

PARISH NEWS



The Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham & Eastergate

50p



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ABE FUNDRAISING

THE PRIEST'S ROOM

POETRY IN THE PARISH

[www. parishofabe.org.uk](http://www.parishofabe.org.uk)

April 2021

EASTER 2021

IN THE PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM & EASTERGATE

Due to the current social distancing restrictions, we have devised the following plan of services for the Lent & Easter period.

This is subject to change depending on government advice.

Booking for a service is essential. Please see details below to book your place/s.

St Mary's, Barnham

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday 28 March

9am – Morning Prayer

9.30am – BCP Mass

11.15am – Parish Mass with the blessing of Palms

6pm – Evening Prayer

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

6.30pm - Mass

Maundy Thursday 1 April

7.30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by the Watch until midnight

11.55pm - Compline

Good Friday 2 April

10am - Family Service

2pm - Good Friday Liturgy

6pm - Evening Prayer

6.30pm - Maria Desolata

Easter Sunday:

5.30am - Vigil & Dawn Mass

9am - Mattins

9.30am - BCP Mass

11.15am - Parish Mass

6pm - Evensong & Benediction

Easter Week:

6.30pm - Daily Mass (Monday - Friday)

Saturday:

9.30am - Mass (Walsingham cell)

Booking for a service is essential – Please contact Bradley on 07931 527724 or at bradley.smith4@gmail.com as soon as possible.



St Mary's, Aldingbourne

Holy Week:

Good Friday 2 April

11am - The Passion Narrative (via Zoom)

Easter Sunday:

10am - Easter Eucharist

For further details, contact Julian on: 01243 543930 or julianbuxton2020@gmail.com

St George's, Eastergate

Palm Sunday 28 March

8.30am – Holy Communion

10am – Family Eucharist with blessing of palms

Maundy Thursday 1 April

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper

Good Friday 2 April

10am - Reflective service around the Cross

Between 2pm and 4pm - Drop in Easter garden walk for families and children (see page 13)

Easter Sunday:

8.30am - Holy Communion (BCP)

10am - Easter Celebration Eucharist

Booking for a service is essential – Please contact Gary on 01243 552099 or via email at courtynadge@outlook.com to book your place/s.

There is a reduced seating capacity in St George's Church due to social distancing. Seats will be allocated in the order they are booked until all are filled.

Some services will be recorded for those unable to attend in person.



If the government's plans to ease the lockdown follows its intended path then hopefully we will all begin to start to see some normality returning to our personal lives and in

society at large. It seems a long time since we have been able to do those activities that give so much of life its joy such as meeting friends, eating out and enjoying sport.

Easing of the lockdown, the brighter nights, the warmer days and the joy of the Easter message, of Christ rising from the dead, has been described by several people as "the lifting of a cloud". This is an apt analogy. When I think of the lifting of a cloud, I think back to our ancient brothers and sisters, the Jews, as they wander through the wilderness during the exodus from Egypt (this can be found in the Old Testament in the books, Exodus through to Joshua).

For many the Old Testament is a closed book, best avoided because of its complexity and its unpronounceable names! But not engaging with it is to lose so much. To go back to the lifting off the cloud, in the book of Numbers, the Israelites are told that when the cloud (which indicated the presence of God), stopped over the tabernacle, the place that the commandments were kept and where offerings were given to God, the Israelites

were to set up camp and they were not to move until the cloud lifted. When it lifted then they could move forward in the knowledge that God was now going before them.

If the cloud stayed a day, the Israelites stayed a day. If the cloud remained a month, they stayed in that spot for a month. With this piece of biblical knowledge, we can begin to say something positive about this last year and the hope that now lies before us.

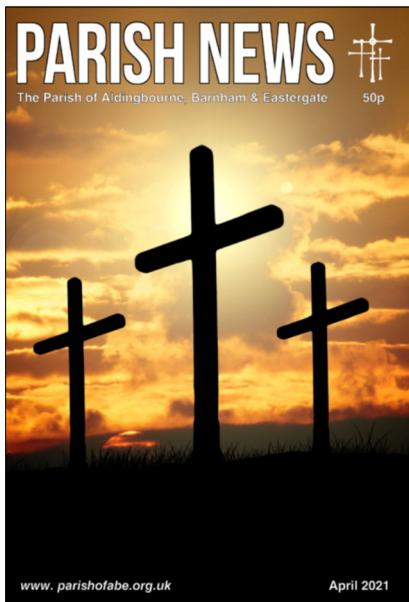
It has felt to us all that we have been under a cloud. Normally that is a way of describing a depressive state, but now we can also add, using the experience of the Israelites, that the cloud is also where God is dwelling, waiting with us. We were never alone in this experience. Similarly, now that the cloud is lifting we can say in all hopefulness that it is time to move forward and that God is going ahead of us (this is a powerful theme in the New Testament especially the Easter stories of the Resurrected Christ).

