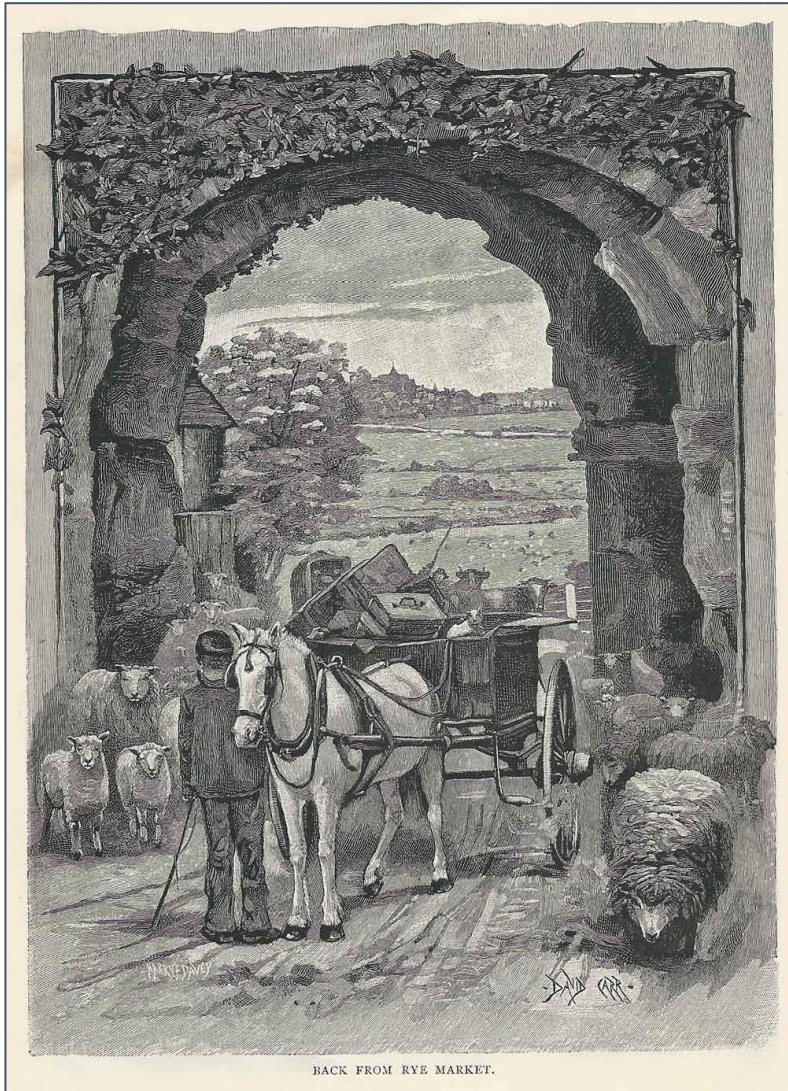


WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

1st June 2021



Back from Rye Market 1880



Church Market

There will be an outdoor Church Market on Saturday 5th June at 10.30 - the first since August last year, pictured above. The weather forecast is promising.

There will be some home baking and a plant and book stall, with the usual coffee on tap.



Prince of Wales in Winchelsea

Prince Charles made a brief unofficial visit to Winchelsea on 12th May. Not having been before, he and his team were primarily interested in the famous grid townscape, seeking inspiration for a new housing development on Duchy of Cornwall land at Faversham.

The Prince was greeted by the Rector and the Mayor, admired the Strachan stained glass in St Thomas' and paused to see Spike's grave on his way for a walk around the town. He was also able to visit the medieval cellar at *Rookery Cottage* before being whisked off to Faversham.





Reflections from the Rectory

I write this as the lockdown regulations have been eased a little more and by the time you read this hopefully we will only be a few weeks from more significant changes to the restrictions that have affected our lives for over a year. This period has been difficult for all of us and certainly in church we have had to adapt and it has been intrusive wearing masks and refraining from any kind of hymn singing.

