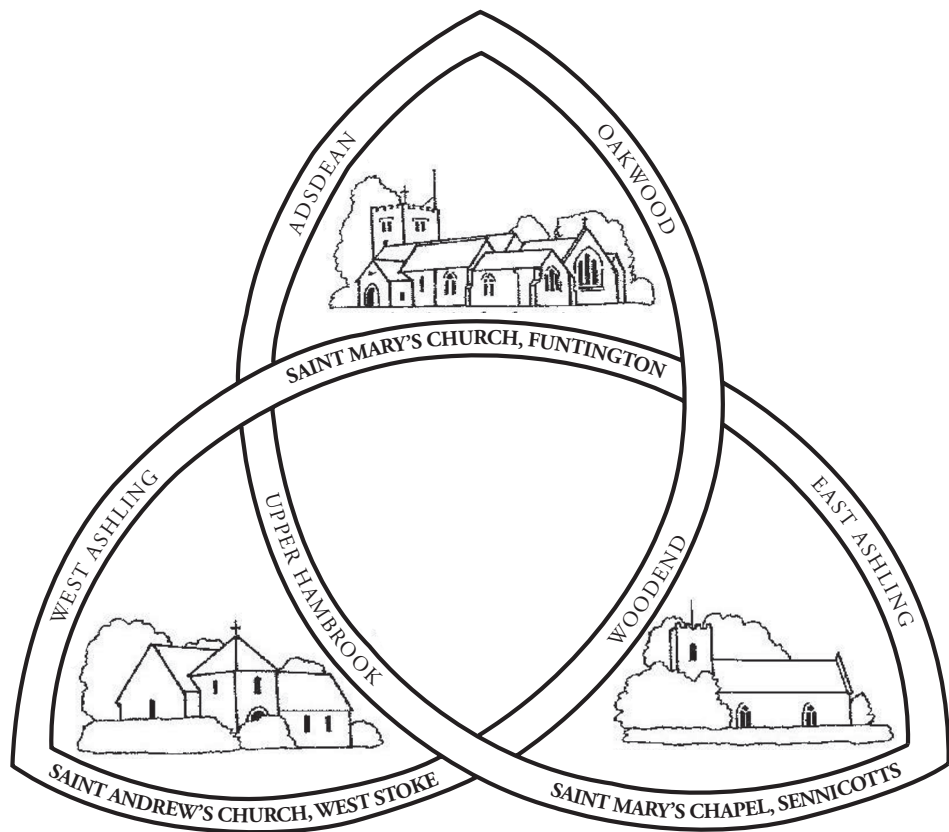


FUNTINGTON

Parish Magazine



FEBRUARY 2024

£1

Funtington and West Stoke with Sennicotts: Who's Who

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

<i>Archdeacon</i>	<i>The Venerable Luke Irvine-Capel</i>	
<i>Rural Dean</i>	<i>Canon David Nason</i>	573716
<i>Churchwardens</i>	<i>Paul Wren (St. Mary's Funtington)</i>	paul@wren47.plus.com 573466
	<i>Pippa Kerr (St. Mary's Funtington)</i>	Phillipakerr123@gmail.com 07779326511
	<i>Caroline Noble (St. Andrew's West Stoke)</i>	07540 690212 Cfrnoble@hotmail.co.uk
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>Carolyn Watt</i>	wattnwatt@gmail.com 575566
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Tricia Dry</i>	jeremydry@hotmail.com 07788 506213
<i>Gift Aid Treasurer</i>	<i>Neil Watt</i>	wattnwatt@gmail.com 575566
<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>	<i>Andrew Lillie</i>	ablillie@hotmail.com 576755
<i>Choir Director</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Church Room Bookings</i>	<i>Pippa Kerr</i>	Phillipakerr123@gmail.com 077793 26511
<i>LaMoC Co-ordinator</i>	<i>Kay Knowles</i>	575406
<i>Safeguarding Officer</i>	<i>Tony D'Alton</i>	07831775819
<i>Parents & Toddlers Group</i>	<i>Julie Morrow</i>	Juliemorrow7@gmail.com 575356
<i>Organist</i>	<i>Mark Wapshere</i>	mwapshere@outlook.com 820712
<i>Magazine Editor</i>	<i>Anna D'Alton</i>	editorfuntingtonmaq@gmail.com 574360
<i>Magazine Deputy Editor</i>	<i>Jo Laird</i>	jml@laird.uk.net
<i>Magazine Advertising and Distribution</i>	<i>Anna D'Alton</i>	anna@anna-dalton.com 574360
St Mary, Funtington:		
<i>Sacristan</i>	<i>Kay Knowles</i>	575406
<i>Bells: Tower Captain</i>	<i>John Kitchener</i>	airlembraq@outlook.com 788338
<i>Church Flowers & Brass Rotas</i>		
St Andrew, West Stoke:		
<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Emma Heaver</i>	07974 939525
St Mary, Sennicotts:		
<i>Advisory Council Secretary</i>		574514

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Letter from Edward Mynors

If you are familiar with Stansted chapel, you may have noticed that the back pew on the left (North) side is bigger than all the others. Our children were convinced that this was done so that you could play trains during the sermon, but actually many churches used to have a special large pew, often at the back near the font. This was provided for women to sit in when they came to be “churched”, forty days after having a child. I have a distant memory of my mother being churched after the birth of my youngest brother, but this service disappeared when the Alternative Service Book was published in 1979. It is a very old tradition that women need to be purified after childbirth, and on the nearest Sunday to the second of February we mark the day when the Virgin Mary would have been ritually purified after giving birth to Jesus. Because we are English we don’t like to draw too much attention to what is going on, and so most people refer to the occasion as Candlemas, and in the modern church calendar it is the last of the forty days of Christmas.