As the cloud lifted in the wilderness, God led his people ever closer towards the land of promise. Again as we celebrate Easter this month we are reminded that this seems to be a continuing characteristic of God, for in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead we are all that little bit closer to that promised land, to that place where there is neither death nor sighing but life everlasting.

Have a very blessed Easter.

Fr Graham





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FROM THE REGISTERS FEBRUARY 2021

Funerals: We commend into God's loving care:

8 Stella Knight [89] *

* Cremation

ABE INFORMATION

Our Churches remain open for private prayer and some public worship.

However, we continue to make services available on the internet for those not able to be physically present.

The Parish Office will remain closed for the time being.

For more details, visit our website at www.parishofabe.org.uk or contact us via email at parishofabe@btinternet.com

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Forthcoming events in the Parish are as follows (subject to government rules):

- **12th June Plant Sale**
- **10th July Parish Fair**
- **14th August Parish Day (including a walking treasure hunt and a garden picnic)**

FOODBANK

Could you please leave your donations in the basket in the Barnham Co-op or Trading Post. The donations will be taken regularly to the Bognor Foodbank.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – PATRONAL FESTIVAL

To celebrate the feast day of St George (23 April), St George's Church Eastergate will be holding its patronal festival Evensong service at 6pm on Sunday 18 April.

We will be pleased to welcome Revd Canon Martin Lane, Vicar of Bosham, to give an address at this service. Revd Martin was appointed Canon in March 2018 as 'Prebendary of Gates', an honorary title which historically would have bestowed on a Canon of the Church a role in the administration of the Cathedral ('Gates' is an ancient name for the village of Eastergate). It is very fitting, therefore, that Revd Martin is able to join us on the occasion of St George's patronal festival.

Refreshments will be served after the service. All are very welcome to attend this short service of traditional Evensong.



B.E.A.D.Y.S. SUPPORTERS OF ST. WILFRID'S HOSPICE

St. Wilfrid's Hospice is embarking on a "Get Active Campaign" with walks, trails and treks all lined up. This year there will be a Moonlight Walk Week from 4th -11th September, with a option of doing a Socially Distanced walk on September 11th or doing individual virtual walks during the week.

In November there will be a "Trail Run" starting off in Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Petersfield. There is a choice between 9, 15 or 21 km runs.

In March 2022 a trek across the Sahara is planned! Details of all these major fund raising events can be found at <https://stwh.co.uk/> or by calling 01243 775302.

Meanwhile, here in Barnham, we sincerely hope to re-open the BOOKSHED at Parsonage Farm as soon after 12th April as possible.

Thank you to all who continue to leave old coins, stamps, and magazines in my porch.

Gill Kelly

RSPB CHICHESTER

RSPB Chichester's Zoom Meetings for April:

8th April - Birds in Spring

22nd April - Tawny Owls in Sweden

All meetings start at 7pm and are free to members and £4 to non-members. Contact Rob Yarham at chichesterbirds@gmail.com or 07545 376074 to book.

Maria Wildman

PLANTS AND MORE PLANTS!

The time has come to plant seeds, take cuttings and plan for the year ahead. In your planning could you please grow extra plants for our Plant Sale on the 12th June. Your support is greatly appreciated and contributes considerably to our funds.

Sue Skelt

Nina's Friendly Coffee Morning

DELIVERY SERVICE!

Nothing will stop us from being a community!

Cakes, scones and sausage rolls delivered safely to your doorstep every Tuesday!

Orders to be placed by the previous Sunday at midday. Minimum donation of £2 please.

Every Tuesday whilst in lockdown

Contact Nina on 07849 358097 for more information!

For our March meeting we asked members to make an Easter themed item and they didn't disappoint. There were some wonderful ideas and items, with the most unique being a broad game, based on cute little chicks and naughty bunnies, which received a special mention. We also had a quiz which was a word search using our name which certainly got us all thinking.

In April we will be having a talk about online scams and how to protect ourselves. If you would like to join us as a guest for your first meeting and to find out more about us please email eastergate.friendswi@hotmail.com

We are a friendly bunch and would love to meet you.

Lyn Moore

GORDON COLLINS

A little before the turn of the century Mrs Gladys Smith and I were voted to be Church Wardens, women and two of them! A training day at a red brick Victorian church improved our knowledge of Church procedure and what were our responsibilities. Our real bonus was to know that Gordon Collins was knowledgeable, and able to help us out of difficulties we might encounter. This was an enormous help while the new "vestry" was under construction, and again when the Hatchments were being taken away for preservation treatment. Builders have a habit of arriving for work at all hours and we were grateful that Gordon was able and willing to let them in. Hence my belatedly adding to Tony's excellent obituary.

