

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st April 2021



Low Tide at Pett Level and Winchelsea Beach

Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 1st April at 6pm
Holy Communion - a said service at St Thomas'

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 at St Thomas'

Easter Day 4th April at 11am
Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'



We are not planning to have system of registration but it is possible, although very unlikely that we might have to limit numbers on Easter Morning if there too many to accommodate safely in accordance with social distancing regulations due to Covid 19.

We continue to hold our weekly service at St Thomas' each Sunday at 11am. Masks and social distancing are still required for the moment.

Reflections from the Rectory

Easter will be almost upon us when you receive this magazine. During Lent, the period of forty days before Easter when we remember the temptation of Christ, I have run an online course.

It is traditional to spend some time during Lent reflecting on the Christian life and preparing for the joy of Easter. This practice dates back to the very early church and it was customary for baptisms and confirmation to take place on Easter Eve when after a period of reflection and fasting, candidates received new life in Christ.



This year out of necessity we have had to run this course on Zoom. Many people including the least tech savvy have managed to master Zoom over the past year. There is no doubt that there are some aspects of communication and sharing of ideas over the Internet, which are more successful than meeting in person.

I have attended a number of lectures to which I would have had to travel some distance or been unable to hear at all over the past year.

Added to that, being able to remain at home saves time and the expense of travel, not to mention the impact that can have on the environment. I suspect it will be one aspect of the pandemic that will continue when we resume some kind of normality.

That is not to say that meeting in person is not desirable. Gathering in church as a community for example cannot be completely replaced by virtual services. I am pleased to say that worship has now resumed, albeit with some restrictions.

Our Lent course has been easier to attend and saved people from leaving home and returning in the dark and Zoom has allowed for better attendance. This year we have averaged about 25 people weekly from all over the benefice. It is also been easy to have contributions from a variety of people.

We have had a short talk about the Roman Catholic Church at Northiam from one of our Roman Catholic parishioners, a fascinating presentation on John Bunyan and pilgrimage and an account of the Passover commemoration and Seder meal from a practising Jew who lives in the benefice. Not only has this enriched our understanding but it just gathered together a disparate group of people who might not have come to one of our traditional meetings in church.

When planning these evenings I deliberately avoided having a theme to allow freedom in what and how people present ideas and that gives room for the Holy Spirit to influence us as a community in unexpected ways. It is my hope and prayer that to some extent at least this is being achieved and as we move from Lent to Easter and to the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost we may be renewed and strengthened in our faith.

Jonathan



Happy Birthday to Anthea

Anthea Dabolins, who runs the pop-up Post Office in the Court Hall will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Friday 2nd April. She'll be in on Thursday as usual if you'd like to pop your head round the door to greet her.

Bank Holidays apart, the Court Hall Post Office operates on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30.



Strand Hill Railings

Residents may have noticed the safety barriers erected by East Sussex Highways in place just below the Strand Gate. The existing metal railings and posts have become hazardous; a number of the posts are unstable and some of the rails have come out of their housings.

East Sussex Highways Authority, the responsible body, are aware of the situation and plans are in hand for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.

The Corporation are taking a keen interest in the situation as it is adjacent to the Strand Gate and concerned for the safety of town residents.

In the meantime please take extra care when passing the gate and the surrounding railings.



Christmas Windows raise funds

The above photo shows the rector receiving a final cheque from John Davidson, representing Winchelsea Christmas Windows 2020 Planning Group. Thanks to you all.

The cost of the specialised lighting necessary to illuminate unobtrusively the eleven magnificent stained glass windows of the church from the inside, together with the outside lighting, was £1,857. This was funded entirely by the specific individual donations from the people of Winchelsea, and several sponsors from local businesses, to enable it to take place.

During the event, further funds were raised through the sales of locally made crafts and cards, together with donations from the Trail map, and the Just Giving Page, amounting to £1,572.

From this the church has received £1,072, and £500 is presently held in reserve to launch Windows 2021, which we hope will be even bigger and better, assuming the easing of Covid restrictions.

