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## Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine December 2023 and January 2024



## Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Photo of a Pheasant on Ashburnham Church Wall by Jay Ashworth  
Please send contributions for the February edition by Friday 5th January  
We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

## Church Services in December and January at Ashburnham and Penhurst Churches

3 December	9.15am	Advent Carols at Penhurst
	11am	Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
10 December	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst
	11am	Morning Worship at Ashburnham
17 December	11am	Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
	6pm	Carols by Candlelight at Penhurst
24 December	9.15am	Carols and Communion (BCP) at Penhurst
Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols Around the Crib at Ashburnham Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity
25 December	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship at Ashburnham
Christmas Day		Followed by shortened Holy Communion at 11.20
31 December	10.30am	United End of Year Service at Penhurst
7 January	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst
	11am	Morning Worship at Ashburnham
14 January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP) at Penhurst
	11am	Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
21 January	9.15am	Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst
	11am	Morning Prayer (CW) at Ashburnham
28 January	9.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP) at Penhurst
	11am	Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham

All these services are open to everyone. Refreshments served afterwards

### 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](http://www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk) for more information. Also see the Chapel News later in this magazine for more details.



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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](mailto:Florence.Wolfe@struttandparker.com)  
for this and any other  
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### Jesus is the Reason For the Season!

December marks an important anniversary in the history of aviation! It was in December 1903, after many attempts, that the Wright brothers were successful in getting their 'flying machine' off the ground! Thrilled by their achievement they telegraphed a message to their sister, Katherine, which read: "We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas".

Katherine, excited by her brothers' achievement, hurried to the editor of the local newspaper. He glanced at the telegram and said, "How nice. The boys will be home for Christmas'. He had totally missed the point, the BIG news - that man had actually flown.

Often, we can make the same mistake when we hear the word CHRISTMAS. We don't think of Jesus and His miraculous birth. Instead, we think of hectic shopping sprees, parties at school and at work, family gatherings, festive meals, decorations and gifts! For many, Christmas brings nostalgia and memories of childhood! Now all this celebration isn't wrong, but if that's all Christmas means to us, we are missing its true significance - summed up in the words of the angel to the shepherds on that night long ago, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to you and to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord". That's the BIG news of Christmas!

During the next few weeks, whether carolling around the village or in The Ash, or at our church services, we will be recalling the momentous events of Jesus' birth. What a contrast between the circumstances surrounding the royal child born long ago in a Bethlehem stable, to what we would expect of a royal birth today. Jesus' parents had no plush accommodation booked at the Jerusalem Hilton or a lavish maternity suite. No crowds of reporters competed to be the first to break the news that the Son of God had been born, and Israel had prepared no national festivities in His honour. When God's Son came, He was born into a lowly peasant family, amidst the stench of a dirty stable, in a tiny remote corner of the Roman empire! Even so, He was indeed a Royal child, who has been known and is known by millions around the world as both Lord and Saviour! In Saint Luke's account of Jesus' birth, we read: "and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in clothes and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn". Might we find room for Jesus this Christmas?



In the ornamental gardens at Ashburnham Place we have a small but growing team of local volunteers who help Jay with the regular tasks of weeding, pruning, seed sowing, planting, propagation and developing new areas of interest. We have fun and learn new skills

If you would like to chat about joining the team, get in touch with Jay  
ashworthjay1@gmail.com

**Bexhill foodbank**  
Battle Branch

The food bank is open -  
Wednesday 1-3pm  
Come & enjoy a cuppa, a chat and get what you need.

