

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2026



Rob Mortimer



Beauty for Brokenness

Nathanael writes: Sometimes what's broken can become more beautiful and stronger than before.

In the Japanese artform kintsugi broken pieces of pottery are taken by an artist and repaired by mending the imperfections with a lacquer infused with powdered gold. Instead of flaws to be hidden, the imperfections become part of the beauty and strength of the vessel. Kintsugi speaks about two realities we experience in our lives and in the world. On the one hand, things are not the way they should be, and on the other hand, beauty can break forth unexpectedly from brokenness.

This is also a profound illustration of the journey taken by Christians in Lent. Moving from Ash Wednesday to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, the way of temptation, suffering, pain and persecution are contemplated. Yet through these six weeks we also witness springtime growth emerge and we experience longer and lighter days. In prayerful attentiveness Christians are seek moments of beauty in the wilderness of Lent – a foretaste of the Easter rejoicing.

The suffering and hostility of our world feels deep and dark at present, but this Lent let us be ready to ask where we might see beauty in it all. This world's brokenness is real but that does not mean beauty ceases to exist.

Sometimes what's broken can become more beautiful and stronger than before.

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 15th March

The Benefice of Winchelsea, Icklesham & Pett

09:30 at St Mary and St Peter, Pett

11:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

All are welcome to attend our services
on this special Sunday of thanksgiving.





An update from the Little Shop

Our team of Volunteers have now been supporting the Little Shop for ten months, it seems like a long time, but right from the start, the Plunkett Trust advised us that on average it takes between one and three years to establish a sustainable community business. They should know, they've helped almost a thousand groups like us own and successfully operate businesses in their communities.

While detailed negotiations with the owner of the Little Shop are taking place, our volunteers are learning new skills and meeting new challenges.

For example, on 9th March, Nathan has been called for Jury Service, (don't they know he has a shop to run!); he could be away for up to two weeks.

During that period the shop will be open from 8-12 Monday to Friday, (and normal hours on Saturday and Sunday), staffed entirely by volunteers.

It is a big ask, but also a great opportunity for us all to learn some new things about running the shop, that we wouldn't normally come across on a Sunday. For example, for the first time we are going to deal with some of the shops brilliant suppliers, sorting out deliveries, and ordering new stock. There are also some new food safety procedures to observe.

Nathan has been busy producing detailed notes, which are being added to our volunteer training guide. It's going to be a steep learning curve, but I'm sure our amazing team will once again rise to the challenge.

If you do visit the shop during this period, and we really hope you do, please support your neighbours behind the counter, without them, the shop would simply not be open.

And if you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact Ali Casey, shopgroup@winchelsea.com or any other member of our Steering Group.

Each shift our volunteers learn more about how the shop operates, this experience will be vital when it finally becomes our own community business. But our shop doesn't just need helpers, it needs customers, so please continue to use the shop as much as you can, that way we can all ensure its future.

The Little Shop Steering Group: Ali Casey, Glen Marks, Dave Richards, Rosemarie Roberts, Ian Rowlands



Pascal Rogé
and
Elena Font
piano

St Thomas' Church
Winchelsea TN36 4EB

Saturday 14th March
at 7.30pm

Tickets online at
winchelsea-arts.org.uk

£25 (free for under 18s)

Winchelsea
Arts

Poulenc and Friends
The Music of Les Six



winchelsea-arts.org.uk

[Click here to see the programme for this concert](#)



Basketry at Second Wednesday

The March speaker at the Second Wednesday Society is Marianne van Niekerken with her talk *Basketry- a contemporary traditional and ancient craft*. Giving up a stressful job in the banking industry, Marianne reinvented her life, learning the ancient skills needed to make beautiful baskets with British-grown materials.

Marianne will demonstrate and explain her craft which is thousands of years old. She will explore regional variations, the results of local uses and materials available. She will show many examples of her baskets (and will have a few available to buy on the day).