As well as the disruption to routines, like many organisations the church has come under financial pressure. Nationally giving is down although in many cases those attending worship online has increased and in some urban areas the pandemic has made it easier for the church to reach out, but the financial future is uncertain. The situation is a little different in rural churches like ours and in fact our finances have held up fairly well through people's generosity.

As we begin to emerge from this difficult period our diocese and indeed most dioceses are looking at ways in which they can improve how our churches connect with the local community and of course underlying this there is the need to look at new ways of generating income as well as being more efficient. Our local deanery have been asked to consider how this might be done.

St Thomas the Martyr in Winchelsea is one of the most distinguished in our deanery. We are blessed with a building that would be recognisable to those who first built it under the instructions of Edward I.

In early May I was able to say to Prince Charles on a private visit, "There sir you can see an image of your forebear receiving the plans of our beautiful church, not taken from life I believe", which elicited a little royal chuckle.

Churches are living buildings, at least we hope they are and in the case of Winchelsea it is wonderful to be able to enjoy additions that have enriched worship and the church over the years, particularly those gifted by Lord Blanesburgh. The wonderful stained glass by Edward Strachan, the altarpiece by Goodhard Rendel in the Lady Chapel and the extraordinary organ dominating the west wall are all part of these changes.

From the earliest times the church has had to adapt and as I mentioned in last month's magazine we are installing wifi in the near future and I hope we will be able to consider a new lighting and sound system in due course.

We are well supported here by givers both of money and time and I am optimistic that we can go forward as one of the most significant churches in this deanery if not the whole of East Sussex. As we consider our future and how we can help the diocese raise the money both for the wider mission of the church and within our benefice, the PCC will be expected to prepare a detailed plan for the future. In this parish we will need to consider our sister church of St Richard's and how we best serve the people of Winchelsea Beach.



How we value and use our beautiful church in the future will be something that needs rethinking or at least redefining. You don't need to be a churchgoer to care about the building or a Christian to be aware of its spiritual heritage. What I think is encouraging about the diocese's initiative is that it is prepared to be radical in how we approach the future. I would love to hear from anyone who has thoughts and ideas regarding this beautiful building that is so central to the town.

Those of us who pray will continue to pray for its future and that the wider community to engage with us to value the house of God among us.

Sunday Services

Our regular Parish Eucharist takes place at 11am on Sunday mornings. All are welcome. We hope that restrictions may be lifted by the end of the month and if there are any adjustments to the current service pattern, they will be announced in the magazine. I am hopeful that we will be able to resume Morning Prayer, which was taking place on a Wednesday.

Jonathan

winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk



Open Gardens in June and July

Twelve Winchelsea gardens will open from 11am to 5pm on Saturday 19th June for the National Garden Scheme. Tickets cost £6 for the group and will be available on the gate or online from the NGS. If it's a fine day there could be quite a crowd in the town.

www.ngs.org.uk

St Michael's Hospice will be opening seven gardens in Winchelsea Beach on Saturday 5th June and six gardens in Winchelsea on Saturday 3rd July - both openings 10.30 till 4. £6 for each group.

The Winchelsea Beach gardens are *1 and 7 Windmill Way: Lewcis, Old River Way: Rameslie, Sea Road: Solstice, Sea Road: Stargazer, Morlais Place and White Cove, Sea Road.*

www.stmichaelsospice.com

The Winchelsea gardens opening for the hospice are *1 Strand Plat, Alards Plat, Cleveland Place, King's Leap and South Mariteau.*



Court Hall available to use again

We are delighted to announce that the Lower Court Hall is again available for group or individual bookings.

Prices have been held at pre-lockdown levels, namely £10 per hour. We would ask that the hirer take on the additional responsibility of ensuring that any government regulations, currently in force, are duly applied.

The only forward bookings are those reserved for the Post Office on Monday and Thursday mornings.

The use of the Court Hall is within the gift of the mayor (it being his parlour) but bookings can be made by contacting John Rodley on 01797 223458. He will advise on access arrangements, payment and other details.

