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# Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine March 2024



Don't forget the clocks go forward on March 31st  
Please send contributions for the April edition by Friday 1st March  
We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

**CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH at  
ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST CHURCHES**

3rd March	9.15am Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Morning Prayer (CW) at Ashburnham
10th March Mothering Sunday	9.15am Morning Prayer (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
17th March Passion Sunday	9.15 am Holy Communion (BCP) at Penhurst 11 am Morning Prayer (CW) at Ashburnham
24th March Palm Sunday	9.15am Morning Prayer (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Holy Communion (CW) at Ashburnham
31st March Easter Sunday	6.45am Early Easter morning Prayer Walk 9.15am Easter Communion (BCP) at Penhurst 11am Easter Communion (CW) at Ashburnham

BCP stands for Book of Common Prayer and CW stands for Common Worship - these are the different orders of services used at each church.

**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.

**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 Ponds 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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**An Easter Celebrity!**

We increasingly live in a 'celebrity culture': everyone wants their fifteen minutes of fame; notability or even notoriety will do. Social media, magazines, newspapers, and television game shows 'ooze' celebrity. A celebrity culture is very enticing and the public acclamation we afford to others is very revealing. It says something about what we value - image, money, recognition, youth, power. More than that, it says something about human identity, about who we think we are, and who we would like to be.

The word 'celebrity' comes from the Latin root, 'celebrem' which has connotations with both 'fame' and 'being thronged'. And if you read the gospel accounts of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the day we have come to know as Palm Sunday, you might easily imagine that Jesus was a sort of first century celebrity: *"The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Blessed is the King of Israel!'"* The 'Feast' was the Passover when over 2 million people gathered in Jerusalem and this great crowd, fuelled by reports of the raising of Lazarus, heard Jesus was coming and so they acclaimed Him as their King, the one who would lead the rebellion against the Roman occupation of their land. Consequently, the crowd were full of nationalistic and messianic fervour. However, He came not on a warhorse but on a donkey; to defeat not the Romans but the power of sin and death. This was to fulfil what had been foretold hundreds of years earlier by a prophet called Zechariah: *"Do not be afraid, O daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming seated on a donkey's colt."*; a King who would proclaim peace to the nations and whose rule will extend to the ends of the earth. Thus, Jesus' triumphal entry showed that His Kingship was non-military. He would be crowned upon a cross of sacrifice through which He will achieve freedom for His worldwide subjects who put their faith in Him. He is the King of peace through whom we can have peace with God, but to achieve this He needed to ride on in lowly pomp to die. I sometimes wonder how many of those who cried 'Hosanna' on Palm Sunday cried, 'Crucify' on Good Friday?

You see, Jesus knew He was about to die, despite the acclamation He received. He knew that the crowd would soon be shouting 'crucify him!'. However, Jesus' death was not to be a tragedy, but rather a triumph. For by going the way of the cross, by His supreme act of obedience unto death, He first had to endure the suffering before the glory, the cross before the crown, and all that that entailed - the pain, the humiliation, the false accusation, the agony, and the burden of bearing the sins of the whole world. He endured all of this for you and for me - He perished so that we don't have to - hence, the day we remember His death is GOOD FRIDAY and why Jesus is GOOD NEWS for sharing.

So let us celebrate His victorious resurrection and all that it means to be ransomed, healed, restored, and forgiven!

Friends, Easter is the greatest ever story of hope! Despite what is going on in the world, and perhaps in our own lives right now, the message of triumph of life over death, light over darkness, love over hatred, peace over anxiety, and joy over grief remains unchanged.

*Wishing you a happy  
and hopeful Easter,  
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)

## EASTER AT ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST

**Maundy Thursday, 28th March at 7.30 pm**

Holy Communion at Ashburnham Church

**Good Friday, 29th March at 10.30 am**

Good Friday Service at Ashburnham Chapel

**Easter Day, 31st March**

6.45 am 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 en route (ends at 7.30 am)

9.15 am EASTER COMMUNION at Penhurst Church

11 am EASTER COMMUNION at Ashburnham Church

6.30 pm EASTER DAY SERVICE at Ashburnham Chapel



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### Lent 2024: A Journey Through Lent



Lent provides an opportunity to reflect and to 'take stock' of our lives in relation to God. The 40 days represent the time Jesus Himself spent fasting and praying in the wilderness before He began His public ministry. This year a five-week Lent Course is being held in the Church Hall (within the walled garden at Ashburnham Place, access by car via Kitchenham Road only). These informal meetings will take place on Thursday evenings during Lent, between 7.30 pm and 9 pm. With a mix of Bible study and discussion the course will explore contemporary issues and be encouraged to act on what we learn about six people's encounters with Jesus, as recorded in the New Testament. The course will also help us understand the significance of this season and to reflect on our own life journey, not least in relation to the death and resurrection of Jesus which we commemorate and celebrate at Easter. Each meeting is 'stand-alone' therefore, anyone is welcome to come along to these informal and informative meetings, as you are able to do so. For more information, please contact the Vicar, Revd. Gary.