11th March at 2.30pm

2ndWeds@gmail.com



Looking for Flower Arrangers

We have a small dedicated team of flower arrangers in church who love to contribute to the adornment of our beautiful church, not all church goers.

So, if you are a newcomer to the town and would like to help, we would welcome you with open arms. We have a small team, so any additional help would make it less onerous on those of us now on board.

Please give me a call on 01797223159 or 07794649513 to have a chat.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Charlotte Beecroft



Going Underground

A New Season of Cellar Tours

We know Spring is coming, when green shoots begin to push up through the soil and animals emerge from their underground burrows. However, for some of us in Winchelsea it's the opposite, Spring is the time that we start to go back underground!

It is the beginning of a new season of cellar tours, which run from the end of March to the end of October.

Last year 930 people visited our medieval cellars, a record. The tours are an important fund-raising tool for the two societies who run them, FOAM and WAAHS, and because most of the visitors are from out of town they generate additional income for the Museum, Church, Shop, Café and Pub.

Each tour is led by one of our team of guides, together with a helper, to ensure things run smoothly. We would like to thank them all, together with our wonderful cellar owners and the National Trust, who allow us to visit their cellars each year.

For those who haven't yet been on a cellar tour, they take around one-and-a-half-hours and visit at least three of the

town's vaulted wine cellars. During each tour our guides, cover the town's incredible story, built by King Edward I,

it was once, one of the most important ports in England. They explain why its success was so short lived, how it fell into poverty, the smugglers who lived here, and its eventual renaissance, as writers and artists moved to the town in the nineteenth century.

If you fancy joining us underground, you can book a tour online at ticketsource.co.uk/foam They cost £12.50 per person plus booking fee.

Chris Chappell
FOAM

The photo shows the remarkable installation in the cellar at Lines End, created by Nigel Ashton and photographed by Jonathan Murphy.



Falstaff comes to Winchelsea

Falstaff returns to his roots to appear at Winchelsea New Hall on Saturday 28th March for 'One Knight' only! Performed in its entirety by our very own Mike Stoneham. Told in modern language, 'Falstaff' is funny, moving and full of pathos.

With only four weeks to go this event is nearly sold out, so to avoid disappointment please book now.

Saturday 28th March 7.30 pm at Winchelsea New Hall.
Ticket Price £15 per adult (unsuitable for children)
Doors open at 6.45 pm. Performance commences 7.30 pm.
Licensed Bar.

For all bookings and enquiries email
peterrcosstick@btinternet.com



Very Merry Opera

Winchelsea welcomed the Tonbridge-based Merry Opera Company with their touring production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (director John Ramster) at the New Hall on Saturday 21st February. Hilary Roome had messaged the company late last year to ask if they would consider our venue in our centenary year and to her delight they said they would love to come. When has there been a professional staging of an opera in the New Hall's 100 years of existence?

A team of nine including ASM and opera director Walter Hall, arrived at 10am from London and across the south east to off-load costumes, keyboard, footlights and set. First they erected the inventive set which had to be adapted to suit our small stage and the hall layout.

The lighting designer, Sammy Kissin, worked all day to programme our new lighting system. Finally, five young cast members arrived from London at 3:45pm to rehearse with the MOC founder, Matthew Quirk.

Mindful of Winchelsea folk's love of socialising, Hilary had negotiated for a block of half the seats to be reserved for residents. The New Hall was set out Bierkeller-style with tables lengthways in the Hall, so that opera goers could chat as they enjoyed convivial arrival drinks and then turn their seats to face the stage.

Thus the audience of nearly 100 - around 70 residents and the rest from Hastings and beyond - enjoyed the professional production which showcased young talent.

In the evening the New Hall was bustling with arrivals as people were shown their seats, bought their drinks and programmes, shared snacks and admired the stage transformation. Lights dimmed and beautiful singing and music began.

The libretto was in English, translation by the late Amanda Holden, Lawrence Olivier Award winner, so there was no need for sur-titles in order to understand the words.