Even in the Middle Ages by the beginning of February the weather was starting to get better and the days were getting longer, so it was time to stop lazing about the house and get out and start doing things again. If you were working indoors, by this time you no longer needed candles during your working hours. February 2nd was also one of the days when people thought they could see what the weather was going to be like: they used to say:

*If Candlemas day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another flight;
but if Candlemas day be clouds and rain,
winter is gone and will not come again.*

This tradition, incidentally, was taken by early European settlers to America, where it became known as Groundhog Day. The American groundhog looks a bit like a fat meerkat, and it spends the winter asleep in a burrow. But according to local folklore every year on February 2nd it wakes up and comes out of its hole. When it has completely woken up, the groundhog looks down at the ground. If it can see its own shadow that means that winter isn’t finished yet, so it goes back to sleep for another six weeks. If the groundhog cannot see its own shadow that means that spring will come early, so it starts to collect food.

But here in England we still refer to February 2nd as Candlemas, and if you are not sure when it is you can tell if you look at the ground, because another

tradition is that snowdrops flower at Candlemas and that is why they are sometimes called Candlemas Bells. But why is it called Candlemas – where do the candles come in? Well, just as indoor workers used to put their candles away at this time as the days started to get longer, so it was a good time to sort out the candles in church as well. The special wax candles used in church were expensive, so people didn't light them very often; but the purification of Mary was such an important feast-day that the church was well lit.

It is sometimes easy to mock these old traditions in the church. It is much harder to admit that many of the things we still say and do here in the churches of the Octagon have long been abandoned in many other churches in England – even in Sussex. But, as our new vicar will doubtless remind us (assuming that we find one), it is vitally important that the church continues to change, so that God's eternal message of salvation is passed on in a way that makes sense in today's world. If we depend too much on the timeless beauty of Cranmer's prayers or the cosy familiarity of Victorian hymns (both of which mean very little to a generation brought up on the internet and social media) we may find that our congregations gradually wither away and our beloved churches become the empty shells of a forgotten past, just like the big pew in Stansted chapel. *Edward Mynors*

Check out the Parish Website on <https://funtingtonweststoke.org.uk>

Our Parish website is up and running and constantly being updated. It is advisable to double check times of services.

The parish is at present without a parish priest. During this interregnum, if you need to arrange anything connected with our churches dur, for example: baptisms, weddings or funerals, the first port of call would be one of the Church Wardens. The contact details are on the website. For St. Mary's Funtington contact Paul Wren or Pippa Kerr. For St Andrew's West Stoke and Sennicotts, please contact Caroline Noble. You can also email through our website under the `Contact Us` section.

FUNTINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

**The copy deadline for the March edition the Parish Mag is
February 18th. Please send your copy to
Editorfuntingtonmag@gmail.com**

PCC news

Since the last meeting in November, we have had the privilege of making donations to some local charities from our general giving and other fund-raising events during the year. The charities which each received £750 were: Chichester Area Talking News, which records and distributes local news onto portable media as well as through their website for those with visual impairments, Sage House in Tangmere, which supports those living with dementia and their carers and lastly the Four Streets Project which provides nightly support to the homeless, hungry and vulnerable of Chichester. We have received very humbling letters of thanks from each of these charities. Two charities in particular operate solely on voluntary helpers; they report that our donations have made a very significant difference to their funds. Earlier in the year we donated over £2,000 to the Turkey/Syrian Earthquake appeal. The charities we hope to support this year have not yet been decided upon; watch this space for the decision!

As readers of this magazine will probably know, the parish, at present, is without a parish priest. During this time, please remember that if you need to arrange anything connected with our churches, eg baptism, wedding, funeral, that the first port of call is one of our churchwardens. For St Mary's Funtington, please contact Paul Wren or Pippa Kerr, for St Andrew's West Stoke and Sennicotts, please contact Caroline Noble. Contact details are on the inside cover of this magazine. Thank you.

Carolyn Watt, Secretary

Electoral Roll 2024

The Church Electoral Roll is due to be revised early in March, and anyone who is not already on the roll, and would like to have their names added, should complete an application form.

The Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote in elections within the Church of England, and to take part in the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Application forms will be available in our churches, or from Andrew Lillie (01243 576755).

Funtington Parish Council News

We have just been informed by WSCC Highways that we were unsuccessful with our recent applications for reduced speed limits in West Ashling, East Ashling and West Stoke, however we have been advised by Highways that we may wish to reconsider the scope of our applications and re-submit them, so back to the drawing board with this one!

At the January Parish Council meeting it was decided to raise the parish precept. Parish precept income is used to maintain/replace/repair the parish assets such as: The Dell, the parish playground, the Speed Indicator Devices, The Defibrillators, the finger post signs, the bollards around the parish as well as pay a salary to the Parish Clerk (Rachel), who is the only paid employer of the parish council. As WSCC and CDC have less money to spend, they may well be carrying out less and less maintenance work, so in the future the task of clearing back footpaths and general maintenance around the parish could also become the responsibility of the parish council.

At the parish council meeting we also heard about a new 'Flexibus' service which will shortly be starting to operate around the area. The idea of the bus is that anyone wishing to use the service will be able to pre book a pickup and drop off time. As soon as we know more about this service, we will put all the information that we have about it on the parish council website.