Those of you who contributed with funds, or a window, or both, or simply enjoyed the viewing of the windows, you all played a part in bringing some cheer and light to the town during the difficult Covid year of 2020.

We wish you all well throughout this year, and for the future - *Lyn, Shirley, Ali, Richard, Chris, Graham and John. (WCW Planning Group)*



Christmas Windows thanks

Not only did the committee raise money for us, they enabled the church to be lit from the inside throughout Advent. At such a difficult time it was possible for the church to shine as a symbol of hope at the centre of the town. I am well aware that not all those who helped did so from a position of faith but light and symbols of hope shine for each and every one of us in the community.

Such efforts and valued contributions remind us of our identity as fellow townspeople and citizens, sharing the joys and fears of our humanity, even if we don't all see ourselves as being made in God's image. The past year has not been easy and we continue to face financial challenges so anything that is raised is an enormous help to the church and the PCC. Thank you!

Jonathan



Poppy Appeal: Award to Hugh Sutton

At a small and, of course, appropriately socially distanced ceremony on 18th March, the Mayor of Winchelsea, the Revd David Page, presented a certificate of appreciation to Hugh Sutton.

For many years Hugh has collected donations for the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal from his shop on Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach. This certificate, provided by the Legion, particularly recognises his contribution over the past five years, during which time he has raised a little over £3,000 for the Poppy Appeal.

He has also been active in other, matters concerning veterans' affairs and funds the annual laying of a wreath in memory of Canadian servicemen stationed around Winchelsea prior to the Dieppe Raid.

The Mayor was delighted to make this presentation on behalf of the Legion, which also represents the Corporation's commitment support of the Armed Forces Covenant.



Winchelsea Corporation

We very much want the mayoring to be a public event, open to guests from other Cinque Port towns and to everyone in Winchelsea who would like to attend. That was the plan for 2020 but, for the second year running, circumstances make it impossible.

This year, the Easter Monday event will be in two parts. Five people will meet in the Court Hall garden for the swearing in of the mayor and of a new freeman. David Page will continue in office for a second term, and John Clarke will join the Corporation as a freeman. The rest of the ceremony will take place on Zoom with freemen, honorary freemen and officers taking part.

Jurats for the year to come - who will serve as trustees of the charity - are Anthony Moore, Michael Melvin, John Rodley, Robert Holland, David Merrifield (who continues as deputy mayor), Carol Scoines, Berenice Scott, Peter Cosstick, Stephen King, Rosemarie Roberts and Deborah Upton. Jo Turner, curator of Winchelsea Museum, will continue to serve as a freeman.

Traditionally, the mayoring ceremony ends with a reception. We intend to host one later in the year and look forward to the chance to celebrate with all the people who have joined the Winchelsea community since lockdown began.

The Corporation will be saying farewell to John Spencer, who has been a member of the Corporation for fourteen years, two of them as mayor, and is standing down this year. His achievements have been enormous, and his mayoralty is still talked of with fond memory across the towns of the Cinque Ports Confederation.

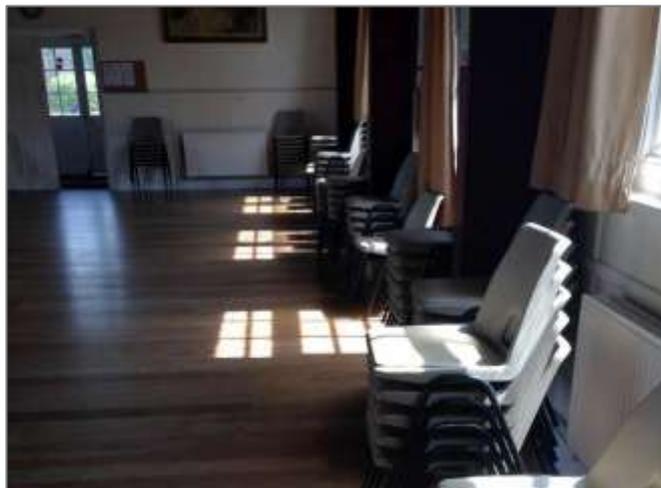
Some of his achievements have been tangible, particularly with regard to initiating and overseeing the restoration of the Pipewell Gate, as well as arranging the provision of proper curtains for the Lower Court Hall and the improved presentation of artwork, such as the Legg portraits.

