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Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine December 2020 and January 2021

All the information in the magazine was correct at the time of going to press in November 2020. Please see links inside for church and village websites where any changes and up-to-date information will be posted based on any government announcements or changes.



Original painting of Ashburnham Church by Elfreda Cormode

Please send contributions for the February edition by Friday 1st January.
We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

Church Services

Ashburnham Church - All Services at 10.30am unless otherwise stated

December	January
6th December Morning Prayer	3rd January Morning Prayer
13th December Holy Communion	10th January Holy Communion
20th December Christmas Candlelight Service at 4pm and 6pm (no morning service)	17th January Morning Prayer
	24th January Holy Communion
	31st January Holy Communion
25th December Christmas Day Family Communion	
27th December Holy Communion	

If Government regulations allow, we will hold services in person following any current guidelines: if not, we will hold services via Zoom. Rev Peter will continue to produce a service outline to follow for those not able to join us.

Please email him if you would like to receive this

(p.walker977@btinternet.com).

At the church there are measures in place to ensure social distancing and hand sanitiser. Please note that face coverings are compulsory.

Our monthly Prayer Hour will take place by Zoom between 7pm and 8pm on Tuesday 15 December and Tuesday 19 January.

Please contact pcsecretary.stpetersashburnham@gmail.com for the link.

Donations for Battle Food Bank can be left in the porch at Ashburnham Church. The porch is open and donations are taken to the Food Bank regularly.

Penhurst Church - All services at 10.30am

December	January
6th December Holy Communion	3rd January Holy Communion
13th December Morning Prayer	10th January Plough Sunday
20th December Christmas Service of Readings and Music	17th January Morning Prayer
25th December Christmas Day Communion	24th January Holy Communion
27th December Morning Prayer with Christmas Music	31st January Morning Prayer

Ashburnham Chapel

Join the Chapel congregation at 7pm each Sunday for a Zoom Service
Get in touch with Fay Ramsden or see the Chapel article later in the magazine for details of how to join in.



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<p>ROB DEDMAN HOME MAINTENANCE All work undertaken in and around the home Painting and decorating Bathrooms and tiling Tel: 01424 774764 Mob: 07976 741950 E: robdedman1066@gmail.com References available Fully insured</p>	<p>PRIVATE TUITION MATHS, SPANISH, LATIN KS3 and GCSE COMPASS TUTORING NICKY BISHOP M.A. Ashburnham 01424 892474 www.compasstutor.co.uk</p> <p>LAND AVAILABLE - POTENTIAL EQUESTRIAN USE Approximately 11.5 acres of pasture land, potentially suitable for equine use. Expressions of interest welcome. Land available on a short or long term lease. Please contact Florence Wolfe (01273 407012) or Megan Masters (01273 407001) at Strutt and Parker for further information.</p>
<p>Gardening Services (and small D.I.Y. projects) Contact Clive Kent 01435 866191 (mobile 07474 518718)</p>	

Dear Friends,
This past year has been very challenging for all of us. We were on the verge of celebrating Mothers' Day and then we were all locked down. We have been presented every day with figures of those suffering from Covid-19 and those who have succumbed. We showed our appreciation of the NHS by standing at our front door applauding them each Thursday night. Many folk have had the feeling of a loss of control and the inability to see light at the end of the tunnel. As I write this, we are coming out of another lockdown which hopefully will mean people can have the opportunity to prepare for and celebrate Christmas. In the midst of all this we remember that God is present. 'Emmanuel' literally means 'God with us' seen so decisively in the coming of the Christ child. Therein lies the hope we long for. A baby in a manger who was to be our Saviour and is today. The promise to the disciples and us is 'Lo, I am with you always'. Saint John in his opening chapter of his Gospel tells us: 'He came unto His own'. This is not some one-off event, but a truth and reality of this very day. I am acutely aware of the pain, the difficulties of the situation we are in today, the worry and uncertainty. Please be assured that in all of this, my prayers are with you. Our church leaders are keeping all of us in their prayers and thoughts. Here is a little prayer put out by the Church of England:

*Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

(Other helpful prayers can be found at via the Church of England's website and Daily Hope - links below).

I send you warmest thoughts, prayers and blessings for the Christmas season, and our prayers are to look forward to 2021 with much hope and that assurance that 'God is with us' – Emmanuel!