Kenya Tatton Brown

The news this month is very sad. I have to report the death of Wendy Whitmarsh. Wendy was our raffle lady. She had run this for many years at our meetings and for any events such as the annual quiz night. She also ran the craft/knit and natter group. She was always calm whether at a monthly meeting or a committee meeting and greeted everyone with warmth. She will be greatly missed and difficult to replace. We think of her and her family. Sleep well Wendy - The lady with the smile.

Catherine White-Aldworth



PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM
AND EASTERGATE

Walberton, Binsted and West Barnham Support Fund

The old 'Nurses Cottage' in West Walberton Lane used to be tied accommodation for a district nurse.

The property was handed over to a Charity in 1954 and sold in 1982. Interest from the subsequent investment brings an annual income of about £8000 which has to be distributed to those in need within the old nursing district by the Trustees, of which Rev Sheila is one.

This money is available to those in our parish who live in the area covered by the district nurse in the past (north and west of the railway bridge as far as the Eastergate sign on the Barnham Road).

Recipients need to live, work or attend educational establishments or community organisations in the area of benefit.

If anyone is struggling financially or has lost their income please contact Rev Sheila by telephone (553901) or email smhandaway@hotmail.co.uk

**Do get in touch; this trust is there for the
benefit of our community**

REACHING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

THE PARISH OF ABE

How fortunate we are to have three Grade 1 listed ancient churches in our midst. You may be regular churchgoers, attend occasionally, or perhaps have had a family wedding or baptism enjoying the beautiful and atmospheric interiors. There are also the sadder moments of a funeral and perhaps been thankful for the quiet reverence the surroundings have provided. You may have relatives buried in the churchyard and enjoy the solitude of a visit to bring flowers and sit for a while absorbing the surroundings.

There are of course many more reasons for visiting these churches during the year: a school event, concert, special services such as Remembrance Sunday, toddler Play and Pray - the list goes on. The Parish is involved with many other activities throughout the village: Messy Church, Community Carols, Sing-along-Sundays, all held in Eastergate Village Hall with Nippers and Slippers at Eastergate School. Outreach work is another aspect: we support the Bognor Foodbank and have a Kenyan link with the Diocese of Nyahurura, providing support for two children at a church school.

Our churches stand at the centre of these activities and there are other undertakings too numerous to mention, however, without these wonderful buildings that have been standing for over 900 years the heart of the Parish would be lost. The upkeep of ancient buildings is a struggle as we are totally self sufficient and have to raise money for repairs which, as you can imagine, are astronomical; St. Mary's Aldingbourne church repairs

recently cost in the region of £30,000 and this church is now facing repairs to a rare Norman arch. St Mary's Barnham needs toilet facilities for the many weddings and events held there when guests may have travelled many miles. St George's Eastergate church is in need of a new roof to its bellcote as well as work to prevent damp ingress to its south wall.

It will come as no surprise to learn that the church parish's income has been significantly reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic over the past year. This has severely limited our ability to fund urgent repairs and to fulfill the obligation, shared by all in our community, to maintain these precious buildings.

We need to find ways in which to support the upkeep of these churches and for this reason a small group has been formed for this purpose; we need to preserve our heritage. If you have any experience of fund raising or would like to help in any way, please talk to any churchwarden: contact details are in this edition of the Parish News (*see page 39*).

If, on the other hand, you feel able to make a financial contribution in support of this drive to maintain our churches, this will be greatly appreciated. You may consider making a one-off donation, setting up a monthly standing order, or possibly making a legacy in your will. For further details regarding any of these options, please contact the Treasurer via his contact details, again in this Parish News on page 39.

Barbara Coombes



BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE COMMUNITY TRUST

Over the past year, staff from the trust and many amazing local volunteers have supported members of the community who are alone, isolating, vulnerable or in need of friendship. We work very closely with The Village Friends, Rev. Sheila and Fr. Tony – this communication is vital on all fronts. With funding from The Sussex Community Winter Covid Fund, Aldingbourne Parish Council and the National Lottery we have been able to help many. Barfoot's of Botley (a farm based in Pagham) donate community vegetable boxes every two weeks to help us – what amazing generosity! We have also just started a fresh meal delivery service (once a month so far but hopefully with more funding twice a month very soon), Mark Dunne from Chefs on the Move works endlessly supporting us and preparing delicious food. As a community we are strong but please remember your neighbours – some of the people we support have no family members nearby and are very isolated. A note through the door or a socially distanced chat over the fence can honestly make someone's day better!

Until we are able to meet again, the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust, incorporating Barnham Community Hall and Eastergate Village Hall, continue to offer the community online events for you to enjoy during the month of April:

- Friday 23rd April – Chris and Julie Allington will be hosting a fabulous live QUIZ at 8pm on the Barnham Community Halls Facebook page. Please join us and enjoy 90 questions in three sections, why not make a team via Zoom with friends to enhance your chances. The winning team shall receive a bottle of wine each (maximum of 6) which can be

collected from either of our halls when we re-open.