We are still in need of a volunteer/volunteers to move the 'Speed Indicator Device' around Funtington and West Ashling, Kate DuPort who has been doing an amazing job of moving this device about ,will shortly be stepping away from the role, if we do not have anyone willing to take over then this device will no longer be operational, we are not permitted to leave the device in any one place for any length of time. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

Please report fly tipping, overgrown footpaths etc. you can report many things on-line to WSCC or CDC, we as a parish council do report anything that we see ourselves or are informed about, the more people who report single incidents the quicker they are dealt with.

At our January meeting we learnt the sad news from Alan Chance, that Funtington farm shop will be closing, this will be a huge loss to us all, but we thank Alan and his family for the many years that this much loved shop has served our community.

The parish council has received an application for the change of use of the office buildings in Cheeseman's Lane into small light industrial units, the parish council do not

object to this change of use, however they have concerns about a proposal to put 90 containers on the site.

We also learnt about the future plans for Waterloo Farm, with a change of use to light industrial and storage, members of the public and the parish council expressed concerns regarding traffic movement to and from the site.

A new tree has now been planted in Heather Close, the tree is in memory of Peter Hall and to give thanks to Peter and Angela Hall for the many years they both devoted to Funtington parish council.

Jane Mottershead

The Poppy Appeal 2023 Final Total - £3072.99

A Happy New Year to all those in the Parishes of Funtington and Chidham.

Just for the record (thanks for all of your splendid efforts) you donated the total district sum of £3072.99.

I have only just received the breakdown of the total collected via the QR Code SHC07 which was on the tins and boxes.

Some of you might have noticed QR code on the tins and boxes and that element of our total constituted £205. Using a QR Code was an experiment by the British Legion this year and could be rolled out more next year. Just to compare - Funtington's £205 exceeded the City of Chichester's £155 and Gatwick Airport's paltry £19! So congratulations to all you technocrats!

This means that 70 people in our Parish used their mobile phones to donate.

Thank you for using what is a hassle free technology. A direct transfer to the Charity Account means less counting of coin. It is easier for the people who shake the tins and easier for the organisers of the Poppy Appeal who are all volunteers.

Tony D'Alton Poppy Appeal Organiser SHC07 tony@tonydalton.org

Book Review : Lessons in Chemistry, Bonnie Garmus

This book is a delight. It's not without difficult and uncomfortable moments but remains a joy.

Our heroine, Elizabeth Zott, never gives up. She is a scientist in the 1960s, a chemist. But she's also a woman so no one takes her seriously. And several scientists actively seek to sabotage her career. Despite being the victim of plagiarism, sexual assaults, unfair dismissals, institutional sexism, low pay and a terrible family history, our serious and determined heroine fights on for her scientific career. But even Elizabeth has her breaking point...or so it seems.

This wonderful first novel from Bonnie Garmus is funny, wise and uplifting – let's hope we get to hear 'What Elizabeth Zott Did Next'!

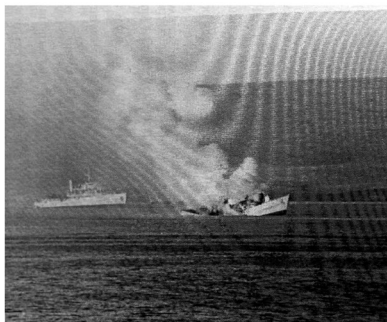
Anita Binning

Vincent Parker, RN – 1952 -2023

It is with great sadness that Vincent Parker, who lived with his wife, Jennie, in West Ashling, died peacefully, after a heroic battle against Parkinson's disease on 1st September 2023.

It was not the only battle Vincent had been involved in. In 1982 he had been a Senior Rating aboard HMS Antelope, which had found itself anchored in San Carlos Sound in the Falkland Islands. This was known as Bomb Alley and HMS Antelope was hit twice with bombs which failed to explode but lodged themselves, one in a Radio Cabin and another in the Boiler Room area. The Radio Cabin bomb was discovered by Vincent Parker's Damage Control Party who saw it was rolling around the cabin floor as the ship heaved and tossed. After reporting the situation to the Control Room on board, Vincent Parker volunteered to go back and shore it up with timbers to prevent reduce the risk of detonation. He and his shipmate succeeded in the task. The second bomb, in the Boiler Room area, exploded, after failed defusing procedures by a Royal Engineer Bomb Disposal Party, with fatal results. HMS Antelope sank an hour or two later.

I had the privilege of briefly getting to know Vincent just before he became bedridden and he displayed many of the lovely attributes that I had seen, in those men and women, during my own service with those from the West Midlands. Steady, stoical, brave, self effacing and very resourceful. HMS Antelope was affiliated to my Regiment and I well remember that day in 1982 with horror. 'That Day' became the title of Vincent's book telling his experiences. Jennie looked after Vincent so very well and he fought a long battle. I am sure we all send her and their families our heartfelt condolences as a Parish.



The morning of 24th May 1982. First light and still burning fiercely

Grange Farm 1951-2024



My parents came to Funtington over seventy years ago, when I was six months old. They were told that the field opposite would never make a fruit farm but that did not deter my father who set about planting hundreds of apple, pear and plum trees. We had twenty two varieties and later added raspberries, blackcurrants and gooseberries,

then asparagus and strawberries as we let various farm managers mark their enthusiasm for their favourite crops.

