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Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine April 2023



Thanks to Clare White for the lovely cover picture of s spring lamb.

Please send contributions for the May edition by Friday April 3rd We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

Church Services in April Ashburnham Church - All Services at 10.30am unless otherwise stated

2 April	Morning Worship (Followed by APCM at 11.15am)
9 April	6.45am Early Easter Service
	10.30am Easter Day All Age Communion
16 April	Morning Prayer
23 April	Holy Communion
30 April	Morning Worship

Please see our website and Facebook page for up to date information. A Sunday Club for children 3+ years and activity packs for older children are available. The church is open during the week for private prayer.

Penhurst Church - All services at 10.30am

Services will take place in the church according to Government guidelines

2 April	Passiontide Service	
9 April	Easter Day Communion	
16 April	Holy Communion	
23 April	Morning Prayer	
30 April	Morning Prayer and Baptism	

Ashburnham Chapel

Ashburnham Chapel meet at 6.30pm each Sunday. The service is also on Zoom live for those that cannot attend. Get in touch with Fay Ramsden on 07860 113413 or 01424 830078 or go to the Chapel website www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk for more information. Also see the Chapel News later in this magazine for more details.

Prayer and Pastoral Care for our Villages

Revd Gary Cregeen is responsible for the pastoral care of parishioners, and welcomes the opportunity to meet everyone. If you would value a visit, either for a chat, prayer, or Holy Communion at home, please contact him . Ashburnham Church regularly prays for everyone who lives and works in our villages and we are happy to receive requests for prayer at our various services and meetings. There are also "Prayer Boxes" at St Peter's Church in Ashburnham Place, and outside Ashburnham Chapel at Ponts Green where you can write a card (anonymously if you wish) for a specific issue. These will be offered for prayer on a regular basis and dealt with in the strictest confidence. Ashburnham Church is open daily for private prayer too.



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"Christmas is significant, Easter is decisive."

... so said former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger a few years ago, referring to the seasonlong race to win the Premier League. Currently their results this season mean the Gunners have a good chance of securing the title again this season, but little did Arsene know that his words are also profoundly true for Christians: Christmas is significant, but Easter is decisive. What do I mean?

Well, Christmas is significant because it's when we celebrate that the God who made the world entered that world as a new-born baby and became like you and me. But it's at Easter that we truly see why He did that. Easter is decisive because it's the completion of Jesus' mission.

First off, on Good Friday, we remember that two thousand years ago - and thirty-three years after His birth - Jesus was killed, publicly executed by the Romans on a cross. That in itself isn't particularly decisive - it happened to lots of criminals back then.

But the difference with Jesus' death is that there's more going on than meets the eye. Jesus explained beforehand that His death would be a swap: as He died He was willingly taking upon Himself the divine punishment that each of us deserve for turning our backs on God. What could be more decisive for our lives?

And then, on Easter Sunday, we remember that the first people who visited Jesus' tomb were startled to discover it was actually empty. Jesus had often said He would rise again three days later, but now it was a tangible reality. This might all seem like the stuff of fairy tales, but people even claimed to have seen and spoken to Jesus. One account describes how he appeared to over 500 people at one time.

The thing is, if the Roman or Jewish authorities really wanted to stop all this, the obvious thing to do would be to produce the body and prove everyone wrong. But they didn't because they couldn't. The body was nowhere to be found - despite Roman soldiers guarding the tomb.

I can't see anyone apart from Manchester City having a chance at the title other than Arsenal, but the events of Jesus' death and resurrection mean that Easter can be decisive for each and every one of us. Jesus' outstretched arms demonstrate that the offer is open for us to be on right terms with God - and the empty tomb means that death doesn't have to be the end. What could be more decisive than that?

Wishing you a meaningful and blessed Easter, Revd Gary

PS Why not join me after Easter when I hope to arrange two or three informal meetings to discuss and explore these things further (more details on the May Parish Magazine).