- Cooking for the community with Mark Dunne from Chefs on the Move - Mark's cooking instructional videos are so popular and are streamed on Eastergate Village Halls Facebook page every two weeks on Friday evenings. Please keep an eye out on our Facebook pages and website, <http://bnegct.org.uk>, for more information and dates.

Don't forget that until our coffee mornings (Tuesday's at EVH and Wednesday's at BCH) are able to resume safely we will continue to offer a cake delivery service on Tuesday mornings – please see the flyer on page 5 for more information.

Our moto is 'Together We Are Stronger' and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

All the staff and volunteers at Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust

For enquiries and more information please contact Nina-Maria McMaster (based at Eastergate Village Hall) on 07849 356097 or email nina@eastergatehall.org.uk or Ali Tarbard (based at Barnham Community Hall) on 07714 456482 or email ali@barnhamcommunityhall.org.uk



Community vegetable boxes ready to be delivered to those in need locally

CRIME WARNING

I know I have communicated regarding thefts from unlocked vehicles; this is just a monthly reminder to not let down your guard! There is also some advice below regarding another type of vehicle crime that is on the rise – the theft of catalytic converters. We have had a number of these type of thefts in the wider district so please see the advice below.

- If possible, park in a locked garage or in a well-lit, densely populated area
- If you don't have access to a garage, park close to fences, walls or kerbs with the exhaust being closest to the barrier; this will make the theft more difficult
- Avoid mounting your car on the kerb to park as it gives thieves easy access
- If your catalytic converter's bolted on ask your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove
- Consider a 'cage clamp' which locks around the converter
- Speak to your car dealership about a tilt sensor that activates the alarm if someone tries to jack up your vehicle

If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the police

PCSO Caroline Wilson

caroline.wilson@sussex.pnn.police.uk

SILENT MEDITATION

It's not for me? I don't think it's my thing - I mean I am too busy anyway! But of course with Covid I do have more time now, perhaps it is something that I should explore! Give it a try, I might benefit!

These were some of my initial reactions many months ago when a friend suggested I attend a meditation gathering.

Who does it? What sort of a person do you have to be? What will I get out of it? The qualifications are that anyone can meditate, you just have to be able to sit in a chair, be quiet say nothing, do nothing and allow your mind to clear so that you can hear from God!

The Bible tells us ' Be still and know that I am God' Psalms 46.10

It takes practice, but if you ask, God will help you, prompting you to pray for someone or something or prompting you into action in some way, according to His will.

The experience will leave you rested, relaxed and refreshed and with a new experience of the nearness of God.

Ann Barker

*Caterina Brown's Christian meditation group meets locally every month, on zoom for now!
If interested please phone 01243 554001*



Gift a Vaccine

The Parish of ABE is supporting the Covid 19 Vaccines Appeal for Unicef UK because we are thankful for our vaccinations



We are so grateful that we have either had, or soon will have, a free Covid-19 vaccination course from our brilliant NHS.

So now we want to help enable the most vulnerable around the world to have the same protection by gifting a vaccine.

Unicef is a leading partner in the Global COVAX Facility, and has plans to deliver 2 billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high risk people on our planet. But they need our support.

Link to Justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Parishofabe>

REACHING OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS



BARNHAM & EASTERGATE PARISH COUNCIL

At the **planning & environment committee meeting** held on 2nd March the committee considered several new applications and submitted responses as agreed. Full details can be found in the draft minutes available on the Parish Council's website. The committee also received an update report from Redrow, the developers of Angel's Nursery in Barnham and it was noted that a meeting had also taken place to try and resolve issues around the proposed access points from the development to Murrell's Field and the Barnham Community Hall. The issue of litter across the parish was also discussed following several reports to the Clerk from residents. Residents should note that any instances of flytipping should be reported directly to Arun District Council (ADC). On general litter problems, which are also an ADC responsibility, the parish council is keen to look to put together a group of volunteers to undertake regular organised litterpicks once the lifting of restrictions allow groups to meet. If anyone would be interested in joining the group please do get in touch.

At the **full council meeting** on 9th March, attended by all councillors, the council discussed a number of matters. The review of the neighbourhood plan continues and following the Reg14 consultation process the responses received have been analysed and discussed informally with members of the council. Further work was agreed that will result in hopefully bring forward a final draft of the plan for the next stage of consultation

to the next full council on 13th April. The Chair of the Council reported on representations made to him by the Elm Grove Residents Association over the continuing problem of Southern Water wishing to connect to the private sewer on the estate to provide a solution to the sewage disposal from the Upton Brooks development. The council agreed to seek a meeting with Southern Water to discuss the issues raised.

Community updates from the assistant clerk confirmed that Eastergate Village Hall and Barnham Community Hall would not be opening before 17th May (except for a couple of groups). Regular deliveries of veg boxes to the elderly and vulnerable in the parish have begun with fantastic support from local suppliers and volunteers and the assistant clerk was thanked for all her hard work with this and other community projects she has undertaken during the pandemic.