Some have been less tangible, but just as influential; his work on internal procedures and systems to make the Corporation more modern and transparent being noteworthy, as has been his invaluable work as liaison jurat with the school.

John's contribution across the town has included conducting cellar tours, leading Conservation Society and, of course, his ability to make the trains run on time and, more importantly, stop at Winchelsea.

Thankfully, he remains a freeman and vigorously active in the town and so available to us all, but his wise guidance at Corporation meetings will be much missed.

www.winchelsea.com/corporation



New Hall News

While we all await confirmation of the relaxation of lockdown rules, the New Hall management committee is preparing for re-opening and welcoming resumption of community events, with new committee members John Davidson (as Chair) and Laurie Rutman.

The earliest we can re-open for group bookings will be 17th May although we hope to be able to take bookings for activities such as badminton and table tennis for family groups or “bubbles” from 12th April. The hall will also be open for the local elections on Thursday 6th May.

The interior re-decoration is complete with financial assistance from the Rye Fund. This spring should see the completion of some external works and resurfacing of the tarmac apron. Landscape improvements have also begun under the expert guidance of horticulturist Diego Perdignes and Robert Holland.

Two new projects are underway for completion this year, the renewal of the stage curtains and the underdrawing of the ceiling to provide thermal insulation to the roof. This last project will provide greater comfort in the winter; hopefully coats and scarves will no longer be obligatory for talks in the Hall this autumn and winter!

The Committee is now planning for the **Summer Fete**, which will be held on Saturday 14th August from 12.30p.m, on the cricket field as usual. Of course this will be subject to any COVID regulations in place at the time. Our regular stallholders and attendees are delighted that it will go ahead and have responded with enthusiasm.

The attractions will include the traditional fun dog show, a local brass band, games, raffle and a BBQ, so please note the date and look out for further information. If you have any questions please contact Carol Scoines on 01797 222772.

Another date for your diary is the **Christmas Fair** which is planned for Saturday November 13th. We would love to hear from someone who would like to join the small organising committee and take over from Robbie Gooders to help with publicity and promotions. If anyone knows of craftspeople who would like a stall, please ask them to get in touch with Hilary Roome.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the Hall very soon!



Winchelsea Archaeological Society

Anyone interested in the history of Winchelsea should join Andrew Scott for his third online talk to be held on Saturday 10th April. The subject is *Petit Iham (Yham or Higham) - about 1300*. The two previous talks are accessible as podcasts.

There is also a WAS AGM to be held online on Saturday 24th April and everyone is welcome to attend.

Both meetings open at 11am and start at 11.10am. Please email Andrew at andrewscottb@aol.com if you require details of how to access the WAS meetings.

A little prior homework could be fun.
Are the following true or false?

- a. Iham is in the north-west corner of Winchelsea.
- b. Petit Iham was a limb of the Cinque Port of Hastings.
- c. "In the Survey of the Manor of Iham in 1291 it is mentioned that the Abbot of Fécamp owned the small town of Iham in the Liberty of Hastings, and received as quitrent from it, 9s 9d and 4,000 red herrings", as quoted by Homan in his Histories of Winchelsea.