If you're struggling to buy food, we can help you with -

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- Cleaning supplies
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- Meal Vouchers
- Signposting/ Advice from our CAB Advisor

Upper Church Hall, St Mary's Church, Upper Lake, Battle. TN33 0AN

Go into the church car park & walk to the end on the higher ground, through the gate & across the metal bridge into the hall

You can request a voucher from schools, churches, NHS/social workers, your doctor or call the CAB on 01424 869352 & leave your name, number & say you'd like a food voucher. They will prioritise you & call you back. Call at least 2 days before you want to visit.

info@bexhill.foodbank.org.uk // 07866 570468

As I write this article the conflict in Israel and Gaza, still rages. The intricate tapestry of this longstanding conflict is very complex and, it seems to me, that the message of the angels needs to be heard, received, and embraced now more than ever. 2700 or so years ago the nation of Israel was in a dark place – life was tough, and the future was bleak: many people were overtaken by despair and uncertainty. Yet, amid such darkness God’s message of hope rang out, as recorded in the following Bible passage, often read at this time of year: ‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’. These words of Isaiah, who was a prophet, speak of the coming of Christ, the Light that was to shine in a world in need of help, hope, and comfort. Why not visit your local church this Christmas and join us as we celebrate His coming; it would be lovely to see you. In the meantime, may I wish you God’s richest blessing this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

*God bless, Revd Gary*

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

### A date for your diary

#### Plough Sunday Service

Sunday 4th February at 11am  
at Ashburnham Village Hall

Please bring an item symbolising seeds, plant growth, gardening or farming, to be blessed during the service.

Followed by a home made lunch.  
In aid of two rural charities, RABI and FCN



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## Christmas Services and Events

Sunday 3 December  
6.30pm Chapel Carol Service

Friday 15 December  
6pm Carol Singing Around the Village  
Meet outside the Chapel

Sunday 17 December  
6pm Carols by Candlelight  
at Penhurst Church

Monday 18 December  
Carols in the Pub at the Ash Tree Inn  
7pm, Carol Singing from 8pm



Sunday 24 December - Christmas Eve  
9.15 am Carols and Communion (BCP) at Penhurst Church  
4pm Carols Around the Crib at Ashburnham Church  
Children are invited to come dressed as a character  
from the Nativity

Monday 25 December - Christmas Day  
10.30am Christmas Day Family Worship at  
Ashburnham Church





## Carol Singing Around the Village

Friday 15th December

Wrap up warmly! Bring a torch! And it's a good idea to wear boots/shoes that are easily removable if we go into people's houses.

Our route this year will take us around the centre of Ashburnham: from Pontoons Green along Brown Bread Street to Mansfield Cross, then down the hill past Linghams to the Pound, then up and along Church Lane and eventually back to the chapel. If people along the route would like to offer refreshments to the carol singers, we will be immensely grateful and will sing extra loudly for you. We will sing at all homes along the route, but if you would prefer us not to call on you, please let Nicky know on 07799 691707.

Registered Charity No 20885 **RABI** helping farming people

### Christmas Carol Evening

Friday 8th December 2023

Hailsham Market, Market Street, Hailsham BN27 2AG

7pm – Mulled Wine and mince pies on arrival

£7 per ticket. 16 and under Free.

For tickets and information contact:

Gill Hesselgrave 01323 844613 [stonehouse@hessel.force9.co.uk](mailto:stonehouse@hessel.force9.co.uk)

Gillian van der Meer 01323 832578 [gillian.vdmeer@btinternet.com](mailto:gillian.vdmeer@btinternet.com)

### P.A.N.T.S.

We are working on a radio play to be performed sometime in February, to keep us cheerful during the long winters nights! A two-course meal, and an invitation to bring your friends and watch the scenes unfold.

Contact: 07970 624966



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fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com

Registered charity number 288462



stmichaelsospice.com

### Parish Magazine Contact Details

To advertise phone Fay on 07860 113413  
or email oframdsen@hotmail.co.uk

If you have a question about delivery or  
to submit articles or village notices

contact Jay Ashworth on  
01424 532972 / 07876 484945 or  
email [ashworthjay1@gmail.com](mailto:ashworthjay1@gmail.com)

### For information about Church Services Ashburnham and Penhurst Churches

Revd Gary Cregeen 01424 612324  
[gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk](mailto:gary@GandJCregeen.co.uk)

#### Ashburnham Chapel

Fay Ramsden 07860 113413  
01424 830078

### Battle Area Community Transport

Route B79 Ashburnham to Battle  
The weekly bus is running again.  
Depart Battle (Abbey Green) 9.50am  
The Pound 10am  
Ash Tree Inn 10.05am  
Arrive in Battle 10.25am  
Return at 12.05pm

### Flexibus

FlexiBus runs 7am to 7pm, Monday to  
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### "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.

