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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 for this and any other Ashburnham Estate matters.

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Ashburnham and Penhurst Parish Magazine May 2019



Brimstone Butterfly by Jay Ashworth

Please send contributions for the June issue by Friday May 6th.
We reserve the right of refusal & the right to edit any articles

Chapel News

If you get your magazine early, don't forget our next Healing Service 28th April at 6-30 do come along and experience for yourself the presence of the Holy Spirit and hear how Our Lord Heals the same today as He did nearly 2000 years ago.

Are there any musicians available to come and play at our Anniversary Service on the 2nd June at 6-30 p.m? We are looking for a small group to lead the worship music! If you or anyone you know can help please contact me on 07860 113413

Please make a note in your diaries to join us at the Chapel on the 2nd June at 5 p.m for tea.

Out Of The Blue



10k Run - 5k Run plus Children's Dash
Thursday 16th May
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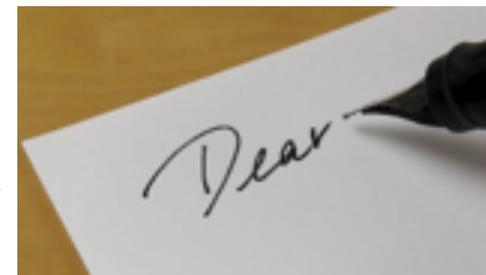
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*Peter considers letter writing and how the
Early Church was built up by the New
Testament letters*



When did you last write a letter?

I cannot remember when I did. In the age of
email, texts, and other smart devices, letter
writing has rather taken a back seat.

There is though, still something quite exciting about receiving a hand-written letter.
The peculiar thrill of seeing your name on the front of an envelope, and anticipating
what unknown words inside is something special. The joy too of sitting down to
write a letter. When did you last pour out your thoughts, feelings, or emotions
through pen on paper?

I recall well how in my primary school, we were taught handwriting with an italic
pen. As one became proficient in such writing the words looked truly artistic.
The advent of the ballpoint pen rather sent my handwriting downhill.
Letter writing can be seen as a gift because someone has taken his/her time
to write and think and express love.

In the New Testament we have twenty-one letters written to the early church,
mostly by Saint Paul. In these letters Paul does several things. He exhorts
the new Christians to live lives which display Jesus. He also wrote to put the
early Christians straight on their thinking. Finally, he wrote to encourage the
fledgling churches as they faced the many challenges of that period.

The Bible has once been described as 'A love letter from God', and what a
wonderful communication this truly is!

PETER

Agmerhurst Granary, Kitchenham Road,
Ashburnham, Battle, TN33 9NA

Tel: 01424 892941

p.walkerg77@btinternet.com

Gardening and Nature Notes

I have been thinking about writing something for the magazine for a while now and wondered whether to do a gardening column but thought that I might expand the subject a bit to include observations about the natural world too. We're very fortunate to live in this little patch of East Sussex and there is so much beauty around us that it's good to take a moment to stop and really notice all that is going on around us!

If you are thinking of entering the Flower Show this year then have a good look through the schedule to see what classes you are interested in. There is still time to get some seeds in and growing in time., particularly annuals which are not hardy and can only be sown or planted out after all risk of frost has passed.

Read the instructions in the schedule carefully, there are details about how many items you need and whether everything in the floristry classes needs to be home grown for example. If you are considering entering the cut flower classes, consider what you have growing in your garden already and what you annuals you could add. Remember to check regularly for pests and diseases and protect tender young plants from slug or rabbit attack if needed so you have beautiful specimens by show time.

Spring is a wonderful time of year to be out and about around our villages. The cuckoo flower or lady's smock, *Cardamine pratensis* has mostly finished flowering now and will be replaced by the common spotted orchid, *Dactylorhiza fuchsia* on the roadside verges. The bluebells, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* are also flowering in the woodlands around and about, it's well worth going for a walk to seek them out and marvel at the carpet of blue underneath the trees.

