

PARISH MAGAZINE

MAY 2026

50p



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Dallington



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Please contact Marc Lloyd
Social Clubs etc. see page 27

From The Rectory

This year we journeyed through Easter in our church services with Matthew's Gospel.

I've mentioned here before something about the similarities and differences between the four Gospels which we have in our New Testament, and some of the theories about their relationships.

In my opinion, all four gospels are harmonizable and complementary. The early Christians who first collected these four Gospels together obviously thought so. But even if some of the Gospel writers knew one another's works, they each provide a somewhat independent witness to Jesus. They don't read like police notebooks which have been carefully cooked up to tell an agreed story. Their harmony is sometimes that of different eyewitnesses who notice, mention or emphasise different things. They each write with a purpose and an agenda.

All four Gospel writers tell us of Jesus' so-called Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12). All four Gospels tell us that Jesus rode on a donkey. Mark and Luke say the donkey was a "colt" "which no one had ever ridden". What's the point of this detail? Does it suggest Jesus' uniqueness: he alone rides on this donkey? I know nothing about horses and so on, but presumably riding a donkey that no one has ever ridden may not be easy. The colt needs to be broken in and trained. Jesus seems to have no problems. Does this point to Jesus' rule over creation? Jesus is the new and better Adam, to whom the creatures readily submit. Just as the wind and the waves obey Jesus, does the young donkey do better than many of the religious leaders and recognise his Maker? Jesus is the King even of unruly colts.

Matthew alone tells us in fact there were two donkeys: a she-ass with her colt. Some sceptical readers have cried, "Ah! A contradiction! Come on! Was there one donkey or were there two?" Of course, saying there were two donkeys includes saying there was one! Talking about one donkey doesn't exclude the fact that there were two. If the other Gospel writers knew of both donkeys, perhaps they didn't think it worth mentioning. They simplify the tale. Perhaps they also emphasise Jesus' power and control by only mentioning the previously unriden donkey. A couple of parishioners have pointed out to me that if you are going to ride on a previously unriden donkey it makes sense to take its mother with it. Both animals are likely to be much happier with sticking together, apparently.

Some sceptical scholars have said that Matthew was misreading Old Testament prophecy. Zechariah had spoken of the king coming to his people "gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." One can't really ride two donkeys at once. Not without getting into a mess, anyway. And Hebrew poetry loves what's called parallelism: saying the same thing – or similar, or contrasting things – twice or more. This parallelism is like our rhyming, a "rhyming" of ideas. Some people say Matthew has misread Zechariah. Zech is speaking of one donkey, a foal, poetically. Matt has missed the point and assumed there must be two donkeys, so that's what he put in. Unfortunately this theory falls down, in my view, because it assumes Matthew is stupid and we are cleverer. I'm sure Matthew knew what he was doing.

A donkey is not a war horse. Jesus comes humble and gentle and riding on a donkey.

But Old Testament kings did ride on donkeys at times. But Jesus' humility is especially emphasised by his riding on a colt. Jesus is a striking combination of kingly authority and of peace, humility, gentleness and service. Jesus shows, as the modern hymn has it, "meekness and majesty, manhood and deity." He is the king, but the servant king who has come to die.

Perhaps it's worth having more than one Gospel. And worth reading them closely, attending to their details and their differences, as well as to their powerful and profound agreement. Donkeys, even foals, speak to us still today.

The Rev'd Canon Marc Lloyd

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Warbleton Parish Church Diary

Sanctuary Guild Flower Arrangers and Brass Cleaners

To ensure that Warbleton church was ready to greet worshippers on Easter morning with a burst of Spring flowers some of our flower arrangers spent the Saturday morning doing just that. We are grateful to them for sparing the time to arrange blossom, Spring greenery, daffodils, tulips and lilies. On Easter morning we were greeted with a wonderful perfume as we entered. Also to greet us just inside the door on the font was an Easter garden with three crosses, a tomb and a stone rolled back. Everything was much appreciated. A big thank you to all who helped.

