

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

2nd March 2021



Ian Rowlands

Reflections from the Rectory

Although we are now in Lent I write this in a brief window of Ordinary Time. The church year reflects changing moods and the seasons. Those periods when there are no primary festivals are usually called 'ordinary' time.

There is a short interlude between Candlemas and Lent, which will be upon us when you read this and then after the Easter season summer begins a long period of Ordinary Time, when vestments and altar trappings are green.

There doesn't seem much this year which is ordinary. We are still struggling with the effects of the pandemic although there does seem to be some light on the horizon. In church we have returned to limited services taking account of the social distancing and other regulations and I think that there is good reason we will be able to carry on with something closer to normal worship in the foreseeable future. But it is hardly ordinary.

In fact ordinary, in this context, comes from the Latin term ordinalis, meaning 'numbered' or 'ruled'. This title simply refers to the ongoing and rhythmical nature of the season. Just like everyday life, there is a rhythm to the days and the weeks. We have holidays and special occasions (although for the moment even they are on hold) that we look forward to that change the pace, just like we have holy days and feasts in the Church year. But those special occasions aren't the whole picture.

The gospels tell us of many moments in Christ's ministry that are not celebrated as special holidays or events. It was not particularly extraordinary to finding travelling preachers in First Century Palestine and indeed there are numerous records of miracle workers, so aspects of Jesus' life and ministry were ordinary.

But often the disciples missed the point and failed to see the extraordinary underlying nature of Jesus's mission. Sometimes they only saw the ordinary and didn't look deeper.

We long for a return to the ordinary, to return to a time when there is not so much news so to speak. Undoubtedly there is something about the ordinary, the normal that makes us feel more secure. We have seen so much that is positive in over this pandemic in the way people and in particular health workers have reached out to others but how many have adapted to the problems and found ways of helping and support the community.

In the church year ordinary time is not about the anodyne or the lack of things going on it is about the rhythms of life, it is about learning to look for the divine in things that don't seem extraordinary. So let us remember that and this year whether Ordinary Time seems "ordinary" or not, I pray that we will always look for the underlying presence of God.



Sunday Services

Parish Eucharist is now taking place every Sunday at 11am at St Thomas' with the usual regulations regarding masks and social distancing. We hope to be able to continue with services from now but they may be subject to changes.

Easter Services

We are hoping to hold a full program of services over Easter. They may be subject to a system of registration depending on how regulations change.

Maundy Thursday 1st April at 6pm

Holy Communion - a said service

Good Friday 2nd April at 2pm

Service of Meditation on the Cross at Icklesham

Holy Saturday 3rd April at 8pm

Easter Vigil and Service of Light

Easter Sunday 4th April at 11am

Parish Eucharist

I am hoping to organise a complete reading of Mark's Gospel on Zoom during Holy Week. The idea would be for different people to read a chapter. It should not take much more than 1½ hours. Several people have shown an interest. It is likely to be on Tuesday 30th or Wednesday 31st March. Time and date to be confirmed. Let Jonathan know if you are interested in taking part as a reader or a listener.

There is unlikely to be a Dawn Service for Easter this year. These services and times are subject to change. Full details will be published in due course and will be available on the website.

Church Website

Not everyone will have visited the new Benefice Website. Do have a look and consult it for further information. I have been making two services available online and we hope to post recorded information about the windows, reflective prayers and other resources in due course. winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk

Jonathan



Roadmap out of lockdown

The earliest the New Hall and Community Hall will be allowed to re-open is mid-April. Once that happens almost certainly numbers allowed in will be limited and there will still be rules about masks as there were last summer. Management committees will be working out what can happen locally when the time comes.

Government guidance for the mid-May step says, ‘... indoor gatherings or events, organised by a charity, public body or similar organisation, can be organised’.

St Thomas’ is already open, but only for public worship and private prayer. Concerts and other group events are not allowed and presumably the earliest they will be allowed is mid-April, or perhaps even mid-May.

For as long as distancing continues, the Court Hall will be too small for groups to use.

The ‘roadmap’ specifies that museums can’t open until mid-May at the earliest.

So, nothing changes for a while yet.



Roadmap for Gardeners

It's clear from the roadmap that the April Spring Show cannot go ahead. Even if the New Hall has re-opened, rules on numbers and distancing will make a big event like this unmanageable.