### SPRING CLEAN – ST PETER'S PARISH CHURCH, ASHBURNHAM

St Peter's (or Ashburnham Church) has been the Parish Church in Ashburnham for hundreds of years, hosting milestone events, such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals, for individuals, families in the village, and the wider community throughout that time. Today the church remains a place of welcome and 'gathering', not least for worship every Sunday. Furthermore, many visitors enter the doors of St. Peter's throughout the week (the church building is open 24/7) to pray within its ancient walls, browse around or simply enjoy the sanctuary and peace of the place.

As you may know, St Peter's relies entirely on the generosity of the congregation, visitors, and those from the wider community, who support its upkeep, maintenance and ministry – we receive no grants from external sources. Needless to say, we are grateful to the small band of volunteers who clean the church each week on a rota basis; however, this time of year provides an opportunity for a major SPRING CLEAN! This has been arranged for SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH from 10 am onwards – could you spare an hour to give a hand and do a stint of cleaning? Any help would be appreciated, just come along for as long as you are able. Refreshments will be provided!

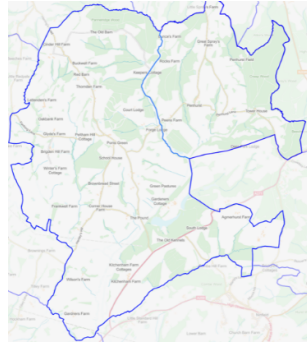
## Revd Gary's Ramble around the Benefice!

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 25 March** – 9.30 am Depart Agmerhurst Granary, walking via Freckley Hollow and Steven's Crouch before crossing into Penhurst Lane. Beyond Penhurst Lane I will make my way along Lakehurst Lane, turning left at Herrings Road and heading towards Pont's Green and ending at Ashburnham Chapel.

**Tuesday 26 March** – 11.15 am Depart The Orangery, Ashburnham Place (after a coffee and almond croissant at 10.30am!), and head towards The Pound before doing most of the 'triangle' including Lingham, Brownbread Street and the top end of Church Road, turning left into Penhurst Lane towards The Forge before heading over Camp Hill and home. This isn't a sponsored walk but rather an opportunity for me to be 'out and about' in the Benefice of Ashburnham with Penhurst and to say 'hello' to whoever I meet on the way! Revd Gary



### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings for both Ashburnham and Penhurst will be on Sunday 21st April and Sunday 12th May respectively. More details will appear in the April edition of the Parish Magazine.

### CHURCHYARD GRASS-CUTTING AT ASHBURNHAM

As with the church building the maintenance of Ashburnham (and Penhurst) Churchyard is the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council – we are grateful to the Parish Council for its annual contribution towards these costs. A schedule covering the regular maintenance of Ashburnham Churchyard is currently being prepared and potential contractors are being invited to quote for the work, which is likely to commence from mid-July until the end of October. If you, or someone you know, would wish to view the schedule with a view to quoting for the work please contact either John French or Revd Gary.  
Thank you.



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### Ron's Rambling

Had one of my least favourite experiences the other week. A visit to the dentist. I suspect most people are of the same mind when it comes to a stranger rummaging around in your mouth. Check-ups I don't mind but it's the hygienist that puts the fear of god into me. From the moment the receptionist asks you which hygienist you'd like and then cackles maniacally when you reply "The one that draws the least blood". You still come out looking like a vampire who's popped in for a snack.

