nd December	10:30am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
	7:30pm	Carol Singing	Fox & Hounds Public House
Fri 24 th December	9:00am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew, West Stoke
	4:00pm	Nativity Service	St Mary, Funtington
	6:00pm	Carol Service	St Andrew, West Stoke
	11:30pm	Midnight Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
Sat 25 th December	8:00am	Christmas Holy Communion (BCP)	St Andrew, West Stoke
	10:00am	Christmas Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11:00am	Christmas Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary, Sennicotts
Sun 26 th December	10:00am	Morning Prayer (said)	St Mary, Funtington
Wed 31 st January	10:30am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11.00am	Coffee Hour	Church Room, Funtington
Sun 2 nd January	10:00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Andrew, West Stoke
	10:00am	Family Service	St Mary, Funtington