Word comes from the National Garden Scheme that after the hoped-for relaxation of rules in April, admission tickets must be booked for timed slots, which will be impossible for a group of gardens like ours to manage. This is what prevented our June 2020 opening.

So, no NGS garden opening in Winchelsea in April. We hope for better things in June when the main opening is due to take place.

An opening for St Michael's Hospice in July should be safe if the withdrawal of Covid restrictions goes as well as everyone hopes.



Jerusalem pilgrims

Lent Course

Twenty people joined the Rector on Zoom on 24th February for the first session of the 2021 Lent Course.

The format of each evening is a short presentation followed by discussion. We will end with Compline and Jonathan will send a Zoom invitation in advance to those wishing to join any of the sessions. Please let him know. All are very welcome.

Wednesday 3rd March at 6pm
Lawrence Youlden:
The Church at Horns Cross, Northiam.

Wednesday 10th March at 6pm
Tom Ashmore:
Pilgrim's Progress - Journeying to the Celestial City.

Wednesday 17th March at 6pm
Ann Rachlin:
Reflections on Passover from a Jewish perspective.

Wednesday 24th March at 6pm
Jonathan Meyer: Final Reflections.

revdjonathan@btinternet.com



Easter Lilies

Each year there is a large arrangement of lilies displayed in the sanctuary at St Thomas', in memory of loved ones. Unfortunately, we were unable to have this last year due to lockdown, so I thought it would be nice to reintroduce it.

If you would like to donate to the lily fund, in memory of loved ones, please use the white envelopes provided on the black box and either hand them to me on Sundays or put in black box. Minimum contribution £3.

Many thanks
Charlotte Beecroft

01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com



Winchelsea Corporation

Winchelsea Museum is gradually coming back into order again after the re-decoration of the Upper Court Hall - seen here stacked and sheeted at an earlier stage of the work. There's been no shortage of dust to deal with and the wall displays all need to go back, including the boards that list past mayors.

Curator Jo Turner has been drawing up a rota of volunteers in the hope of a re-opening for the new season at some point. She has also succeeded in securing an Arts Council 'Ready to Reopen' grant which is available to help equip museums to operate safely while Covid 19 is still around. If possible, a contactless payment system will be set up.

The hopes the Corporation had of hosting a Mayoring ceremony open to all were dashed last Easter Monday and will be dashed again this year. None of the community buildings we might use will be allowed to host any events before mid-April at the earliest.

A Zoom mayoring would certainly break new ground for this ancient body, but not quite in the way we want! The 9th March Corporation meeting will decide.

www.winchelsea.com/corporation



New Gate *Ant Parker*

FOAM AGM

Friends of the Ancient Monuments & Museum of Winchelsea (FOAM) invite you to their 2021 AGM to be held by Zoom on Wednesday 24th March, at 6.30pm.

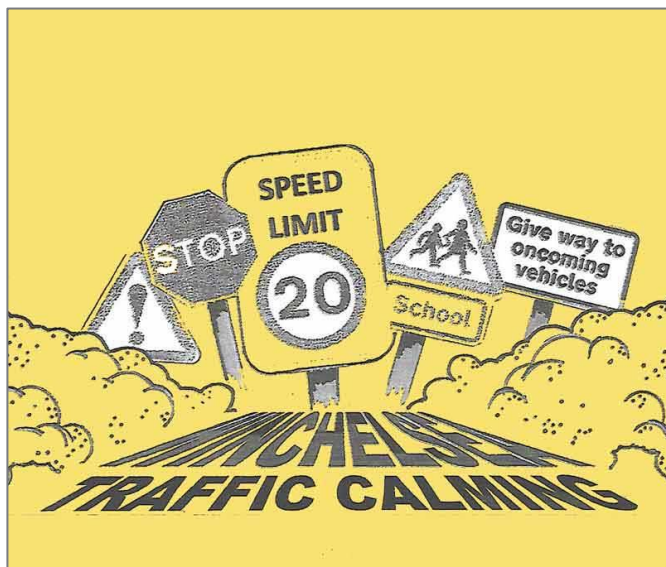
We hope to try and email members with the meeting link a couple of days before the meeting. In addition, we hope to be able to email members with audited accounts and trustees report also before the meeting.

Please bear with us if there are problems as this is all new to us. However, we would love to see & hear you if you can make it.