### Ashburnham Church Hall

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## Parish Council News

The only clue the players are given at the start of the Twenty Questions parlour game is to be told that the 'something' they have to guess is either animal, vegetable, mineral or abstract. The abstract ones are always tricky. What is the parish council or the parochial church council or a board of trustees? All of these are, strictly speaking, abstract, but they are very real in another sense as they are legal entities meaning that they are able to enter into legal contracts.



Sometimes it's not obvious how you would title the people who meet together to conduct the business of the entity. The easy ones are councils who have councillors. Trustees, however, are not always so simple. Often there is a Deed of Trust and the members are listed individually as trustees. If the Trust is a registered charity you can look up the trustees on the Charity Commission website.

Ashburnham and Penhurst Village Hall is a registered charity (No.305160) but, since November 2022, if you look it up on the Charity Commission website you will see only one trustee, "Parish Council of Ashburnham with Penhurst". The Parish Council is still settling into its new role as Sole Managing Trustee which it must keep separate and at arms length from the Parish Council. Councillors met in November in this new role for the second time. They have the advantage over the former trustees (the Village Hall Management Committee) in that in their other role as Parish Councillors they have legal powers regarding the provision and support for village halls. It provides an opportunity to provide the village hall with a little more certainty over its financial future which has looked increasingly unsustainable over the past ten years.

Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council Email: [clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net](mailto:clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net)  
Land line: 01323 832082 with answering machine Mobile and Text: 07836 716723  
If 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 and the next one will be on Wednesday 24th January 2024. The 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](http://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.

### Reporting Road Problems

Don't forget to report issues including poor visibility at junctions, pot holes and fly tipping directly to Rother via [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com) it's very straightforward and the more of us that do it the more attention will be paid!



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magazine does not  
constitute a  
recommendation.  
Readers are advised to  
make their own enquiries to  
ensure good service.**

## Village Events and Groups

### Pub Quiz

Tuesday December 5th  
9th January  
(note this is the 2nd Tuesday  
of the month)  
7.15pm for prompt  
7.30pm start

Meal available  
**Booking is essential**  
01424 892104



ASHBURNHAM &  
PENHURST WI

Our next meeting on  
**Monday 18th December at 2pm**  
in the Sports Pavilion  
will be full of festive cheer and fun offering an  
enjoyable pause in the hectic run up to Christmas.

Or join us in the new year on  
**Monday 15th January**

For more information call Katie on 07920 092072

### SHORT MAT BOWLS

Afternoon meeting starting at 2 p.m.  
every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month  
in the village hall.

**We now have two mats  
playing every session!**

Call John on 01424 892618 or  
Martin on 01323 832482 for more details

**No experience or equipment needed,  
just soft soled flat shoes**

### MI

MI will be meeting at the Ash  
Tree Inn, on Tuesday  
12th December  
January meeting - MI will field  
a team at the Pub Quiz!  
at 7.45pm /8pm,  
do join us for a drink!

contact Clive for more details  
[cliveclive@live.co.uk](mailto:cliveclive@live.co.uk)

### Table Tennis Club

Meets on Wednesdays at  
7.45pm in the Village Hall  
Call Zoe on 07788 654138  
for more information

### 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.

## The Coffee Stop

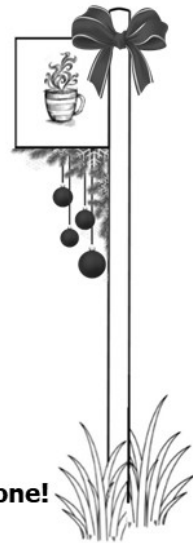
Next Coffee Stop is

**Friday 1st December  
& Friday 5th January**

Drop in anytime between  
10.30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
for a cup of coffee and chat.  
held in the Pavilion  
All ages and interests welcome.