The singers were Eleanor Oldfield as Fiordiligi, Elizabeth Green as Dorabella, Marcus Dawson as Guglielmo, James Beddoe as Fernando, Fleur de Bray as Despina and Matthew Quirk as the scheming Don Alfonso. The keyboard musician, Chad Vindin, was outstanding in his talent and stamina.

We are grateful to the volunteers who ran the bar which raised £236 in aid of the New Hall's continuing improvements.

Judging by the audience's enthusiastic response we hope the Merry Opera Company will return next year with a new production.



World Day of Prayer

This year's local World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 6th March at 10.30am at Rye Baptist Church in Cinque Ports Street. Similar events will be taking place on the same day around the world.

The 2026 theme, 'I will give you rest: Come' has been prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Nigeria. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

**Winchelsea
Garden Society**

Spring Show

- Flowers
- Floral Art
- Vegetables
- Pot Plants
- Cookery

**The New Hall
Winchelsea
TN36 4AA**

**2:00 pm Saturday
21 March 2026**





The Normans are Coming!

A festival of history in Winchelsea this October

For the first time since it was made, the Bayeux Tapestry is returning to England.

Following a historic agreement with France, the 70-metre-long embroidery, depicting events leading up to the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, will be loaned to the British Museum from September 2026 to July 2027. One of the wonders of the medieval world, the tapestry offers a vision of life in 11th-century England both before and after the Conquest, from castles, warfare and ships to clothing, food, and furniture.

To celebrate its arrival, three of the town's societies, (WAAHS, WCS and FOAM) are working together to create a rich programme of events this October. There will be talks by leading experts on the Tapestry and the Norman Conquest, debates, guided walks and much more.

We hope to discover more about what happened here in East Sussex almost a thousand years ago, and how as a result England was never quite the same again. We will be sharing more details of individual events and how you can book tickets in the coming months.

Winchelsea & Area Archaeological & Historical Society (WAAHS)
Winchelsea Conservation Society (WCS)
The Friends of the Ancient Monuments and Museum (FOAM)



The Churchyard of Winchelsea

In the confident expectation that the rains will cease and the threat of hosepipe bans will loom, the PCC is about to embark upon its annual request for general assistance with maintaining the Churchyard. There is no doubt that care of the churchyard is a PCC responsibility and the raw economics are that discharging that responsibility costs in the region of £5,000 per year.

This cost includes up to 14 cuts and clears, along with the maintenance of trees and hedges. Historically, we have been grateful for the support of Icklesham Parish Council, which gave £1,800 last year and we have requested that similar support be provided this year.

We ask for additional support from residents, as we think of the Churchyard as a de facto village green. Being in the centre of the Town, it is much used by residents and visitors and, therefore, the appearance is important. Some years ago a consultation exercise was conducted and the general view was that the status quo, as its appearance should prevail.

Other options were considered. Opening it up for grazing was discounted due to the cost of animal care and welfare, to say nothing of the concomitant mess that would have resulted. Wilding was also considered, with just a few mown paths being retained. There is sufficient evidence around Winchelsea of how this might have appeared.

Another reason for discounting it was that safe access had to be maintained for burials and interments. On this point, though, three wildflower circles were introduced some three years ago and these are looked after by a small team of volunteers, with minimal cost to the PCC.

It is, perhaps, worth a word on burial plots. These are the responsibility of the family, but after time, and inevitably, responsibility will devolve to the PCC. The PCC however restricts its responsibility to conducting topple tests. If a stone is found to be unsafe and the family cannot be contacted, it is either laid flat, or moved adjacent to the Churchyard wall. On a related matter, the PCC is also looking to improve the quality of the paths and a programme of repointing is being conducted, although more will probably be required.

But back to the raw costs: we would be hugely grateful if you felt able to help us with a cash donation towards this year's work. A note requesting assistance will go out to all residents in March, but we thought it might be helpful to provide the foregoing expansion of the rationale for making such a request in this issue of the Magazine.