We look forward to welcoming you back



Second Wednesday Society

this month meets on zoom on the third Wednesday -
16th June

Overlooked Nature - a Photographic Journey

Michael Howard is one of our local National Trust rangers. Michael is a photographer of wildlife: his presentation will open our eyes to the fascinating and beautiful world around us.

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 18th June at 7pm for 7.30

In Time

Douglas Reid Skinner, South African poet, writer, translator and editor, will speak to us again about his work.

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 Arts Concert

On Sunday 27th June at 4pm, three talented young students from the Royal College of Music Junior Department will perform at St Thomas'.

Natalie Bhak (violin) and Calvin Leung (piano) will play Elgar's Violin Sonata Op.82. Riya Hamie will join them in Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No.2 Op.66, and she will also play movements from Britten's Suite No.1 for Cello Op.72.

Tickets are available online only at £18 for a single and £30 for a double (including a glass of wine). Covid restrictions - distancing and masks - will apply, we hope for the last time. Full details at...

winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Pamela Jefferies - Valedictory

At the recent APCM, it was announced that Pamela would stand down as PCC Treasurer after completing 15 years in that position. Throughout that time, her day to day financial management of the PCC on behalf of three rectors and across two interregnums has been outstanding.

This has involved the regular management of contractors and suppliers, handling the requirements of the diocese, overseeing our investments and a myriad of banking matters, all demanding considerable time, attention and planning. In terms of capital expenditure, she has ensured the financial support of a number of key projects, including the organ, the roof, the boiler and the tapestry.

In addition, she has ensured that the books have balanced and that we have met our responsibilities to the diocese via the Parish Share. All this has been done in such a modest style that we probably will not fully appreciate her contribution until she has stood down. We are immensely grateful to her for all her work; she deserves a break, but her act will be a very difficult one to follow.

Seeking a new Church Treasurer

The rector and churchwardens are seeking a new treasurer. The role would be a chance to contribute to the church and the community as a whole and help ensure the continued presence of a thriving church in this exceptional place.

We are blessed with a wonderful building in the centre of our community and our annual budget has an income of around £85,000, which comes from a variety of sources. The treasurer does not need to be an accountant but he or she should understand basic accounts and be able to use a spreadsheet.

As we are installing wifi, looking at new ways of raising money and making the most of our wonderful church and setting there is considerable scope for innovation but the task does not need to be unduly onerous. There is no requirement to belong to a particular faith or to be a church goer but you would need to attend PCC meetings, usually four times year as well as the annual meeting.

Gift aid claims and the regular paying in of cash and cheques will be handled separately so that the treasurer can concentrate on the finances overall and there will be scope for creativity.

Skills and Characteristics:

- Be financially competent, and have the ability to maintain a basic accounts book/spreadsheet.
- Be willing to acquire an understanding of the parish, its needs and challenges.
- Be able to manage the financial relationship with the deanery and diocese.
- Be able to interpret and present financial information in a sympathetic style.

Key Tasks for a Treasurer:

- To advise the PCC on financial matters and to the joint responsibility for both raising and spending money to meet the PCC's responsibilities
- To carry out the financial decisions made by the PCC.
- To draft an annual budget to assist the PCC in fulfilling its objectives for the coming year.

- To record all financial transactions carried out on behalf of the PCC and ensure they are properly authorised.
- To monitor the PCC's finances throughout the year, and alert the PCC if any difficulties are likely.
- To work with the PCC to meet all its financial obligations, especially Parish Share and clergy expenses.
- To prepare the annual financial statements for approval by the PCC and independent examiner. (It should be noted that the software does most of the heavy lifting.)

If you would like further details or to discuss this in more detail please contact the rector or one of the churchwardens.

The Revd Jonathan Meyer
01797 226254 revdjonathan@btinternet.com
Charlotte Beecroft
01797 223159 ccmburrin@gmail.com
Celia King
01797 227858 sake.king@hotmail.com



Winchelsea Wine Society

It was as much as a year ago that a proposal for a new Winchelsea Wine Society was suggested and publicised in the parish magazine. It was of course all put on hold as the pandemic continued.