On the 2nd & 9th of May, the flowers will be arranged by Carole Rolfe , followed on the 16th & 23rd by Alison Web and Sheena Gilmore. Deborah Jarrett– Potts and Jane Grant will complete the month on the 30th.

Good Book Club

We will meet on Tuesdays the 12th & 26th at White Birch Farm at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. We will continue our studies in 1 Samuel all welcome normally we meet at White Birch Farm at 7.00 for 7.30pm

Little Warblers Toddlers' Group

Little Warblers is a group for adults with preschool children which meet in the Church Rooms on Tuesday mornings during term time from 9.15-10.45. We welcome you to join us and follow the school term dates. . For more information please go to the Little Warblers Toddler group page on Facebook or email littlewarblers@warbletonchurch.org .

WarbleArt

We continue to meet on Wednesdays in the Warbleton Church Rooms from 10.00 am to 12 noon. Please contact Gail Welford on 01435 812514 or gwelford51@gmail.com

WarbleSingers

We are now meeting every week on Mondays at 7.15 pm for 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Dates for May are the 4th, 11th ,18th and 25th . New members are always welcome. Contact Gail on: gwelford51@gmail.com or 01435 812514, if you are interested.

Warbleton Weeders

We meet (weather permitting) once a month on a Wednesday morning at 9.30am for a couple of hours. Help would be very much appreciated with pruning, sweeping and other light jobs as you feel able. To find out which day we will meet please contact Judith on judithmhemsley@btinternet.com. or look in the weekly news bulletin.

MERYL CLARK – CELEBRATION OF LIFE

As part of the normal Service on Sunday 10th May, we will be celebrating Meryl's life as a member of our Church family. The service will also be attended by Meryl's friends and family. Steve hopes that as many people as possible will be able to attend.

Afterwards, there will be a party at Punnetts Town Village commencing at 12.30pm to which all are invited. So that the occasion can be appropriately catered for, please let Steve know if you plan to come by e-mail on stephenclark2022@outlook.com

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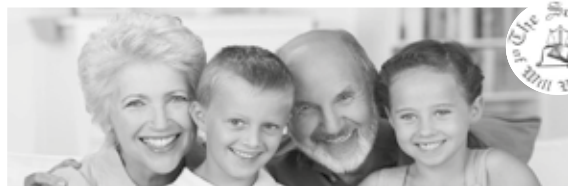
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Mission Support for May Sussex Gospel Partnership

We continue to support the Sussex Gospel Partnership this May. Warbleton church is one of a group of over 70 churches in East and West Sussex which make up the Partnership. The purpose as stated on the website is to form “Not simply a fellowship of people who enjoy each other’s company but a Partnership of churches who believe it is better and more effective to work together.” The vision is that by joining together churches of different denominations who are clear that the Bible is the unique authority in all matters of faith and conduct, the message of God’s kingdom can be proclaimed more effectively.

Members of SGP are convinced that Christ will build his church but that working together in ministry and prayer helpfully strengthens the proclamation of the gospel. To this end, as the website states, SGP aims:

- To encourage church leaders
- To recruit and train church leaders
- To encourage and organise evangelistic initiatives
- To encourage gospel growth in existing churches.
- To encourage and initiate the strategic planting of new churches.
- To work together for the preservation and advance of the gospel in different denominations

Readers may know that the big Christian conference in Eastbourne “ Bible by the Beach” which takes place the first weekend in May is closely linked with the Sussex Gospel Partnership. Training courses of various kinds continue throughout the year. There are leaflets giving details of these and other information about SGP at the back of the church or you can ask the Rector Marc.

CONSULTATION ON THE NEXT BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

As you are aware, Bishop Martin retires at the end of May. As a diocesan family, we are preparing to search for the next Bishop of Chichester. A consultation has been launched to hear the views of as many people as possible across our communities. This anonymous survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. It closes on 26th May 2026. Have your say in the appointment at tinyurl.com/next-bishop It will take only a few minutes to complete. We welcome responses from everyone. Find out more about the process for appointing our next bishop at www.chichester.anglican.org/vacancy-in-see/

For those who haven’t got access to technology there is an offline version of the survey which can be requested from Marc or Steve. As a very large response is expected, the online version is preferred.