**Looking forward to seeing everyone!**

For further details please call Paula on 01323 832482



## Village Walking Group



Start the year as you mean to go on! A New Year's Day Walk, Starting from the Ash Tree Inn. Start time 12:30, finishing back at the Ash at around 3pm, followed by warming drinks at the Ash.

It will be muddy, so bring suitable footwear!  
The Ash will be serving food until 4pm on New Year's Day,; booking a table is advised if you want a meal after the walk.

More details from Tina French 01424 892580 [j.french678@btinternet.com](mailto:j.french678@btinternet.com)

**On Monday 11th December** the Speaker at the Ashburnham Filling Station is Glen Scrivener, the Director of 'Speak Life', have a look at the website. Glen is an evangelist and is passionate that people come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. The meeting will be informal with carols, mulled wine and mince pies. It's an opportunity to invite non Christian friends, family, work colleagues to hear 'Why Christmas?'. We meet in the Great Hall at 7pm. All welcome.

No meeting in January. For more information please contact Catherine on 07801 634034 or [catherine@duggleby.com](mailto:catherine@duggleby.com)



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We are currently open:  
**Tuesday – Sunday: 10.30am-4.00pm. Monday: Closed**  
(Kitchen closes at 3.30pm for Soup, Sandwiches and Paninis)

We have a Festive Afternoon Tea Menu available during December. To book or get a copy of the menu please contact the number below.

If you are planning to visit here are dates we will be closed during 2023:

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (reopen Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan)

Further news and information can be found on our Facebook or Instagram page.  
For Enquiries (via Reception) – 01424 894201 / [bookings@ashburnham.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ashburnham.org.uk)

**Thank you for your custom during 2023**

[www.penhurst.org.uk](http://www.penhurst.org.uk)  
01424 892088  
[info@penhurst.org.uk](mailto:info@penhurst.org.uk)



We have an exciting programme of retreats and quiet days planned for next year which will be available on our website very soon so do have a look and see if there is something which appeals to you. There is still time to book on our Advent Quiet Days running from 11th - 14th December and led by members of the Penhurst team. These days offer the chance to step aside from all the preparations for Christmas and enjoy a day in the beautiful surroundings of the retreat, enjoying delicious food and discussions on the given theme. Go to our website for more information or give us a ring in the office.

For many of you the voice you will have heard when ringing the office will have been Linda's, she has worked at Penhurst for 18 years, taking bookings, looking after finances and many other things. She retired at the end of November and we sent her off with a meal at the Ash for staff and volunteers she has worked alongside. She will be sorely missed but we wish her well in her retirement.

The whole team at Penhurst wishes you a happy Christmas and a peace filled and joyful New Year.

## **A message to the villagers of Ashburnham and Penhurst from Nicky Bishop.**

Many of you will have seen the sign outside Street Cottage change from 'For Sale' to 'Sold' quite a few times in the last year or so. I eventually left the village on 12th October and am now living in Battle. But you know how it is: while the address might change, nobody ever fully leaves the extraordinary community that we have here in Ashburnham and Penhurst, so I'm looking forward to meeting up with village friends and I'll continue to be involved with the village carols tour (see you there, I hope!), the pub quiz, village walks and much more.

I lived in Ashburnham for nearly 16 years (and in Street Cottage for 15 of those years), which is the longest time I've ever lived in one place. I'm sure that's partly down to me being so very happy and feeling so settled in the village and the community. I have always felt welcomed by everyone I met and always felt that I was playing a part of the life of this special place.