Please let the Rector, the Treasurer or one of the Churchwardens know if you would like any additional information. If you do feel able to help, cash donations can be placed in the Black Box in the Church in an envelope marked 'Churchyard' or a BACS transfer would be equally welcomed to Winchelsea PCC, Account Number 01964020, sort code 30-90-28, referenced 'Churchyard'.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this piece.

David Harris
Treasurer

SAVE THE DATE

WINCHELSEA NEW HALL

GRAND

CENTENARY

BALL

SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2026

WATCH THIS SPACE

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON

What's On Weekly At Winchelsea New Hall

Mondays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	Suitable for all. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com
Mondays 15.00-15.50	Zumba Gold	Suitable for all. Contact Daisy at fitnessbythesea@outlook.com
Tuesdays 14.00-15.30	Tune In Winchelsea	Fun singing group run by local tenor Gary Marriot. All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Rosemarie on 07941 458628
Thursdays 09.30-10.30	Scottish Dancing	A fun, friendly class, suitable for beginners. Contact maddycoelho@hotmail.com
Thursdays 10.45-11.45	Pilates with Celia	Suitable for all ages and abilities. Contact Celia on kingcelia54@gmail.com
Thursdays 18.00-19.00	Rother Fitness	Contact Rachel rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com
Thursdays 19.00-20.00	Rother Fitness Step Class	New Step Class starts 5th March. Contact Rachel rotherfitnessgroup@outlook.com
Fridays 09.30-10.15	Pilates with Hannah	All welcome. Contact Hannah on 07936 151529 or email hannahpilateshastings@gmail.com

**The hall has Table Tennis, Badminton and Pickleball equipment and can be booked on an ad hoc basis for £2 per person per hour (£1 for under 16's) – contact Rosemarie on 07941 458628 or WhatsApp

New Hall News

100 Club

The winning number for the 100 Club for February was 29. Congratulations to the winner of the £100 prize!

Winchelsea Summer Fete 2026 (Date to be confirmed)

While the rain continues to fall, it's difficult to imagine a sunny afternoon on the cricket field, but if we are to have a fete this year, we need to make some plans.

Last year the school successfully ran the fete, but they have indicated that they are unable to do so this year. The fete is

an important fundraiser for the New Hall, and other groups, however, with a centenary party to arrange in June, the New Hall committee haven't the resources to organise the entire event. We are wondering about a simpler, more traditional event, centred around the ever popular dog show, and afternoon teas provided by the New Hall.

There will be an emphasis on traditional games and fun things to do, think splat the rat, tin can alley, hook the duck etc. And of course, there will always be room for popular stalls like those run by FOAM, the Garden Society and other local groups. Chris Chappell has offered to co-ordinate things, but if we are to have a fete this year, we are once again going to need lots of help and support from residents.

To gauge how much appetite there is in the town, we are planning an informal meeting On Wednesday 11th March at 6.30pm in the back-room of the New Inn. If you would like to lend a hand, please come along.

It would be great to hear how you could help and what ideas you have. If you can't come along, but would like to help, email Chris at chriswinchelsea@icloud.com It would be great to have a fete in 2026, but as always it depends on your support.

New Hall Grand Centenary Ball

As many of you will know, the New Hall was built in 1926. This year will therefore be our centenary and we thought it was important to mark the event as the hall is such a vital and much-loved community resource.

On Saturday 27th June we are putting on a Grand Centenary Ball with a strong 1920s, art deco theme. It will be a great opportunity to get dressed up! We will be having a jazz band, there will be dancing, luxury canapes and a cocktail bar (as well as a regular beer and wine bar).

More information and tickets details will be released soon but please hold the date in your diaries. It will hopefully be a very special night to remember!

New Hall Management Committee – Rob Mortimer, John McGeown, Sergio Rebecchi, Mary Tidyman, Rosemarie Roberts and Ali Casey



175 years of the Marshlink

The Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP) organised a celebration on our usual three-coach diesel train service on 13th February, for station volunteers and supporters to enjoy, marking 175 years of train travel across the Marsh.