PETER

 **0800 804 8044**
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Agmerhurst Granary, Kitchenham Road,
Ashburnham, Battle, TN33 9NA
Tel: 01424 892941
p.walker977@btinternet.com

<https://www.churchofengland.org>

Book Group

There will be no Book Group in December since the last Friday of the month falls on 25th December and something else is happening that day!

We hope you all get lots of fab new books in your Christmas stockings.

Our January gathering will be on Friday 29th from 2pm - 4pm.

We look forward to hearing about the books you've enjoyed most in 2020 as well as the books you've just read and would love others to read as well.



It's too early to say whether the January meet-up will be on Zoom again or in person. Nicky will email everyone on her mailing list nearer the time to confirm. If you're not on Nicky's mailing list and would like to be kept informed about Book Group gatherings and other book news, please get in touch:

nickyatstreetcottage@gmail.com or 07799 691707

Happy Christmas Reading, one and all!

Filling Station

Monday 14th December, via Zoom at 7.30pm. The speakers are Jonathan and Paige Squirrel, Regional Consultants for National Filling Station.

There is no meeting in January.

Details of how to join the meeting by Zoom will be in the Post on the preceding weekend and will be on the local website at thefillingstation.org/station/ashburnham about a week before the meeting.

100 Club

If you've signed up for this, don't worry it is still taking place!

Nat will make the draw at the beginning of the month and the result will be posted on the Parish Website....it could be you!

Congratulations to Pauline Dann, winner in November

Raise money for the New Village Hall and you could win a cash prize!

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7 Wellington Square Hastings TN34 1PD ~ Tel 01424 721700

1A Victoria House Hawkhurst TN18 4NR ~ Tel 01580 752666

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All these events and meetings in our villages are postponed until further notice

Pub Quiz
at the Ash Tree Inn
01424 892104

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST WI
For more details contact
ashburnhamandpenhurstwi@gmail.com

MI
All men in the Villages welcome to join us for a drink and find out more about our upcoming events

Table Tennis Club
Call Janet on 01424 892311 for more information

Village Lunch
at the Village Hall
For more information
ring Janet on 01424 892311

Filling Station
contact Catherine Duggleby on 07801 634034 for information

Village Walking Group
email Nicky on
nickyatstreetcottage@gmail.com for information

The Art Group
email barbara.cornish@lilve.co.uk for more information

As a limited group of 6 we enjoyed meeting from the beginning of July. Now, like everyone else we are in lockdown and will not be meeting until December - we hope! Once we are 'back to normal' we hope to enlarge our group and invite tutors on a regular basis. Until then we try to wield our brushes in as artistic a way as possible. Thanks to Brian Holdstock for enabling us to use the lovely pavilion. In the meantime we hope everyone takes care to stay safe.

The Coffee Stop

Unfortunately due to the continuation of government restrictions on gatherings we will not be planning any Coffee stop meetings for the rest of 2020.

If possible we will resume get togethers in 2021.

Stay safe and well.



Please note that the inclusion of advertisements for local services in this magazine does not constitute a recommendation.

Readers are advised to make their own enquiries to ensure good service.



WI IS OPEN
and zooming all the way through
December and January

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

December meeting – Christmas get together
Monday 14th December 7.30pm

Zoom meeting details will be shared to all members directly.

Christmas quiz – polling style!

Wear your Christmas jumper or festive accessories.

Pour yourself a glass of wine or sort a G&T and join in the festive fun.

SAVE the date and brighten up your New Year with the WI.

January meeting – Monday 18th 7.30pm

Relevant and interesting speaker being organised.

No need to leave your warm home – we will zoom this to you again.

Charitable giving

Again this year the WI are organising donations for the Battle food bank. Such an important and very relevant charity that need your help during these really tough times.

Please add a few items to your online grocery shopping deliveries.

Village drop off point: Anne Leeves, 4 Longhouses.

Collection: we will be organising some socially distanced drive-bys and door step collections.

To organise a collection please email: AshburnhamandpenhurstWI@gmail.com.

Useful Contact Details

Ashburnham and Penhurst Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/groups/penhurstandashburnham/

Ashburnham Church Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/AshburnhamPlace/

Ashburnham Chapel Website

www.ashburnhamchapel.co.uk

WI Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/ashburnhamWI/

Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Council Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/AshburnhamPenhurstPC/?epa=SEARCH_BOX



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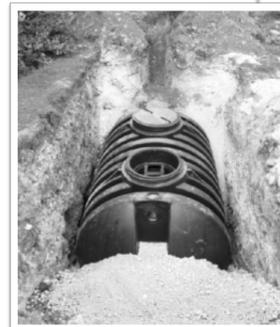
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Chapel News

Firstly let me apologise to those of you that couldn't log in to our Chapel Zoom Service last month. Unfortunately there was an error with the log in number it should have read 410 783 0582 and the password is Fay. Details are also always in The Post, which is Ashburnham Church's email newsletter.