Now here's a little known fact for all of you diesel car owners. The Adblue or Urea that you have to top up in your car every so often is basically urine. Pig's urine, I'm reliably informed. This substance is used in the exhaust system to get rid of a lot of the nasty NOx emissions that burning diesel produces. Which left me wondering, how did anyone come across this? Picture the scene. A group of engineers and scientists are standing around an engine at Jaguar's development laboratory, scratching their heads wondering how to solve this problem. In wanders a pig looking for somewhere to have a pee. Sees the air intake manifold and decides that's a good a place as any, relieves itself and wanders off. Meanwhile the engineers at the other end see the needle on the gauge show a sharp decline and shout "Eureka". Problem solved. My next thought was, how do they collect the urine? I've since discovered that the car manufacturers are now using synthetic urea. So no pigs are currently being interfered with.

I've been recently given a couple of copies of Ashburnham and Penhurst Church News from 1969. Price 4p. That's old money 4p. It's amazing the meetings and services going on in those churches at that time. Up to six services on a Sunday between the two churches, besides what was going on at the Chapel and some gathering on almost every night of the week. John Bickersteth must have been a very busy man.

Also included in the magazine was an article by one, James Donne, about Batemans. Kipling decided to replace the 600 year old waterwheel with a water turbine. When they removed the mill foundations they came across a raft of two feet square timbers that had always been under water. They looked just as they had when they were installed all those years earlier but once exposed to the air they crumbled to dust.

**Ronnie King**

## Parish Council News

At its January meeting the Parish Council is required to set the element of Council Tax which comes as the Council's income for the year, what is known as the Parish Precept. There is some good news this year as despite inflation running higher than we have been used to for many years the increase in the precept has been kept to 2.81%. This has been made possible because this year there are a few less people eligible for relief from paying council tax so there are more people contributing to the sum requested by the Parish Council. In fact an increase of 2.81% paid by households equates to an increase of 6.23% in the sum received by the Council which, for 2024/25, is £14,500.



There is more good news when it comes to hire charges for the pavilion. The council decided not to increase them in line with inflation as that would have meant an increase of 3%. Instead they decided to hold them where they are for another year until March 2025. Hire charges at the village hall will follow suit.



As we go to press we have learned that Nicci Gagel is leaving the parish council and leaving the district. Nicci is heading for Aberdeen to look after her elderly parents.

Nicci was co-opted to the Parish Council in May 2022 and soon found an issue she made her own. Rather than using the old phone box at The Pound as a museum of village history she had the idea of using it as a platform for publicising forthcoming village

events. Who can forget her decoration for the coronation? The gap she leaves on the Council can be filled by co-option so if anyone is interested in knowing more about what is involved in being a parish councillor then do contact the Clerk.

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 27th March 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.

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ASHBURNHAM &  
PENHURST WI

Our next meeting on

**Monday 18th March at 2pm**

Easter all the way!

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For more information call Katie on 07920 092072

## MI

MI will be meeting at the Ash  
Tree Inn, on  
Tuesday 12th March  
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contact Clive for more details  
[cliveclive@live.co.uk](mailto:cliveclive@live.co.uk)

## SHORT MAT BOWLS

Afternoon meeting starting at 2 p.m.  
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## The Art Group

The Art Group are happy to be able to  
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professional mentor to keep us on the  
right track.

For more information ring Barbara  
Cornish, 01424 435198.

## Village Walking Group

The next village ramble will be on  
**Tuesday 19th March starting at 9.30am from the  
main car park at Ashburnham Place  
led by Charles Earwicker**

who has previously taken us on a couple of very enjoyable  
and interesting walks. After the walk we will have refreshments in the church  
hall, opposite the car park at about 11am. Everyone welcome to join us but no  
dogs this time as Ashburnham Place is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).  
More details from [j.french678@btinternet.com](mailto:j.french678@btinternet.com) or phone 07970624966



## The Filling Station

Monday 11th March we have James Nickols, South East Consultant  
for the Filling Station, as the Ashburnham Filling Station Speaker.  
We meet in the Fernery at Ashburnham Place 7pm for  
refreshments. Gerry Page is leading worship, and there will be a  
time of Prayer Ministry for those who would like prayer. For more  
details please contact Catherine on 07801 634034  
or [catherine@duggleby.com](mailto:catherine@duggleby.com)



## The Coffee Stop

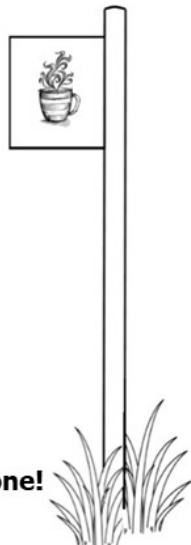
Next Coffee Stop is

**Friday 1st March**

Drop in anytime between  
10.30 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
for a cup of coffee and chat.  
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**Looking forward to seeing everyone!**

For further details please call Paula on 01323 832482



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more.