A potential community garden was also discussed as the Barnham and Eastergate Community Trust has received funding to undertake a project. It was agreed to look at this again once restrictions have been lifted. If anyone might be interested in being involved in this project please get in touch.

The **annual parish assembly** date has been set for Tuesday 25th May, potentially in Barnham Community Hall. This meeting is your meeting so if you would like to put any items on the agenda for discussion or make a presentation on something that you are involved in, please get in touch.

The next meetings are scheduled for 13th April (full council) and 20th April (P&E Committee) and will be held virtually. Contact me for details on how to join them.

Alison Crabb
clerk@barnhamcandeastergate-pc.gov.uk



ALDINGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

A report on the Aldingbourne Parish Council (APC) meeting held on the 2nd March 2021.

Northfields Lane: A complaint had been received about litter along this footpath, a check would be made as to which authority is responsible and removal sought. It has been good to see more people enjoying the footpaths and cycling in the parish. Please take all litter home with you.

Vacancies: There are two vacancies for councillors and the parish council is keen to welcome new members. Those interested are being invited to attend a parish council meeting to find out more. The council has working parties for footpaths, allotments and communications, and works closely with trustees of Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre, who also need extra volunteer support to help manage facilities. Contact the clerk for info: clerk@aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk.

Allotments: New contractual agreements are in place with allotmentholders. There is a short waiting list – enquiries via the clerk. Fencing repairs will be sorted out on a temporary basis owing to the nesting season. The presence of slow-worms (a protected species) was noted and a Conservation Area will be set aside for them.

Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre (ACSC): Keeping the centre maintained during lockdown had fallen on just a few shoulders and new volunteers would be welcome. Chairman Jon Leahy successfully applied for lockdown grant support from Arun District Council (ADC) which covered expenses keeping it open for pre-school. A joint working party would be formed between APC and ACSC to take forward improvement works.

Annual Parish Meeting: This is likely to be held at ACSC in June, when meetings in person are due to be permitted. Community groups will be able to present to the public their achievements and plans so this will hopefully be the time for the community to get together at last! Date to be advised.

Communications and admin: Use of the parish council's Facebook page had been rising, thanks to the temporary assistant clerk (who has moved to a permanent post elsewhere) and Fandango marketing. The council's code of conduct, asset register and risk assessment were approved. The chairman was appointed to the Arun District Association of Local Councils.

District & County Cllrs: There were no reports.

DoNM: Tues 6th April at 7pm. Planning committee meets 2nd Tues of each month at 6.30pm. Residents can attend - contact the clerk for a link to online meetings. Minutes and agendas are available on the APC website.

Lindy Nash
clerk@aldingbourne-pc.gov.uk

New postal address

The Parish Council now has a new permanent postal address for all correspondence.

Please use :

Aldingbourne Parish Council
c/o Aldingbourne Community Sports Centre,
Olivers Meadow,
Westergate,
Chichester,
PO20 3YA

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

Walberton Pre-School

Well, we are back to something like our usual numbers of children, as the government lifting of this lockdown allows children back to schools. Of course, early years settings like us have been open to all children throughout this latest lockdown, but many of our families have, understandably, chosen to keep their children at home.

The children absolutely love being at pre-school with their peer group. Undoubtedly, it is hardest for our mums and dads, who are still not allowed inside the pre-school building, as per our Covid policy. But I've had so many reports of how fantastic it is for them to see their happy children running over to them at home time, after a busy, fun morning at pre-school.

So, what have we been doing? Our staff and some local friends in the village have saved boxes for us - and we have amassed quite a collection. Enough indeed to make a huge castle as part of our St David's Day learning and celebrations. We're blessed to have such a lot of floor space in the Village Hall, and we are currently the only users of the hall, so we made the most of being able to be creative. The castle was massive, the children helped to decorate it, learning about brick patterns, deciding where,

drawbridges, windows and doors should go and supervising their teachers as they cut the shapes in the cardboard. One little girl was insistent for the castle to have a tiny door at her head height. Her teacher asked why she wanted such a tiny door so high up... "it's for the fairies to fly in" came the reply. Of course!

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter. Stuff yourself with chocolate, Take some time out for contemplation, have some more chocolate, look after yourselves. It's been a tough year.

Helen Baxter



**WELCOME TO
SIX VILLAGES**

Congratulations to all the families of Year 6 pupils who have secured a place at Ormiston Six Villages Academy.

We are delighted that your child will be joining the Six Villages family in September to continue their learning in our welcoming and aspirational school.

We look forward to meeting your child at our transition events and getting to know them as they progress through our academy.

Mr Paul Slaughter, Principal

www.ormistonsixvillagesacademy.co.uk



Family at St. George's Church Eastergate

GOOD FRIDAY

This year we cannot come together for a Good Friday children's service, nor to create our usual Easter garden in the church.

