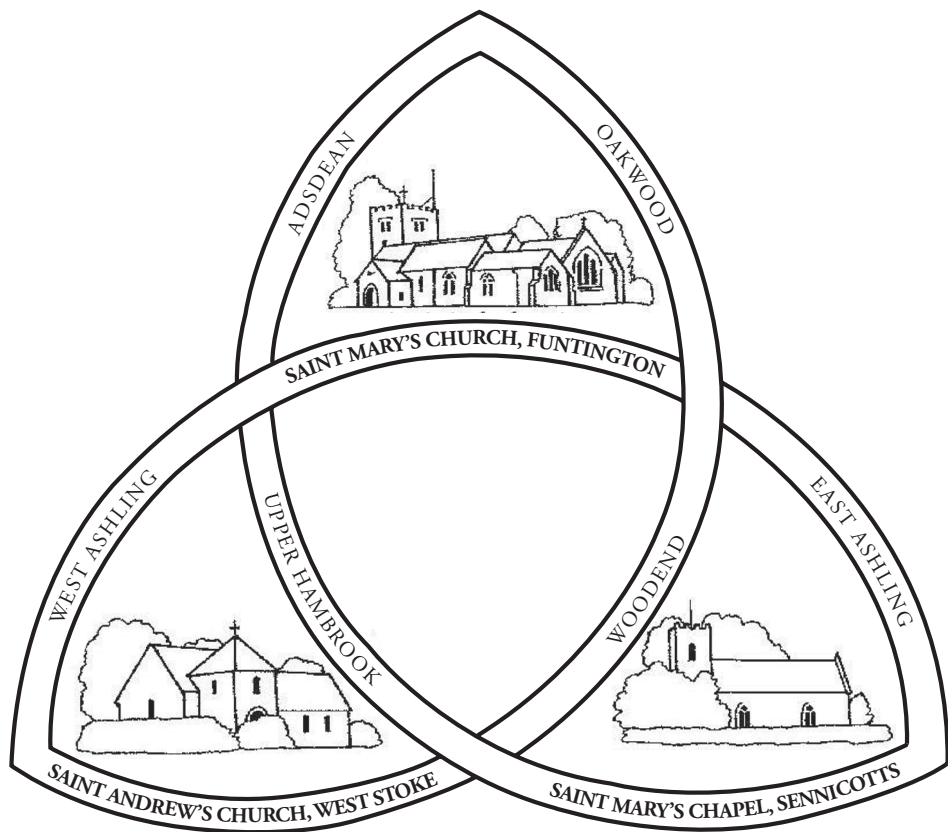


FUNTINGTON

Parish Magazine



DECEMBER 2022

£1

Funtington and West Stoke with Sennicotts: Who's Who

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

*Rev'd 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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St Andrew, West Stoke:		
Flowers	<i>Barbara Cowans</i>	575614
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Advisory Council Secretary		574514

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Letter from Father Andrew, Priest in Charge

It's that time of year again when the Christmas Cards need to be written, and of course you need to make sure no one is missed out! My mam used to make me laugh in that she had an old Christmas card box with all the names of those who she sends Christmas cards to. The list would change slightly each year with names of those who had died being removed and new friends being added! The Christmas cards were duly written and then the cards we received were positioned in pride of place, along the fireplace or strings of card holders!

Christmas cards are usually exchanged during the weeks preceding Christmas Day and the traditional greeting reads something like 'Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'. The content of the design might relate directly to the Christmas narrative with depictions of the Nativity of Jesus, or have Christian symbols such as the Star of Bethlehem or a white dove representing both the Holy Spirit and Peace. Many Christmas cards show Christmas traditions, such as Santa Claus, snowmen and reindeer, objects associated with Christmas, or aspects of the season such as the snow and wildlife of the northern winter.

Christmas cards are sent to friends as a sign of peace and goodwill. Peace is the essence of the message of Christmas. Christ came to bring His peace to every man. Christ came into the world as a babe but also as the Prince of Peace. In Bethlehem at His birth, the angels sang 'Peace on earth to men of good will'. At the time of His death Jesus used the words 'Peace be with you'. As the Father has sent Me, I also send you'. This is the great commission that has been given to each of us: to take Christ's peace into our hearts and our homes, especially at this time of year.

Christ's peace is special. We know that from Jesus Himself, who told His followers: 'My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you' (John 14:27)

Christmas, then is about peace and giving and love – God's love for us and our love for Him and for each other. Here is the way Irenaeus expressed that idea: 'The word of God, Jesus Christ, on account of His great love for mankind, became what we are in order to make us what He is Himself'. We approach what He is when we observe Christmas in the spirit of self-giving.

This year, as we send our messages of peace, love and respect to our friends, why not send a card to someone we have lost touch with or lost contact with. Use this time to offer that sign of peace and to reconcile friendships and peace to one another.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2023!

Father Andrew

SINGERS REQUIRED

I would love to hear from anyone prepared to form a small group of singers to lead the music at services from time to time.

Initially, I'm looking for Sopranos, but would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be an Alto, Tenor or Bass. For Sopranos, the ability to read music is an advantage but not essential as instruction will be given. For other parts, it is hoped that you might have some experience in this regard and are not just capable of singing the melody an octave lower!!

Do contact me if you are interested. Paul Wren, 01243 573466 or 07973 58314

Or by email paul@wren47.plus.com

FLOWERS AND BRASS ST. MARY'S FUNTINGTON

I am very grateful for the support from the brass and flower team. I am conscious of the fact that we have lost some members, which causes an extra burden on the existing members. Extra people would be useful to enable us to spread the load more evenly. I shall be compiling the new rota fairly soon and would welcome anyone who would like to join us. All levels of competence are welcome, we are happy to share our knowledge if you feel you would like to learn more.

Please contact me, Denise Foster by phone 01243 574251 for more information.

FUNTINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE DEADLINE

There will be a very 'slim' January 2023 edition of the magazine. All our regular contributors are having a bit of a rest over Christmas. The deadline for copy for the February edition will be Thursday 19th January 2023

A Message from Jane December 2022

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time for rejoicing, whatever our circumstances may be. Christians believe that there is a God up there, who loves us with a love that knows no end. He has revealed it to us in the life and death of His Son, Jesus Christ. No wonder we want to celebrate and praise him.