At each stop between Hastings and Ashford the train picked up those who wanted to celebrate this anniversary and offer station volunteers a trip on the Marshlink service with a free orange drink and a decorated cup cake - but no coffee.

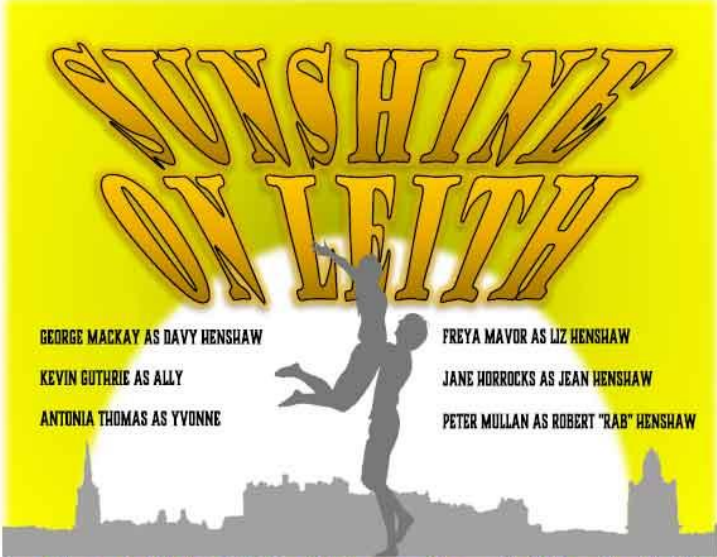
Seven of us joined the train at Winchelsea and enjoyed the trip to Ashford and back. But to all those who kindly came to Winchelsea station just to wave the train off, a big thank you for your support. As ever Winchelsea turned out when it really mattered.

Our station and Three Oaks, has seen a way above average rise in passenger numbers in the last year from 14,196 in 2024 to 19,260 in 2025. This has meant increased pressure on car parking spaces but underlines the popularity of this rural station. We now need to continue to ask Southern and Network Rail for help to create a larger car park, which if it ever happens would mean Car Parking charges.

Next up is 'Railway 200' and a train, suitably adorned and celebrating the Age of the Train, will be parked for a few days

(12th to 15th March) by platform 1 in Hastings. This train which is going round the UK is helping to mark the 200th Anniversary of the advent of train travel in the four home nations. There will be an exhibition on board and probably some stalls run by volunteers on the station itself. More than that I do not know!

John Spencer



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT
In Conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall
FILM of the YEAR 2013

SUNSHINE ON LEITH

GEORGE MACKAY AS DAVY HENSHAW
KEVIN GUTHRIE AS ALLY
ANTONIA THOMAS AS YVONNE

FREYA MAVOR AS LIZ HENSHAW
JANE HORROCKS AS JEAN HENSHAW
PETER MULLAN AS ROBERT "RAB" HENSHAW

Sunshine on Leith is a 2013 Scottish romantic musical film directed by Dexter Fletcher. A musical featuring songs by the Proclaimers.

SATURDAY MARCH 21st 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING
Admission Free
Refreshments, Pay Bar.
Come early, enjoy a drink or two.



‘Fortuna’ and After

Lord Gawain Douglas returns to Winchelsea to give a reading drawing from his five poetry collections, including his latest and recently published ‘Polaris’. He tells the story of his life in poetry from his earliest intimations as a boy in Portmeirion, North Wales, through to his adult experiences as a lecturer, performing poet and musician, and teacher of piano and voice.

Now, as a very senior citizen, he continues these life-enhancing activities with increased vigour and commitment. He feels that there is, as it were, a silver thread of poetic intelligence and meaning running through his life, which draws the past and present together in a constant sense of the now, of duration.