By the time you read this we will hopefully be out of 'lock-down' but of course one never knows! However, the 'lock-down' was a good time to reflect on all the good things Our Lord does for us. Malachi 3v10 says "Put Me to the test and you will see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things." God has provided a world of sunshine and starshine, fields and seas, rivers and mountains. He has blessed you with life and breath, with thoughts, abilities, and a heart turned toward knowing and loving Him. Thank Him, and He says, "My beloved, you haven't seen anything yet." There is so much more! There's no end to what God can and wants to do.

With all good things, God is a God of abundance.

May His blessings and peace be yours, sent to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. Ephesians 1v2 TLB

We will be holding the Chapel Carol Service on Zoom on the 6th December at 7pm. Do try and join us because you will actually be able to join in the Carols! So a good chance to sing your favourites.

From all of us at Ashburnham Chapel, have a wonderful Christmas whether it is with friends and wider family (if that is allowed) or just with your household. Remember how lucky we are to have a safe home, enough food and warmth, no worries about wars or earthquakes, so give a thought to the refugees all over the world where war, conflict and even earthquakes have made them homeless and Christmas will be a very bleak time for them.

Fay

Parish Magazine

At the end of this unusual year I would like to thank everyone who makes the Parish Magazine possible, Ashburnham Church for underwriting the costs; the team of proofreaders for spotting my frequent typos; all those who send articles or updates; Fay for handling all the advertising and especially those who deliver the magazine to all the households in our villages.

I hope the magazine continues to be useful, informative and entertaining.

I wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2021!

Jay Ashworth

Parish Council News

Remembrance Sunday was marked in a way which until only a few days beforehand seemed beyond reach. However, mid week the rules changed (again) and some 70 people assembled in front of the cricket pavilion for a service that was as moving as it always is. The fine weather was the icing on the cake. An application for road closure had been refused this year so there was no option but to stand inside the grounds. The question that will now be asked is whether this format, standing in front of the pavilion, but behind the war memorial, is preferable to standing in the road (which is normally closed) and in front of the memorial. If you were there you can expect to be asked for your view.



It is the time of year when the Parish Council takes stock of its financial position, forecasts the outcome at 31st March 2021 and puts together a budget for the financial year 2021/22. At the November meeting the first draft of the budget is tabled and at the January meeting a budget is formally adopted and the precept (the amount collected with Council Tax) is set for the year.

Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council
Email: 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 last Wednesday of alternate months (next is 27 January 2021) and the Planning Committee (if required) meets on the last Wednesday of intervening months.

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 web site three clear days before the meeting and hard copy is put on the notice boards at The Chapel and Penhurst Granary.

A summary of currently undecided or recently determined planning applications is on the 'Planning' page at the village web site. It contains a link to the Rother DC planning portal if you want to view documents.



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P L A C E

Grounds and Gardens

All upcoming events and walks have been cancelled. During Orangery opening hours (see ad elsewhere in the magazine) you can walk around the grounds and gardens.

We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Stay safe.

www.ashburnham.org.uk

www.penhurst.org.uk
01424 892088

info@penhurst.org.uk

What a year it's been... unprecedented, uncertain, lockdown, furlough... a few words we've heard a lot. For some there's been stress, exhaustion, illness, loss of loved ones, or livelihoods. Looking forward, what will Christmas be like? Will we will be able to gather with family and friends?

In the midst of uncertainty, God offers to be with us. Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, and Matthew 1:23 says "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")". Whatever you are facing in these days, why not talk to God about it and ask him to be with you?

We hope to re-open and hold our Advent retreats as planned in December – do keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for updates. Our 2021 led retreats are also being updated on the website, so why not have a look and see if anything appeals to you.

We hope to see you soon. In the meantime, all of us here at Penhurst Retreat Centre wish you a peaceful and healthy Christmas and a blessed New Year.



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Time: 10-11:30am • Ages: 0-36 month old

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Online Carol Services and Concerts

At the time of writing, we don't know whether we can gather together to sing carols. Even if some gatherings are permitted it's likely that many of us will choose not to go out and will instead rely on services that we can watch and join in with at home. Many cathedrals and churches are streaming carol services online and charities are planning carol concerts to join in with at home. I have gathered a few ideas here with the links you will need but do keep looking online nearer the time as I am sure more and more will be added.