He came into our world at Christmas all those years ago, to be our Saviour and Lord. The greatest gift we can ever receive. It requires a response. To surrender our lives to Him with joyful praise and thanksgiving. 'He only could unlock the gate of heaven and let us in'.

When we see this it transforms our lives. We want to love Him back and to share His love with others. This may be no easy task, but with His life giving Spirit within us, it is amazing what He can do!

The Queen was a wonderful example of Christian living. We would do well to follow her footsteps. So make but trial of His love, experience will decide, how great is He and only He who His truth confides.

'Oh dearly, dearly has He loved and we must love Him too, and trust in His unfailing love and try His works to do'.

Jane Gummer

WI News

For our November meeting we had a very interesting talk from Jill Eatherden on Weaving with Willow. After retiring from teaching Jill took up a career in Willow Craft. Jill comes from a family of basket makers in rural Sussex, so she felt it was in her genes and would give it a try. A course at West Dean set her on the path. Basket weaving is quite challenging and takes a lot of practice. In order to have a good supply of willow she has an allotment where she grows her own trees, many different varieties. Willows are quite easy to grow, need plenty of sun but must be kept clear of weeds. Every year they are cut right back but grow big enough to harvest within the year. They are cropped in January, typically stored outside at first, then inside. Before being used they are soaked in water to make them easier to work with. Jill brought along a wonderful array of baskets for instance, a railwayman's lunch basket, like a picnic basket, a beautiful piece. After giving us a demonstration of weaving we all had a go at making a star. Not as easy as you think but it was fun, enjoyed by all, followed by our usual excellent tea.

Jill is having a stall at the upcoming Christmas Fair on 3rd December at St. Mary's so save up your pennies and come and see her there!

News from Ashling Park Vineyard

The summer may feel a lifetime away but we finished our grape picking last month. And this year's harvest was a winner!

The warm, hot summer gave us a big fat yield with optimal sugar and acid levels bringing a smile to the faces of the vineyard team and the winemaker!

The high sugar levels gave us the opportunity to make still wines as well as Sparkling. So come late spring we can offer a still Pinot Noir, a Chardonnay, a Bacchus and a Rose.

Our call for volunteers worked a treat, we had 300 people put their names down, a few lovely locals from the parish too! The sun was shining (most of the time) and our volunteers left with a great lunch in their belly, new friends, purple stained fingers, and perhaps with a little back ache but nothing a warm soak in the bath wouldn't fix.

As we enter the cold period, we are open Thursday to Sundays so do pop in for a spot of wine tasting or a delicious meal, I'd love to meet you all

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gail and the vineyard team



Plans for West Ashling Playground

Funtington Parish Council is hoping to refurbish the West Ashling Playground during January 2023 and, if our plans proceed, the Playground will be closed for a week or two. If that is the case we will, of course, keep you informed; please keep your eyes out for a further notice in the January Parish Magazine as well as posters on the Parish Noticeboards and the Playground itself.



Our Christmas Fair is this Saturday 3rd December at St Marys Church, Funtington from 10 am to 2 p.m.

Please all come along! The Fair is always a wonderful start to our Christmas festivities and is a celebration of the talented people in our community. The Christmas tree will sparkle, music will be playing and voices will sing out. Delicious food is served during the day.

Last year we raised just over £1000 and this was divided between the four chosen charities, Macmillan cancer research, Stone Pillow, Grass Roots, and St Wilfred's, so here is to a successful fundraising fair this year.

Please volunteer to help by contacting

phillipakerr123@gmail.com

Funtington Parish in the Past - Graingers, West Ashling

Neil Lawson Baker's funeral was held on November 5th at his home, Graingers in West Ashling. Neil had many wide-ranging interests and we were invited to write about our friendship with Neil. I had known him first because I was able to share with him my memories of the old farmhouse where he lived.



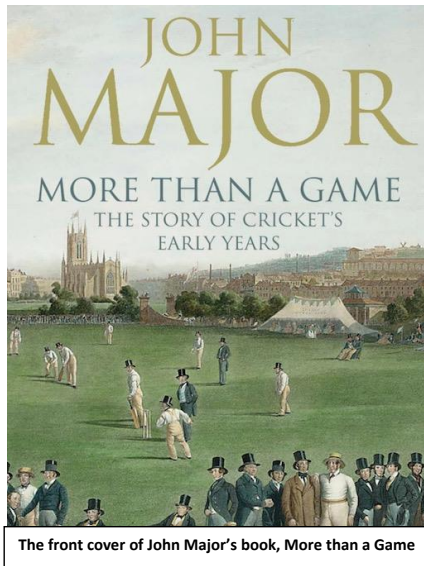
Graingers, the farmhouse and the barn where the Graingers and Sparkes lived for 400 years

My earliest memory of Graingers was an occasion just after the Second World War when I was cycling from Bosham to West Ashling with my mother. The previous years had been much like lockdown and there had been few opportunities to go anywhere. My mother told me how she used to come that way in a pony cart during the First World War. Their much loved pony Pretoria, born in 1900 the year of the battle in the Second Boer War, liked to stop for a drink in the Bosham Stream on the way.

With few telephones, those were days we would often call on friends unannounced and expect a welcome. My mother explained "Our families have known each other for many generations. I think that our grandfathers used to play cricket together" Ellen Sparkes gave us a warm welcome although my mother had to use an ear trumpet to talk to her old friend.

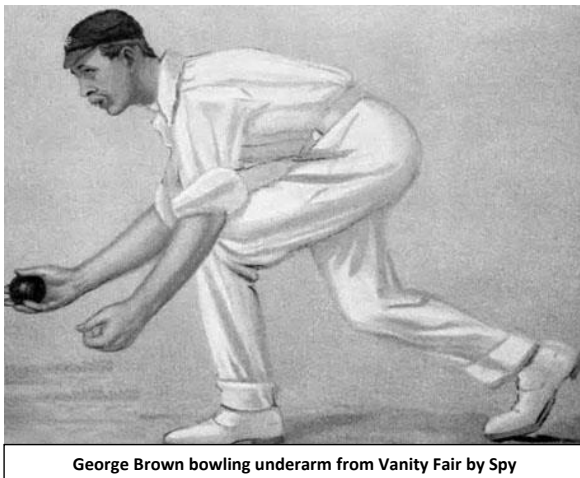
Recently I was able to confirm the cricketing connection from the picture on the front cover of John Major's book, "More than a Game".

