

WINCHELSEA PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2026





Respair

On Sunday 31st May, Rt Rev'd Dr Martin Warner, Bishop of Chichester, will preside at his final service in this Diocese in our neighbouring parish of St Mary, Rye. As the sun sets after Evensong, his episcopal ministry will come to an end, and the Diocese of Chichester will enter a process called 'Vacancy in See.' Work has begun to discern who God may be calling to be the next bishop of this Diocese. A public consultation has already taken place and the panel leading this process has been appointed.

As churches in this Diocese, especially in our far-flung Deanery of Rye, day-to-day operations will not change, and we may not even feel the ground level reverberations of the vacancy over the coming months. However, we must be active in our prayer for all involved, not least for the one whom God is calling to lead us.

I recently read the early 2026 publication Archbishop Sarah Mullally and Ten Urgent Challenges for the Church of England. It was those ten 'challenges', offered by ten leading Anglican writers, that proved enlightening for me. I was struck by the seemingly never-ending list of hopes, expectations and desires that quickly fill the space created in any vacancy process – whether a parish interregnum or an episcopal vacancy.

I hope and pray that amid the politics, voices, pressures and timelines there will be breathing space for all involved.

There is a word that has only been recorded once in the Oxford English Dictionary – ‘respair’. It means fresh hope or a recovery from despair. It can be used as both a noun and a verb – beckoning us towards a way of genuine hopefulness.

It is one of those words that, now I have researched it a little, seems to be increasingly relevant and urgently needed in our current situation, both in the church and in the world. I wonder if we have the courage, in our current time, to reclaim ‘respair’, and to let it be our way in the midst of all that is going on.

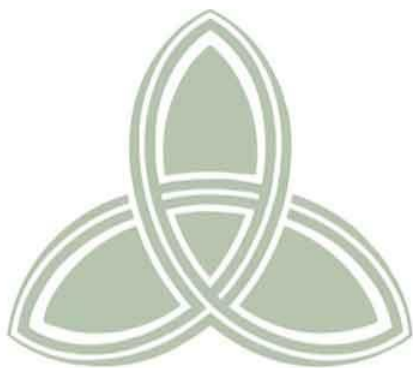
As I pray for the next Bishop of Chichester, I hope for a bishop who will inspire us in the way of respair – who, in the words attributed to St Francis of Assisi, may lead us from despair to hope.

Nathanael - Rector



Bible Study at the New Inn

The next Benefice Bible Study will be held on Thursday 4th June at 6pm in the New Inn. We will spend an hour exploring the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel. All are welcome.



TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday 31st May

On this fifth Sunday of May, we will celebrate
Trinity Sunday with a Benefice Eucharist.

11:00 at All Saints & St Nicolas, Icklesham

If you would like to sing with the choir on this
occasion, please arrive for a rehearsal at 10am.

*Please use Community Hall car park and leave the church
parking spaces for those with access needs.*

The London Handel Players



Director **Adrian Butterfield** violin
Julia Doyle soprano



Telemann Handel Locke Vivaldi Purcell Bach

Saturday 4th July at 7.30pm



**St Thomas' Church
Winchelsea
TN36 4EB**

Winchelsea Arts

Tickets online at winchelsea-arts.org.uk
and at the door

£25



[Click here](#) to see the full 2026-7 Season programme

winchelsea-arts.org.uk



Speakership transferred to Winchelsea

When the Speakership of the Cinque Ports changes hands each May, solemn proclamation of the 'Septennial Revolution' always raises a smile.

The office is an ancient one, predating the Speakership of the House of Commons and it does indeed rotate between the principal towns on a seven-year cycle, moving eastwards from Hastings to Winchelsea, and then to Rye, New Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich before moving back west to start all over again.

This year the Speakership passes to Winchelsea. Mayors, deputy mayors and town clerks gathered at St Thomas's on 21st May for a business meeting and to witness the transfer of the office from the newly-elected Mayor of Hastings, Cllr Paula Warne, to the Mayor of Winchelsea, David Page.

Taking up the role on Winchelsea's behalf, David pledged to support civic events around the Cinque Ports towns. The new Lord Warden, Sir George Zambellas, is keen not only to promote the rich maritime history of the ports but also to show the relevance of the Confederation today, particularly in working together to support the voluntary sector.



Charity Garden Openings

The Charity garden opening season gets into full swing this month with openings in aid of St Michael's Hospice on 6th June in Winchelsea Beach and in Winchelsea town on 20th.

Winchelsea Beach - Saturday 6th June

Gardens open between 10.30am and 4pm and tickets to visit the whole group are available at the Community Hall and at each garden gate, costing £7.50. Card or cash. Refreshments will be available at the Hall.