Revd Gary Cregeen Priest-in-Charge of Ashburnham with Penhurst Agmerhurst Granary, Ashburnham. TN33 9NA T: 01424 612324 email: gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk

EASTER AT ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST

You are warmly invited to celebrate Easter at your local church:

MAUNDY THURSDAY 6th April 7.30 pm Holy Communion at Ashburnham Church

GOOD FRIDAY - 7th April 10.30 am - Good Friday Service at Ashburnham Church

EASTER DAY - 9th April 6.45am- Easter Early Morning Walk

from The Prayer Centre (old stables), Ashburnham Place, around the lake and ending at the empty cross on the hill, with readings and short reflections enroute (ends at 7.40 am)

10.30 am	Easter Day Communion at Ashburnham Church
10.30 am	Easter Day Communion at Penhurst Church
6.30 pm	Easter Day Service at Ashburnham Chapel

Ring For The King!

For hundreds of years church bells have rung out, not only to call communities to worship, but also to celebrate special occasions, in remembrance of others and to signify special events. They are part of the soundscape of the UK. In June 2022 we all celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee and the sound of bells rang out across the country. Three months later they rang out with a muffled sound throughout the nation as a mark of respect at her passing in September 2022. Following the announcement of King Charles' Coronation, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has initiated an appeal to recruit more ringers to be trained in time to Ring for the King. For more details visit: www.ringfortheking.org

At St Peter's Parish Church, Ashburnham, we have a peel of six bells, cast over 400 years ago! In February it was great to welcome a team of young bellringers from around the county and a further team of ringers last month. Hearing the bells ring again was a real delight and highlighted how good it would be to have the bells at Ashburnham Church ringing out again on a more regular basis.

Matthew Jones, who was the Tower Captain previously, is no longer able to continue in this role due to launching a new business. We are really grateful to Matthew for heading up the team and tending to the bells over a number years; also to the band of ringers who rang the bells with him previously. Needless to say, we need to recruit a new Tower Captain, as well as at least half a dozen bellringers. Therefore, if you enjoy being involved in a team activity, which stimulates the brain and helps to keep you fit, then maybe bellringing is for you!

In the meantime, thank you to those who have already expressed an interest via the village's Facebook pages, these will be followed up shortly. In the meantime, for those interested in returning as a ringer or joining a team of Ashburnham Church Bellringers and ringing for regular worship services or special occasions please get in touch with Revd Gary. Thank you!





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Revd Gary's Ramble around the Benefice!

During Holy Week I hope to do another 'ramble' around the Benefice of Ashburnham with Penhurst. Effectively the plan is to walk, talk and pray over two days – the walk will be as detailed below; the talk 'bit' will be with whoever I meet along the way; and the pray 'bit' is to seek God's blessing and protection on our local communities at different points on the walk.

The proposed 'schedule' is as follows:

Monday 3 April – 9.30 am Depart Agmerhurst Granary, walking along Kitchenham Road, before bearing right towards Linghams and along Brownbread Street. At Ponts Green I will turn left and head along Herrings Road, turning right into Lakehurst Lane, through The Forge before heading over Camp Hill and home.

Thursday 6 April – 1 pm Depart The Orangery, Ashburnham Place, and head towards The Pound, turning right up Church Road, then right and walking along Penhurst Lane to Steven's Crouch before heading home via Freckley Hollow and Burnt Barns. Being Maundy Thursday I will round off the day with a Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Parish Church, Ashburnham, at 7.30 pm, which is open to anyone who would like to come along.



This isn't a sponsored walk but rather an

opportunity for me to be 'out and about' the Benefice of Ashburnham with Penhurst and to say 'hello' to whoever I meet on the way!

Revd Gary

Rogation Service

Join Revd Gary and the congregation of Ashburnham Church for a

> Rogation Service at Rocks Farm Sunday 7th May 10.30am

Coronation of King Charles

Sunday 7th May A Special Commemorative Service Led by Revd Gary Cregeen 12.30pm outside the Sports Pavilion

Followed by a Parish Picnic and games for all Come and join in, bring your own picnic and let's celebrate together



Village Litter Pick

Thanks to everyone who came to litter pick in March and those who have been collecting litter on regular walks around our lovely village lanes.