The early years were bucolic with my father driving his tractor, pruning and spraying with teams of locals arriving in September to pick, grade and pack the apples. Lorries came to take most of the crop to Covent Garden but some were sold through the packhouse window. Cars would stop in the road and we would lean out to drop bags of fruit gently into the drivers' laps.



All delighted at the seasonality of cox apples and other fresh English fruit. Finished by October, my parents would go on holiday with little to do for a few months until pruning time.

How times changed. Foreign imports destroyed the value of the seasonal crops and it was no longer worthwhile to grow for Covent Garden. So we started Pick Your Own and the farm shop as an outlet for the fruit. Sadly, ageing trees and a dwindling supply of farm labour led to us grubbing up the trees in 2010. A

decision never regretted especially with the covid pandemic and Brexit which meant no annual pickers from Europe.



After my father became ill I had suddenly become a fruit farmer with a farm shop. The staff were fiercely loyal as Sarah and I ran the business from London. We didn't have a clue about pruning or spraying or what customers would like but soon learnt and on the way were helped by some truly remarkable apple farmers devoted to their craft.

My father had always intended to close the business in the year 2000 but 23 years later we have now taken that decision ourselves.

Funtington has meanwhile doubled in size and there have been many changes. In my

childhood we had two village stores, a garage, a blacksmith as well as the pub and church. I remember the butter and cheese being cut for us in slices from huge slabs. Horses swished their tails by the blacksmiths as their hooves were re-shod in the road by our gate.

Although I spent all my professional life in London I was often back in Funtington. I have known six vicars and look forward to meeting the



seventh. Sarah and I were married in St Mary's, our children were christened there and all four of our parents are buried in the churchyard. Our children and now our grandchildren all love our house, if not the plumbing. It is full of history and happy memories. Where I once played in the garden now our grandchildren do.

The house and the shop have their own secrets and stories and of course we are just a chapter in their history. We hope that the shop will soon be leased and the next chapter can begin.

Meanwhile, we are very grateful to all our loyal customers and of course to the many staff over the years who have looked after the shop, who have given us so much support for so long.

Alan Chance

The Funtington Players



This is the start of a significant year for Funtington Players who are planning some exciting events to mark their 75th Anniversary. In addition to regular play readings, on Saturday 10th February a Mask workshop will be run by one of the founder members of the Trestle Theatre Company. Rehearsals are now under way for *The Shadow Factory* by Howard Brenton. It is the remarkable story of how the city of Southampton overcame the disastrous bombing of the Spitfire factory

during the Blitz. The play will run from 9th to 13th April and tickets will be available from March. See the website for details of all events:

[Theatre Drama Amateur Dramatics | Funtington Players | TICKETS | Chichester | England | TICKETS](#)

The Tit family

There are a number of families of small birds that seek food and protection from the cover of bushes and trees. Warblers, tits, finches and the kinglets along with the Treecreeper and Nuthatch are found high up in the trees of our woodlands. This time of year sees many of the bushes and trees in our gardens and woodlands leafless. This is a good opportunity to look out for the small garden and woodland birds that during other seasons are difficult to see hidden amongst the foliage. Of the very small birds the tits are probably the most familiar birds of this habitat because they do tend to visit garden feeders.

The tits are small, acrobatic passerine birds which generally have a gregarious nature. They all have a similar body shape with short legs and a sturdy bill. They are omnivorous, tending to feed on insects during the spring and summer and fruit seeds and nuts during the winter. Their varied diet explains why they often visit our bird feeders as opposed to the other woodland birds which, in the main, remain insectivores. Across the world the tit family is a '*Paridae*' or true tit family of which four are seen locally : the Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit and Marsh Tit. Unfortunately the locality has lost the Willow Tit for these can now only be found in small localised populations, the nearest probably being Lancashire. The other '*Paridae*' tit not local is the Crested Tit which can only be found in the UK in the ancient Caledonian Pine forests of the Highlands. Strangely across the Channel this bird can be found in any mixed woodland but as the bird has very little inclination to disperse it has never crossed over to Southern England and explains why they have not spread from Speyside.



Crested Tit

The Great Tit is our largest tit, and is an olive green on top with a yellow chest and belly. It has a black cap, throat and bib with a thick black line running through its yellow belly making it readily identifiable. Our Blue tit is a smaller delicate bird which has a blue cap, wings and tail. It also has a yellow chest and belly but the colours are more subdued than on the Great Tit. Over the next couple of months these colours will become more stunning as they spruce themselves up for the breeding season. A smartly dressed Blue Tit is a spectacular bird. These are undoubtedly the most successful of the tits seen in our gardens.



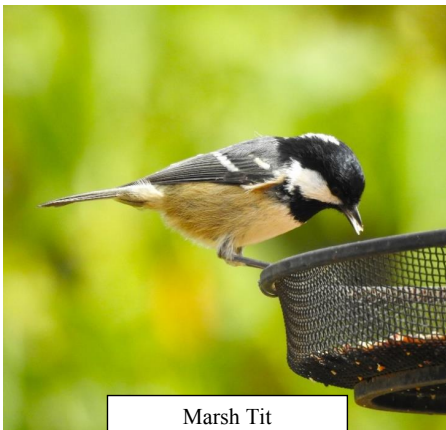
Great Tit



Blue Tit

The other tit that visits the garden, more often in the winter than other times of the year, is the Coal Tit. This is a small olive and buff-brown coloured bird with a proportionally large head and short tail. It can be identified by its head markings with a black and white head and black bib. The Marsh Tit is similar in size and colour to the Coal Tit but has a smart black skull cap lacking the white line of the Coal Tit at the back of the head and has a smaller black chin bib. Marsh Tits are less common locally and do not often come to bird feeders. West Dean Woods and the New Forest are strongholds for this lovely bird. Willow Tits are almost the Marsh Tit's identical twin only differing with slight nuances of its plumage but they are definitely differentiated by their calls. Unfortunately it is not a problem we have locally trying to differentiate them because the Willow Tit has been lost in the south of England.