White Cove Sea Road, *Seagulls* Smeaton's Lane, *St Valery* The Ridge, *Windjammer* The Ridge, *Solstice* Sea Road, *Stargazer* Morlais Place.

The last two on the list are the gardens of PCC secretary, Mary Parker, and churchwarden, Celia King, respectively. Celia and Stephen write, 'It would be great to see people come down and see the various gardens. After visiting Church Market why not pop down and say hello. Registration is at the Village Hall or you can pay at any of the gardens.'

Winchelsea Town - Saturday 20th June

Opening from 10.30 to 4 and also costing £7.50 for admission to the group. Refreshments at the Court Hall and tickets from there or at garden gates. Cash or card.

Kings Leap Castle Street, *White Cottage* Friars Road, *Cleveland Place* Friars Road, *2 Mariteau House* and *Kent Close Communal Garden* both entered from Kent Close. *Officers House* in Coastguard Square, Rye Harbour will also be open and can be visited using the same ticket.

Historic *Wesley's Chapel* will be open to visit on 20th and on 18th July.

stmichaelsospice.com/event/opengardens



National Garden Scheme Openings in July

Eleven Winchelsea gardens will be opening under the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 18th July from 11am to 5pm and on the afternoon of Sunday 19th July for the Friends of the Memorial Hospital, Rye. Group admission costs £10.

This year sees to return to the group of *Cleveland House* and *Periteau House*, both now with new owners.

findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/

Winchelsea Garden Society

Rose Show

Saturday 6 June in
St Thomas' Church
alongside the
Church Market

4 classes, entries free:-

Class 1 **Roses**

Class 2 **Sweet Peas**

Class 3 **Clematis**

Class 4 **Iris**

All exhibits to be displayed
between 10:15 and 11:15
Presentation of cups 11:30

Maximum vase size
15 cm in diameter



Winchelsea Garden Society

Thursday 11 June

Members car-share outing to

Fairlight End

Pett Road, Hastings TN35 4HB

(Park at Pett Village Hall)

Arrive 11:15 **£10** pp

Guided garden tour and free
time for your own picnic, then
continue to:-

Fairlight Hall

Martineau Lane, Hastings

TN35 5DR

Arrive: 14:00. **£12** pp

2-hour garden tour & cream tea

For further information, contact Mary
Tidyman on 07989 693735 or
marytidy@hotmail.com

Please book and pay Judith Payne by
cash or cheque at Castle Cottage,
Castle Street, Winchelsea TN36 4EL



Note the change of date. The outing has been moved on one day to Thursday 11th.



Winchelsea Fete

Plans for this year's Winchelsea Fete and Fun Dog Show are gathering speed.

The Cricket Club and the National Trust have kindly agreed that the New Hall can host this year's event on Saturday 15th August between 1 and 4pm.

Our vision is to create a traditional fete that reflects our wonderful community. So, there will be fewer commercial stalls this year, with the emphasis on local groups and businesses. WAAHS, FOAM, the Little Shop Community Trust, the Garden Society, the Church, the Rotary Club, the Cricket Club, the National Trust, the New Inn and Charles Palmer will all have stalls.

There will be afternoon teas provided by the New Hall and, of course, the ever-popular fun dog show.

There will be live music provided by Geoff Sapsford, a traditional Punch and Judy show, and Games including favourites like 'Splat the Rat' and the 'Human Fruit Machine'.

We are also planning a free creative area for children and a short self-guided nature/history walk from the cricket field to the Beacon and back to the car park.

Of course, to make all this happen, we need volunteers to help with a variety of tasks before, during and after the fete. So, we will be shamelessly twisting arms, over the next few weeks.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can make this year's fete even better, please let me know.

Chris Chappell, on behalf of the New Hall
chriswinchelsea@icloud.com



Winchelsea Beach June Events

Mothers' Prayers

Tuesday 2nd June at *Dabchick Cottage*, Morlais Place at 10am

Open Gardens

on Saturday 6th June for St Michael's Hospice from 10.30am to 4pm. Tickets and tea available in the Community Hall. Six gardens will be open.

Bingo Afternoon

on Wednesday 17th June - Bingo and afternoon tea in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall at 3pm in support of St Michael's Hospice.

Fellowship Lunch

Friday 26th Fellowship Lunch at 12.30 for 1pm in Winchelsea Beach Community Hall. Please contact Mary Parker 07927 107678 to book. Donations will be for the Mission for Seafarers

winchelseabeach.org.uk



Wesley's Chapel

Thank you to all who came to the Coffee Morning on 15th May especially those who did one of the treasure hunts.

The Chapel will be open for both of the Open Gardens Days on 20th June and 18th July, when visitors will be very welcome to pop in and have a look at the Wesley memorabilia and artefacts around the Chapel, while little else is going on.