Many of our migrant birds are back already, we spotted the first swallows at Ashburnham Place in early April and Chiff Chaffs have been singing away in the woods for some weeks now. Listen out for the Turtle Dove around the village from this month onwards too. These pretty birds are becoming increasingly rare and are red listed in England. They return from their winter homes in the middle east and north africa in late April or early May and last year we had confirmed sightings of them in Ashburnham Village and at Ashburnham Place. Listen out for their distinctive purring call. If you are interested in how to improve habits to encourage them to breed here, check out this website which has lots of useful information, www.operationturtledove.org

Jay Ashworth

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Village Noticeboard

Pub Quiz
at the Ash Tree Inn
Tuesday 7th May at 7.45pm
£1 entry, £5 set meal
01424 892104
Join us for a battle of wits!

ASHBURNHAM & PENHURST WI
Monday 20th May
Jay Ashworth will be leading a guided walk around the gardens at Ashburnham Place



Meet at 7pm in the Upper Slype/Orangery Car Park at Ashburnham Place, TN33 9NF
For more details see our webpage
<https://ashburnham-penhurst.net/>



Follow us on Facebook

Book Club
Our next gathering will be at **2pm on Friday 31st May at Street Cottage**
For details call Nicky on 01424 892474
We will be chatting about the books we have enjoyed since the last time we met: sharing, swapping, lending and recommending

Village Lunch
Wednesday 15th May
at the Village Hall

Lunch is cooked for any older residents in our villages who would like a bit of company and a delicious home cooked meal.

Do get in touch with Janet if you'd like to join in, it's a good way to meet new people and get to know other villagers.

If you can't get there under your own steam, transport can easily be arranged for you

For more information or to book a place, ring Janet on 01424 892311

Table Tennis Club
Meets at the Village Hall on Wednesdays at 7.45pm
Call Janet on 01424 892311 for more information

MI

Meets on Tuesday 14th May at the Ash Tree Inn from 8.30pm

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

The Coffee Stop

Drop in anytime between
10.30 a.m.-12 p.m. for
a cup of coffee and chat.

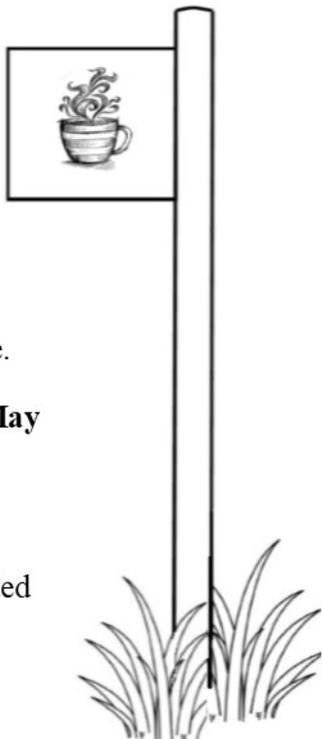
All ages and interests welcome.

The next one is on **Friday 3rd May**
(First Friday of the month)

Hope to see you there!

(A community initiative supported
by the Parish Council.)

Meets at the Sports Pavilion



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I'm sorry to announce that Ron has stopped rambling - well, he's decided to retire his regular piece in the magazine anyway! I want to thank Ron for his entertaining contributions to the Parish magazine over the last couple of years. If there are any other budding writers out there do get in touch, we would love to include more articles in the magazine each month.

Jay Ashworth

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If you are planning to visit anytime here is notice that we will be closed this year for the following dates:

- MAY:** Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th
JULY: Saturday 20th – Wednesday 31st
AUGUST: Thursday 1st – Friday 16th, Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th
NOVEMBER: Saturday 23rd – Sunday 24th

We may be closed for other dates during 2019. Notice of closures will be displayed in the Orangery and on our Facebook page or please call before visiting.

Open: Tuesday – Sunday: 10.30am-5.00pm

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The Filling Station at Ashburnham Place

The Filling Station is an informal way of expressing the Christian Faith, meeting on **Monday 13th May**

Our speaker will be Rachel Hickson, speaking on 'Wise Choices'. Rachel is a Director of the HeartCry Ministries.