There are two other birds in the UK avifauna which are called 'tits' but are not true 'tits' and they are the Long-tailed Tit and the Bearded Tit.



Marsh Tit



Coal Tit



The Long-tailed Tit is more closely related to the bush tits and the Bearded Tit has been put in a family of its own after a lot of debate where it should be classified. Both these beautiful birds can be seen locally. Family groups of the Long-tailed Tit regularly visits garden bird feeders stocked with seeds and nuts, their high pitched 'seeps' or rolling 'thrups' often are heard before the flock descends. The Bearded Tit or the Reedling can be seen probably most reliably locally at Farlington Marshes and is always a fascinating watch and is a bird

which I devoted a whole article to in July 22.

So these are our Tits; they are most familiar birds that often do not get a second glance, but I would challenge you to really look at them, they are really quite exquisitely plumaged birds and over the next couple of months is the time to see them at their best.

Kevin Tarrant

Prospective Liberal Democrat Candidate



There was a good turnout at the Fox & Hounds on 12th January for the prospective Chichester Liberal Democrat Candidate, Jessica Brown-Fuller

An Outdoor Nativity Service at St Mary's Sennicotts in December

The "Follow the Star" nativity service held at Sennicotts was a great success, with over 130 people joining us for the celebration led by the Rev. James Nickols, Associate Minister at Immanuel Church, Chichester. We had Marys, Kings, Angels, some sheep and a donkey called Eeyore. Stations were set up under a number of trees and everyone processed from one to the other, singing carols and following the star until we ended at the crib for our final prayers and carol. Everyone was warmed up with hot chocolate and mulled wine afterwards.



Carols by Candlelight – St. Andrew's West Stoke on Christmas Eve



St. Andrew's Church, West Stoke looked wonderful for the candlelit Christmas Carols on 24th December and even the graveyard looked magical being lit by a myriad of tea lights illuminating the pathway to the Church. St Andrew's was

packed, with over 100 people attending and only a handful of places to spare.



Thank you very much to all the flower ladies who helped create such an amazing atmosphere and special thank you to Caroline Noble for all the lanterns and lights, which were super. The fellow flower ladies who couldn't help decorate the church, we missed you, but looking forward to all our future flower creativity in 2024!

Emma Heaver

Sir Bryan Thwaites turns 100



On the 6th December 2023, Honorary member of the Mathematical Association Sir Bryan Thwaites turned 100.

Ten friends and members of the association met with Sir Bryan to celebrate his birthday and award him a plaque.

The photo shows past Mathematical Association President Margaret Brown with Sir Bryan.

Sir Bryan Thwaites has had a rich and varied life and career, notably being a founder of the Schools Mathematics Project and a co-founder of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications. As a member of the Mathematical Association. I have known Sir Bryan for more than 50 years and I was privileged to attend his birthday celebration.

He moved to Salt Hill on the border of Funtington Parish about fifteen years ago and he was benefactor to the Bryan Thwaites building at the Christian Youth Enterprises Sailing Centre (CYE) at Cobnor. You can read more about Sir Bryan on Wikipedia.

Geoffrey Boys

Farmers come to the aid of the Air Ambulance



On the evening of Sunday 17th December a group of local farmers (about 60 of them) drove from Funtington through the villages of Chichester and beyond in aid of the Air Ambulance. Those who stood by the roadside were treated to a site of all the tractors slowly driving past 'hooting' adorned with wonderful lights.

If anyone knows how much they collected please let the Editor know.

Good Neighbours Christmas Parties

There was a lot going on at Good Neighbours before Christmas. Firstly, on December 1st there was the Clients' Christmas Lunch at Emsworth Sailing Club – and an excellent lunch it was!. A number of the volunteers offered transport and joined in (pictures below). There was a raffle for the clients and they all left with a potted cyclamen. .It was a lovely sunny day and the view across marina was wonderful.

And then on 18th December most of the volunteers joined us for an evening Christmas drinks party. It was great to get everyone together. We are so grateful to everyone who volunteers - we couldn't operate without them.





Interested in volunteering? If you are interested in volunteering for Good Neighbours or know anyone who needs our support please let Jo Laird know jml@laird.co.uk. (01243 574878). Volunteers are contacted by email with clients requests and only respond if they are available on the day – so it is very flexible!

STANSTED PARK

VISIT THE GLORIOUS EDWARDIAN MANSION AND GROUNDS



We have an exciting array of events coming up this year!

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Editorial Support Needed

Would you be interested in joining the Editorial Team of the Parish Mag? We are looking for a trainee on the editorial team. The job is voluntary, but interesting and fun. It entails contacting individuals, societies, businesses within the parish monthly for their news and preparing it to go to the printers. In so doing discovering the myriad of skills and interests that exist within our community. As long as you are computer literate we will be interested in you.

In the first instance contact the editor at

editorfuntingtonmag@gmail.com or on 07523 165099

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Good Neighbours

Funtington, the Ashlings, West Stoke and Sennicotts

Good Neighbours is a volunteer group for local residents in need of a helping hand.