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Warbleton and District History Group

The April meeting is always our AGM, which was quite brief, with reports on the last year and re-election of the committee, with the exception of Sue Hinman who had stood down due to an impending move. She was thanked for her help, particularly in providing refreshments at our meetings.

We then had an interesting talk on Newhaven Fort – Then and Now, by Ian Everest, who had a personal connection with it as we shall see.. During the 1800s there was always a fear that the French would invade, and the government built a series of coastal forts at mostly naval ports from Milford Haven round to the Thames estuary, particularly in the Solent and around Portsmouth. The estuary at the village of Newhaven was not a naval port but a commercial one. The coast to the East was ideal for invasion, being low lying. A fort was constructed above the western bank of the estuary. It is unusual in that most of the forts were built on top of hills and stood out clearly, but at Newhaven it was in behind earth banks, which helped it to merge into the landscape, and probably would have absorbed inbound shelling.

It was built to house 300 men, and in many cases their families, in a series of casements within the fort. Unusually for the time it used quite a bit of concrete in its construction using shingle from the beach below. The rest was brickwork using bricks made from clay dug out from just behind the site. By the time it was built the threat from the French had disappeared. It remained in use with periods of higher activity in WW1 and particularly in WW2 when the threat of invasion was high. Post war it remained in use by the military, latterly in disposing of unexploded ordinance from the South Downs, large areas of which had been used as artillery ranges. It was decommissioned and bought by Newhaven Urban District Council, with no real idea of what they were going to do with it. After two abortive attempts at running it as a holiday centre, which worked in the summer but not the winter, it became derelict. By now Lewes District Council had been formed and eventually Ian was employed as a manager of the site. He realised that the fort's history was its asset and set to creating it as a military history site and over 15 years built it up. At the end of this time, he left the post, and after a short period of uncertainty the Fort remains as a visitor attraction. Details from www.newhavenfort.org.uk

On May 11th we have a return visit from Sean Goddard, and friends, following up his talk on Morris Dancing last year. It will feature the music of the 19th century, collected by Sylvan Harmer. They will demonstrate the music and the dances, and I am told there will be an opportunity to try it for yourself, should you so desire! A bit different from our usual meetings. We meet at 7.30pm for 8pm start at the Dunn Village Hall, but there will be music playing from 7.45pm.

Jonathan Austin

LOCAL CREATIVE WRITERS' GROUP

Do you like writing fiction, non-fiction, poetry or prose for pleasure? If so, why not join our Creative Writers' Group which invariably meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30 pm at The Bear in Burwash. No fees, just a friendly group of aspiring writers meeting together to listen, discuss, offer constructive support and exchange ideas.

Each month we decide on a topic of around 500 words in any genre. Examples covered so far have included The Countryside, A Misunderstanding, My Earliest Recollection, A Book Review, Boredom and Safeguarding. It has been amazing how many different angles a topic can be approached from whether drawing from personal experience, research and our own imagination; for example, "Safeguarding" as a real-life concern, to safeguarding against witches from 1400 - 1800 and then turning the subject on its head with guarding a safe.

If you are interested, please come along and meet us as we share our different approaches to the monthly topic. There is never any obligation to write on a chosen topic. Everyone is welcome to just come along and listen to what other members of the group have written.

If you would like to find out more, please contact: Val Stevens on stevensval85@gmail.com



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Last Autumn I potted up all the geraniums that beautified the Stores flower beds on Rushlake Green during the summer - they would only get thrown away, so many thanks to Paul Huntley for letting me have them - and they seem to have done well. So please do consider taking home a little bit of Rushlake Green colour to brighten up your summer pots.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Julia Padbury

chrisandjoolz@gmail.com or telephone 01435 831191



ANNUAL SUMMER SHOW

Our planning for the Annual Summer Show on **Saturday, 25th July** is well underway and we will have schedules ready to collect from Rushlake Green Village Stores and the Heathfield branch plus several other outlets in early June.