Stuart Raine, Chairman FOAM.

winchelsea-foam.org.uk

info@winchelsea-foam.org.uk



Traffic Calming

Over 60 residents attended the online special meeting of Icklesham Parish Council on 1st March to comment and hear councillors discuss the next stages of the project to reduce speeding of vehicles which rat-run through the streets of Winchelsea.

After an earlier decision to postpone progress with the scheme, for at least a year, we were pleased to hear councillors, led by Vice Chairman David Smedley and with the Chairmanship of Peter Turner, confirm the council's intention to begin the design phase during the coming financial year (2021-22) - although some aspects of this require some further consideration.

As a result, we can anticipate that consultants conducting the design exercise will begin work in the summer and Winchelsea residents will be consulted on this as it progresses towards a report.

If this goes well, residents throughout the parish will then be consulted at a further stage, before the planned scheme is implemented, on the financing and how this will lead to any costs falling to local council tax.

Some councillors representing wards outside Winchelsea raised concerns at this stage about the cost of the initial design exercise, which will add about £1.60 per year to the parish precept in 2021-22. However, the council accepted that this first phase was essential to determine the viability of the project, as is the case with all significant infrastructure schemes.

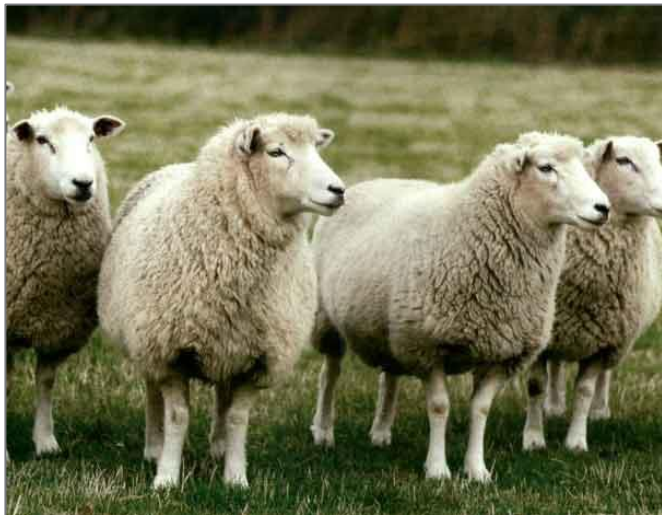
And for Winchelsea, as our attendance at the meeting helped to show, this is of course a very significant project. The speeding of vehicles through the town continues to increase, with daily examples of dangerous driving which residents and visitors have to endure, including in their journeys to and from the school, the church and the shop (and soon to the pub also we hope).

Therefore, there is still a way to go and obstacles to be cleared, but we can look forward to some more progress at last. We hope also that success with this project can be the beginning of further schemes to curb speeding and traffic dangers across the parish, including on the A259, following decades of underinvestment in roads throughout the local area.

The participation of so many residents in the 1st March meeting was able to demonstrate to the council how big and vital a priority this is for the town. The campaign needs to continue - to ensure completion of the plans for the first design phase and to help support negotiations for funding for the eventual scheme to be implemented. Consideration of some aspects of the next stage of this process will probably be on the agenda of the next council meeting on 8th March.

A new network is being formed to keep a watch on progress and assist wherever possible. If you would like to participate in this, including just staying in touch, please send your email address to the Winchelsea Traffic Calming Group at witcgroup@gmail.com. All are welcome; your personal data will not be circulated.

Winchelsea Traffic Calming Group



Take Care! Lambing season soon

Please be responsible when walking on farm land, make sure you stick to the footpaths and keep your dog on a lead at all times. Lambing season is soon approaching.

We have recently had an incident where a dog chased a pregnant ewe into the river. Not only did she have face wounds from being bitten but the stress of it sadly caused her to abort her lambs.

The Palmer Family, Wickham Manor Farm



Second Wednesday

10th March at 2pm for 2.30

Landlocked Laos

Jim Holmes is a freelance documentary photographer whose work over 30 years specialises in documenting humanitarian work and projects all around the world. Jim now lives in Chester but for 14 years he lived in Laos. His talk will illustrate life, landscape and culture in remote Laos.

Zoom meetings are open to all during the pandemic. If you need a little help on using Zoom, please contact Hilary Roome. Zoom invitations will be sent out a day or two before the talk.