Meet at 7pm for Coffee and Cakes before gathering in **the Great Hall** for worship, speaker and prayer ministry. Come and be filled up!

For more details see website
www.thefillingstation.org/station/ashburnham or contact Catherine on 01580 881816 or catherine@duggleby.com



the PlayCafé 'too small for school'

Wednesday mornings (term times), 10am till 12 noon
Adults must be accompanied by at least one baby or toddler!

You can find us at Ashburnham Church Hall, in the grounds of Ashburnham Place, Battle. TN33 9NF

You can park in the main car park and the Café is signposted from there. All are welcome to come for coffee, chat and play.

Plenty of toys, messy creative play, singing, outside fun, a quiet corner for tiny tots.

Give Margaret a ring on 01424 777011. If she's not in, leave a message and she will ring you back as soon as she can.

Supported by Ashburnham Church

Elderflower Cordial Recipe

Elder trees will be flowering in late May or early June, keep an eye out for the pretty cream coloured flowers and pick some to make this delicious cordial. The best flowers to use are ones that are just open and picked on a dry, sunny day.

25 elderflower heads
3 lemons - zest and juice
1.5 l water
1 kg sugar

Inspect the flowers for insects, shake to remove any then place the heads in a large bowl with the lemon zest

Bring the water to the boil and pour over the flowers and zest, cover and leave overnight

Strain the liquid through muslin or a jelly bag into a saucepan

Add the sugar and lemon juice and stir till the sugar dissolves, simmer for 2 minutes

Wash and sterilise bottles (either rinse out carefully with boiling water or wash and rinse before putting in the oven at 140c unit completely dry)

Pour the juice into bottles using a funnel or jug and seal immediately

You can also freeze some of the cordial in ice cube trays, then just pop one into a glass when you need a drink!

This recipe is from the new Penhurst Retreat Centre Cookery Book which contains lots of lovely recipes which are used at the Centre and some that the staff and volunteers have suggested. If you would like a copy of the Cookery Book they are for sale in the little shop at the Retreat Centre.



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A S H B U R N H A M
P L A C E

Grounds and Gardens

Now that spring is really here we are starting to sell plants outside the Orangery again. These have all been raised onsite in the greenhouses in the Walled Garden by Jay. Come and see what we have on offer!

History Walks

Thur 6th June & Sat 7th Sept

Nature Walks

Thur 12th Sept & Sat 21st Sept

For more information go to
www.ashburnham.org.uk

Penhurst Retreat Centre

As you will know, Richard and Storm are sadly leaving the Retreat Centre and the village in June and so the trustees of the Retreat Centre would like to invite all those in our villages who know and love them to come to a farewell celebration on Saturday 22nd June. The event will include a chance for those associated with the Retreat Centre as well as groups and societies from the villages to say a few words and pay tribute to Richard and Storm.

The details are still being finalised but it is likely to start at 2pm for afternoon tea with the goodbye formalities taking place from 3pm. There will also be an evening event for those who are able to stay on.

Please get in touch with us via email events@penhurst.org.uk to let us know if you are planning to come. We may be asking for some help nearer the time too so if you're happy to bake a cake or serve some tea, please let us know!

More details in next month's magazine!

www.penhurst.org.uk
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Time: 10-11:30am • Ages: 0-36 month old

BUNNY THURSDAYS

We have planned lots of exciting groups from Baby Massage,
Baby Yoga, Sing & Sign plus much more! See website for the schedule.

Time: 10-11:30am • Ages: 0-18 month old

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

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Parish Magazine Contact Details

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If you have a question about delivery
contact Catherine on 01580 881816

To submit articles or village notices
contact Jay Ashworth on
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B87

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10.05am Ash Tree Inn

10.25am arrive Battle Abbey Green

12.05pm leave Battle Abbey Green

12.30pm Ash Tree Inn

For **Ashburnham Church** events and information go to
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For **Village** events and information go to
www.ashburnham-penhurst.net

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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

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.