Chichester Cathedral will be live-streaming Carol Services during Christmas week, details will be on their website nearer the time
<https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/worship>

Canterbury Cathedral will be holding a series of services you can watch at home, details will be posted here <https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org>

St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square is holding Carol Concerts some of which involve a ticket price but they also livestream their daily prayer services online free. <https://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org>

Holy Trinity Brompton hold a variety of services online regularly and are planning Christmas services too <https://www.htb.org/athome>

Holy Trinity Hastings is a local church which also holds services online, you can see the details here, <https://hthchurch.org>

Why not look up some familiar faces online? **Preston Minster** is a church where Rachel Gardner (nee Earwicker, Charles & Lynne's daughter) and her husband work. As well as services they have a great youth stream with sessions on youtube for young people. <https://www.prestonminster.org>

Rev Francis Cumberlege preaches at his local church and you can hear his sermons via this link, <https://www.allsaintsmilford.co.uk>

Country Living Magazine has made a list of 10 concerts including events by charities such as the Alzheimer's Society and Marie Curie which are free. There are some ticketed events such as a concert for Carers Trust - for a £10 donation you can enjoy readings from Emma Thompson and Hugh Bonneville and carols sung by the City of London Choir. The full list can be found here <https://www.countryliving.com/uk/news/a34615142/virtual-christmas-carol-concerts/>

Parish Magazine Contact Details
To advertise phone Fay on 07860 113413
oframdsen@hotmail.co.uk
If you have a question about delivery
contact Catherine on 07801 634034
To submit articles or village notices
contact Jay Ashworth on
01424 532972 / 07876 484945 or
email jay.ashworth@btinternet.com

Battle Area Community Transport
The bus is back running but you need to
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Please bear in mind that capacity is
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For information about Church Services
Ashburnham Church
Revd Peter Walker 01424 892941
p.walker977@btinternet.com
Penhurst Church
Anthony Ramsey 01323 764557
Ashburnham Chapel
Fay Ramsden 07860 113413
01424 830078

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
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Facing Winter Alone?

Find out how we can help

The prospect of restrictions on our everyday lives look set to continue this winter so families are choosing Earlsfield Court Care Home to look after their loved ones, not only for the personalised care we provide but also for the reassurance, safety and companionship we can bring.

Whether you are seeking care for yourself or someone close to you, please call **01424 868 320** or visit our website www.cinnamoncc.com/earlsfield to arrange a personalised tour.

Residential Care | Dementia Care | Respite Care

Luxury Care Home in Bexhill-on-Sea
Earlsfield Court Care Home, Brooklands Road, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 4FQ
earlsfield.haa@cinnamoncc.com | cinnamoncc.com/earlsfield

Covid 19 Information Page

As this magazine goes to press we are still in lockdown, by the time the next magazine comes out in February there might have been several changes to the rules and regulations. So, please keep in touch with all the latest updates by using the following websites and the local Parish Council phone number if you need help or more information.

Stay safe!

It is clear that things might change so please keep checking the government website for up to date details.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The BBC also has a good page where you can put your postcode in and check all the latest regulations for your area.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54373904>

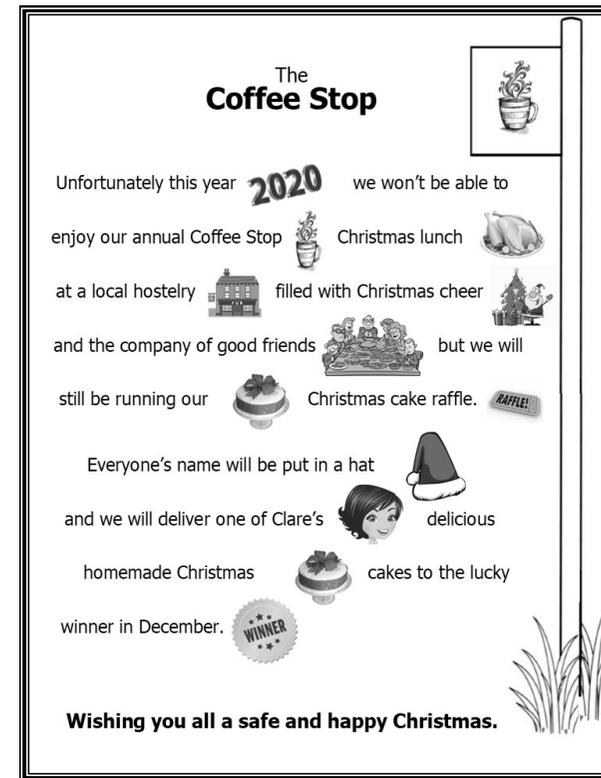
Parish Council Hotline 07836 716723

Call this number if you are worried about yourself or a neighbour, if you need help or advice or would like to offer assistance