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



Second Wednesday Society

14th April

Curious Kent

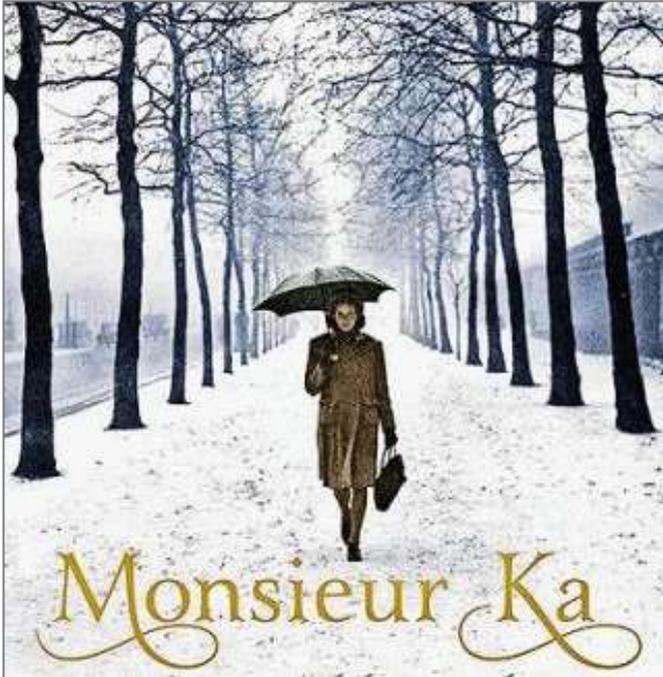
We all remember an amusing story, or the thing we come across for the first time. Kent is full of unusual buildings and stories and this lecture by John Vigar introduces a selection of them.

We learn about classical houses, follies, secret passages and eccentric men. Some of the subjects are well known, but the lecture will also introduce you to some little-known places and stimulate further research.

Margate's Shell Grotto (pictured), Hadlow Tower, Cobham Mausoleum and stained glass at Appledore are all covered in this unusual and amusing presentation.

If you aren't already on the circulation list to receive the Zoom link, please send an email to

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Literary Society

Friday 16th April at 7pm for 7.30

Monsieur Ka

Vesna Goldsworthy returns to entertain us with a talk about her latest book which is a development of the Karenina story. Vesna describes herself as a Serbian writer and poet. She is a lecturer in Creative Writing at UEA and Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Exeter University.

If you aren't already on the circulation list to receive the Zoom link, please send an email to

WinLitSoc@gmail.com

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



Winchelsea Anniversaries

100 Years Ago

1921 was the year in which the Parochial Church Council became the body responsible for the general management of the church.

With the implementing legislation well-known long in advance, the election of the PCC's first members actually took place the previous year at the final meeting of its predecessor, the Vestry Meeting.

The many present on that occasion were told that six PCC members would serve ex-officio and a further ten would be elected by those on the St Thomas's electoral roll. The ex-officio six were the Rector, Revd R Gresley Douglas, the Churchwardens, Messrs C W Campion and H J Elliott and the parish's three representatives on the Ruridecanal Council, Mrs Campion, Mrs Briggs and Miss Fagg.

Miss Fagg (pictured above) was both the school's headteacher and the church's organist and choirmistress. Douglas Turner always recalled, 'If you had any kind of voice you were in the choir - no messing!'

There were many nominations for the ten elected members and, with the meeting being held at the school, 'Miss Fagg kindly offered to write the names on the blackboard'. The minute goes on to report: 'A ballot then took place, Mrs G M Freeman (of Greyfriars) and Mr Campion kindly acting as scrutineers.

As it was a very lengthy matter it was decided that the meeting would not wait till the result was declared, the Rector promising to put the names on the church door as soon as possible'.

When those names appeared it was headed by Miss Gertrude Leigh, author of Winchelsea's guidebook and other publications. She received 67 votes. Second was Dr John Rutherford Skinner, the town's doctor, with 53 votes.

They will not be remembered by present readers but two others might be recalled by those with long memories of the town, Alex Finch, the postmaster whose shop was in the High Street and Charles Barling of Barling's Stores in Higham Green.

The first full meeting of the PCC which took place on 6th April 1921 was prefaced by a talk from the Rector the duties and responsibility of the council. It was then reported that 'the money for the school repairs had nearly all been raised and the £20 still needed for Prayer and Hymn Books would be granted from church funds'.

As the PCC's first year continued it dealt with a complaint that flowers were being left in unsightly 'jam pots' at 'the new war shrine in the church', decided that a committee should be formed to consider the management of the churchyard, and heard with considerable misgivings of 'the serious state of the church roof'.