We collected 12 bags of litter on the day which means our lanes are briefly clear of cans, bottles, plastics and food wrappers.

Please, if you're driving through the village, take your litter home with you and put it in the bin.







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For information about Church ServicesAshburnham ChurchRevd Gary Cregeen 01424 612324gary@GandJCregeen.co.ukPenhurst ChurchAnthony Ramsey01323 764557Ashburnham ChapelFay Ramsden07860 113413
01424 830078

Battle Area Community Transport

Route B79 Ashburnham to Battle The weekly bus is running again.

The following is from BACT 'Covid hygiene measures will continue, including the requirement to wear face coverings and a 50% reduction in seating capacity. There is no longer a requirement to book seating'.

Depart Battle (Abbey Green) 9.50am The Pound 10am Ash Tree Inn 10.05am Arrive in Battle 10.25am Return at 12.05pm

"105" IS THE NUMBER TO CALL IF YOU GET A POWER CUT

105 is a single helpline service for householders to report power failures or safety concerns, or to get information during a blackout.
 Calls to 105 are free of charge and will put you through to your local electricity network operator. You can call 105 from landlines and most mobile phones.

For **Ashburnham Church** events and information go to www.ashburnhamandpenhurstchurches.org.uk **Ashburnham Chapel Website** www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk For **Village** events and information go to www.ashburnham-penhurst.net



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Parish Council News

The latest organisation to join our band of regular users of the pavilion and sports field are the East Sussex Astronomical Society. But you need to be a night owl if you intend to pop along as a visitor when they are meeting because they will only be meeting irregularly whenever there is a sighting of some celestial activity of note such as a comet. They will let us know a day or two beforehand and are happy for it to be publicised on village web sites and would welcome visitors.



The contract for the maintenance of East Sussex highways goes to a new contractor from 1st April 2023. It will be Balfour Beatty and we, along with other parish councils (and every road user in the county no doubt), look forward to

establishing a good working relationship with them. A number of councils are pressing for details of the new contract to be made available to see if some of the short comings of the old contract have been addressed. One such that we have been assured has been corrected is the constraint preventing repairs of pot holes which, although adjacent to the one flagged for repair, has not been specifically authorised.

The Annual Village Meeting(s) take place in the village hall on Thursday 20th April 2023. Doors open at 7.00 pm with a finger buffet with the business meeting starting soon after 7.30 pm. A number of village organisations have already agreed to have a presence with some kind of display so do come and participate – it's the foundation of local democracy.

At the local elections which take place on Thursday 4th May 2023 you will need to show some ID bearing your photograph so do be ready for that. A wide range of documents are permissible to show as proof of identity. Parish Council elections take place on that day marking the end of the council's four year term of office. Nomination papers can be downloaded from the Rother District Council website. Anyone who needs help either with their ID or a wish to stand for election is welcome to contact the parish clerk.

Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the CouncilEmail: clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.netLand line: 01323 832082 with answering machineMobile and Text: 07836 716723If leaving telephone voice messages be sure to leave your name and a call back number.

Council meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of alternate months except that the next one will be a week earlier on 17th May 2023. Tthe Planning Committee (if required) meets on the fourth Wednesday of intervening months. A list of councillors' lead responsibilities can be seen on the village website at www.ashburnham-penhurst.net

All meetings are in public and members of the public are encouraged to attend. There is an agenda slot near the start of the meeting for members of the public to address the Council. The agenda is published online at the village website three clear days before the meeting and hard copy is posted on the notice board at The Chapel. Minutes of meetings are published on the village website.