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Our wonderful flower lady is retiring



Denise Foster is retiring from leading the flower group at St. Mary's Funtington after 25 years and will leave a big hole to fill.

Her lifelong love of arranging flowers for the Church started well before she moved to this Parish.

She and Ivan lived in Rippon in Yorkshire and Denise as a Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers was asked to join the flower group at Rippon Cathedral which is where it all began. She and Ivan moved with his job to a village north of the

Downs in 1987, just before the Big storm which she remembers well. She began by arranging flowers locally for independent florists, Goodwood and other corporate events until they moved south of the Downs in 1999 to Funtington into the arms of Evis Holliman at St. Mary's and she never looked back.

Her big achievement was helping with the very first Chichester Flower Festival in 1996 where she was asked to organize a team of volunteers to decorate certain areas of the cathedral following a specific theme. She was involved with every flower festival until retiring just before Covid.

The Church has always been a very important part of her life and she thanks God for the wonderful gift that he gave to her which has given so much pleasure to so many people. The Parish and the team will really miss her and would all like to convey their thanks for all that she has achieved. The plan is for the flower group to be 'committee' led in the future.

PS. She has said that she will be doing the odd flower arrangement but will not be organizing it all!

The Editor

JOB VACANCY FOR A PARISH CLERK TO LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

Lavant is seeking applications from candidates interested in this varied role, providing professional support and guidance to councillors.

In consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, you will arrange meetings, issue agendas, prepare minutes, offer advice and be the point of contact for members of the public. In addition you will be responsible for monitoring and control of expenditure within approved budgets, and with an appropriate audit trail. The successful candidate should have good interpersonal skills and be able to communicate with councillors and local residents. Good administrative, numeracy, bookkeeping and current IT skills are essential, as is the ability to work on your own initiative.

The job is home based with evening attendance at meetings (typically one per month). Hours approximately 12 hours per week and the rate of pay is 18 per hour, negotiable depending on relevant qualifications. There will be 28 days holiday (pro rata) per year inclusive of public holidays. Closing date for applications 1st March 2024. Please send your CV with a covering letter by email to: tim.aldridge@lavantparishcouncil.co.uk



Easter services 2024

- **Thursday 28th March Maundy Thursday**

Joint Parish Maundy Thursday Eucharist at 10.30 am at St Wilfrid's, Nutbourne

- **Friday 29th March Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross at 9.30 am at St Mary's Church
Funtington.

Followed by the Pilgrimage to St Wilfrid's Church, Nutbourne
at 10.30 am

12.0 Lunch at St Wilfrid's

1 pm leaving St Wilfrid's for the Pilgrimage to St Mary's
Church, Chidham

2 pm Veneration of the Cross at St Mary's Church, Chidham

- **31st March Easter Sunday**

7 am Lighting of the Pascal Candle on Cobnor foreshore,
(weather permitting) or it will be held as part of the 8am
Eucharist at St Mary's, Chidham

(Please check Parish's websites for an update on the weather)

10 am Parish Eucharist for all Churches at St Mary's
Church Funtington

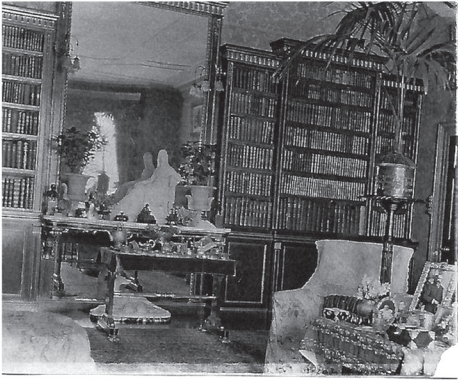
Victorian Photographs of Oakwood House

I am always pleased to find old photos of the parish and I was particularly excited when Sara Smyth showed me these photographs of Oakwood House from the late 19th century. The furniture and furnishings are considerably older. Before it became a school, Oakwood House was the home of the du Pre family for four generations and more than a century. We think that the furnishings may date from the first generation when Rev George Porcher lived there with his family in the 1830s.

I can just remember the fourth generation; Oakwood was requisitioned during the war and there was speculation over whether Colonel du Pre would come back. Then to our great excitement in 1943 we heard that Fenn's school, which had been evacuated to Cornwall, would be moving in. I am wondering if any of our readers can confirm or correct any of the captions.



The east-facing garden front of Oakwood House in 1864 with its central balcony, a painting by Edwin Augustus Porcher, son of Rev George Porcher



Bookcases and a marble topped side table in the Library some of which can still be seen.



One of the reception rooms used for afternoon tea and which became a classroom.



Possibly the Entrance Hall with the gong on the right



A corner of the meadow beside the haha where the cricket pavilion was built.

I hope to tell the full story in the next Issue.

Geoffrey Boys

Bits and Bytes – Fibre Optic is coming soon to Funtington

In a couple of weeks, the village of Funtington will experience state of the art fibre broadband technology; we will be receiving some 10 billion pulses of light per second (bits) through the new fibre optical cable network recently installed by Openreach. Thanks to the government initiative called the "Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme," Openreach has recently installed a new fibre optic cable network, bringing our village into the digital age. The Government is providing up to £210m worth of voucher funding as immediate help for people experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas. Vouchers worth up to £4,000 for homes and businesses help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband to people's doorsteps. John Peart and Richard Tassell (Funtington Residents) have worked tirelessly for the past three years, playing a crucial role in securing government funding, and coordinating the network build. On behalf of all residents, I would like to express our gratitude to them for all the hard work so far.