Towards the end of the month on Saturday 27th June, we've got another new event in the form of a Creative Day when people can come and demonstrate their creative side through their artistic, writing, or photographic skills, the results of which may be displayed at the Chapel Anniversary. There will be people there to help with ideas and skills if needed.

The event starts at 10am and runs on to 3pm. Participants are asked to come for a prompt start at 10, wherever possible, although people who want to come but can't make the start will still be welcome. Teas and coffees will be available throughout the day, but we are asked to bring our own packed lunches and snacks.

Do come to the Chapel services and events. You will be very welcome. *Mike Lambourne*



Ciao ragazzi!

Professional tour guide and art historian Wendy Fraser returns to Winchelsea Second Wednesday Society on 10th June at 2.30pm, presenting "A Visit to Florence"

We'll be having a look at some traditional Florentine crafts, then we'll visit a Florentine art studio and a shoe museum, ending up in the Uffizi Gallery with an interpretation of Botticelli's 'Primavera'.

There will be a homemade tea and the chance to catch up with friends, old and new.

Members free, visitors and guests £5. We look forward to welcoming you!

2ndWeds@gmail.com



The Butler did it

The next Literary Society talk is on Friday 19th June at 7 for 7.30pm in the New Hall. The speaker is Guy Fraser-Sampson and the title of his talk is, 'The Butler did it: Reflections on Detective Fiction'

Guy is the author of six books which he calls 'boring financial stuff' plus a fun, waspish economic history called simply 'The Mess We're In'. He also wrote three Mapp and Lucia novels and five volumes of quirky detective fiction called 'The Hampstead Murders'.

A little-known fact about Guy is that he raised and ran his own police force, beginning as a Chief Inspector at the age of 8, and gaining early promotion to Chief Constable a year later. Having captured the attention of the national media, the Junior Police Force were featured in a programme by London Weekend Television in 1967. Sadly, most TV tape was not kept in those days but recorded over, which included his lengthy interview as a debut television phenomenon.

An opportunity for Guy to have a starring role in an Australian TV series as a child actor was firmly declined by his mother on the ground that 'he wouldn't like to be famous'. Guy's only other memory of that period was of a TV producer telling his mother that 'Guy is very precocious', to which she sharply replied 'no, he's just very advanced for his age'.

JAZZ Comes to... JAZZ

WINCHELSEA

SATURDAY 27th JUNE 2026

7pm for 7.30pm

The Joe Thompson Trio
with Sally Creedon



Sally Creedon is a versatile jazz vocalist, who among other attributes, tours the UK with her Carpenters Show while **Joe Thompson** has served up his unique version of party jazz for many royal audiences, including the late Queen's 90th and King Charles's 70th birthday. Joe was once described by Diana Krall as her "favourite piano player in life". With the brilliant **Sophie Alloway** on drums and **Rob Rickenberg** on bass, you are guaranteed an evening of great music.

WINCHELSEA NEW HALL

GRAND CENTENARY BALL

1920's theme / Cocktails & Canapes

Tickets £35 via www.winchelsea.com/new-hall/new-hall-centenary/
newhall@winchelsea.com or telephone - 07941 458628



winchelsea.com/new-hall/new-hall-centenary



Icklesham Parish Council

Annual Council Meeting

The Parish Council held its Annual Council Meeting at Rye Harbour Village Hall on Monday 11th May. Councillor Mrs. Jacqui Stanford was unanimously re-elected as Chair for a further year, while Councillor David Smedley was once again elected Vice Chair. Councillors were also appointed to various committees, and memberships to external organisations were renewed as part of the annual proceedings.

The Council formally accepted the Internal Auditor's report, marking another important stage in the annual audit process. The final external audit is now underway.

A highlight of the evening was the opportunity to welcome Councillor Daniel Bradley, the newly elected East Sussex County Councillor for the area. He succeeds Councillor Keith Glazier following his retirement after many years of fantastic service – Keith very rarely missed a parish meeting. Councillor Bradley expressed his enthusiasm for supporting local communities and acknowledged that he has “very big shoes to fill.”

The Parish Council wished him every success in his new role and said they looked forward to working closely with him on local issues.

Concerns Over Toilet Transfers

Discussions are continuing between the Parish Council and Rother District Council regarding the transfer of the freeholds for the public toilets in Winchelsea and Winchelsea Beach. However, several issues with the buildings have recently come to light, and it now appears that essential repair work will annoyingly not be completed and paid for by Rother District Council before the transfers take place.