My great grandfather James Hodson is fielding at fine leg in front of St Peter's Church in Brighton. George Brown, Ellen's grandfather, is one of the two scorers in front of the marquee. John Wisden, author of Wisden's Almanac is the young man at the bottom left of the picture. The coloured print from 1849 included many of those who had played cricket for Sussex in the first ten years of the Sussex County Cricket Club.



George Brown, was born in Stoughton where he was said to hold a world record for throwing a cricket ball 137 yards on Walderton Common.

He became a successful tailor in Emsworth and married Ann Grainger from West Ashling. They moved from Emsworth to Brighton with 17 of their employees and the oldest eight of their 17 children c1825.



In Brighton, he rented the Royal Cricket Ground and augmented his income as a professional cricketer. The first match of the Sussex County Cricket Club was held on

the ground in 1839. George Brown (1) was said to be the fastest bowler that the world had ever seen. His bowling was so terrific that nearly all the fielders were placed behind the wicket. On one occasion, he was reputed to have killed a dog at Lords after bowling through the longstop's coat. Another longstop used a bag of straw tied to his chest for protection.

My great grandfather, James Hodson (1), joined the club in 1838 also as a professional. He was said to be the best bowler in Sussex. He bowled round arm and the laws of cricket then said that if the hand is raised above the shoulder then the umpire must call "no ball".

Sussex were playing the MCC at Lords in 1839 and after taking eight wickets in the first innings, James Hodson was no balled by the umpire Caldecott (the umpire in the picture) 26 times and the match was lost. The contretemps gave rise to indignation and strong feelings were expressed on the part of Sussex by the umpire's action.



James Hodson who played cricket for Sussex and England

In Brighton, George Brown and Ann Grainger went on to have seventeen children; three of their sons became professional cricketers and one of their daughters married her cousin John Grainger and came to live at Graingers. James Hodson moved to Chichester and continued to play cricket there. I wonder if any of George Brown's sons introduced their sister in West Ashling to cricket. I do not know of any records of cricket in West Ashling before 1900 when there were both a Ladies and a Gentleman's side.

Geoffrey Boys

(1) For further information about George Brown and James Hodson see Wikipedia.

Christmas Services in the Parish

Monday 5th December

Advent service West Stoke - 7 PM

Monday 12th December

Advent service West Stoke - 7 PM

Weds 14th December

Carol singing outside Fox and Hounds, Funtington
- 7.00 pm

Sunday 18th December

Candle lit carol service - 6 pm Funtington
Followed by Mulled Wine

Monday 19th December

Advent service West Stoke - 7 PM

Saturday 24th December

Nativity service Funtington - 5 pm
Candle lit Carol Service West Stoke - 6pm
Eucharist Funtington - 10 pm

Sunday 25th Christmas Day

Eucharist Funtington - 10.30 am
Eucharist BCP Sennicotts - 11 am

“He Blinded Me with Science”

So I know what you’ve all been saying to each other: “That bee bloke keeps banging on about honey, flowers, and the ancient Greeks. Every month, same old, same old. Why can’t he do some science stuff for a change; some full-on, hardcore chemistry. It’s what this parish mag is crying out for.”

OK, I hear you. Let’s get stuck in...

We all know that real honey crystallises after a time. Well, the reason for this is that natural honey is a super-saturated sugar solution, by which we mean that it’s a lot of sugar molecules floating around in a relatively small amount of water, generally 5 parts sugar to 1 part water. And at this ratio, what the sugar molecules desperately want to do is un-dissolve themselves from the water by reforming as hard crystals. But there’s a catch: they can only do this at temperatures below 25°.

Inside the hive the bees like to keep things a very cosy 35°, which is why their honey stays runny. But when the honey is removed from the hive, and sits in a jar in your kitchen at 19°, it all starts to go Pete Tong. How fast it sets, and how hard it gets, is all to do with the kind of sugars in the honey, and here we specifically mean fructose and glucose. Fructose is much more soluble in water than glucose – in fact, you can dissolve four times more fructose in water - which means that honey with a higher fructose/glucose (F/G) ratio will be less likely to crystallise as more of the sugar is happy to stay dissolved. The lower the F/G ratio, the faster, and harder, the honey will set.

So why’s this even a thing? It’s just honey after all. Well, because no-one really wants to buy rock-hard honey! Acacia honey has a really high F/G ratio which is why it stays runny, looks great, and commands a premium in the shops. Rapeseed honey, on the other hand, has a very low F/G ratio which means it sets solid and looks really unappetising – even though it’s actually rather delicious. And guess what grows all around our parish in Spring? (Clue – it’s not a forest of *Robinia pseudoacacia*.)

So what’s a poor Funtington bee-keeper to do? Well, summon his inner Magnus Pyke of course, and fight science with science. When rapeseed honey cools the

molecules stick to anything they can to start forming big, fat crystals, so we 'seed' our honey with another honey that has already set with smaller crystals. The cooling molecules take on the same crystal size as the seed, and as long as we stir the honey regularly over a couple of days to keep the molecules moving around, eventually the whole batch of honey sets with smaller crystals. So instead of being solid, the result is a creamy, 'soft set' honey.



It's a wonder of science, as sweet as any harmony.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Jason & Kate Boswell

(P.S. Our Soft Set Honey is now available in the Funtington Farm Shop in cute 1/2lb jars)

SEW4FUN

Sew4Fun is a new group being set up for anyone in the community who is interested in Sewing, Knitting, Crochet etc. It is held at the West Stoke Village Hall, PO18 9BG on the second Thursday of each month from 10am until 2pm.



Next meeting is Thursday 8th December. Bring along any project you are working on or would like to start and enjoy a chat over tea or coffee with fellow enthusiasts.

Bring your own lunch. Look forward to hearing from you!