However, you can start planning now too – what about sowing seeds to win the longest runner bean or getting your dahlia tubers planted? There are 131 classes to enter in the marquee, 6 dog classes, show gardens and no less than 29 trophies to compete for!

We will start the event with a quiz night in the marquee on Thursday 23rd July and finish with a great party night on Saturday.

Take a sneaky view at the website for all classes and the full schedule of events.

But please can you help us? We are still looking for volunteers for the run up and on the day.

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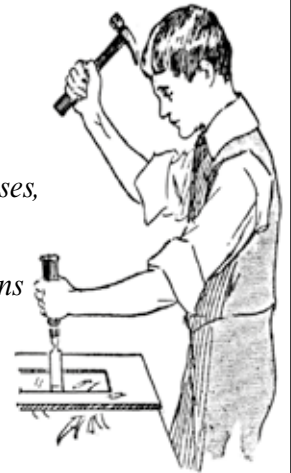
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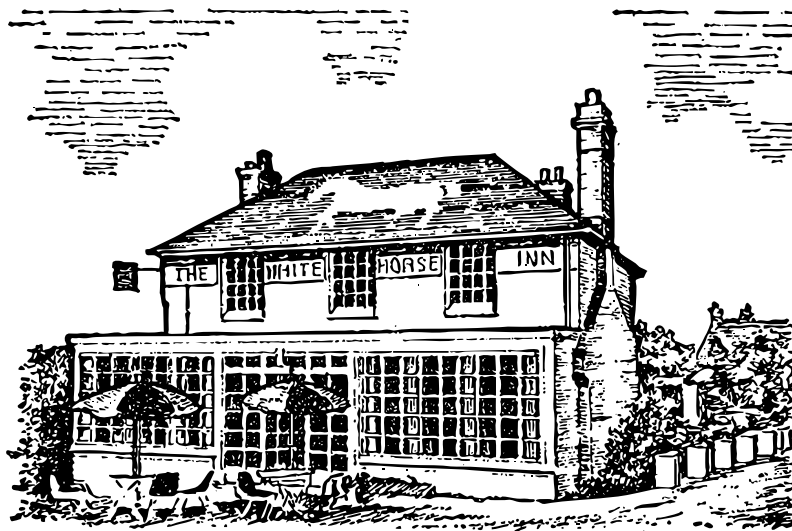
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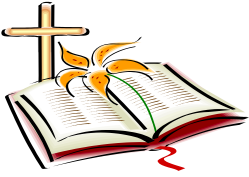
The **Rushlake Green**
BIG LUNCH

The Rushlake Green Big Lunch is back! Come and join us on the Green on Sunday, 7th June for an afternoon of picnics, friendship and fun in a celebration of our very special community. Marvellous music from the Warbleton Brass Band and the Pevensey Ukulele Group, another wonderful classic vehicle display, entertainment from magician Jim Blake, free tea, coffee and cake and a chance to win amazing prizes donated by local traders in our Charity Raffle supporting St Wilfrid's Hospice (please bring cash if possible).

We are also collecting donations of non-perishable food and toiletries for the Hailsham Food Bank to help local people in need – if you can, please bring along one or two items for our collecting boxes, or make a purchase from The Village Stores on the day.

All of this is completely free of charge thanks to our generous sponsors, so a big thank you to Batcheller Monkhouse, Foresters Estate Agents, The Horse & Groom Sussex Ltd, the Tree House at Marklye, Southern Tank Services and Warbleton Parish Council.

Starting at midday, just bring along a picnic, rug or chair and enjoy the afternoon!