Campaign for Safer Roads

Improving road safety is also high on the Council's agenda. Councillors are currently compiling a list of roads across the Parish that they believe would benefit from a reduced 20mph speed limit. The proposals will form the basis of a campaign to East Sussex County Council aimed at making roads safer for residents and visitors alike.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday 8th June

Planning Meeting followed by Open Spaces Committee Meeting 6.15 pm at Winchelsea Court Hall.

Monday 22nd June

Planning Meeting followed by Allotments Committee Meeting 6.15 pm at Winchelsea Court Hall.

Monday 13th July

Planning Meeting followed by Full Council Meeting 6.15 pm at Winchelsea New Hall.

Please remember IPC are here to represent you and welcome your views on any matter. Please send your views and requests to clerk@ickleham-pc.gov.uk or write to
PO Box 148 Winchelsea TN31 9FP 07714 169901



WINCHELSEA FILM NIGHT
In conjunction with Winchelsea New Hall

Get in the mood for the New Hall Grand Centenary Ball

**The GREAT
GATSBY**

A Film by Baz Luhrmann

F. Scott Fitzgerald's
Classic novel



Leonardo DiCaprio
and Tobey Maguire

SATURDAY 20th JUNE 6.30 for 7.30 SCREENING
Admission Free
Refreshments, Pay Bar.
Come early, enjoy a drink or two.

You are warmly invited to the

Patronal Festival

of St Thomas the Martyr, Winchelsea



Sunday 5th July 2026

11:00 Festal Eucharist

followed by fresh coffee and homemade cake

16:00 Choral Evensong

the Rector's sherry and port will be served after the service

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 With Daisy | 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 | 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 |
| Fridays 10.45-11.45 | Move It or Lose It with L Rae | Fun exercise class for all abilities. Contact Lisa 07939 323937 |

**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 via WhatsApp



Rye Food Bank

Cam writes: I will be making the June Food Bank doorstep collection on behalf of the Rye and Winchelsea Rotary Club on Tuesday 16th between 10 am and 1 pm.

For the last six 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

June 2026

- Sun 31st May** **11am: Benefice Eucharist at Icklesham**
No service at Winchelsea
- Saturday 6th Church Market and Garden Society Rose Show - 10.30 till 12
Winchelsea Beach Gardens open for St Michael's Hospice -
10.30am to 4pm
- Sunday 7th** **8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Wednesday 10th Second Wednesday Society - New Hall - 2.30pm
- Thursday 11th Garden Society outing to Fairlight
- Saturday 13th WAAHS Trip to Dover
- Sunday 14th** **9.15am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Friday 19th Literary Society - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Saturday 20th Winchelsea Gardens open for St Michael's Hospice - 10.30am to 4pm
Film Night - New Hall - 6.30 for 7.30pm
- Sunday 21st** **9am: Parish Eucharist at Pett**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Saturday 27th Creative Day at Wesley's Chapel - 10am to 3pm
Centenary Ball - New Hall - 7pm for 7.30
- Sunday 28th** **9.15am: Parish Eucharist at Icklesham**
11am: Parish Eucharist at Winchelsea
- Fri 3rd July Wine Society Vineyard visit
- Sat 4th July Church Market - 10.30 till 12
Winchelsea Arts Concert - St Thomas's - 7.30pm
- Sun 5th July** **8.30am: Holy Communion (BCP) at Pett Level**
11am: Patronal Festival Eucharist at Winchelsea
4pm: Choral Evensong at Winchelsea
Pétanque Challenge Finals - New Inn

Further ahead

- Sat 18th July Winchelsea Open Gardens for National Garden Scheme
- Sun 19th July Winchelsea Open Gardens for Memorial Hospital, Rye
- Weds 22nd July Rude Mechanical Theatre Company
- Sat 15th Aug Winchelsea Summer Fete

Please send copy for the July Magazine
to ryeview@gmail.com
as soon as you have it to hand but, in any case
before Monday 29th June

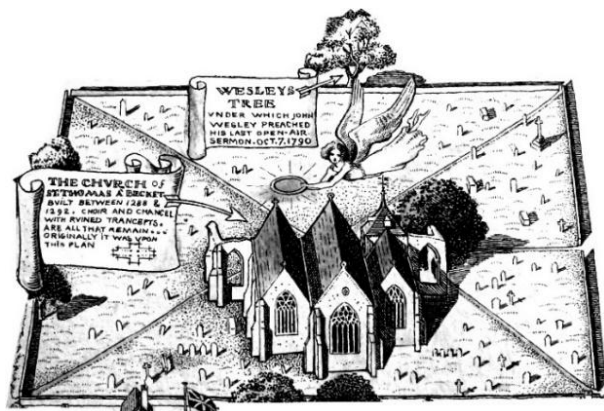


For Winchelsea Beach information go to
winchelseabeach.org.uk

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

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