Such subjects are likely to be familiar to the PCC members of one hundred years later.

Malcolm Pratt



Church Annual Meeting

10.30am Saturday 8th May

The APCM will take place in May. A final decision as to whether it can be held in person or on Zoom will be taken in due course.

In any event, it is an opportunity for parishioners to elect churchwardens and for those on the Church Electoral Roll to hear a report on the finances and activities for the PCC over 2020.

It is a chance to ask questions and make suggestions for the future. Full details will be announced in due course.



Winchelsea Cricket Club

The home match on 4th July will celebrate Steve Turner and all his work for the Cricket Club. We are hoping to raise money for the Pancreatic Cancer charity.

The club are naming the Pavilion in Steve's honour. This was going to happen last season but due to the pandemic didn't take place. We hope we can do something this year.

Cricket Club 2021 Fixtures

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---|-------|
| 25 Apr | BEXHILL | A | 2.00 |
| 02 May | CROWHURST | H | 2.00 |
| 09 May | TENTERDEN | A | 2.00 |
| 16 May | BECKLEY PARK | H | 2.00 |
| 23 May | ASHBURNHAM | H | 2.00 |
| 30 May | ROBERTSBRIDGE | A | 1.30 |
| 06 June | NEWENDEN | A | 2.00 |
| 13 June | LYDD | A | 2.00 |
| 20 June | NORTHAM | A | 2.00 |
| 27 June | BODIAM | A | 1.30 |
| 04 July | Jo TURNER XI | H | 1.00 |
| 11 July | TOUR | | |
| 18 July | WITTERSHAM | A | 2.00 |
| 25 July | BROOKLAND | H | 2.00 |
| 01 Aug | NORTHAM | A | 2.00 |
| 08 Aug | ASHBURNHAM | A | 2.00 |
| 15 Aug | CROWHURST | A | 2.00 |
| 22 Aug | CLIVE VALE | H | 2.00 |
| 29 Aug | SEDLSCOMBE | H | 1.30 |
| 05 Sep | MERRICKS XI | H | 1.30 |
| 12 Sep | BECKLEY PARK | A | 1.30 |
| 19 Sep | MOUNTFIELD | A | 1.00 |
| 26 Sep | PETT | A | 12.30 |
| TOUR | | | |
| Fri 09/07 | TBA | A | 6.00 |
| Sat 10/07 | FERRING | A | 2.00 |
| Sun11/07 | SLINDON | A | 2.00 |



Second doses

Thanks to Melvyn Pett for spotting this information on the Sussex Health and Care Partnership website:

‘Vaccination services are preparing to offer second doses. While the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives a good immunity to the virus, two doses are needed to have the best chance of full protection. Second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first. It is really important that people get both doses to get the greatest benefit from the vaccine.

‘If you don’t already have your date for your second dose, please be patient. Unless you have already booked both doses through the national booking service, you must have your second dose at the same place that you received your first. They will contact you to arrange your appointment, but this may not happen until around ten weeks after your first appointment.’

[sussexhealthandcare.uk](https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk)



Rye Food Bank

Over the last 12 months, demand at the Rye Food Bank has nearly trebled from below 200 helped in February last year to nearly 600 helped in February this year – and demand peaked last June with over 1,000 helped that month compared to less than 200 as the pandemic started last February.

The amazing generosity of the community has kept pace with demand. As our need has increased so have the donations. We are so very grateful for this and thank all our benefactors and donors from the bottom of our hearts.

We have collection bins in most of the local stores in our area, including Jempsons in Rye and Peasmarsh, Winchelsea Beach Co-op, and Winchelsea Farm Kitchen.

Sadly, food poverty often goes hand in hand with social isolation, particularly during lockdown, and a smiling face and non-judgmental conversation with a volunteer has meant a lot to people in crisis.

Chris Emson says: “We’ve had people come into the food bank who have been so positively helped that they have got out of crisis and become regular donors, which is just so encouraging.”