SERVICES IN May 2026

Warbleton Parish Church

Sunday 3rd	11.00 am	All Age Family Service
Sunday 10th	11.00 am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Thursday 14th	7.30pm	Benefice Ascension Day Communion Service at Dallington
Sunday 17th	11.00 am	Morning Worship and Sunday Club
Sunday 24th	11.00 am	Holy Communion and Sunday Club Pentecost Sunday
Sunday 31st	11.00am	Morning Worship - Trinity Sunday

June

Sunday 7th	11.00 am	All age Family Service
------------	----------	------------------------

St John's, Bodle Street Green

Sunday 3rd	9.30 am.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday 10th	9.30 am.	All-Age Family Service for Rogation Day. Weather permitting we will process round the village stopping to sing hymns and say prayers in the churchyard, at Toll Farm, and at the village hall.
Thursday 14th	7.30pm	Joint Benefice Service at St. Giles, Dallington, for Ascension Day Please refer to the Dallington section for details.
Sunday 17th	9.30 am.	Morning Worship with Holy Communion.
Sunday 24th	9.30 am.	Morning Prayer. For Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
Sunday 31st	9.30 am.	Matins from the Book of Common Prayer on Trinity Sunday

St Giles Dallington

Sunday 3rd	11.00 am	Service of the Word
Sunday 10th	6.30 pm	Evensong
Thursday 14th	7.30pm	Ascension Day– Joint Benefice Service
Sunday 17th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	11.00 am	Service of the Word

Three Villages Calendar for May 2026

Thursday 7th	Coffee & Company at Osborne House	10.00am to 12 noon
Thursday 14th	Coffee & Company at Osborne House	10.00am to 12 noon
Monday 11th	Warbleton & District History Group At The Dunn village Hall	7.00pm for 8.00pm
Thursday 21st	Coffee & Company at Osborne House	10.00am to 12 noon
Monday 18th	Villages Lunch Club at Bodle Street Green Village Hall	11.30 to 2.30pm
Thursday 28th	Coffee & Company at Osborne House	10.00am to 12 noon

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EDITOR'S NOTE: May 2026 Magazine

Please send your magazine articles, notices and any other contributions
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St. Giles Church, Dallington

Sunday 3rd	11.00 am	Service of the Word
Sunday 10th	6.30 pm	Evensong
Thursday 14th	7.30pm	Ascension Day– Joint Benefice Service
Sunday 17th	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	11.00 am	Service of the Word



We celebrated Easter Day twice at St. Giles. As the Rector was busy at the other churches in the morning there was a service of Holy Communion for Easter Day at 6.30pm. However, at 11am we had a joyful service of hymn singing and story telling. The highlight was a solo from Lucas Jones of John Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' Afterwards we had some very excited children (and adults) looking for Easter Eggs. Something for everyone, a very happy day.

Old School Village Hall

Library Café

Monday afternoons from 2-4pm and first Saturday of the month 10am-12pm.

Art Club

We meet every Monday morning in the Old School Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon. Everyone free to work at their own pace, on their own projects or from still life materials brought by the tutor.

Westward Ho.

The wind smells of heather and the white blossomed may;
It blew down the brown hills, down to the bay;
It sings in the rigging, it sings in the sky;
It shakes the green waves and make the salt spray fly.

The white clouds are scattering-- it blows half a gale,
So break out the anchor and shake out the sale,
And sheet out the top sale and let the hooker go,
Through the grey gulls fishery and westward ho.

And we will come to anchor in a bay of blue calm,
Where the parrots scream and clatter in the green-plumed palm;
Where the galley and the galleon the brig and brigantine,
From sailing Spanish waters, come into careen.

And there will be the sunshine and the thronged sea piers,
And merry taverns full of tarry buccaneers,
And jolly sailors dancing, and s ones for our delight,
And Spanish wine and sweet wine, and red wine and white.

Poet Laureate from 1930 to 1967

Submitted by Gillian Slack

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Marsh, Weald and Downs.

Michael Harding has written a book, “Marsh, Weald and Downs. Stories of Murder, Mayhem and Mystery from Sussex.” Of course, I thoroughly recommend it and urge everyone to buy it, copies are available at Rushlake Green Stores for £10.99, or from Amazon, or, sometimes, if you want a signed copy, on Friday evenings at The White Horse. Or on most other evenings at The Bull (although this may not be true anymore now that Michael is a married man again.)