For further information or if you need lift please contact either Sue or Kim

Sue Smithers 07974 875782

Kim Phillips 07752 012931

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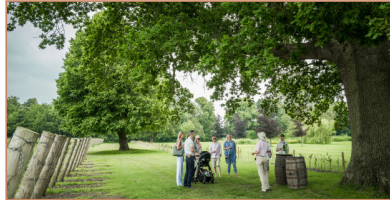
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A Birder's Christmas Meanderings



This month we celebrate Christmas and there seems to be quite a few birds associated with this time of year. The 'Twelve days of Christmas' song refers to a Partridge, Turtle Doves (which are safely back home in Africa at this time of year), Calling Birds (originally 'Colly birds' in the song or our Blackbirds by which they are better known), French Hens, Geese and Swans.

We all associate the Robin with Christmas. Why? One theory as to why we do this is that in Victorian times the postman used to be called a 'Robin' or a 'Redbreast' because of his red uniform. The Robin on the Christmas card then became a symbol to represent the postman who delivered the card.

But of course the bird that we most strongly associate with Christmas is the Turkey. The bird is a native of North America so how has that come about! The Turkey is believed to have originally been brought back to Britain during the time the Empire was being expanded. The first Turkey was brought to Britain in 1525 by William Strickland who purchased them off a Native American. There is a record of him selling them in Bristol for a few pennies each. From the 1540's Turkeys were regularly brought back to Britain for the aristocracy and it is thought that Henry VIII was the first person to eat Turkey at Christmas. After that it became a fashionable trend amongst the rich. It was not however until the late 1950's that the Turkey became more popular than the Goose as the Christmas bird.



Back in those days we did have a native 'turkey-like' bird whose flesh was considered very delicate eating, and that was the Great Bustard. This was a large bird which is considered the heaviest flying bird, with some birds recorded as up to 20kgs in weight. In the past it roamed the heaths and plains of Southern England and the Brecklands of Eastern England but was eventually hunted to extinction for its meat and the male's attractive feathers (which were used in the fashion industry). The last Great Bustard was shot in Britain in 1832. However in 2004 a re-introduction project was started and birds were brought from Russia

and then Spain and were settled onto the Salisbury Plains. The protection afforded by the military training areas has allowed the project some success and there is now a breeding population of Great Bustards on the plains in Wiltshire. The birds come together to breed in the spring, and can be seen by those in the know at specific places on the plains. Once breeding has finished they disperse and are far more difficult to find and see. There is one female who is quite frequently seen around Stonehenge and the locals have called her 'Gertrude'.



The Great Bustard does look like a large Turkey although it is completely unrelated. In the New World the Turkey and in the Old World the Bustard fill the same ecological niche, and probably explains why they look so similar. The male bustard is significantly larger than the female. The species is arguably, in relation to size, the most sexually dimorphic, the males being 2.5 times heavier and 50% larger. The female is generally a beautifully camouflaged bird with mottled browns, greys and reds which allow it to blend

into the ground when she is nesting. The male has more contrast in its colouration and in the breeding season takes on a golden colour. He has large tail feathers and long white neck bristles which can be up to 6 inches long. Great Bustards 'lek' like many of our grouse. The males come together and perform extravagant mating displays in front of the females, each trying to outdo each other. He will strut around raising his tail feathers and wings to create a circle around its head. It is a very



impressive display. I was fortunate enough to witness this behaviour this spring and it was one of my birding year's highlights.

(If you want to see these wonderful birds, the Great Bustard Group has a website and they do arrange inexpensive 'safaris' in the spring and summer which give you the opportunity to see these magnificent birds, www.greatbustard.org.)

Kevin Tarrant

West Ashling Quiz Night

Great news! The Village Quiz Night raised over £745 for the Village Hall. Money was raised through the entrance tickets, the raffle, and, of course, the bar. It was wonderful to see so many folks from all the villages and many thanks to all who participated.



74 folks gathered in the hall on Friday November 11. In a convivial atmosphere, quizmaster Dick Nicholson tested us on subjects ranging from cheeses, through meteorology to outer space. Congratulations to the winning team 'Badger'.

A special mention goes out to the team from the Co-op at Bosham who not only provided a team of young folk but also made a generous donation of prizes for the raffle.

Free Logs for parishioners challenged by the Energy Crisis

Do you know of someone who has a log burner or open fire and is having difficulty with fuel costs this winter? Why not propose that they receive free logs from the church! We have a quantity of split and seasoned Sycamore logs from the Sycamore tree which fell down in the church paddock. We would be pleased to provide a load, free of charge, to help keep them warm this winter.

For details please contact Neil Watt (wattnwatt@gmail.com) or Andrew Hughes (andrew@hugfam.uk)

We are also offering, for collection, unsplit sycamore logs to anyone in the parish, in exchange for an appropriate donation to church funds. Please contact Neil or Andrew for details.

Funtington Bonfire and Fireworks Night

Well over 130 people enjoyed the postponed Bonfire and Fireworks night at Adsdean on November 12th. The barbecued Adsdean Hot Dogs were thoroughly appreciated, as were the drinks. The highlight was the spectacular fireworks display which illuminated the sky all around the village. Very special thanks to Tim Hoare for providing the superb sausages and offering the Chalk Pit as the venue, and to Neil Watt for organising the impressive fireworks. Thanks also



go to all those who provided equipment, barbecued or served the drinks or helped with all the other tasks which made the evening such a success. Let's hope next year's is equally as exciting. Over £400 profit was made after all costs which will be shared with Stonepillow. Well done all!



From our intrepid Marathon runner

Chicago Marathon 9th October 2022

Chicago 'The Windy City' has fine tall buildings and spacious parks along the shore of lake Michigan, a haven for families, walkers, runners, and cyclists as well as marinas full of yachts (sail and motor). The marathon is a big event in this city with thousands of volunteers as well as the 42,000+ runners. On Race day the weather was as forecast, cold to start with (7C) but warming up to beautiful sunny conditions in the afternoon (18C) - perfect. Both the start and finish of the marathon were in Grant Park (named after Ulysses S Grant Commanding General of the Union Army in the American Civil War who later became the 18th US President).