Book Recommendation

following on from last month's book, 'The Running Hare' by John Lewis-
Stempel, I can recommend another of his books,

'Meadowland The Private Life of an English Field'

in this book he writes about a year in a field on his farm in Herefordshire,
detailing the history of the area as well as the flora and fauna that grows or
visits each month. Like his other books it is beautifully written in such a way
that you can clearly picture everything he describes and his knowledge and
love of the natural world shines through.

I bought my copy at Rother Books in Battle, it is great to be able to
browse in a local bookshop and pick up something unexpected
that turns out to be a gem!

If you've read a good book lately, why not send a quick email to me at the
address below - let us all know what you loved about it.

Jay Ashworth

jay.ashworth@btinternet.com

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Messy People

It has always fascinated me that, at the Last Supper, when Jesus said, “One of you will betray me,” the disciples did not with one accord swing round and look at Judas. “Well, we all know who **that’s** going to be!” Rather they began to ask Jesus one by one, “Is it me?” All the disciples knew that they had it within themselves to fail, to let Jesus down, to make a mess of things.

But the great thing about Jesus was that he chose them all. And he loved and included each of them in his life and ministry, from Levi, the puppet of the Romans, to Simon the Zealot, who hated everything the Romans stood for. Jesus shared that last meal with them all, including Judas, and he washed his feet too.

An ability to deal with messy people is one of Jesus’ great gifts. He was relaxed in the company of the disreputable bunch of people that followed him round – the prostitutes, beggars, people with physical disabilities or despised ethnic groups. In fact he obviously liked these people and because of him they dared to believe that they could be part of the kingdom of God.

So often when we are going through a bad patch, and our lives are falling apart, we feel a sense of failure. Christians shouldn’t... have failed marriages, lose their temper, hate one another, be fed up with church, question what we’ve been taught as eternal truths. But often we do – and we get depressed. But God still loves us at those times. Psalm 103 says: “As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”

When things go wrong, and we make a mess of life, we do not need to be paralysed by the thought that God is angry with us. God is not disillusioned by us. He never had any illusions in the first place. He knows we are dust. But he loves us *just as we are*, and longs for us to work with him in getting through the bad times and helping others through their bad times too.

Jennifer Oldroyd

Very many thanks to everyone who contacted me after my article about Tuneless Choirs in the April magazine. (It appears that the Vicar’s wife loves to sing Dolly Parton songs...!)

I have investigated, and it is quite expensive to obtain a Tuneless Choir franchise, but I am sure we could get some sort of musical group going in the village.

I will pursue this further, but do feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas.

Jennifer Oldroyd

Ashburnham Church Hall

The Church Hall is situated in the grounds of Ashburnham Place, tucked just inside the wall of the Kitchen Garden. It is used for Sunday school, the Play Cafe, coffee after the Sunday morning service and the occasional Sunday shared lunch.

The building consists of one large room, two smaller rooms, two WCs and a very well equipped kitchen. There is a small garden at the back. Village residents are welcome to use the facilities for children’s parties, coffee mornings, teas, committee meetings, etc, and we simply ask for a donation towards the upkeep of the hall.

Clive Mills has taken over as caretaker of the hall, and also keeps the bookings diary. Please contact him if you would like to make a booking, or if you have any other query about the hall. You can telephone on 01424 777011, or email to clive.mills@ymail.com

The Art Group

meets every Thursday morning from 10am to 1pm in

The Sports Pavilion, Ashburnham, TN33 9NU

Sadly we have no Tutor booked for May
(The next Workshop Day for diaries will be next month, 27th June with Mark Fisher. For booking arrangements, see below)

You are always welcome to drop in for a creative morning for just £5 every Thursday

Tea and coffee provided but please bring a packed lunch on workshop days. Details of all our Tutored Sessions and Workshop Days will be published here.

Drop in any Thursday to non-tutor sessions for £5 but **for the Tutored Sessions at £12 on the day, and Workshop Days at £20** please **book your place by texting your name (and email address if you need directions) to Barbara: 07703 284496 or Elfreda: 07774 066578.**

New Village Hall Fund Raising

As most of the hurdles that have delayed the start date for the new village hall are now falling away, we have decided to ramp up our fundraising efforts for the project.