Fibre optical communications have been around for many decades, but the cost has always been prohibitive for residential homes to enjoy the service. The new fibre network will carry internet traffic, emails, TV, radio, and other services which will gradually appear over the next decade at up to 10 times the current speed we currently enjoy with the VDSL service provided by the green boxes near Halliday's Restaurant. The copper network will eventually be phased out by 2025, making all households eligible for a connection through several providers. You can find a list of providers here.

<https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/fttp-providers#accordion-14bee7ac92-item-a9b52ac564>

It seems that Vodafone is currently the most cost-effective provider for our area, but I encourage residents to call their current providers and get quotes for the new Fibre to Home Broadband service. It is important to note that if you have phone extensions around your property they will cease to work with the new setup unless an electrician modifies the wiring. Panic/Assistance alarms and house alarms will also cease to operate and will require modification. Residents will have a choice of three download speeds, namely 150 Mbps, 500 Mbps, and 1000 Mbps, depending on cost.

For the technically minded here is some information on how it all works.

Introduction:

In the ever-evolving landscape of telecommunications, the advent of fibre optic broadband has revolutionized the way we connect, communicate, and experience the digital realm. This cutting-edge technology employs strands of glass or plastic fibres to transmit data at the speed of light, offering unparalleled speed, reliability, and bandwidth compared to traditional copper-based broadband systems.

Fiber Optics Basics:

At the heart of fibre optic broadband lies the principle of total internal reflection. Fiber optic cables consist of hair-thin strands of glass or plastic, known as optical fibres, through which data is transmitted in the form of light pulses. These strands are grouped into cables, and each individual fibre is coated with a cladding material that reflects light inward, ensuring that the signals remain within the core of the fibre.

Transmission of Data:

The process of transmitting data through fibre optic cables is both intricate and fascinating. When data is to be sent, it is first converted into a series of light pulses, typically using lasers or light-emitting diodes (LEDs). These pulses travel through the optical fibres, bouncing off the cladding due to total internal reflection. The data is then received at the other end by a photodetector, which converts the light pulses back into their original digital form.

Advantages of Fiber Optic Broadband:

High Speeds: Fiber optic broadband boasts speeds that far surpass those of traditional copper-based systems. The speed of light, which these cables leverage, results in data transmission at incredible rates.

Low Latency: The minimal signal degradation and attenuation in fibre optic cables lead to low latency, making real-time applications such as online gaming and video conferencing seamless and responsive.

Reliability: Unlike copper cables, fibre optics are resistant to electromagnetic interference and radio-frequency interference. This makes fibre optic broadband more reliable and less susceptible to disruptions caused by external factors.

High Bandwidth: Fiber optic cables have an inherently high bandwidth, allowing for the simultaneous transmission of vast amounts of data. This makes fibre optic broadband ideal for handling the increasing demands of modern internet applications.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the introduction of fibre optic broadband in our village not only symbolizes technological advancement but also promises to deliver unparalleled connectivity, making it a cornerstone of our digital future.

I hope you all enjoy the new fibre technology, and if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Dr Carl Rizzo, Funtington Resident, fibrebroadband(at)rizfam.uk

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Social Activities

Parents and Toddlers Group

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

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

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

Funtington and West Stoke W1

Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 21st at 2pm. This will be our annual meeting.

Our March meeting will be on Wednesday 20th at 2pm. Our speaker will be Penny Ibbott, to talk to us on Travels with my bus pass. For further information about the WI please contact Sue Nicholson on 574722

BOSHAM CHIDHAM & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our first meeting is on Thursday 8th February 2024 when Andrew Humphries will be coming to talk to us about Parham Gardens

New members and visitors always welcome

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 29 (compiled by Paul Pridmore)

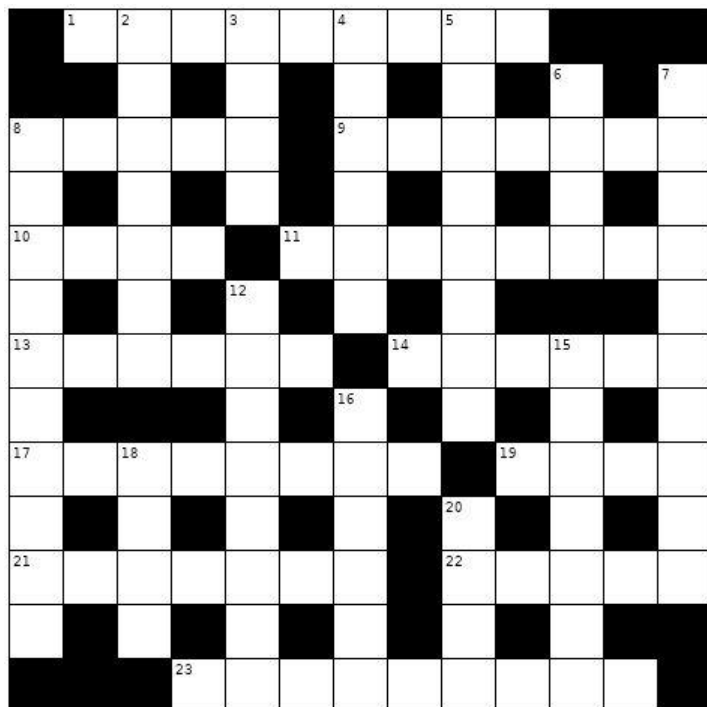
Across:

1 Bumptious 8 Wrung 9 Scherzo 10 Item 11 Peer Gynt 13 Weepie 14 Escape 17 Imperial 19 Emma 21 Housman 22 Punts 23 By-product.