We are now proposing to start off again and we are planning a first discussion on Monday 7th June at 6pm in the New Hall. We hope as many as possible who expressed interest last year can attend, so that we can work out how to move to a next stage. Any other residents with an interest are also welcome. We don't expect large numbers and we will of course respect Covid guidelines.

This will be an open and informal discussion about what we should do. However, to recap, what the small initial group of us were thinking last summer was that:

- the society/club would not be focused only on 'fine wines' and would be open to all levels of interest in wine
- there would be a local identity in what the society does, including with a nod to the history of the town as one of the major wine importing ports in England (yes, it was 700 years ago, but of course much of the historic legacy is still "standing") and with an interest in the

growing number of local vineyards, wine makers and associated trades

- we would hope to consider, in good course, a modest wine festival in the town together with local vineyards and traders and linked to the work of existing societies

And also of course we will be considering all the usual activities such as holding tastings and discussions and other club events.

If you remain interested but are unable to attend there will still be opportunities to contribute - and please let me know anyway if you have any comments at this stage

Brian Leonard

brianleonard779@gmail.com



Winchelsea Anniversaries

250 Years Ago

At a meeting of the Cinque Ports Court of Brotherhood and Guestling held on 23 July 1771, bitter complaints were expressed about the way in which French fishermen were active in English waters to the detriment of the local industry, This has a certain topical ring!

As a result it was alleged that 'the fishery off the coast of Kent and Sussex' was in serious decline. The proposed solution was the appointment of officers who would inspect the fishery, its increase or decrease, and inspect all nets and the amount of fish sold, 'making report from time to time', to the mayors, bailiffs and jurats who would in turn inform the Speaker so that prosecutions could take place.

The French were stated to 'take and carry away great quantities of fish by which a great scarcity of fish hath happened, the price thereof much increased and many families whose sole support arises from the fishery are greatly injured and in danger of being ruined'.

A proposed petition to be presented to King George III by the Lord Warden and the Speaker was more specific. It complained of 'the great number of French vessels

with ten or twelve men aboard who trawl with
"Trammel trawling and mackerel nets" within a quarter
of a mile of the shore, that they interfere with the
portsmen and, being as many as a thousand in number
"gain an equal knowledge of the soundings on Your
Majesty's coasts with the Pilots employed in Your
Majesty's service". So, the French are not only fishing!

The Confederation's records include no specific
outcome of these deliberations or the proposed petition.
However, continuing recorded complaints suggest that
if any action was taken, it was ineffective.

Malcolm Pratt



Rye Food Bank - Food Donations

The crate for donations which was in the Farm Kitchen during lockdown is now at the back of St Thomas' again.

Cam will continue to pick-up doorstep donations on the third Tuesday of every month and any donations that may have been placed in the church crate.

The next collection date is Tuesday 15 June. 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

www.trusselltrust.org



Rescue Boat

June is here, and with it some summer plans. Here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat, our volunteers have already been busy.

Throughout May we have seen the start of incidents and 'shouts' for 2021. Firstly, we were tasked by HM Coastguard to assist three persons and three dogs, all caught out by the rising tide at the cliff face of Fairlight beach. In a second incident a week later, our crews launched to assist two kayakers offshore at Fairlight. They were given a safety escort back to Pett Slip. The following week, we responded to a Pan Pan request for assistance offshore between Pett Level and Rye. Hastings RNLI also responded.

PLIRB volunteer Stella is now the proud owner of several quails. Stella's based in Fairlight and has started a nest-egg fundraiser by donating 25p for every dozen eggs sold at £2. To order, please contact her on 07947 402122.

The long-overdue trial of the bluetooth communications system we've been saving up for has also taken place. Our crews were delighted that trying out the helmets, headsets and boat-based equipment, all part of this bespoke system, delivered all the anticipated benefits of hands-free communications and significantly improved

clarity. With the trial completed, we can now hopefully move forwards with this essential upgrade.