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

Mothers Day Weekend Afternoon Teas  
(Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March) £21.00 per person  
This weekend we will be only open for pre-booked afternoon teas. To reserve a table or to get a copy of the menu please contact us.  
(£5 per person deposit required to confirm)

If you are planning to visit we will be closed during Spring 2024:  
**MARCH 2024:** Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> **MAY 2024:** Sat 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun 5<sup>th</sup>  
We may be closed for other dates. Please contact us before visiting.  
Enquiries & afternoon tea bookings  
- call 01424 894201 / [bookings@ashburnham.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ashburnham.org.uk)

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



We have a message from Nicci Gagel, Centre Host.

'It is with a sad heart that I write to say that I am leaving Penhurst Retreat Centre at the beginning of March. After many years of family discussions, my parents have asked me to move closer to them to look after them as they are now in their early 90's. They live in Aberdeen, Scotland and my heart is to give them the opportunity to have as much a quality of life by taking on many of the chores in running a home of two elderly people. I am looking forward to being with them but I am sad to leave this beautiful place with its heart for welcoming all God's children into His house for rest, refreshment and restoration. I will miss living and working in a very beautiful part of the world. Most of all I will miss the team and Penhurst Family who share the same heart to see people meet with the Lord in this very special place. If the Lord pleases, I would like to come back!'

All of us at Penhurst wish Nicci well as she moves and want to thank her for all she has given to the centre and this community over the last few years.

**Parish Magazine Contact Details**

To advertise phone Fay on 07860 113413  
or email [oframdsen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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)

**Battle Area Community Transport**

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Arrive in Battle 10.25am  
Return at 12.05pm

**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

**Flexibus**

FlexiBus runs 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday (not Sundays or Bank holidays). It is a flexible, on-demand rideshare service, for areas with limited or no bus service. Journeys can be booked by calling 01273 078203 or find more information <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/public/flexibus>

**"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](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)



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## Murmurations

As I write this in early February I thought I'd look at my photo roll from last March. As I scroll down I find a field walk showing close-ups of dangly hazel catkins, their name derived from the Dutch *katteken*, meaning kitten, as they resemble kitten tails – we also know them as lambs' tails; each male catkin comprises 240 flowers. Next come a few frames of glossy, wild garlic spears which I can actually taste as I write; by coincidence this morning I spotted the first little patch of tiny, fresh leaves and had a nibble. And now there are several pictures of a gorse bush, its yolky-yellow, bonnet-like flowers glowing in the sun.

Moving on, by contrast, I'm in Sir John Soane's Museum, London - he was an architect and collector. The photos remind me that he might have won a supermarket sweep of the world's classic, and more recent, antiquities and then stacked, squeezed and suspended the entire booty throughout two elegant town houses. Unique, eclectic, beautiful. (But I imagine his wife might have suggested a garage sale on more than one occasion!) The visit is free and there's a rail sale until 15 March.

The next few shots are of me taking selfies (puzzled expression) as I try to video a huge gospel choir. Then there's a book cover – *Tao Te Ching* (must order) and after that a screen-shot of a documentary: *Secret of Water* which reminds me of Masuro Emoto and Veda Austin's water experiments; I've dipped into the physics of water – it all goes a lot deeper - this film may be a deep dive!

My photos now take me back to a field, a sprig of pale lichen floating in brackish spring water is recreated by the reflection of bare oak branches above. And then ten pictures of the sky, blue with streaks of straight white clouds - whatever happened to those big, billowing clouds of the 70's? Blink-and-you-miss-it blue seems to be the shade of the season. By the tenth photo the sky is completely white.

Ah (I smile) the next picture shows a café table with a big 'J' made out of dominoes after a game with my special little friend Jack. Quality time. And following on, another coincidence, the final photo is a poster I saw for a local chess club. I finally went today! I didn't play the 12 year old UK champion but I kept my chin up... just.

Donna Christman



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

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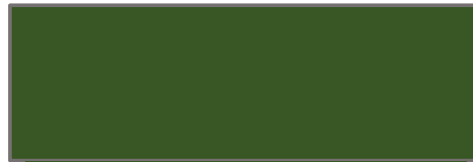
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## Chapel News for March

Well we are nearly through the Winter, don't forget to put your clocks forward on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. This winter has flown by for me, it only seems like yesterday that we altered the clocks for the winter months and now we are shortly changing them back again.