Chicago Grant Park gathering area before dawn



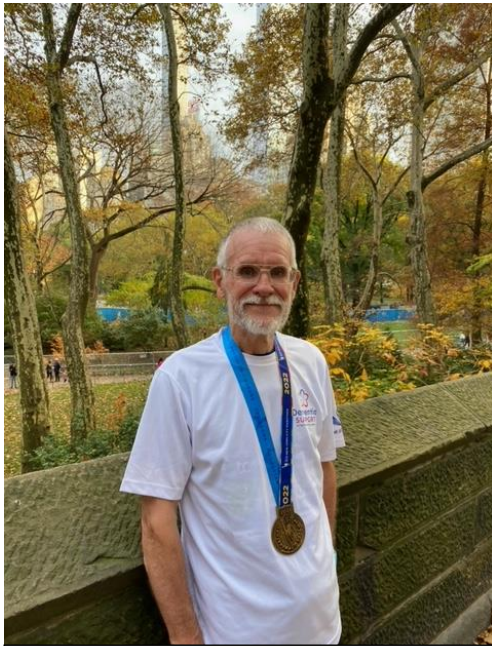
Chicago Grant Park after finish – with my medal!

I was looking forward to the Chicago Marathon as the course is very flat - rising just 45m in the 26.2mi/42.2km - and I hoped for a better time than I achieved in the hilly Boston Marathon in April; to this end I had a plan but I ended up going too fast over the first 2/3rds of the race. The inevitable result is that the body runs out of fuel even when supplemented with high calorie gels, making the last 2 or 3 miles agony both physically and mentally. So it was not my best effort but I'm pleased with my time of 3 hours 51 minutes - a minute faster than Boston - and I finished 7th out 138 in my age group (70-74). All in all I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Chicago, the city was a revelation compared to what I had imagined, apparently it has been voted the best city in the USA for several years running, and the locals were very welcoming.

New York City Marathon 6th November 2022

The New York City Marathon course visits all 5 New York boroughs. The race starts in Staten Island on the western end of the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge which has a centre span of 1.3km and which normally carries 13 lanes of traffic on two decks. After crossing the bridge the course continues north through Brooklyn and into Queens, then

crosses the Queensboro Bridge into Manhattan. It runs north on 1st Avenue to the Willis Avenue Bridge where it crosses the East River into The Bronx for a short loop and returns to Manhattan across the Madison Avenue Bridge. Finally it runs south on 5th Ave into Central Park at Engineers Gate, around the south end of the park and just over half a mile north to the finish.



In Central Park with my finishing medal!

Once off the bridge and into Brooklyn the crowds were deep both sides of the road and the noise of their cheering plus bands playing was deafening. By the time I reached the Queensboro Bridge across the East River between miles 15 and 16 I was beginning to suffer the effects of the unseasonably hot conditions (23C) and had to slow down (walk!) for occasional recovery spells.

My race time 4:14:01 (16th/204 in my 70-74 age category) was not quite what I had hoped for but I knew this marathon was tough owing to the amount of uphill (270m) and the heat was a factor (+12 minutes on average for finishes around the 4-hour mark apparently). However, the event was an amazing experience and I now have 4 of the six. **John Miles**

If you would like to support John he is raising funds for Dementia Support based in Tangmere:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-miles28>



Our Beautiful South Downs

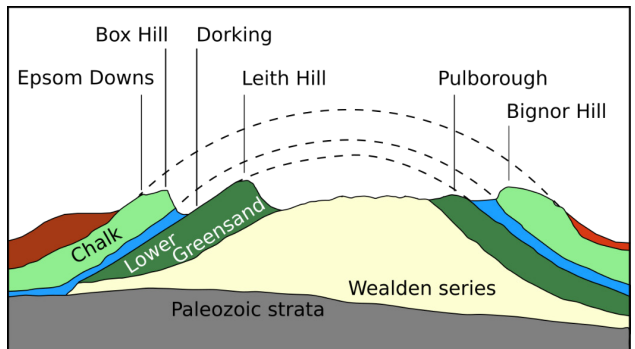


Have you ever been tempted to investigate your ancestry to discover your origins? And what about the environment immediately around you? Have you ever been inquisitive as to how the place that you live in was created?

I love the South Downs where I live and I have always had a passion for geology. What we see today in the form of the chalk escarpment running from the west in the

Itchen valley to the east at Beachy Head in East Sussex is part of what was a dome covering an area extending from the South to the North Downs. The dome, known as the Weald-Artois Anticline, was weathered and eroded during several ice ages over the last 500,000 years up to 10,000 years ago. This formed the hilltops, valleys and ridges that we see today. The dome consisted of a layer of chalk which was created by the deposit of millions of sea creatures. That is because the entire south east of England was under a shallow tropical sea approximately 75 to 90 million years ago. Below the chalk layer there were deposits of sand and clay which were laid down 45 million years ago before the chalk.

Huge geological forces acted to push up and fold the layers. The same forces were responsible for creating the Alps. The massive tectonic plates of Europe and Africa collided at the end of the Cretaceous and during the Tertiary period (approximately 66 to 30 million years ago).



Once elevated, the land was subject to millions of years of erosion which removed the softer and more exposed material at the centre of the dome. This has left the two escarpments of the North and South Downs and exposed the combination of sandy and clay soils of the Weald. The greensand ridges are in fact acid rich and nutrient poor. The clays, notoriously difficult for gardeners.

The chalk provides the local residents with a number of benefits, not least the fact that it acts as a giant sponge and stores water in giant underground reservoirs (aquifers). This explains why the local water board is able to avoid hose pipe bans during periods of drought, when other nearby water suppliers need to manage consumption.



The vast deposits of marine animals would have rained down on the seabed in the form of a soft oozing white material. Ultimately it would harden to become chalk, but as it did so a process known as precipitation would have taken place. Mineral matter, principally silica would have collected in successive layers around a nucleus such as a bone or shell. Silicon itself (the second most common element on Earth by the way) would have come from sea sponges and plankton and grew before dehydrating and hardening into quartz crystals that constitute the flint.