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Village Events and Groups

Pub Quiz

Tuesday April 4th 7.30pm for prompt 7.45pm start

> Meal available **Booking is essential** 01424 892104

MI

MI will be meeting at the Ash Tree Inn, on Tuesday 11th April at 7.45pm /8pm, do join us for a drink!

contact Clive for more details cliveclive@live.co.uk

Book Group Our April gathering will be on Friday 28th April at Eefie's House, Wheelwright's Cottage, Kitchenham Road. TN33 9LR 2pm-4pm. We look forward to seeing you then.



The Art Group

The Art Group are happy to be able

to invite any fellow artists to join us

on Thursdays, from 10a.m to 1p.m

at Ashburnham cricket pavilion.

We are a friendly group of mixed

ability and expertise. We support

each other and have the

occasional professional mentor to

keep us on the right track.

For more information ring Barbara

Cornish, 01424 435198.

Table Tennis Club

Meets on Wednesdays at 7.45pm in the Village Hall

Call Janet on 01424 892311

for more information

We will be chatting about the books we have enjoyed since the last time we met: sharing, swapping, lending and recommending. It doesn't matter if you haven't read much for a while - it will be lovely to see you anyway and perhaps we'll inspire you. We're very much looking forward to seeing you. Contact Nicky on 07799 6917070r <u>nickyatstreetcottage@gmail.com</u> for more info.



ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST WI

We meet 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm in the Sports Pavilion.

Our next get together is on

Monday 17th April

Hope to see you there



Village Walking Group

Sunday 2nd April starting at 2.30pm Meeting at the Village Hall Car Park and walking around Reed Wood to enjoy the wonderful wildflowers. Returning to the hall for refreshments.

More details from Tina French 01424 892580 j.french678@btinternet.com

Laura Brett, the Filling Station Evangelist Consultant, will be with us on 17th April, the week after Easter (a week later than our usual meeting date). She will share the good news of the Risen Lord, and powerful testimony of His work in her life. This gathering will be sensitive to those who do not know the gospel and have not yet met Jesus. Please think about who you could invite. It might be family, friends, work colleagues or neighbours. Postcard size invitations are available in the Orangery or contact Catherine on 07801 634034 We will be meeting in the Great Hall with refreshments served from 7pm. We look forward to welcoming you on the 17th April. We are a small family run business based in East Sussex with 18 plus years of experience. We are passionate about providing a personal service where you are always in control.

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ASHBURNHAM ORANGERY	
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Starting at 10.30am	2nd & 4th Friday of the month
	at 2 p.m. in the village hall.
The cost is £25 including a guided walk around the gardens and	
grounds followed by refreshments. Get in touch with reception to book and find out more of the	Come along and give it a go!
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	No experience needed
The Orangery Pop Up is currently open 10.30-4pm Tuesday -	Open to all - Ladies & gents
Friday for more information and details of the Tea Room	
re-opening see our Facebook or Instagram pages.	No equipment needed, just soft soled flat shoes
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www.penhurst.org.uk	
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info@penhurst.org.uk	The
Each month we want to highlight some of our upcoming retreats and in May	Coffee Stop
we have the second in a series of four quiet days exploring Ignatian	Next Coffee Stop is
Spirituality in our everyday lives.	
Ignatian spirituality is not only about discovering yourself and responding to	Friday 7th April 2023
the call of Christ in your life; it is also discovering FOR yourself. It is about	
finding our connections between the Gospel stories and our own stories, and perhaps sharing these with each other. This retreat will allow us to walk	Drop in anytime between
with Ignatius of Loyola and find at each step of the road that there are	10.30 a.m 12 p.m.
hidden surprises. The guiet day takes place on Monday 22nd May and costs	for a cup of coffee and chat.
£40 for the day including a home cooked lunch. It will be led by Rev Peter Doodes and Fiona Bower.	Held in the Pavilion
	All ages and interests welcome.
Go to our website or ring the office for more information or to book a place.	Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Do look at our full programme online or call in to pick up a paper copy.

From the Penhurst Team.