Down:

2 Ukulele 3 Pigs 4 Instep 5 Usheress 6 Troy 7 Soft-pedals 8 Wainwright 12 Gin rummy 15 Almanac 16 Wagner 18 Plum 20 Spud.

Crossword no. 29



ACROSS

- 1 Irritatingly self-assertive (9)
- 8 Clasped and twisted (hands) in anguish (5)
- 9 Lively movement in music, often with a trio (7)
- 10 Entry on a list; attached couple (4)
- 11 Norwegian peasant inspiring Ibsen and Grieg (4,4)
- 13 Overly sentimental film (6)
- 14 Computer key; evade danger (6)
- 17 Non-metric; large paper size (8)
- 19 Famous novel of 1815 (4)
- 21 Writer of "A Shropshire Lad" (7)
- 22 Gamble; kick; pleasure boat (5)
- 23 Side effect (2-7)

DOWN

- 2 George Formby's link to Hawaii (7)
- 3 Might they fly, from sty to sky? (4)
- 4 Part of foot nearest shoelaces (6)
- 5 She helps find your theatre seat (8)
- 6 Weights system for gemstones (4)
- 7 Goes easy at the piano, or velodrome? (4-6)
- 8 Lakeland walker or wagon-builder (10)
- 12 Card game for drinkers? (3,5)
- 15 Events calendar (7)
- 16 Ring-maker (6)
- 18 Fruity nickname of Jeeves' creator (4)
- 20 Potato (4)

St Marys Funtington Church Interregnum Rota Feb 2024

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Element	LaMoCs	Intercessor	Sidesperson	Readers
Sunday 4 th February 2 nd before Lent	10 am Family Service Green JM	Plants	Marian Sewell		-----	Jo Borbone	Liz Lancaster	Jo Borbone Prov 8. 1,22-31 Mini Elliott John1.1-14
Sunday 11 th Feb Next before Lent	8 am Eucharist Green Rev JD	Plants			Carolyn Watt	Liz Lancaster	Pippa	Anne Maddock 2 Kings 2.1-12 Nigel Brown 2 Cor 4. 3-6
Sunday 18 th February Lent 1	10 am Eucharist Purple Canon Bruce Ruddock	Plants	Rachel Hammond		Liz Lancaster	Neil Watt	Judy Meeke Claire Hoare	Carolyn Watt Gen 9. 8-17 Claire Hoare 1 Peter 3.18- 22
Sunday 25 rd February Lent	9 am Joint Eucharist Sennicotts Purple RevVB	Plants			-----	-----	-----	Gen 17. 1-7, 15-16 Rom 4. 13-25
Sunday 3 rd March Lent	10 am Family Service Purple JM	Plants	Denise Foster		-----	Jo Borbone		Neil Macaulay Ex 20. 1-17 Mini Elliott Jn 2. 13-22

NB These are the new Interregnum service times.

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

Parish Services and Events February 2024
EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES IN BOTH PARISHES!

<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Thursday 1st Feb	10.30 am	Eucharist – Fr. Reji Raj-Singh Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfrid’s Nutbourne
Sunday 4th Feb	8 am 10am 10am	Eucharist – Canon David Nason Eucharist – Canon Stephen Hoy Family Service - John Manning	Chidham St Andrew’s West stoke St Mary’s Funtington
<i>Monday 5th Feb</i>	<i>5.30- 6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community – Ideas Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 8th Feb	10.30 am	Eucharist – Fr. Charles Howard Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfrid’s Nutbourne
Sunday 11th Feb	8am 10am	Eucharist – Rev. John Dane Eucharist – Rev. John Dane	St Mary’s Funtington St Wilfrid’s Nutbourne
<i>Mon 12th Feb</i>	<i>5.30- 6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary’s, Funtington Church room</i>
Wednesday 14th Feb	7 pm	Ash Wednesday – Canon David Nason	West stoke
Thursday 15th Feb	10 30 am	Eucharist – Fr. Charles Howard	St Wilfrid’s Nutbourne
Sunday 18th Feb	8am 10 am 10 am 10 am	Eucharist - Fr. Charles Howard Morning Prayer -Edward Mynor Eucharist – Canon Bruce Ruddock Morning Prayer - Colin Ottwell	Chidham St Andrew’s West Stoke St Mary’s Funtington Chidham
<i>Monday 19th Feb</i>	<i>5.30- 6.30pm</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>St Mary’s, Funtington Church room</i>
Thursday 22nd Feb	10.30 am	Eucharist – Fr. Charles Howard Coffee (all welcome)	St Wilfrid’s Nutbourne
Sunday 25th Feb	9 am 10 am	Eucharist – Rev. Vanessa Baron Eucharist - Rev. John Dane	Sennicotts Chidham
<i>Monday 26th Feb</i>	<i>Monday 19th Feb</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>Church in the Community -Prayer Meeting</i>
Thursday 29th Feb	10 30 am	Eucharist – Fr. Charles Howard	St Wilfrid Nutbourne
Sunday 3rd March	8 am 10am 10am	Eucharist – Canon Stephen Hoy Eucharist – Rev. Barbara Stanton Family Service – John Manning	Chidham St Andrew’s West Stoke St Mary’s Funtington

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

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