Food Donations

Cam will be collecting in Winchelsea on Tuesday 20th April. 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*

Financial Donations

The easiest way to donate online is 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



Palms and symbols of the Passion of Christ *Nigel Ashton*



Christ the Horseman: An Easter Poem

Alert, fully-armed, lance poised, feet shod
He stands in the lists, blue favour flying,
His armour rivets driven into the bone,
Waiting, waiting the signal from God
(None shall unhorse him, though He be dying)
His opponents are many, while he stands alone.

Horse and rider are one: welded in wild fire
With the hammer of truth on the anvil of pain,
One unit of purpose, precision and pace,
One heart, one prayer, one desire;
The great white beast snorts on short rein,
While He closes His visor, hiding his face.

The great four of old thunder at tilt
Eyes burnished in anger under red plumes,
Fierce in their pride and power of possession;
Their lances like straws judder and jilt
To pucker on impact, like midnight blooms
Meeting morning, to wilt in the sun's aggression.

Back again, back again, blow after blow,
Of sword, mace and axe He takes on His shield;
Blood seeps from His helmet from wounds to His head,
He raises His visor His eyes all aglow-
They gather like vultures and call Him to yield,
As He sways in His saddle, they take Him for dead.

They lance His side till the blood flows free
Then close Him in like a stag at bay.
“You will not reign in this world,” they said,
“The victory’s ours, as you can see.”
“Not so,” He smiled, “the cost was counted before today,
A King’s ransom paid before I bled.”

“You have no power over us!” they cried,
“You’re bought and sold! You’re yesterday’s man!”
They gloated in triumph until He said,
“You’ve killed me, it’s true, but I have not died.
You’ve only fulfilled my Father’s plan.”
Then they turned in their stirrups and fled.

Richard Ormrod



Please send copy for the May Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
on or before Friday 30th April

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

April 2021

Thursday 1st Maundy Thursday
Last day of term, St Thomas' Primary School
Friday 2nd Good Friday

Sunday 4th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Easter 2 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Monday 5th Winchelsea Mayoring
Saturday 10th Archaeological Society Zoom talk

Sunday 11th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Easter 2 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Wednesday 14th Second Wednesday Zoom Meeting
Friday 16th Literary Society Zoom meeting
Saturday 17th PCC meeting

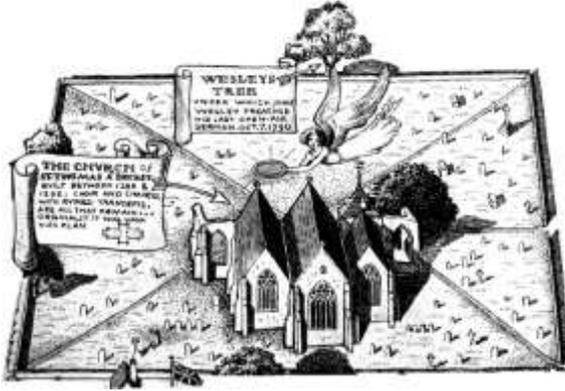
Sunday 18th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Easter 3 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Monday 19th First day of term, St Thomas' Primary School
Saturday 24th Archaeological Society Zoom AGM

Sunday 25th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Easter 4 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Sun 2nd May **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Easter 5 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Thurs 6th May County Council elections
Sat 8th May Annual Parochial Church Meeting



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

Churchwardens

Charlotte Beecroft
Burrin House, North St TN36 4HX
01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com

Celia King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
01797 227858 sake.king@hotmail.com

PCC Secretary

Angela Hill
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01797 226325 angelam.hill@btinternet.com

Parish Treasurer

Pamela Jefferies
Wee Five, Sea Road TN36 4LH
01797 222904 pamela.jefferies@sky.com

Gift Aid David Jefferies

Electoral Roll Officer

James Payne
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Organist

David Birchenough
07840 595338 daviddaorganist@icloud.com

St Thomas' Choir

Marion Lovell

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Headteacher Carol Gardiner

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01797 226479

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Pamela Jefferies 01797 222904

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