Fossils are abundant across the South Downs. This is because effectively the flint is often an internal mould of ancient sea creatures. If not, the flint will have been formed in cavities in the sediment or inside burrows created by the organisms themselves. This means that the flint you see today is a record of the sea bed activities of organisms 60-90 million years ago.

The chalk provides a second benefit to the local area. It has a high ph (Alkaline) level which is particularly good for growing grapes as it produces grape juices with a relatively high acid content. This combined with an easy to penetrate structure for the roots of the vine and excellent drainage made even better by the presence of the flint, a south facing slope and the mild climate, makes the South Downs area perfect for producing wine. Indeed, many award-winning sparkling wines are produced including our own local vineyard, Ashling Estate. It is no accident that the conditions mirror those of the best limestone wine growing areas in France. Indeed this year, the Champagne region, itself located on a thick layer of chalk and limestone, has struggled with very high summer temperatures resulting in a harvest that can be too sweet.

So we have a lot to be thankful for due to the particular uniqueness and geological formation of the Downs. Next time you drive across the South Downs or through the Weald, remember the forces and millions of years of maritime deposits that have created this unique and beautiful landscape.

Jeremy Ling, East Ashling

Funtington Flora - a seasonal selection



Yew trees are dioecious – male and female flowers are on separate plants; the males releasing clouds of pollen in the spring, the female trees developing red berries in the autumn. The fruits are tasty for birds, which pass the poisonous seeds too quickly to absorb the toxins. Previously, yew clippings were used as the raw material for docetaxel and paclitaxel chemotherapy drugs. Despite the story that yew trees in churchyards were used for longbows, the best yew-wood for bows came from Spanish and Italian yews growing slowly at high altitude producing a close-grained wood.

Holly trees are also either male or female, only the female trees bearing berries. Young and short trees have very spiny leaves, but tall trees growing out of reach of animals may have far fewer spines on their leaves, saving energy. The leaves remain glossy green all year round.



Spindle trees (*Euonymus*) stand out in the hedgerows like decorated trees with their bright pink four-part fruits, which split to show an orange-coloured fruit inside, like a popcorn. The twigs stay green, angular and straight.

Helen Dignum

Pet Blessing Service at St. Andrew's, West Stoke

Nearly.....Everyone was very well behaved!



Funtington Community Christmas on Christmas Day at Oakwood School

FREE lunch with all the trimmings, door to door transport, traditional carols and entertainment. Join us on Christmas Day.

For many Christmas is a time of togetherness and joy a time to share festive cheer. For those who are on their own whether you are young or own it can feel lonely and challenging and that is where it all began. Funtington Community Christmas began five years ago so that nobody would have to spend Christmas Day alone.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL Phone Lucy on 01243 575209 **See Advert on Page 14**

Remembrance Day Services at West Stoke, Funtington and the Nepal Resilience Expedition which Andrew and Debbie Hughes are taking part in



Congratulations! East Ashling Nurseries is 50 years old!

Richard and Jackie Flint are celebrating their 50th anniversary establishing East Ashling Nurseries in 1972. For those of you who haven't discovered them, they are in Lye Lane and any gardener will love it. You will get a warm and knowledgeable welcome. For me it's a little bit of the past and all the better for it. It's now for many an 'Institution' in the area and long may it last!

I wonder if there is anyone out there who really appreciates what 50 years of being a nurseryman means? Plants are like animals they need 24 hour care, through frosts, droughts, disease or, too much rain or wind. On each occasion you need to tend and nurture them or you could lose the lot, and that is what they have done for the past 50 years. Not a 9 to 5 job a 24/7 one. One of love and dedication because they love plants and love what they do.



They met when they were 15 and married when they were 20 – that's something else that needs celebrating! Jackie was born in one of the three cottages that now makes up Hallidays in Funtington and Richard was born in West Stoke. Initially they lived in a flat at East Ashling Grange owned then by Sir John and Lady Sinclair. Richard helped out with the garden there and Jackie with house and flowers. Both had jobs elsewhere. Richard for a garden supplier and Jackie for a florist in Chichester. Lady Sinclair realized that what they really needed to get them was a bit of land and persuaded her husband to let them buy 2 acres on Lye Lane (a plot she could see from her window). So that is how it all began. Initially with one 30' greenhouse and two polytunnels.

To start with they grew vegetables, selling them at the gate and to smaller shops in and around Chichester by now living in a cottage in the grounds of The Grange.

Richard applied for planning permission to build their bungalow in 1979 and their business grew. They got an EU Grant in 1986 and were able to build 3 new glass greenhouses. The vegetables went and the greenhouses are now stashed with plants and a large area for herbaceous plants. They realized they needed help and couldn't have done without their nieces Leesa and Claire who began as Saturday girls and holiday girls. Claire became more permanent in the late '80s and she was followed by Jane Mogford who helps hold the fort and has been with them for almost 21 years. It was Jane and Claire who were instrumental in doing all the online ordering and door to door deliveries which kept them going through lockdown and to whom they are eternally grateful. East Ashling is the 'go to' place for everything. In the summer for wonderful geraniums, hanging baskets, herbaceous, (and nicotiana and giant cosmos) AND as you read this you will be able to buy their wonderful 'Sussex grown' Christmas trees, wreaths and cyclamen.

Anna D'Alton

A Happy Christmas and New Year to all our readers!



Two years and going strong since we took over editing your Parish Magazine. **we are so grateful to all our regular Contributors** – *Birds, Flora, History, Bees, Good Neighbours, Book Reviews, Recipes, Poems* – 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 also a big thank you to all our distributors.