However thanks to our wonderful flower arranging team that plan to create an outside garden instead.



On Good Friday we invite all families to come to St George's church yard some time between 2 - 4pm

You can bring a few small flowers to add to the Easter garden. We will be there, socially distancing, to help you place your flowers in the jam jars.

(You are welcome to do this at any other time too.)

You can walk through the church to discover our pictorial "Stations of the cross"

At home you may also like to

Watch our "Sunday Seekers' Good Friday service"

on Parish of ABE Youtube or FACEBOOK.

There will be an Easter Service as well



And don't forget your Hot Cross Buns!

N.B. There is a 10am service on Good Friday for the congregation. This must be booked ahead with Gary - see page 2 for details



THE PRIEST'S ROOM

High on the exterior south-facing wall of St Mary the Virgin's Church, Aldingbourne, is a small, narrow window that provides some illumination for the priest's room believed to be dated 1190 AD. The room, thought to be approximately 10 feet by 10 feet in area is situated in the gabled roof over the vaulted St George's Chapel (in the south aisle) of the same date. The only access now is through the roof but from within the church above the lectern you can see what is likely to be the former entrance to the room depicted by a short rafter in the ceiling once providing an aperture through which the priest could view the altar and most of the church.

In common with other similarly-dated priests' chambers or lodgings in churches, there most probably would have been a steep, narrow stairway, possibly spiral, of wood or stone. This same staircase may have doubled as access to a rood loft (rood is Saxon for cross) ie a wooden, pedestrian gallery situated above a decorative wood or stone rood screen that separated the sanctuary from the nave. There is evidence elsewhere in our church interior of early, colourful decoration so we can imagine that a beautifully sculptured rood loft, normally a wooden or stone crucifixion scene, may well have occupied the site above the screen to include perhaps an impressive tableau of Jesus and the two thieves with Mary and John on either side.

In early times the congregation would be standing on an earth floor with the weakest finding support by leaning on one of the walls or sitting on a wall bench. Services would have been in Latin with most people illiterate as they watched through the intricate, ornate screen the celebrant elevating the host. An impressive sculpture like the rood would concentrate the minds of

the faithful as they raised their eyes above the screen and heavenward.

As children we were told, even by vicars, that this room functioned as a safe "priest's hole", a secret hideaway whereby he could escape from his enemies and, if further harassed, could use the yet-to-be-discovered secret tunnel that led to the bishop's palace about 600 yards away. The priest and his supporters could climb on to the church roof via the adjacent, giant yew tree simultaneously cutting branches to serve as ammo for their bows and arrows. All very exciting stuff for little boys steeped in the legends of derring-do. And in France, fortified churches included safe rooms to attack external assailants from a well-defended position.

However, it seems that English "priests' holes" normally relate not to churches but to those built into some Roman Catholic houses during the reign of Elizabeth I. When some Roman Catholics plotted to remove Elizabeth from power, repercussions were taken against their priests. They were prohibited from celebrating Mass and, if this was contravened, punishments could include forfeiture, imprisonment, even torture and execution. Consequently priests' holes or hideaways have been found (with great difficulty!) in private houses behind wood-panelling, within walls, under floors, in mock fireplaces and in roof spaces all well-disguised to baffle search parties. Harvington Hall in Worcestershire possesses seven priests' holes. Slindon House (now Slindon College) once secreted a hidden chapel.

An anchorite cell, usually much smaller than a priest's room, was often attached to, or inside, a church and occupied by a solitary man or woman dedicated to an ascetic life of contemplation particularly during the 11th and 12th centuries. Their degree of isolation and their motives were many and varied until

they were required to be licensed and controlled by the local bishop.

While priests' rooms in many of our churches are said to date from the Norman Conquest there is much evidence to suggest that Saxon churches, too, featured identical ancillary spaces. Sometimes the tower of a Saxon church accommodated rooms on different storeys when the tower served as a defensive look-out in the days of Viking raids. One suspects that round-the-clock vigil was an on-going vital necessity. Saxon towers at the west end of churches often featured a room overlooking the nave.

The Venerable Bede wrote that Acca, Bishop of Hexham and loyal friend of St Wilfrid, equipped his church with "a very large and most noble library" for study, display and copying. Bede also mentions Acca's relic-collection and his provision of sacred vessels and lights. With such valuable texts and treasures listed alongside the physical and liturgical furnishing of a building a resident custodian-protector of this sanctuary was essential. St Cuthbert combined an oratory and a cell on the Farne Islands.

My very limited research suggests that extant priests' rooms such as the one at Aldingbourne are few and far between. Although many churches claim the existence of a former room that has disappeared seemingly with little trace, other rooms are

still being discovered. In the last few years workers at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry, found two abodes each occupying a separate 13th century storey above a porch with original floorboards preserved and

untouched since 1260 AD plus a stove for cooking and warmth. They are reached by a hidden, medieval, spiral staircase best avoided by those plagued by claustrophobia and/or vertigo. Similarly, at St Peter's Church, Oundle, a 4 x 4 metres room with two small windows and a fireplace was recently discovered, again over a porch. Dating from 1485 it first became a schoolroom and then a priest's living quarters. Accessed by a narrow door and stairwell users must have been very thin, very young and very fit!