Murmurations – Donna Christman

I love writing and I love reading. I enjoy reading the Parish magazine each month and have long planned to offer a little of what I have accumulated through my experiences over the years. Now with an approaching deadline I'm sitting down and actually doing it. Inner plan - wait until the last minute.

So, sitting here, my first thought - a title along the lines of 'Ron's Ramblings' (and last month he really made me laugh) but with no immediate inspiration the word 'murmurations' then popped into my head - a mingle of my mumblings and murmurings with the more up-lifting image of swooping and synchronised starlings fitted my 'Wellbeing in Nature' theme nicely.

My monthly murmurations will include gentle, inspiring and powerful little health and wellbeing nuggets that, when included in our busy routine of work and family care, blend synergistically to create a more present and harmonious flow of daily life; I'll offer a back pocket of strategies for calmness amidst the noise that is often all around us - and sometimes in our own heads - our mind chatter!

Starlings symbolise community, communication and connection due to their breath-taking murmurations. In addition, their incredible ability to mimic noises and even human speech, makes them symbols of the transference of wisdom and knowledge. However starlings are also spiritual symbols of intuition and change, a reminder for us to embrace changes in our lives or to follow our instincts. Starlings were present in Rome in large numbers and the Romans interpreted these murmurations to tell them whether the gods were pleased - or not. This form of divination was very important in Roman politics! And the Scottish village of Gretna Green, welcoming lovers into a haven where they could marry, had one of the biggest flocks of starlings in the Celtic nations wheeling overhead. In this respect, starlings symbolise freedom, love, and individuality.

Finally, Mozart is known for his love of birds but did you know he kept a starling as a pet? It is said that one day he was visiting a pet shop when a starling sang one of the composer's not-yet-released melodies to him. Enamoured, Mozart immediately brought the bird home. It is likely that Mozart either lifted the melody from the bird, or that he taught the bird the song later, but this story, or myth, has remained for over 100 years.

The nightingale will be gracing us with its beautiful and complex song in April and beyond; I would love to share this experience with those booking onto any of my monthly meditation walks, starting this month. Contact me for details or check the Facebook community page.

Donna Christman 07968 293976



Ashburnham Estate Properties to rent

From time to time properties become available to rent on the Ashburnham Estate. If you would like to be contacted when something becomes available, without any obligation, please do let us know. Contact the Land Agent, Florence Wolfe on 01273 407012, Mobile 07458 117431 or email: Florence.Wolfe@struttandparker.com for this and any other Ashburnham Estate matters.

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Garden and Nature Notes

I wonder how many of you have been watching the latest series hosted by David Attenborough on BBC1 on Sunday evenings? Instead of bringing us amazing sights from around the world he and the team have focussed their attention on the countryside around us here in the UK. The series, entitled Wild Isles (definitely worth catching up with on iplayer if you haven't seen it) looked at the so called world wood web in episode 2 - the incredible underground communication network of mycelium and roots that trees and plants use to communicate under the soil.

We are so privileged to live somewhere where most of us can step outside or look out of our windows and see trees, hedgerows and wildflowers, hear birdsong and experience some of the stars of Wild Isles on our doorsteps! I'm sure, like me, however much you already know there is always more to learn and discover. One of the things I love about getting outside is stopping to notice something that I have probably walked past many times and taking time to really look at it and record it so that I can research it when I get home. These days most of us have great cameras and notebooks in our pockets in the shape of our mobile phones, making it easier to make detailed records as we go along. We can record where we are using apps such as what3words which make it possible to share finds with others and there are apps that help id birds and plants as well as easy access to specialist groups such as the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland bsbi.org via websites. I also find helpful groups on Facebook and Twitter full of experts in their field who willingly help with identification. A colleague and I recently found a bright purple mushroom at Ashburnham Place and after some research weren't sure what we had, we posted a picture and description in the facebook page run by the British Mycological Society where a debate ensued before agreement was reached that we'd found Wood Blewitt. It was great to have such advice to hand.