Lord Douglas is the younger son of Francis, the 11th Marquess of Queensbury and the great nephew of the poet Lord Alfred Douglas, who was also notorious for his relationship with Oscar Wilde.

Winchelsea Literary Society
Friday 27th March at 7pm for 7.30
Members free, non-members £5
Note that this meeting takes place in the New Hall



Down these mean streets a man must go

It was seven thirty in the evening, mid-February, with the sun not shining and a look of hard, wet rain reflecting the feeble street lamps from the surface of the road outside when a big guy, hard-boiled as a 10 minute egg, stood up, tipped his damp fedora and turning his trench-coat collar up signalled the Lit. Soc. audience to follow him into the world of Raymond Chandler.

The Society's speaker, Peter Southgate, had agreed to investigate Chandler's transformation of detective fiction into literature and American vernacular language into an art form; a triumph for a self-described "*English public-school boy*" whose education at Dulwich College led to the Admiralty and some freelance journalism.

At age 24 in 1912, having borrowed £500, he was back in his American birthplace. After five nomadic years, Chandler enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1917. Trench life induced lifelong alcohol dependence and he was undergoing pilot training when the Armistice was signed.

Following a sequence of diverse jobs, Chandler found remunerative stability as an executive in one of California's booming oil companies. This prohibition decade afforded an opportunity for field research into a world of speakeasies,

bootleggers, corrupt cops and politicians who would furnish the much-lauded *atmospheric* of his Marlowe novels, the Gothic LA underbelly regularly staging “*the night of a thousand crimes*”. Ejected from this comfortable post after the Wall Street crash, the 44-year-old Chandler turned to writing, ploughing the field of pulp fiction in periodicals like “*The Black Mask*”, a useful apprenticeship for his novels, particularly as a source of plots.

Knopf’s decision to publish the novel, “*The Big Sleep*”, a snappy irreverent euphemism for death, in 1939 ushered Chandler and his central character, Philip Marlowe, into the literary limelight revealing the staple for the future Marlowe series: the intrepid “*loner persona*” hired by a rich recluse, in this instance General Sternwood of the oppressively hot, humid orchid house drawn to Marlowe’s “*youth and soldier’s eye*”, his wilful daughters on whom Marlowe can test his simplified female character taxonomy based on hair colour and “*the McGuffin*”, the missing piece whose whereabouts drive the plot.

Not quite Chaucer’s “verray, parfit gentil knight.” Marlowe had a moral compass. The first-person narrative generated immediacy and platformed Marlowe’s trademark similes, “...*a brain as empty as a gutted fish*” creating the much admired “*atmosphere*” which outweighed confused plotting.

Notoriously, the screenwriters of the film “*The Big Sleep*” were unable to elicit from Chandler why one character, a chauffeur, had been killed and by whom. In 1946, Howard Hawks directed Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in this, defining the whole “*film noir*” genre – black and white, sharp borders between light and shadow, reflected light; a formula that was to sustain Chandler’s output in print and on the big screen for nearly twenty years.

Chandler contributed to the screenplays for *Double Indemnity* and *Strangers on a Train*. He had married Cissy Pascal, 18 years his senior and the object of his mother’s disapproval, in 1924 and the marriage lasted till Cissy’s death in 1954. Chandler outlived her by five years.

Bill Doherty

Reveille



In Lent and Advent
We consider mortality
Much more than usually;
Know that our tenure
Is temporary, essentially
Finite: that time will be
Called on all our activity,
Perhaps suddenly, without
Opportunity to repent or relent,
To reconcile our consciences
Or clarify our intents—
Never mind receive the Last Rites:

Serious, sobering stuff
Which wrenches the mind
From its usual tracks: enough
To disorientate us, temporarily,
In the direction of eternity; briefly
Nodding to the ultimately true
Before re-embracing the delusional
Comforts of here and now---
For, as Eliot well knew,
We cannot bear very much reality.