Go to www.ashburnham-penhurst.net

For up to date information and local guidance

www.nhs.uk - for information about what to do if you fall ill



Recycling Garden Waste Bin Offer

Rother are offering their Garden Waste Bin service at £20 if you subscribe before 31st December, which takes you through until 14th July 2021. Head to the Rother website for more information: <https://www.rother.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/garden-waste/subscribe-to-the-garden-waste-service/>

Christmas Trees

Rother customers who pay for brown bin collections can place trees into their brown bins, if the branches have been cut up first. Don't leave whole trees next to your brown bin, they can't be collected.

If you have a compost heap you can compost a real Christmas tree but it will need chopping up into smaller pieces first! Alternatively, you can take your tree to the nearest tip. If you have an artificial tree you no longer need and it is in a suitable condition, you can give it away or sell secondhand. Otherwise you can take it to the tip for recycling. Happy Christmas and happy recycling!



Christmas Reflections from The Church of England



A light amidst the difficulties of this year has been the way people have cared for each other with generosity and courage. Cynicism about community has often been overwhelmed by love for neighbour.

It has been stressful and anxious, but we have not shut ourselves off from each other. There have been countless wonderful acts of kindness and care, often sacrificial ones.

We've seen these acts of goodness in health and in care, we've seen them in the community and in our neighbourhoods. Most often they have come not from power or position but from love and vulnerability.

That's exactly the sort of love we celebrate at Christmas. Love that gets its hands dirty. Love that is open and generous. One that, without great ceremony, makes a difference.

May we find that love, God's love in Jesus Christ, this Christmas. May we share that love, God's love in us, this Christmas. And as we receive, and as we give, may we know the comfort and the joy that is God's gift to us.

Archbishop Justin Welby

God of comfort and joy, may we know your presence with us today and bring your gentle, joyful love to others, this Christmas and always. Amen.

In Mary's poem (Luke 1:46-55) and the carol, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, we don't read much of comfort. Rather we experience the palpable joy of worship, followed by the vision of God throwing the values of our broken world upside down to reveal his revolutionary plans for his kingdom.

This is not comfortable. But, when we reflect on the past year, I doubt many of us have had a comfortable year riding the Coronavirus storm. For God's comfort does not come from a lofty distant height, but from his light and life breaking into our mess to demonstrate a better way.

As we look back on a year where our world has turned upside down, we can decide again which values we are going to prioritise going forward into 2021.

How can we lift up the lowly, fill the hungry and remember mercy?

During lockdown I regularly shared posts with the hashtag #ThankfulNotFearful. The poem of our lives needs to start from a place of thankfulness - and of praise.

Jonathan Bryan

Except for a Boxing Day ramble, I try to avoid going for a walk. But somehow I found myself doing the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in 2016. I soon developed a loathing for my rucksack. It was heavy, so heavy. Eventually I worked out that standing near a fence I could allow the weight to be taken from my shoulders for a moment, until I was ready to trudge onwards.

Life's path is never easy, and this year it's felt all uphill and the rucksacks on our backs too heavy to carry. The carol quoted below sums this up, urging us to remember that despite everything God's love, revealed through the baby in the manger, is present, even if just now it's difficult to comprehend. It's the same unquenchable light mentioned in John 1:1-5 too; the light of life.

When our walk becomes weary, it helps to know that we never need to take a step of it alone. And to trust that, when we do eventually get to lay our burden down, the view will make it all worthwhile.

Rev Kate Bottley

... And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.
It came upon the midnight clear by Edmund Sears

God of love, you are the beginning and the end.
You hold our past and light our future. May we find our rest in you today and trust you for all that will be. Amen.

Lord of light and life, as we prepare for a new year, fill our hearts with praise and hope as we, with you and one another, seek to bring your kingdom to our world. Amen.

Reflections and prayers taken from 'Comfort and Joy Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas', The Church of England's Christmas Campaign.

More information and resources can be found at www.churchofengland.org/ComfortandJoy