“Marsh, Weald and Downs” is a collection of short stories, best described as folk tales, but folk tales of the imagination, set in familiar places, here in Sussex, in the not-so-distant past. A remote place, hidden from the modern world, where the “old ways” persist, and there is a hint of paganism just below the surface.

In that context it is worth recalling that Sussex was the last bastion of paganism in Anglo-Saxon England. The kingdom of the South Saxons was where paganism held out the longest. Our witnesses for that being Bede, who wrote his Church History, and a monk called Eddius Stephanus, who wrote a biography of his hero, Saint Wilfrid. Both claim that, after all the other English kingdoms had converted to Christianity, the South Saxons still held out.

Bede does admit that there were a few Christians in Sussex. “There was in their midst a certain Irish monk named Dicuill who had a very small monastery in a place called Bosham surrounded by woods and sea, in which five or six brothers served the Lord in humility and poverty; but none of the natives cared to follow their way of life or listen to their teaching.” The teacher the South Saxons would finally listen to was Saint Wilfrid.

Wilfrid didn’t arrive in Sussex fired up by a sense of mission, like Saint Patrick in Ireland. His first visit to Sussex was a complete accident, he was travelling back from Gaul, where he had been consecrated as bishop of York, and his ship ran aground on the Sussex coast. The reaction of the locals was immediate, they attacked, claiming that everything that washed up on their shoreline was theirs. Wilfrid offered “soothing words” and “a large sum of money”, but to no avail, and the heathens had to be repelled three times. At last, prayers worked, the tide returned early, and the ship was free to sail away. Only five of Wilfrid’s companions had been killed.

Wilfrid’s second, and this time successful, visit was also under unusual circumstances. Wilfrid had quarrelled with the powerful King of Northumbria, King Ecgfrith, who had had Wilfrid thrown into goal and then exiled. Wherever Wilfrid went – Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex – the baleful influence of the Northumbrian King was brought to bear, and Wilfrid had to move on. King Ecgfrith held an unofficial overlordship, called by Bede “imperium”, later translated from Latin to Anglo-Saxon as “bretwalda”, over the neighbouring English kingdoms. “There was but one place free, an area of Sussex which dense forests and rocky coast had saved from conquest by other kingdoms. Up to that time it had remained persistently heathen.”

Continued on page 21

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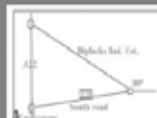
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Continued from page 19

Marsh, Weald and Downs.

Several churches in Sussex have stained glass windows (Willingdon, Ovingdean) or murals (Old Town, Bexhill) showing the two Sussex Saints, Saint Richard and Saint Wilfrid; and there is a Tudor painting on wood at Chichester cathedral showing Wilfrid meeting King Caedwalla. You might assume that Wilfrid was from Sussex, either born there or lived there, but that is not the case. He was born, and buried, in Northumbria. In the Sussex images Wilfrid is often shown carrying a net or a fish. This is from an improbable story from Bede which has Wilfrid relieving a famine by showing the people of Sussex how to fish. "The sea and the rivers abounded in fish, but the people had no knowledge of fishing except for eels alone. So the bishop's men collected eel-nets and cast them into the sea so that, with the help of divine grace, they quickly caught 300 fish." Eels and eel catching by the Marsh folk feature in Michael's book.