Richard Ormrod



Sad news on ‘Hamlet’

It is with deep regret that we must inform you that, due to the sudden withdrawal of our lead actor, Mars Sams, we are unable to proceed with our planned production of Hamlet.

After careful consideration, we have concluded that recasting the role at this stage is not feasible. As a result, and with great reluctance, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the entire production.

We are truly devastated. Tickets had sold out, publicity was well underway, and—most importantly—countless hours of volunteer effort had already been devoted to bringing this production to life.

Although the loss of anticipated income for our local charities is significant, we sincerely hope this setback will not diminish the community’s support for our future events. We are committed to learning from this experience and putting measures in place to ensure the success of our productions moving forward.

Ticket refunds will be made during March.

Phil Mack



John Wesley's Chapel

Thank you to those who came to the Coffee Morning in February; it's great to see new people interested in the place.

On Saturday 14th March at 10.30am there will be an historical presentation based around Shipbuilding in the Rother Valley. This will be an amateurish attempt to join up some of the historical dots in English history way back, primarily in medieval times. It will be visual as well as verbal, and is designed to be informative as well as interactive and fun. Teas and coffees will also be served at some point during the proceedings. So if history is your thing, do come along.

And then on **Saturday 11th April** at 10.30 for 11am there will be an Easter Songs of Praise service conducted by Rev Jonathan and Dr Julie Todd. This is on the Saturday after Easter and we are looking forward to singing lots of seasonal hymns and songs.

We've got another Coffee Morning on **Saturday 16th May** from 10am to 12pm but with an added twist of a couple of treasure hunts around town. Whether you choose to sit and chat or get up and out exploring is up to each person, Both hunts require only modest exercise, with one a little longer than the other. There are no prizes for taking part, just the opportunity to get out and about and have a little bit of fun spotting things of interest.

As always, the invitation to come to any of the Chapel events is to everyone. *Mike Lambourne*



Winchelsea Beach in March

Mothers' Prayers

Mothers Prayers will be on Tuesday 3rd March at 10 am at Solstice, Sea Road Winchelsea Beach. For more information contact Mary Parker, 07927 107678.

Fellowship Lunch 27th March

Fellowship lunch will be on Friday 27th March 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. There is no charge but donations would be welcome. All proceeds will go to charity.

Spring Craft Fair

Advance notice. There will be a Spring Craft Fair in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall on Sunday 12th April from 10.30 to 3.30.



Holy Week & Easter 2026

The Benefice of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett

Palm Sunday | Sunday 29th March

Benefice Holy Communion

with Palm & Passion Gospel

11:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

Wednesday 1st April

Passiontide Prayers

A Service of Prayer in Holy Week

followed by Afternoon Tea

15:00 at St Mary & St Peter, Pett

Mundy Thursday | Thursday 2nd April

Holy Communion

18:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

followed by an open Prayer Vigil including

The Ministry of Anointing 19:00-20:00

Good Friday | Friday 3rd April

Prayer, Reflection, Refreshments & Fellowship

10:30 Winchelsea Beach Community Hall

Good Friday continued
An Hour at the Cross
14:00-15:00 Icklesham Church

Holy Saturday | Saturday 4th April
The Easter Vigil
Service of Light & Renewal of Baptismal Vows
20:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service
Outdoor Holy Communion
followed by breakfast in St Nicholas
06:00 at Pett Level Beach

Family Holy Communion
09:00 at Icklesham Church

Festal Eucharist
11:00 at St Thomas, Winchelsea

Easter Celebration Service
16:00 at St Mary & St Peter, Pett

Further details or queries:
The Rector - rector.wip@gmail.com

rector.wip@gmail.com



Mayoring Ceremony

Winchelsea Corporation invite you
to the Mayor Making ceremony
at 11.am on Easter Monday
in Winchelsea Church

All are welcome





Rye Food Bank

Cam writes: I will be making the March Food Bank doorstep collection on behalf of the Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Club on Tues 17th March between 10 am and 1 pm For the last five years I have collected on the 3rd or 4th Tuesday of each month and delivered these donations the following day to the Food Bank in Rye, for distribution to needy local families.