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Winchelsea Archaeological Society

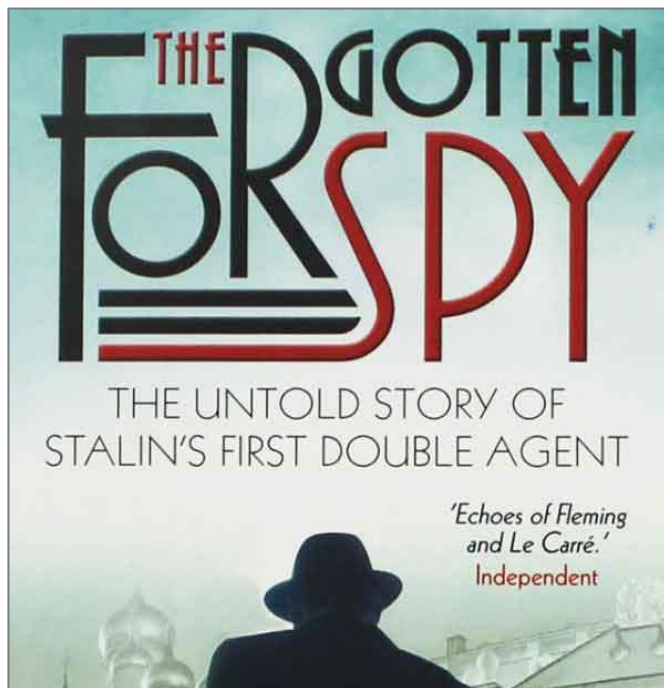
Everyone interested in the history of Winchelsea is welcome to join this online meeting on Saturday 20th March - opening at 11.05am and starting at 11.15.

Medieval ship graffiti in Winchelsea: Is the town on an old pilgrim route?

Andrew Scott will provide the Zoom presentation with plenty of pictures and not more than 40 minutes long - followed by questions and discussion.

Please email andrewscottb@aol.com for details of how to access the meeting.

winchelsea.com/the-town-story/archaeology/



Literary Society

Friday 19th March at 7pm for 7.30

The Forgotten Spy

Dr Nick Barratt, author of many books and a genealogist, returns to Winchelsea by Zoom again to talk about his researches into his own family history. A very engaging speaker, Nick will talk about his book, 'The Forgotten Spy'

WinLitSoc@gmail.com

<http://winlitsoc.blogspot.com/>



Winchelsea Little Shop Association

It would appear likely that the current Covid restrictions will still be in place to prevent us from holding a physical AGM for some time yet. In view of that, and the recent Cabinet Office advice that people should not be out delivering leaflets, the Association would appeal to all shareholders to provide their email address so that we may keep them informed.

Please email shopassociation@gmail.com so that we can update our database. Please may we also ask any shareholder, who knows of friends or family who are shareholders and may not see this appeal, to pass on this message.

Catherine Comotto
Chair WLSA



Winchelsea Art Group

Shirley Meyer writes: Winchelsea Art Group has, for many years, been central to the town. However, in the recent past we have lost a number of members for various reasons and we are now forced to consider the future of the WAG. Members have asked me to explain the situation as it stands, as the group is no longer viable in its present form.

Opinions have been sought, via email, about how the current members would like the group to go forward in the future and there has been a mixed reaction to various points. However, everyone would like to continue coming to an art-based group in some form or another as they value the act of creating, along with the social aspect.

Most have agreed that it would be good to move to the New Hall where facilities and space would enable a wider range of activities. All have agreed that a subscription should be sought to enable payment of costs such as hiring the hall.

Most would like visits to exhibitions to be organised, some occasional tutoring, demonstrations etc., all of which needs people willing and able to help and organise.

Although I have been willing to organise visits and to do some tutoring, I do not have the time to run things and here we come to the knub of the situation: if the group is to survive it needs someone to step forward and run it. It also needs to attract new members who not only love being creative but who are willing to help organise and even, perhaps, be happy to demonstrate what they do. Basically, the group needs new blood!

There comes a time in the life of many societies, clubs etc. when they may come to a natural end for one reason or another and this could be that point in time for the Art Group.

If you might be interested in joining or running the group, please get in touch with me on either shirleymeyer@btinternet.com or 07938 487249.