I didn't make any New Year Resolutions this year because I never keep them, but I did resolve that for Lent this year I would save all my loose change and give it to Water Aid having recently seen an advertisement on the T.V that pointed out that there are still many, many people that do not have clean water in the world. I may have to put some money towards my change because it is increasingly difficult to pay with cash. Have you found that? Car parks that took cash went over to us having to pay with our credit cards and now I have been to 3 different car parks in the last week and each one is asking me to pay with 'Ring Go'. Now being in the senior generation I was not familiar with this so I had to ask my daughter what it was all about. She of course told me that it is simple, all I have to do is go to my 'App Store', - where's that I ask myself - search for 'Ring Go', download it and follow the instructions - simple! Well it has just taken me a good half hour to complete this on my phone!!! And of course I have yet to try it out when I get to the next 'Ring Go' car park.

Having done this it has occurred to me that many Charities will lose a huge chunk of their income because their boxes that used to sit on shop counters and in restaurants will no longer be getting the loose change because there won't be any! Am I the only one who is increasingly finding that technology is moving so fast that I am getting left behind? Oh... I have just remembered I had a telephone call from my T.V people and they told me that I have all sorts of things available to me just by pressing a button and speaking into my T.V handset. That has really amused me because I tried to get the sub titles on the program my husband and I were watching last night, I pressed the said button and said... 'sub titles on'..... and nothing happened.....????

Back to something I do understand....many people will just ignore Lent, some will not even know what Lent is and some will just say I don't believe in God and not give the warnings given to us in the Bible a second thought. But what if we wake up tomorrow morning only to find that Jesus has returned to the earth and those that know Him have been taken up to join all our fellow brothers and sisters in eternity just as we have been promised and those still on the earth have to face Jesus's judgement. Do you understand what I am saying or have you not been told that Jesus is coming back and what will happen when he does? If what I am saying is a mystery to you, come and join us at the Chapel on a Sunday evening when we will help you to understand the Bible and learn about our Saviour, Jesus! We look forward to welcoming you on a Sunday evening in the Chapel at 6-30 pm!!

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

(Penhurst and Ashburnham New Theatrical Society)

### **“Where there’s a Will, there’s a Relative”**

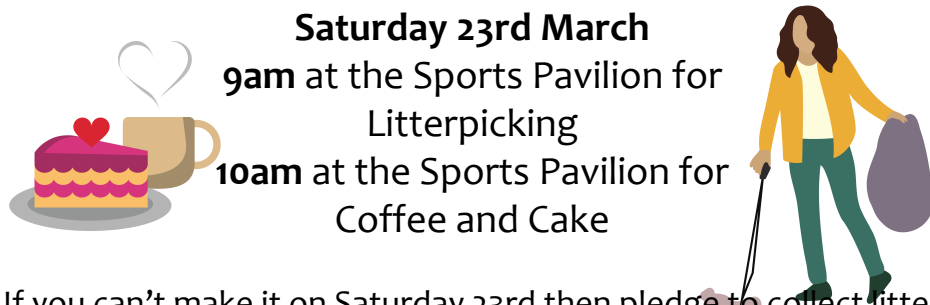
written by John French

Saturday 2nd March 7pm  
Radio Play and 2 Course Meal

Tickets £15 per person (reduced price for children)  
Pre-booking is essential,  
pay with cash on the door on the night

Please contact Tina French to pre-book your tickets  
Mobile 07970624966 - please text your message  
Email [j.french678@btinternet.com](mailto:j.french678@btinternet.com)  
Landline 01424 892580

## **Community Litterpick and Coffee Morning**



**Saturday 23rd March**

**9am** at the Sports Pavilion for  
Litterpicking

**10am** at the Sports Pavilion for  
Coffee and Cake

If you can't make it on Saturday 23rd then pledge to collect litter along one of our lanes - let us know where you will be litter picking so we can put together a map of all the roads covered contact Jay - 07876 484945 or email [ashworthjay1@gmail.com](mailto:ashworthjay1@gmail.com)

Join us for coffee and cake afterwards catch up with neighbours and raise money towards our fund for children's play equipment at the Pavilion and Out of the Blue

## **PLOUGH SUNDAY SERVICE**

It was great that so many people were able to enjoy the recent Plough Service and Lunch at Ashburnham Village Hall, to celebrate the beginning of the agricultural year and to give thanks to God for His generous provision and enduring faithfulness. This was a real community gathering with different people contributing to both the service and the tasty lunch afterwards – thank you to everyone involved, especially to Tina French for organising this event. £321 was raised for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) and the Farmer's Community Network (FCN).