Charles Harding

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Friday 17th July
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To jog your memory

Saturday 8th August
Annual Flower Show

Tuesday 15th September at Rapkyns Nursery
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Morag

Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm
A Short History of English Gardens
Kevin Tooher

Tuesday 17th November at 6.30pm
Annual General Meeting with cheese & wine
Tony Harris

Heffle Quilt show

Saturday 13th June 2026
10am - 4pm

Sunday 14th June 2026
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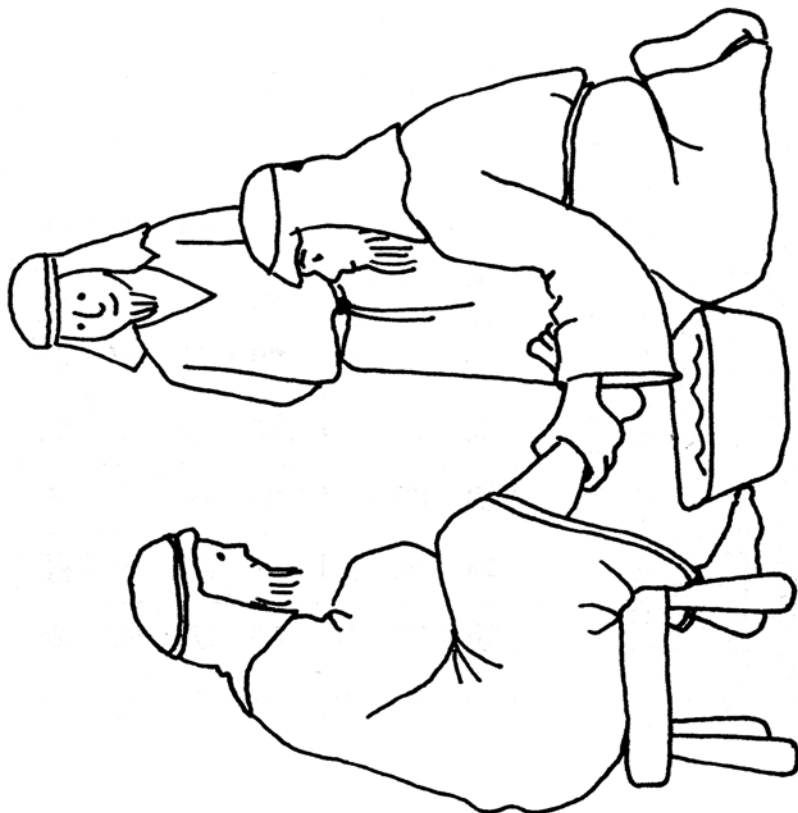
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Philippians 2:1-11



John 13:1-15

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Y	E	V	A	O	D	I	L	R	W
H	O	E	W	F	M	P	I	E	E
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F	D	L	O	R	D	E	Y	E	S
O	J	G	D	E	H	S	A	W	T

When Jesus WASHED the FEET of his DISCIPLES, he SHOWED them how they were to TREAT one another. JESUS was their LORD, but he acted as their SERVANT. So if his FOLLOWERS want to be GREAT in GOD'S EYES they must look after one another with LOVE and HUMILITY.

From Nusrat Ghani

Next month, we will celebrate National Carers Week, an annual event highlighting and recognising the invaluable contribution that carers make to the livelihoods of unwell, older or disabled loved ones. Every year, I am pleased to team up with local charity Care for the Carers to raise awareness of unpaid caring and to recognise the contribution Sussex Weald carers make, and promote the support available locally.

Care for the Carers are an independent charity commissioned by East Sussex County Council and the NHS. They offer a free wraparound service including referrals to other local services, outreach support, one-to-one crisis help and guidance, coaching, training, wellbeing and support groups, activities and counselling. To find out more information, please visit www.cftc.org.uk or phone 01323 738390.

For several years, I have also been championing our kinship carers and working with Wendy, who is raising her grandchildren and spearheading support groups for kinship carers in Hailsham and Heathfield. Unlike adopters or foster carers, many kinship carers do not receive financial support or benefits such as paid employment leave, so I have been making representations to Ministers to ensure that kinship carers are not forgotten and are included when decisions about carers rights are being made.

I have also been working closely with our outstanding charity Rotherfield St Martin, who were rightly recognised by The King's Award for Voluntary Service last year. They are a key community source of vital support for families and carers of local residents living with dementia, and work to prevent isolation and loneliness for older people living in Rotherfield and surrounding areas. For more information on their work, please visit www.rotherfieldstmartin.org.uk.