The Priest's Room

How would our earliest known priest, Walter de Bromore (vicar, 1282-1314), have utilised this exclusive, inner sanctum? A priest's room could be secure storage space for church valuables and documents, a secluded haven for study, working on manuscripts or preparing a sermon, a sanctuary for prayer and meditation, accommodation providing rest and refreshment that could have doubled as a bed and breakfast service for passing pilgrims and visiting clergy. We are blessed that our centuries-old heritage includes our very own, preserved priest's room. "Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Tony Wheatley

POETRY IN THE PARISH OF ABE

Have you unlocked your inner poet in lockdown and written something you would be happy to share? We are launching an occasional series on poetry in the Parish of ABE - if you have any jottings, prose or poetry we could publish, please email Maggie Courtcnadge at Courtcnadge@outlook.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Covid pandemic why did you come?

Covid pandemic why did you come?
Our lives have been altered – no more fun.
Some people so afraid – will we still see the sun,
Or take to the hills and run?
One whole year has now gone by
And we are still reluctant to fly.
We get to the point where we want to cry
Because so many people are going to die.
The vaccination has come at last,
Given out pretty fast.
The amount of people to treat is vast,
And by the grace of God the virus will pass.

Lin Coulthard

Thoughts on Bereavement

From the outside 'I'm alright 'I always say
'Plodding on 'I always say
How can I explain the thoughts inside?
The dread of years ahead without you?
How would they know, unless that they had loved
with whole heart and mind?
Twinned in love and purpose
With the other's soul.
How can you tell them of the loneliness and pain?
Of the black hole that replaces the bright and shiny days of love
The aching void of arms to caress, of lips to kiss of tender words
'I'm alright 'I always say.

Anon

OUR COMMUNITY

Clubs, events and meetings, walks, talks and fun...



Due to the ongoing social distancing measures in place because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many local community events remain suspended.

This section of the magazine will return as soon as possible once the situation returns to normal

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Editor:	Jonathan Stapleton (email: abenews@outlook.com)	
Advertising:	Sarah Tripp (email: sarahetripp@yahoo.co.uk)	Tel: 699820
Secretary:	Vacancy	
Postal subs:	Vera Saunders, 32 Highview Road, Eastergate	Tel: 542410
Distribution:	Anne & Laurence Fosbury, 14 Lidsey Road, Westergate (email: annefosbury@gmail.com)	Tel: 543305
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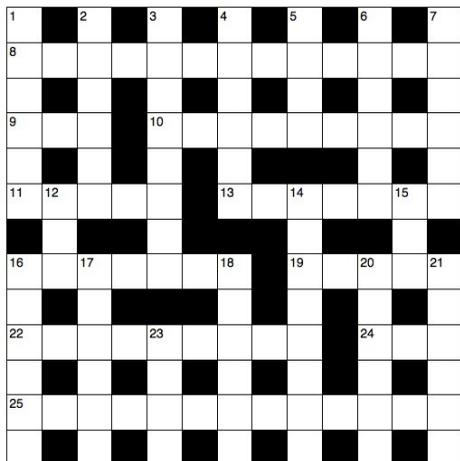
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Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)

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- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

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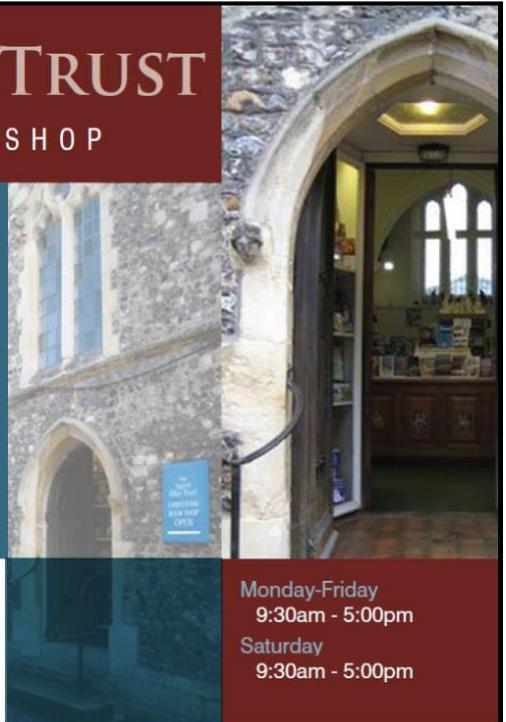
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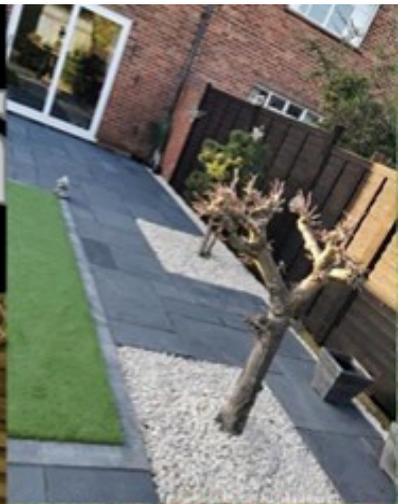
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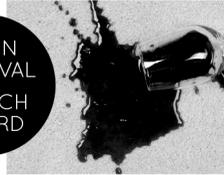
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PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM AND EASTERGATE