Talking about moving forwards, restrictions-permitting there's also plenty coming up:

Our 'new-to-us' refurbished recovery vehicle has already been in service on the beach, but we hope to give it an official welcome soon. Our volunteers continue to plan our rescheduled Open Day. This should now take place on Sunday 29th August and will include the Homewood Leisure Hot Tub Grand Draw. Tickets will be available right up to the draw date, including now from our boathouse on Sunday mornings.



The *Strandliners* big beach clean at Fairlight Berm took place in May. As the only way to remove the plastic pollution and collect debris is by boat, our volunteers ferried the rubbish across to Pett Slip for collection by Rother District Council. This took place over one main trip with *Strandliners* support, plus a further retrieval session by our crews, right at the end of May.

Our Calendar Photo Competition now has entries but needs more, so if you'd like to contribute a photo, you'll find full details here and on our website.

Finally, this month's safety focus is about protecting visitors who don't know the risks of the area. The dog-walkers rescued recently were out-of-town visitors, so if you have household visitors now it's allowed, please help us by informing them of the dangers along the local coastline, such as the flooding tides, sinking sand, sand bars and rock falls.

We're also coming into the time of year for increased use (and risk) of inflatables along the coast, so please do pass on the safety message that these are designed for pools, and shouldn't be used at sea!

Additionally, Drowning Prevention Week takes place from 19th to 26th June, so please do share our social media on this, to help us get safety messages out there.

Until next time, stay safe, take care and be beach aware. If you'd like to keep in touch, please check out our website <https://plirb.com> or our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlelevelindyrescueboat.



An engraving of the west end of Winchelsea church as it looked in around 1800. The half-hidden house in the background at the centre of the picture is Drake Hollingberry's rectory. He was rector from 1767 to 1822, notorious for describing John Wesley, who came to Winchelsea several times during his incumbency, as 'the Devil's own'.

The gate in the churchyard wall opposite the rectory, and the path along which brides now walk on their way to be married, was created by Hollingberry to make a direct route from his house. Naturally it was grander than all the other gates.

For some reason this house did not descend to his successor and was demolished. The next rector had to commute from Hastings until he found somewhere local to live.

The modern rectory was built on the site of the old school when it was demolished in the late 1960s. It replaced the house in St Giles' Close, now the 'Old Rectory' which was put up in 1849.



Please send copy for the July Magazine to
ryeview@gmail.com
on or before Wednesday 30th June

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

June 2021

Saturday 5th Church Market
Winchelsea Beach Gardens open for St Michael's Hospice

Sunday 6th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 1 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Monday 7th First Day of Term, St Thomas' School
Wine Society Meeting (New Hall)

Sunday 13th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 2 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

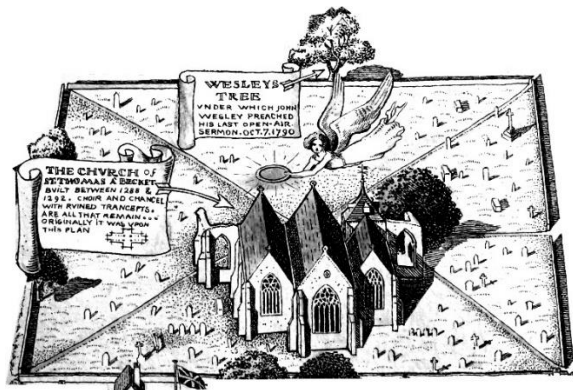
Wednesday 16th Second Wednesday Zoom Meeting
Friday 18th Literary Society Zoom meeting
Saturday 19th Winchelsea NGS Open Gardens

Sunday 20th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 3 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**

Sunday 27th **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 4 **11am: Parish Eucharist at St Thomas'**
Winchelsea Arts Concert (Church)

Sat 3rd July Winchelsea Gardens open for St Michael's Hospice

Sun 4th July **9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
Trinity 5 **11am: Patronal Festival Eucharist at St Thomas'**



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The Rector's day off is Monday

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