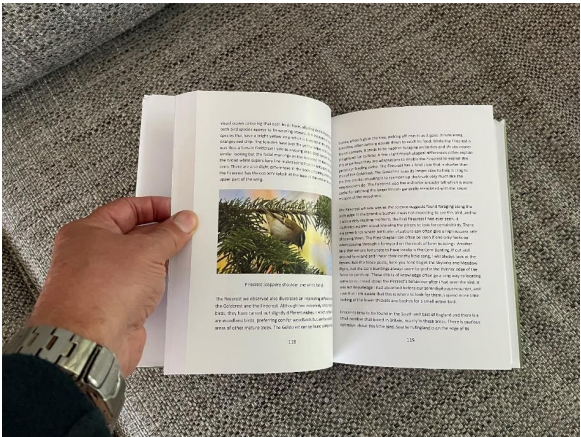
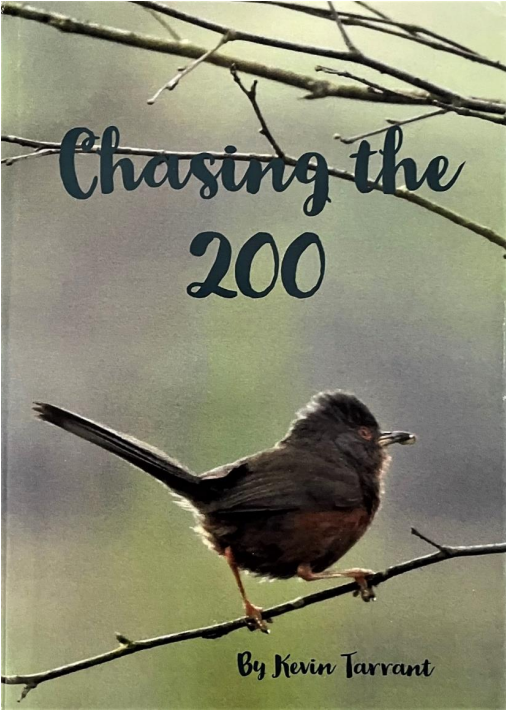
And finally, we would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Anna D'Alton and Jo Laird

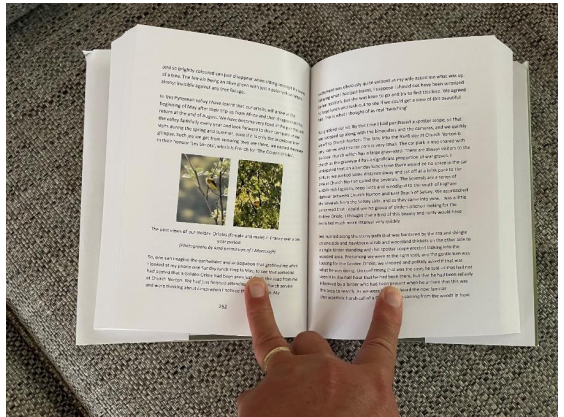
Chasing the 200

When I retired I decided to take up bird watching again. I quickly realised that although I spent many hours out on lovely walks with my binoculars I was seeing mostly the same birds. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed watching birds but rarely would I come across a bird I had never seen before. When it did happen it always gave me a real thrill. I came to the conclusion that if I wanted to develop my hobby I somehow needed to up my game.

A chance meeting with some birders who were on a 'twitch' at Thorny Island looking for a rare Pallid Harrier was my birding epiphany. I joined them and while waiting for this bird to appear (actually it never did!) they pointed out birds that appeared that I would never have made if I was on my own. A Hobby flew over, a Sparrowhawk moved from tree to tree at some distance and a Cetti's Warbler was identified calling in the bushes. I was in awe at their abilities! While I waited there was plenty of time to chat and what I picked up was, in addition to their obvious birding knowledge and skill, was that they used all sorts of information resources to find the birds they were looking for. They went out specifically looking for a specific bird. This was new to me. They had apps on their phone, they linked up with other birders on WhatsApp groups and had access to various websites and birding blogs all giving them real time information as to where to go and look for specific birds.



I went away from that encounter fired up to see if I could change the way I birded. After a little bit of research I started to target birds I wanted to find. Over the next couple of months I started to see birds that I had never seen before. My total list of British birds that I had seen had remained around the 130's for a long time, by the end of that year, three months on, it had moved up to over 150. I felt I had the tools to start finding birds. I was meeting lots of experienced birders who were passing on tips. I felt I was learning very quickly. So it was with this background that I decided in 2021 to set myself the challenge of trying to see 200 different British bird species in the one year. I felt I had the tools and I certainly had the passion.



There are between 250-300 British birds that regularly visit or are seen in the UK, and additionally a significant number of vagrants that sometimes pop up, so 200 birds was a challenging target to find. On the plus side we live in a premier birding area where we are blessed with many different local habitats and thus a good variety of bird species. I had a fantastic year undertaking my challenge; I met many wonderful people, visited many beautiful places that I didn't know existed and saw some amazing birds and bird behaviour.

I have written my experiences in a book called 'Chasing the 200'. In it I explain how I went about the challenge, relate some of the birding encounters and the lessons I learnt. I wrote the book mainly for myself as a record of my year but felt it might be enjoyed by birders who are in the place where I was. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy I can get one at cost price. (They are available as a paperback on Amazon but at a significantly higher price).

If you are interested in purchasing a copy please contact me at kntarrant2205@gmail.com
'Chasing the 200', Hardback, 554 pages, 200 colour photos, 24 poems Cost £25

(Editor's note – this might make a lovely Christmas Present!)

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Social Activities

Parents and Toddlers Group

Every Monday during term time from 10 – 12 am starting again in September. Grannies most welcome too! Toys, teas and coffee plus biscuits of course! Please contact Julie Morrow on 55356 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

Wednesday Coffee Morning, St. Mary's Church Room

Everyone welcome to come and join us for coffee and biscuits at 11am in The Church Room. A good time for meeting others, sharing and laughter.