Registered Charity Number: 1131523



PARISH CLERGY

The Revd. Tony Brant	01243 544735
The Revd. Sheila Higgins	01243 553901
The Revd. Graham Reeves	01243 265209

Parish Administrator:

Vera Saunders	Email: parishofabe@btinternet.com	01243 542410
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PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is situated at “**The Church in the Market Place**”

35 Barnham Road, Barnham, Bognor Regis, W.Sussex. PO22 OER

Tel: 01243-553955. (Answer machine out of office hours)

Email: parishofabe@btinternet.com **Website:** www.parishofabe.org.uk

The Office is open Weekday mornings, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Office Hour every Saturday morning at “The Church in the Market Place” from 9am-10am, no appointment necessary.

CHURCHWARDENS

Aldingbourne

Julian Buxton	01243 543930
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Barnham

Steven Maple	07720 046277
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Bradley Smith	07931 527724
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Eastergate

Gary Courtnadge	01243 552099
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Richard Brown	01243 554001
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PCC Secretary:	Maggie Courtnadge	01243 552099
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PCC Treasurer:	Andrew Dunlop	01243 543755
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Parish Safeguarding Officer:	Peter Higgins	01243 553901
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Mothers' Union: Branch Leader	Sharon Priest	01243 555905
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Sunday Seekers:	Hedda Wells	01243 696811
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Younger Sunday Seekers:	Kate Holland	01243 544186
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Parish Play 'n Pray time:	Hedda Wells	01243 696811
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Parish Magazine Editor:	Jonathan Stapleton	07776 137617
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Magazine Advertising Manager	Sarah Tripp	01243 699820
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Clerk and Sexton Aldingbourne	Chris Scawen	01243 545796
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Website Administrator	Steven Maple	07720 046277
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PARISH DIRECTORY

LOCAL SOCIETIES & INFORMATION	CONTACT DETAILS	LOCAL SOCIETIES & INFORMATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Aldingbourne Bell Ringers Monday 7-9pm	Sue Kennedy 01243 543530	<u>Arun Councillors</u> John Charles Christopher Hughes Isabel Thurston	07889 988612 07479 211391 07410 441589
Aldingbourne and District Bowls Club	Lynn Kendall 01243 552033	Aldingbourne Parish Council (Clerk) clerk@aldingbourne- pc.gov.uk	Lindy Nash 07523 243068
Aldingbourne and District Target Shooting Club	Roger Ayling 07450 367357	Barnham & Eastergate Parish Council (Clerk)	Alison Crabb 07565 052617
Aldingbourne Tennis Club	Joy Gardiner 01243 552049 Hilda Bashford 01243 553365	Aldingbourne Community Sport Centre enquiries@acsc.org.uk	01243 543948
Barnham Scout Group Mark Guy gsl@1stbarnhamscouts.org.uk www.1stbarnhamscouts.org.uk		Barnham Community Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Ali Tarbard 01243 278110
“B.E.A.D.Y.S” St Wilfrid’s Hospice Support Group	Gill Kelly 01243 552230	Eastergate Parish Hall Bookings/Enquiries assistantclerk@barnhamand astergate-pc.gov.uk	Nina-Maria McMaster 07849 356 097
Eastergate Cricket Club Chairman: Steve Grant lamb784@gmail.com Colts Director: Chris Radford christianradford@btinternet.com		Five Villages Community Minibus	Mr B David 01243 553635
Eastergate Players	Chris Playford 01243 930624	Eastergate Primary School Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Clare Pascoe 01243 542297
Peregrine Explorer Scouts 14—18 years	Toby Hewson 01243 554959	Five Villages Society	Joanna Williams 01243 551524
Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows	Mrs Sue Simpson 01243 542387	Village Friends	07925217843
St Andrew’s by the Ford Evensong Choir	Eileen Keough 01243 552577	WI, Westergate 2nd Tuesday, 2pm	Jacky Barugh 01243 545910
		WI, Eastergate & Barnham 2nd Friday 7.30pm	07932 057589
		WI Eastergate Friends, 2nd Monday, 10am eastergate.friendsWI@hotmail.com	
		Six Villages Archery Club	www.sixvillages archeryclub.org.uk