Highway maintenance - Strand Hill - around 1890.
A photograph from the East Sussex digital archive
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/escchistoricalpics/albums/72157654282547042>



Winchelsea Arts

Continuing lockdown rules mean that the Tara Minton Quintet who were booked to perform on 20th March won't now be able to come.

However, we still hope it will be possible for the young musicians of the Royal College of Music Junior Department to be with us for a concert on 15th May.

Beyond that, the plan is, if all goes well, to launch a new season of concerts in the autumn. The musicians who were to have performed over the last twelve months will be approached again to see if dates can be re-scheduled.

Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra, who played their first ever concert outside Hastings when they came to us between lockdowns, are keen to return.

So the exciting concerts that we wanted to present last season may have been delayed but we are determined that they won't be lost for ever.

winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Winchelsea Anniversaries

700 Years Ago

In the spring of 1321 an inquiry into the conduct of a notorious Winchelsea pirate, John Lambot by name, was in full swing. He had already been outlawed in the time of Edward I for 'all manner of trespasses and felonies committed by him within this realm'.

Outlawing, referred to in the records as 'this dread sentence' was indeed quite serious for it included a ban on landing at any English harbour to make use of its facilities. However, the redoubtable Lambot redeemed himself by rendering good service at the English defeat of Bannockburn for which he was pardoned.

The pardon produced no let-up in his piratical activities and the 1321 inquiry was appointed to hear the complaints of various irate merchants of Brabant whose two vessels laden at Brabant with one hundred sacks of wool, in those days literally worth their weight in gold, were boarded and looted off the coast of Essex.

Those responsible for this were John Lambot of Winchelsea, John Bann of Sandwich, Stephen Lambot, John Payne, Matthew the Palmer and John Martin, all

of Winchelsea. The crews of the two ships were driven overboard and drowned. John Lambot was outlawed a second time.

Whatever happened in the meantime, and one can assume it was lawless, seven years later another commission was appointed to inquire into the complaint of a merchant named Albridus of Bremen, who stated that his ships, while at anchor at Harwich, were boarded by John Lambot and, amongst others, Gervase Alard and Henry Alard his brother, all of Winchelsea, who confiscated the valuable cargo and tossed the crew overboard.

The wide compass of the violence perpetrated by the Winchelsea mariners of those days is illustrated by the fact that two other members of the Alard family, Gervase senior and Stephen had served as Admiral of the Cinque Ports fleet.

They were indeed violent times but, however one tries to excuse them for indulging in what was then 'normality' and however much one allows for the exaggeration of both chroniclers and complainants, the men of twelfth and early thirteenth century Winchelsea do not survive examination of their crimes with unsullied reputations!

Malcolm Pratt



A Call to Spy

If you are a Netflix subscriber you might want to check out the 2019 film, 'A Call to Spy'. It tells the story of Vera Atkins and two of the women she recruited for SOE and who were sent to occupied France during the Second World War.

Vera Atkins retired to Winchelsea in the 1960s and lived here until her death in 2000. A plaque marks her house in North Street. She is widely regarded as the inspiration for Ian Fleming's 'Miss Moneypenny'



Charles Palmer Vineyards

Due to the recent update in government guidelines, we are aiming to re-open from Wednesday through to Sunday as of 12th April for self-guided tours and outside tastings (groups of up to 6 people).

For bookings please contact Chantal on 07826 232279 or vineyard@charlespalmer-vineyards.co.uk

In the meantime, if you'd like to purchase any wine from our cellar door, please call to book an appointment or collection slot.

We look forward to welcoming you back!

The Palmer Family



Rescue Boat

March already and finally we're all able to look forward to better things in 2021. The volunteers at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat wish everyone in the Winchelsea Parish well. In accordance with restrictions, our presence at our Pett Level boathouse remains minimal, but we are operational, maintaining a rescue-ready service.

February was a mixed month, with winter weather and storms having an impact all along the UK coastline. As a result, cliff weathering and rockfalls continue to be a particular concern. If you're taking walks in the Pett Level area, please be aware of the danger of cliff falls - stay away from the edge if you're walking along the top and avoid the undercliff areas if you're walking along the beach.

Our volunteers have stayed busy with online activities where possible, for fundraising, safety and community work. Our ongoing fundraisers include:

- The one-prize raffle for a £5,000 hot tub, kindly donated by Homewood Leisure. Tickets are £2.50 each and there's more info about buying these on our blog and Giving Page. Tickets are also available in shops

thanks to local retailers: The Old Butcher's Shop, Pett; Fairlight Post Office and Stores; and Homewood Leisure.