Highlights include: being a dragon in a PANTS production, being on the Parish Council including quite a few years as Chair, writing and performing the Village Song, helping to organise the referendum on the new village hall, writing and performing in a sketch for the Good Old Days show, running the book stall at the summer fair, reviving the carol singing tour after a hiatus and trying to make sure we get around the whole of our wide-spread parish once every 6 years, setting (and answering) questions at the Pub Quiz, running the Book Group, teaching some of your children, and more recently helping to start the Village Walking Group.

There are far too many of you to thank individually (and anyway there isn't space in this magazine for such a long list), so I just want to say a big "thank you" to all of the folk of Ashburnham and Penhurst for helping to make my time in the village so very very enjoyable.

If you'd like to get in touch, I'm not far way. My number is 07799 691707 and my email address is (still!) [nickyatstreetcottage@gmail.com](mailto:nickyatstreetcottage@gmail.com). I'd love to hear from you.

Nicky x

## Murmurations

Time is precious. One blink and it's that time again - to don our woollies, pop on our wellies and clamber aboard one of the festive tractor and trailers to (sweetly) belt-out carols around the village; the exchange for serenading our hosts being warmed, spicy wine and assorted treats. Last year we were blessed to have a clear, starry sky and several inches of snow, (the snowiest Christmas I can remember). We were likely mistaken for The Vicar of Dibley cast on location as, in the moonlight, we filed down the ramps of the sheep trailers and skidded and scooped into various gardens. We could see where we were heading but mostly drifted off course, all the while humming Paul Simon's hit: "You know the nearer your destination, the more you're slip slidin' away..."

With a selection of carol evenings under my expanding belt I was satisfied by Boxing Day that my year had been well-wrapped up; memories spread around me like the best bargains had in the last hour of the Ninfield jumble sale. If we have time to stand still we might ask, what is time? How is it that days, weeks or even months pass by while we are seemingly in auto-pilot, and how does time seemingly speed up with age? Based on the simple physical and biological principles of neural signal processing, the rate at which we process visual information slows down over time, and this can maybe explain why time 'speeds up' as we grow older. As we age, the size and complexity of the networks of neurons in our brains increases and so electrical signals must travel greater distances and signal processing takes more time. In addition, ageing causes our nerves to be more resistant to the flow of electric signals, even further slowing processing time; all in all this results in us perceiving fewer 'frames-per-second' and so more actual time passes between the perception of each new mental image. Some years ago, acutely aware of this 'life's speeding up' feeling, and busy in a cycle of early mornings and late work evenings, I began to carve out new experiences within my daily routine: now, whenever I food shop I bring home something entirely new (sometimes entirely odd) to cook and eat; when driving along a familiar road, I take a random turn to explore a road or lane never taken. I love these routes – one of them is called The Smallest Road in the World, in our family anyway – and kids and husband invariably duck, cover their eyes and adopt a brace position when I veer left onto it. My gift: an almost off-road experience (on account of the permanent pot holes); their gift to me: cultivating the art of appreciation! At this, and every time of the year, we can offer the gift of time. More presence than presents means more than anything. Time is precious.

Donna -Christman



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## Garden and Nature Notes

As we hunker down and spend more time indoors with shorter days and uninviting weather I thought it might be a good opportunity to mention a few books that I have enjoyed reading over the last year.

Some books are laid out in seasons or months and these can be wonderful to dip into to remind us what we can be looking out for in the natural world at particular times and inspire us to get outside. One that I love is 'The Wild Remedy' by Emma Mitchell, subtitled 'How Nature Mends Us - A Diary'. She writes beautifully about nature and honestly about her mental health struggles and the ways in which nature helps her.

Another collection of seasonal writings I have been introduced to this year is 'Next to Nature' by Ronald Blythe. He spent fifty years living in a remote farmhouse and recording his observations of the changing seasons around him as well as reflection on the rhythm of church and rural life.