April in the garden is when a lot of our herbaceous perennials really start emerging and growing strongly and those of us with inside growing space make the most of the protection to bring seedlings on so we have sturdy annuals ready to plant out in May, once the risk of frost has passed. Everything grows this month, including the weeds, I will rarely be seen in the garden without a hoe in my hand, ready to get rid of weeds before they have a chance to get too established. I'm sure by the early summer I will feel I'm losing the war, as ever, but it's good to try and make a positive start at least.

Chapel News

We had a very enjoyable lunch of "Soup&Cakes" at the beginning of March in the Sports Pavilion. Sadly as per usual I forgot to take any photographs. Rhod Jones who many of you know in the village gave a very interesting talk.

Don't forget on Good Friday the Chapel will join with St. Peter's for their Service, we take it in turns to host this Service. It will be at 10-30 am led by Revd. Gary Cregeen.

Revd. Robert Lovatt will be taking our Easter Day Service and of course it will be live on Zoom as usual. Robert comes all the way from Angmering to lead our Services.

I am sure you will agree with me that it is lovely to have light evenings and of course as we move through to the 21st June our evenings will get longer and lighter. Let us hope that we have the lovely sunny days that we had in 2022, maybe a little more rain.

The Very Revd. Lee Duckett the Dean of Battle will be leading our Healing Service at 6-30 pm on the 21st May so please do make a note in your diaries to join us on this occasion. Our Lord still heals today and many people who have received prayer at these Healing Services have been healed. Not always in the way that they expected because we sometimes ask for the wrong healing. But Our Lord knows best and He always hears and answers our prayers.

I myself have seen answers to my prayers over the past months of this year. It has been amazing to see everything fall into place at exactly the right time. Sometimes I have been tempted to move forward quicker than The Lord intended but I have kept reminding myself that everything happens 'in His timing' and sure enough at exactly the right time the next piece of the 'jigsaw' has fitted in exactly. There is still a long way to go before every piece is in its place but I am totally confident that everything will happen at exactly the right time. I am keeping a log of the Lord's leading and one day I will share this journey with you all. In the meantime, I urge you to pray for anything that worries you, in the knowledge that God will hear you and answer you in His time and in His way.

I wish you all a very Happy Easter!

April Diary

Sat 1	-		
Sun 2	10.30am 10.30am 2.30pm 6.30pm	Morning Worship followed by APCM Passiontide Service Village Walk Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Village Hall Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 3			
Tue 4	7.30pm	Pub Quiz	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 5	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 6	10am - 1pm 7.30pm	Art Club Maundy ThursdayHoly Communion	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Church
Fri 7 Good Friday	10.30am 10.30-12pm	Good Friday Service Coffee Stop	Ashburnham Church Sports Pavilion
Sat 8			
Sun 9 Easter Day	6.45am 10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Early Easter Service Holy Communion Easter Day Communion Easter Day Service	Ashburnham Place Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 10			
Tue 11	8pm	MI	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 12	10am 7.45pm	Nature Walk meet outside Orangery Table Tennis	Ashburnham Place Village Hall
Thu 13	10am - 1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 14	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 15			
Sun 16	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel

Mon 17	2pm 7pm	WI The Filling Station	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Place
Tue 18	7.30pm	Ashburnham Church Prayer Hour	Ashburnham Church
Wed 19	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 20	10am-1pm 7pm	Art Club Annual Village Meeting	Sports Pavilion Village Hall
Fri 21			
Sat 22			
Sun 23	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 24			
Tue 25			
Wed 26	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 27			
Fri 28	2pm 2pm-4pm	Short Mat Bowls Book Group	Village Hall Wheelwright's Cottage
Sat 29			
Sun 30	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer and Baptism Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Cha

For up to date information, news items and details of village clubs, groups and events go to our Village Website www.ashburnham-penhurst.net

Ashburnham Arts

After last year's successful event we are pleased to announce that there will be a second event on Saturday 21st October. If you are interested in exhibiting, please get in touch with Ron -<u>ronald.king3@btinternet.com</u>