- Two of our crew volunteers - John, and Icklesham local, Kev - have just completed their beard-growing #LockdownLifesavers challenge. Currently they've raised £70, just over their minimum £60 goal. Although £60 might seem a random amount, it covers around 2 months' fuel costs for our vehicles - so Kev and John's beard growing will keep the boats going!
- Although lockdown cut off sales of our 2021 calendar (sales to resume once we're open again) we're planning ahead with something different for 2022. Inspired by the success of our Pet Photo competition last year, and also by some of the beautiful photos of local scenes that people are taking on their exercise walks, our 2022 calendar will be part of a fundraiser photo competition.

Yes, your photo could be featured on our 2022 calendar and you'll win copies of the calendar to share with your friends. The competition opened on 1st March and entries are welcome between now and September 30th 2021. Full details here.

That's all our updates currently. We can't wait to be back 'out there' with everyone in the community once the situation improves, but in the meantime please do keep in touch through our website <https://plirb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat.



Wellbeing through Music

The Music Well is a Rye-based organization whose aim is to support health in the local community through the provision of music therapy and musical activities such as singing and drumming groups, music appreciation and improvisation.

Due to current restrictions, they are offering online music therapy sessions, meditation with sounding bowls, a weekly drumming group and singing for wellbeing and better breathing. They are also offering a weekly singing club for children.

Music is proven to help with your health, physical and emotional as well as supporting those who feel lonely and isolated. All ages are welcome.

Do join us online for one of our sessions.
For further information see our website or email us.

themusicwell.org.uk

enquiries@themusicwell.org.uk



National Trust Association

Rye and District National Trust Association have now had two successful Zoom Quizzes - so in response to popular demand, have scheduled yet another.

Quiz - Tuesday 16th March, 2pm.

No prior knowledge is required - you don't need to swot up the local papers or the national gossip. So, just sit back, and have fun!

We have two Zoom talks this month:

Thursday 18th March

‘My Great Aunt Constance’, by Jenny Mallin

Jenny, a new speaker for our group, will be giving to us one of a number of talks under the title of ‘A Grandmother’s Legacy’. This particular one is about the wife of a British official working in Rangoon in 1943 when the Japanese attacked. They had to walk 1000 miles to India. This is their story.

Thursday 25th March

‘A Horse Ride to Machu Picchu’, by Marion Brunt.

A six day trek following the original trail of the Incas from Cusco. Marion last gave this talk some years ago. However, many of us have not heard it, so Marion has kindly agreed to give it again.

If you wish to join our association and enjoy talks, please email Membership Secretary, Dee Williams
membershipryenationaltrust@gmail.com



Rye Food Bank - Food Donations

Cam will be collecting in Winchelsea on Tuesday 16th March. If you would like to donate food items the Rye Foodbank, please give him a ring, so he can co-ordinate a socially distanced pick-up, from your front door.

Thank you! *Donald Cameron-Clarke 01797 226414*

Rye Food Bank - Financial Donations

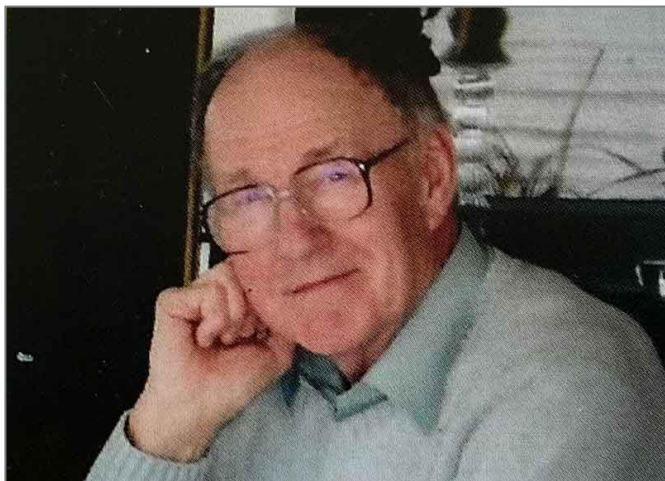
Donations can most easily be made online through the Jempson Foundation and gift aid can be applied if you are a taxpayer which increases the value of your donation by 25% at no cost to you. jempson-foundation.org/rye-food-bank/

Alternatively, you can donate by bank transfer to the *Bexhill Food Bank Rye Branch* at Barclays Bank, sort code 20-54-25, account number 83501116.