Last Christmas I was given 'The Creative Gardener' by Adam Frost which is full of great ideas for projects large and small in the garden. Everything from making a brick edged fire pit to planting combinations for seasonal containers. It's written in the practical and friendly style anyone who watches Adam on Gardener's World will be familiar with and is packed with inspiring photos.

A great book for history lovers is "The Story of the English Garden' by Ambra Edwards. A beautifully illustrated and readable guide to the development of gardens through history. It's a must-read for anyone who enjoys visiting historic gardens as it will help you understand the different design aspects what they tell you about the history of gardens and landscapes.

One book I am looking forward to reading is 'An Almost Impossible Thing' by Fiona Davison. The author follows the lives and careers of six women gardeners in the years before the First World War. The title comes from a reply from a retired director of Kew Gardens in 1906 to a woman enquiring about careers for women in horticulture, he wrote 'Gardening taken up as a hobby when all the laborious work can be done by a man is delightful, but as a life's work (for a woman) it is an almost impossible thing'. I know myself and several female readers of this magazine who make their living in horticulture would respectfully disagree!

Jay Ashworth



## Chapel News for December and January

Just to remind you that our Carol Service is 3rd December at 6-30 pm – it will also be live on Zoom. The Offering will be going to the local Air Ambulance Service. Following on from last month’s suggested bible readings on the predictions in the bible of Our Lord’s birth, I now I urge you to read Isaiah 26 v 19, 1 Corinthians 15 v 12 – 24, 1 Corinthians 15 v 52 in which we are told that the dead will rise, Isaiah 65 v 17, and Revelation 21 v 1 which say there will be a new Heaven and Earth. There are lots of places in Revelation which tell us what will happen before Jesus’s return, but Revelation is a complicated Book and I would suggest that if you are interested in learning more about the ‘return of Jesus’ we get together and study this in more detail.

As Christians it is our duty to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to learn about the return of Jesus and what will happen to anyone who has not accepted Him as their Lord and Saviour. Many of you will have learnt about the ‘Great Flood’ and how Noah built an ark and that the people of Noah’s time laughed at him and didn’t believe that God was going to flood the earth, but it happened. Don’t laugh at Christians who tell you that Jesus will return and take to be with him those that have accepted Him as their Lord and Saviour and that those who haven’t will perish just as they did when the earth was flooded. The Bible is written by Prophets under the direction of God Himself and he has warned us!

I do hope you will all enjoy the festive period and see family and friends. January 2024 - it only seems like yesterday that we were getting ready to welcome in the year 2000 How many of you remember how there were rumours going round that the computers were going to crash and all sorts of weird and wonderful things were going to happen. Of course they didn’t because they were ‘man made prophecies’ but be certain that things spoken of in the bible are from God and they will happen just as we are told!

All of us at the Chapel are praying that you will come and join us for a Service sometime during 2024. Where better to learn more about Jesus? You will be very welcome and can even sample a slice of the ‘Chapel Cake’ which we enjoy every Sunday after the Service.

May Our Lord Bless you with good health and happiness in 2024!

Fay

Mon 15	2pm	WI	Sports Pavilion
Tue 16	7pm	Prayer Hour	Via Zoom
Wed 17	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 18	9am - 1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 19			
Sat 20			
Sun 21	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (CW) Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 22	7pm	Ashburnham Parochial Church Council	Church Hall
Tue 23			
Wed 24	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 25	9am - 1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 26	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 27			
Sun 28	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion (CW) Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 29			
Tue 30			
Wed 31	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall

For **Ashburnham Church** events and information go to

[www.ashburnhamandpenhurstchurches.org.uk](http://www.ashburnhamandpenhurstchurches.org.uk)

**Ashburnham Chapel Website**

[www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk](http://www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk)

For **Village** events and information go to

[www.ashburnham-penhurst.net](http://www.ashburnham-penhurst.net)