I am always looking for new donors and would be grateful if within the Town you would tell your neighbours

My telephone number is 01797 226414, which has an answerphone facility. Please help the Food Bank if you can.

*Donald Cameron Clarke
Old Malt House
Winchelsea*

For further details about Rye Food Bank and how to make a donation go to ryefoodbank.com

Winchelsea Church and Town Calendar
March 2026

- Sunday 1st** 8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Tuesday 3rd Mothers' Prayers - 10am
- Thursday 5th World Day of Prayer Service - Rye Baptist Church - 10.30am
- Friday 6th New Inn Bible Study - 6pm
- Saturday 7th Church Market at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12
- Sunday 8th** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Wednesday 11th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
Summer Fete Planning Meeting - New Inn - 6.30pm
- Saturday 14th FOAM AGM - Court Hall - 2pm
Shipbuilding Talk - Wesley's Chapel - 10.30am
Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 7.30pm
- Sunday 15th** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Pett
Mothering Sunday 11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Saturday 21st Garden Society Spring Show - New Hall - 2pm
Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
- Sunday 22nd** 9.30am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Friday 27th Fellowship Lunch - WB Community Hall - 12.30 for 1pm
Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 28th Falstaff - New Hall - 7.30pm
- Sunday 29th** *Clocks go forward*
Palm Sunday 11am: Benefice Palm Sunday Communion at Winchelsea
- Thurs 2nd April Maundy Thursday
- Fri 3rd April Good Friday
- Sat 4th April *NB Church Market is transferred to 11th*
- Sun 5th April** 6am: Sunrise Service at Pett Level
Palm Sunday 9am: Family Holy Communion at Icklesham
11am: Festal Eucharist at Winchelsea
4pm: Easter Celebration Service at Pett
- Mon 6th April Mayoring Ceremony - St Thomas's - 11am
- Sat 11th April Church Market and Tulip Show at St Thomas's - 10.30 till 12

Please send copy for the April Magazine
to ryeview@gmail.com
as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case,
before Saturday 28th March

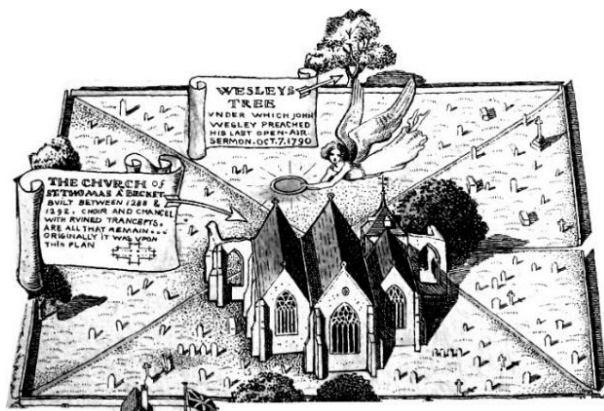


For Winchelsea Beach information go to
winchelseabeachcommunityassociation.co.uk

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



Benefice of Winchelsea Icklesham and Pett

Rector

The Revd Nathanael Hayler
The Rectory, St Thomas Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EB
01797 308531 rector.wip@gmail.com
WhatsApp/SMS 07941 602349
The Rector's day off is Friday

Winchelsea Churchwardens

Celia King
Stargazer, Morlais Place TN36 4LG
01797 227858 kingcelia54@gmail.com

John Rodley
The Stone House, Barrack Square TN36 4EQ
01797 223458 johnrodley@btinternet.com

Winchelsea PCC Secretary

Mary Parker
07927 107678 parkermary848@gmail.com

St Thomas' Primary School

Headteacher Dale Saxby
Friars Road TN36 4ED 01797 226479
office@st-thomas-winchelsea.e-sussex.sch.uk

Parish Magazine

Editor David Page
4 Kent Close TN36 4EX
01797 226524 ryeview@gmail.com