Funtington and West Stoke W1

Our December meeting will be on Wednesday 14th December at 2.00pm for our Xmas party. Our January meeting will be on Wednesday 18th January at 2pm. Our speaker will be Susan Howe on All Things British. Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 15th February at 2pm. Our speaker will be Roger Clarke on The Spitfire Girls. Everyone welcome. Please phone Sue Nicholson for details. 01243 574722

BOSHAM CHIDHAM & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Christmas Party

Thursday 8th December 2022

7 for 7.30 at Bosham Village Hall

Members Christmas Buffet, Wine, Raffle & Quiz

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

Solution to Crossword 18 (compiled by Paul Pridmore)

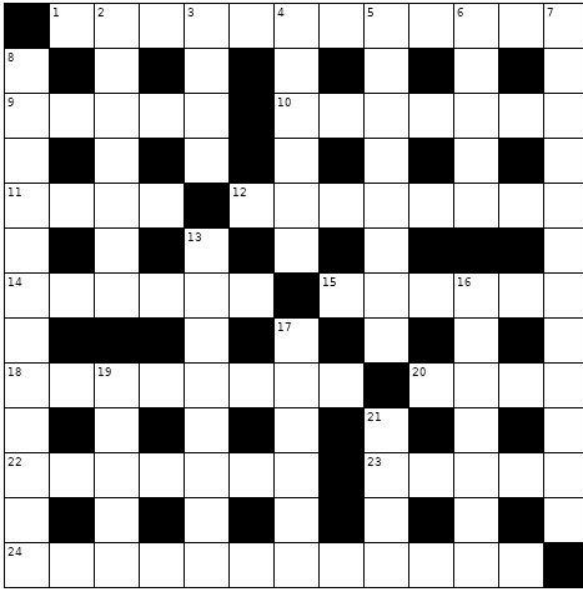
ACROSS:

1 Plymouth Rock 9 Topaz 10 Octagon 11 Ajar 12 Fillings 14 Indigo 15 Deacon 18 Analogue 20 Foal 22 Italics 23 Oaths 24 Stony-hearted.

DOWN:

2 Lapland 3 Maze 4 Utopia 5 Hotelier 6 Organ 7 King's English 8 Stradivarius 13 Ignominy 16 Chortle 17 Tussle 19 Alamo 21 Moor.

Crossword no. 18



ACROSS

- 1 Boulder reached by the *Mayflower* Pilgrims in 1620 (8,4)
- 9 Alfred Hitchcock film; precious stone (5)
- 10 Eight-sided figure (7)
- 11 Slightly open (4)
- 12 As needed for sandwiches, or teeth? (8)
- 14 Colour of dye used for blue jeans (6)
- 15 Church officer (6)
- 18 Not digital (8)
- 20 Young horse (4)
- 22 Sloping type (7)
- 23 Instances of swearing (5)
- 24 Callous (5-7)

DOWN

- 2 Finnish region, Santa's 'home' (7)
- 3 Elaborate and complex construction (4)
- 4 Ideal state or society (6)
- 5 Basil Fawlty's occupation (8)
- 6 Mouth, reed or pipe instrument (5)
- 7 Our language, properly used by Charles? (5,7)
- 8 Violin maker (12)
- 13 Public shame (8)
- 16 Gleeful laugh (7)
- 17 Vigorous struggle (6)
- 19 Mission where James Bowie and Davy Crockett died, 1836 (5)
- 21 Othello, or Bodmin (4)

Saint Mary, Funtington Combined Rota.

St. Mary, Funtington – December 2022 Church Rota

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Elements	LaMoCs	Intercessor	Sidesmen	Readings
Sunday 4 TH Dec Advent 2 P	10:00 Family Service			-	-	Liz Lancaster	L Nick La Hive Liz Lancaster	Mini Elliott Isa11. 1-10 Neil Macauley Mat 3. 1-12
Sunday 11 TH Dec Advent Advent 3 P	10:00 Eucharist	No Flowers Advent			Kay Knowles	Clergy	Neil and Carolyn Watt	Neil Watt Isa 35. 1-10 Carolyn Watt James 5. 7-10
Sunday 18 th Dec Advent 4 P	10:00 Eucharist 6pm Carol concert		Liz Collet		Liz Lancaster	Nigel Brown	Anne Maddock	Anne Maddock Isaiah 7.10-16 Claire Hoskin Romans 1. 1-7 7 x readers needed, Volunteers please
Saturday 24 TH Dec	5 pm Nativity service DN	Flowers to be set			-	-	Paul Wren/ Pippa Kerr	Volunteers needed
Christmas eve Purple AB	10:00 pm Eucharist	up Friday 23 rd please			Nigel Brown	Anne Maddock	Pippa Kerr or Claire Hoare	Nigel Brown 2Sam 7.1-5,8-11 Claire Hoare Acts 13.16-26
Sunday 25 th Christmas Day White AB	10.30 am Eucharist				Carolyn Watt or Kay Knowles?	Deborah Hughes	Deborah Hughes Andrew Hughes	Andrew Hughes Isa 52.7-10 Deborah Hughes Hebrews1. 1-4
Sunday 1 st January W	10 am Family Service				-	Jo Borbone	David Callas	Mini Elliott Isa 63.7-9 Claire Hoskins Mat 2. 13-23

Parish Services December 2022
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES, SERVICES & EVENTS!

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Sat 3 rd December	10-2pm	Christmas Fair with Music	St Marys, Funtington
Sunday 4th December Advent 2	10am 10.00am	Family Service Eucharist CW2	St Mary, Funtington West Stoke, St Andrew
Monday 5 th Dec	7 pm	Advent service	West Stoke
Weds 7th December	10.30 am	Eucharist	St Mary, Funtington
	11 am	Coffee	
Sunday 11 th Advent 3	9.00am	Eucharist	Sennicotts
	10.00am	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington
Monday 12 December	7 pm	Advent Service	West Stoke
Wednesday 14 th December	10.30am	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington
	11.am	Coffee	
	7.00 pm	Carol singing -All welcome!	Fox and Hounds Pub, Funtington
Sunday 18 th December	10 am	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington
	10 am	Morning prayers	West Stoke
	6 pm	Candle lit Carol Service	St Marys Funtington
Monday 19 th December	7pm	Advent Service	St Marys Funtington
Weds 21 st December Advent 4	10.30 am	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington
	11 am	Coffee	Church Room
Sat 24 th December Christmas Eve	5pm	Nativity service	St Marys, Funtington
	6pm	Candle lit Carol service	West Stoke
	10 pm	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington
Sunday 25th December Christmas day	10.30am	Eucharist	St Mary Funtington
	11.00am	Holy communion BCP	Sennicotts
Sun 1 st January Christmas 2	10 am	Eucharist CW2	West Stoke
	10am	Family Service	Funtington
Weds 4 th January	10.30 am 11 am	Eucharist Coffee	St Marys, Funtington Church Room

See Parish Website and Church Noticeboards for all Information

www.funtingtonweststoke.org.uk