## January Diary

Mon 1	12.30pm	New Year's Day Village Walk	Ash Tree Inn
Tue 2		please note, pub quiz is on Tue 9	
Wed 3	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 4	10am - 1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 5	10.30am- 12pm	Coffee Stop	Sports Pavilion
Sat 6			
Sun 7	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship at Ashburnham Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 8			
Tue 9	7.15am	Pub Quiz No MI this month	Ash Tree inn
Wed 10	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 11	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 12	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 13			
Sun 14	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion (CW) Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Chapel

## Ron's Ramblings.

Mrs K. and I were recently invited to the Czech embassy in London to view a documentary produced by an old friend. The film was about one of the show trials by the Soviet regime in Czechoslovakia in the early fifties when twelve of the leaders were executed supposedly for treason. The crimes were never explained and many years later they were all posthumously pardoned. The film was not a barrel of laughs, it has to be noted. Featured in the film was the son of one of those executed who was four years old at the time and happened to be at the embassy showing. He explained to us that his mission had been to get to the truth and to have all the papers relating to the trial released. This he eventually managed after many years but it brought home to us how lucky we are to live in a democracy such as ours despite it's many faults.

We first came across Eva, our friend, when she was in England and filming a feature on Ley lines for Czech TV. They were looking for somewhere spooky and dark to film so somebody suggested our basement scullery in Lewisham. It certainly fitted the bill. A chap named Alfred Watkins came up with the idea in the 1920s that there are imaginary straight lines linking ancient sites across Britain and that they hold certain powers. Others have interpreted them as guidelines to visiting intergalactic beings. The last bit is a bit far fetched. Never did I see little green men in our scullery. Well, maybe once. In the early hours of a New Years Day after one too many Tizers.




I must give a huge thanks to those of you who bothered to visit Ashburnham Arts last month. Attendance was doubled over last year and we had a much larger spread of artworks. Mostly by local people. And, of course, I cannot finish without a big vote of thanks to all those who helped put on the show, Jay, Eefie, Gill, Carol, Jane, Mrs K and John Shaw. I believe over £400 was raised to go towards the upkeep of the hall. Thank you so much.

Seasons Greetings to one and all and thank you for reading my rubbish over the past year.  
Ron.

## December Diary

Fri 1	10.30am-12pm	Coffee Stop	Sports Pavilion
Sat 2	9am-2pm	Festive Farmers and Makers Market	Ashburnham Place
Sun 3	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Advent Carols Holy Communion (CW) Carol Service	 Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 4			
Tue 5	7.15pm	Pub Quiz	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 6	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Walk
Thu 7	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 8	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 9			
Sun 10	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Worship Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 11	7pm	The Filling Station	Ashburnham Place
Tue 12	8pm	MI	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 13	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 14	10am- 1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 15	 6pm	Carol Singing around the Village	Ashburnham Chapel
Sat 16			
Sun 17	11am 6pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion (CW) Carols by Candlelight Evening Service	 Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel

For up to date information, news items and details of village clubs, groups and events go to our Village Website  
[www.ashburnham-penhurst.net](http://www.ashburnham-penhurst.net)

Mon 18	2pm 7pm	WI Carols in the Pub	 Sports Pavilion Ash Tree Inn
Tue 19	7.30pm	Prayer Hour	Via Zoom
Wed 20			
Thu 21	10am - 1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 22	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 23			
Sun 24	 9.15am 10.30am 6.30pm	Carols and Communion (BCP) Carols Around the Crib Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 25	 10.30am	Christmas Day Family Worship  Happy Christmas!	Ashburnham Church
Tue 26		Boxing Day	
Wed 27			
Thu 28			
Fri 29			
Sat 30			
Sun 31	10.30am	New Year's Eve United End of Year Service	Penhurst Church

### Parish Magazine

This edition marks the 17th Anniversary of the Parish Magazine! Thanks to everyone involved with each issue, groups and clubs who supply information, residents who write articles, those who I rely on to proof read and of course all of you who read the magazine! Huge thanks as well to those who co-ordinate deliveries each month and those who brave the weather to drop copies through every door in our two villages! Thank you all.

Jay Ashworth