## **BELLRINGING AT ASHBURNHAM**

For some time now the idea to reintroduce bellringing at Ashburnham Church has been an aspiration and, thanks to some of those who rung previously, as well as those interested in learning to ring, this is looking like a real possibility. On Saturday 23 March a team of bellringers from across East Sussex have asked to ring the bells at St Peter's Parish Church, Ashburnham, between 10.30 am and 12 noon.

Immediately afterwards (between 12 noon and 1 pm), we hope to gather those interested in being part of a local team of bellringers – at this stage, anyone is welcome to come along simply to 'find out more'. Therefore, if you've expressed an interest previously, or not, please contact me with either your phone number or email address to enable us to keep in touch. Many thanks! Revd Gary  
NB The bells at Penhurst Church are due to be re-hung some time soon!

## **CONFIRMATION**

There will be a local Confirmation Service in either May or June this year. Confirmation marks an important point in a person's Christian faith. For those of us who were baptised or christened as babies or children promises were made on our behalf by our parents and godparents. Confirmation provides an opportunity to affirm those promises for oneself, as a young person or adult. A preparation course will take place beforehand which is both suitable for those considering Confirmation or for those simply wishing to 'refresh' or 'explore' what the Christian faith is all about. If you are interested, then please contact Revd Gary who would be glad to chat with you.

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theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

The Carpenter

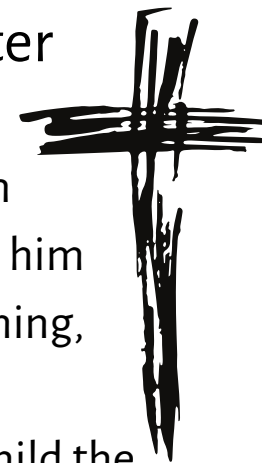
He knew his son  
would outshine him  
from the beginning,

so taught this child the  
only thing he could:

The skill of taking  
blades and wood,

and turning death  
into something  
else entirely.

by Jay Hulme  
from The Backwater Sermons



# March Diary

Fri 1	10.30-12pm	Coffee Stop	Sports Pavilion
Sat 2	7pm	PANTS Radio Play	Village Hall
Sun 3	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Evening 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 Hall
Thu 7	10am-1pm	Art Club	Sports Pavilion
Fri 8	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 9	10-12	Library Cafe	Village Hall
Sun 10 Mothering Sunday	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 11	7pm	Filling Station	Prayer Centre
Tue 12	8pm	MI	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 13	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 14	10am-1pm 7.30pm	Art Club Lent Meeting	Sports Pavilion Church Hall
Fri 15	2pm-4pm	Library Cafe	Village Hall
Sat 16	10am	Spring Clean	Ashburnham Church
Sun 17 Passion Sunday	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Communion Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel

Mon 18	2pm	WI	Sports Pavilion
Tue 19	9.30am 7.30pm	Village Walk Ashburnham Church Prayer Hour	Ashburnham Place On Zoom
Wed 20	7.45pm	Table Tennis	Village Hall
Thu 21	10am-1pm 10.45am 7.30pm	Art Club Church Service led by Revd Gary Lent Meeting	Sports Pavilion Hazel Lodge Church Hall
Fri 22	2pm	Short Mat Bowls	Village Hall
Sat 23	9am 10am 12pm	Community Litterpick followed by Coffee Morning Bell ringing drop in	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Church
Sun 24 Palm Sunday	9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion Evening Service	Penhurst Church Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 25	9.30am	Revd Gary's Ramble	Agmerhurst Granary
Tue 26	11.15am	Revd Gary's Ramble	Orangery Tea Room
Wed 27	7.30pm 7.45pm	Parish Council Meeting Table Tennis	Sports Pavilion Village Hall
Thu 28 Maundy Thursday	10am - 1pm 7.30pm	Art Club Holy Communion	Sports Pavilion Church Hall
Fri 29 Good Friday	10.30am	Good Friday Service	Ashburnham Chapel
Sat 30			
Sun 31 Easter Day	6.45am 9.15am 11am 6.30pm	Early Easter Morning Prayer Walk Easter Communion Easter Communion Easter Service	Prayer Centre, Ashburnham Place Penhurst Church Ashburnham 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)