As Patron of Hospice in the Weald, I recently visited their Five Ashes site, which provides free, high-quality care to those with life-limiting conditions. I was pleased to learn more about the recent reopening of inpatient services, upgraded facilities to support those with more complex health needs and plans for a new centre to support children and young people.

Becoming a carer is a life-changing situation and can be a very isolating experience. If you are a carer and need support, please know it is available and don't hesitate to reach out. I am immensely grateful for everything that carers across Sussex Weald do every day to ensure that many residents have better quality of life and personalised end of life care and I will continue working with our fantastic local charities, organisations and care homes to ensure that our carers are better recognised and supported.

AD INDEX – WARBLETON, DALLINGTON AND BODLE STREET (AS AT MARCH 26)

Section	Company Name	Page
Accommodation	Beestons Farm Holiday Cottages	8
	Warbleton Housing Association Ltd (Osborne House)	4
Amateur Dramatics	Village Players	8
Appliance Repair	A – Z Repairs	4
Automotive Services	Attwood Motor Services	20
	RLG Tyres	Back
	Windmill Hill Garage	8
Bookkeeping & Accountancy	Trentino	16
Brass Band	Warbleton Brass Band	Back
Building, Carpentry, Decorating	Angears Builders	Back
	Herstmonceux Flooring	26
	Paul Farrant	6
	Brendan Hobden Carpentry Contractor	12
	ST Carpentry and Building Services	6
Computing Services	Computers Fixed with a Smile	22
	SBG Computers	18
Education	Punnetts Town Community Primary School	8
Electrician	Freeman's Electricals	22
Estate Agency	Batcheller Monkhouse	16
	Oakfield	4
Events Venue	Henners Vineyard	6
Food & Drink	Henners Vineyard	6
	The White Horse Inn	12
Funeral & Grave Tending Services	C Waterhouse and Sons	Back
	Hailsham Funeral Service	22
	Heathfeld Funeral Service	20
	Thyme & Memorials	18
	White Feather Funerals	18

Section	Company Name	Page
Garden & Tree Services	A J King	10
	Cat & Mouse Landscapes	12
	Cedar & Cypress Tree Services	8
	Gildridge Fencing	20
	Hollywood Tree Surgery	10
	Michael Salvage	8
	Richard Webb Tree Surgeon Ltd	22
Groundworks and Plant Hire	Suttons Groundcare Ltd	6
	RJG Services Ltd	4
Hall for Hire	Bodle Street Green Village Hall	10
	Dallington Village Hall	Back
	Dunn Village Hall	4
Health & Beauty	Studio LotteBerk	Back
Home Care Provider	APC Care Eastbourne & Wealden	16
Pest Control	Go Pest	Back
	Graham Long	Back
Removals	Andy Vater	Back
	Get A Move On	8
Retail	Petals	18
	Seasoned Hardwood Logs (Luke)	4
	Shutecombe Flock (Jacob Lamb)	22
	The Stores Rushlake Green	4
Roofing	J Whiteman Roofing	10
TV Aerial & Satellite	H D I Aerials	10
Upholsterer & Furnishers	Clifford Upholstery	22
	Thorndale Furnishers	20
Waste Removal	P J Cole Southern Ltd	6
	Phoenix Liquid Waste Ltd	18
Wheelwright	Douglas Andrews	6
Will Writing and Probate	Barry & Co Solicitors	10
	Westminster Law	6

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Bookings	Mrs Denise Bailey	01435 831565
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Bookings	Ros Billingshurst	01323 832062
Villages Luncheon Club	Mrs P Gentry	01323 833201
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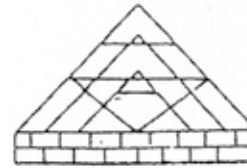
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The Dunn Village Hall in Rushlake Green.

Need a band for an event?

For more information telephone **01273 493469**

www.warbletonbrassband.org

Warbleton
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