If you make a bank transfer please do send a message to ryefoodbank@gmail.com so we know who it is from and can send a receipt, if required.

You can also donate by cheque to 'Bexhill Food Bank (Rye Branch)' posted to 24 North Salts, Rye, TN31 7NU.

www.trusselltrust.org



David Bourne 1933-2020

Following a career in the RAF, David, with his wife Anne, settled in Winchelsea for 23 years and ran the Post Office, providing a stalwart service to the people of the town and beyond for 17 years before retiring and moving to Tenterden.

David undertook many duties, including winding the church clock. He was an active member of Winchelsea Corporation and served as Deputy Mayor in 1995 and 1996.

Derek Pope

Derek died at on 30th January at the age of 84. He was one of five siblings of a long-established local family. A keen sportsman, Derek played for Winchelsea and other local cricket teams and, come rain or shine, was to be found carefully tending his allotment at Pear Tree Marsh. Our condolences go to Christine and to his sons, Kevin and Mark.



Donations for the Magazine

If you were thinking of making a donation for the magazine but didn't quite get round to it last month, you can still do so, either electronically at justgiving.com/fundraising/winchelseaapcc or by putting cash or a cheque in the black box at the back of St Thomas'.

If you could mark your donation 'Parish Mag' that would be a great help to the treasurer. If you use a cheque, please make it payable to 'PCC Winchelsea'. Thank you very much!



... and now happily jabbed and open again

Jane Archutowska

Please send copy for the April Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
 on or before Wednesday 31st March

For Winchelsea Beach information go to
winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

For Winchelsea information go to
winchelsea.com

For more information about the Church go to
winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk

For weekly news from the local area go to
ryenews.org.uk

Winchelsea Church and Town Diary

March 2021

Wednesday 3rd Lent Course 2
 Friday 5th Literary Society Zoom meeting

Sunday 7th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Lent 3 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Wednesday 10th Second Wednesday Zoom meeting
 Lent Course 3

Sunday 14th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Mothering Sunday **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Tuesday 16th Rye National Trust Zoom Quiz
 Wednesday 3rd Lent Course 4
 Thursday 18th Rye National Trust Zoom Meeting
 Friday 19th Literary Society Zoom meeting
 Saturday 20th Archaeological Society Zoom meeting

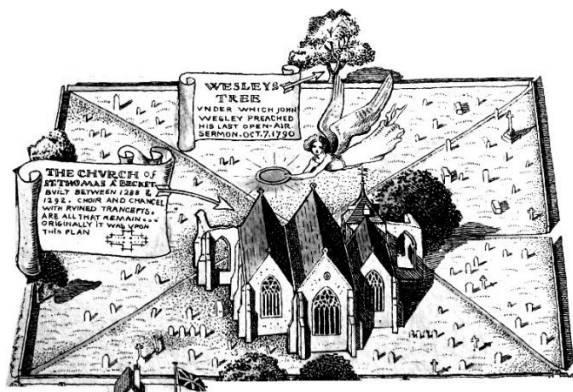
Sunday 21st **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Lent 5 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Wednesday 24th FOAM AGM
 Lent Course 5
 Thursday 25th Rye National Trust Zoom Meeting

Sunday 28th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Palm Sunday **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Thurs 1st April Maundy Thursday
 Fri 2nd April Good Friday

Sun 4th April **Easter Day**
Easter



Rector of Winchelsea and Icklesham

The Revd Jonathan Meyer

The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB

01797 226254 revdjonathan@btinternet.com

The Rector's day off is Monday

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Charlotte Beecroft

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01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com

Celia King

Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG

01797 227858 sake.king@hotmail.com

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01797 222904 pamela.jefferies@sky.com

Gift Aid David Jefferies

Electoral Roll Officer

James Payne

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01797 224861 evenswinchelsea@gmail.com

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David Birchenough

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01424 815247 marion@abingworth.plus.com

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Headteacher Carol Gardiner

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St Richard's Chapel Warden

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Pamela Jefferies 01797 222904

St Richard's Treasurer

David Jefferies 01797 222904

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