The biggest fund raiser last year was the Country Fair, raising around £4,000.

We are hoping to improve on this by adding an **auction of promises** and other events to the day. If you have any ideas for items that could be included in the auction then please let anyone on the fund raising committee know. It could be an unwanted gift or the donation of time or skills.

We are also looking for volunteers to help on the day with tasks such as running a stall, flipping burgers or parking cars.

We will also be catering for an event that the vintage motor cycle club are holding on the recreation ground on 13th July. All the profits from the cakes and teas, Barbeque and bar will be going to the new village hall project.

Any offers of help on the day would be greatly appreciated.

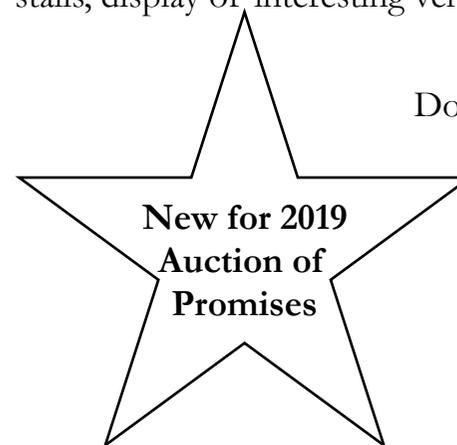
Thanks so much, Richard White

Flower Show and Country Fair Saturday 27th July 2019

This popular event is taking place again this year at the Sports Ground in Ashburnham with a new, earlier starting time of 1.30pm.

There will be all the usual attractions (and some new ones!) including the fun dog show, delicious cake, pimm's and burgers, story telling, live music, traditional games, lawn mower challenge, stalls, display of interesting vehicles and much, much more!

Do put the date in your diaries and come along!



Flower Show

You should have received a Flower Show Schedule with your Parish Magazine this month.

If you didn't get one, or need another copy go to the Parish website where you can download a copy www.ashburnham-penhurst.net

Do have a look through and think about what you might enter, there are classes for those with green fingers, those with aspirations to enter the Great British Bake Off or the Sewing Bee and lots of classes for kids - something for everyone!

Parish Council News

The sound of leather on willow heralds the start of spring perhaps more than does the cuckoo! It is also the season when everything kicks off at the pavilion. Popular as a venue all year round it comes into its own now the days are longer and warmer.



Along with the increase in activity because of cricket, it is also time to continue with the upkeep of the grounds and building. Fortunately, the annual income from letting fees is sufficient to cover costs in a normal year.

The building maintenance programme this year is to complete the interior decoration and to give the exterior cladding its periodic treatment. A number of one off projects are also in hand. These include landscaping around the concrete slab where the old pavilion stood and this is mostly funded from the residue of funds raised during the diamond jubilee year of HM The Queen. Other one off jobs are creating a gated entrance to the field at the New Buildings Farm end and putting up a suitable barrier in front of the hedge along the lane boundary. This is to stop cricket balls disappearing into the new hedge that is now coming into its third summer and starting to put on weight.

Finally, a legal agreement has been completed with the landlords, the Ashburnham Estate, permitting improvements to the entrance from the road. This was one of the preconditions of planning permission for the new village hall. The cost of the work is fully funded from our successful lottery fund bid to Awards for All last year.

Brian Holdstock, Clerk to the Council
Email: clerk@ashburnham-penhurst.net

Land line: 01323 832082 with answering machine. Text: 07836 716723

If leaving telephone voice messages please leave your name and a call back number.

Council meetings are on the last Wednesday of alternate months (next 29 May 2019) and 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.



Registered Charity Number 1178448

New Village Hall Update

We hope you enjoyed seeing the display at the Village Meeting last month. For those that couldn't make it, you missed seeing the latest plans for the new Village Hall as well as some photographs of materials we are hoping to use and of course, Paul's fabulous model of the proposed Hall in all its glory!

As Brian mentioned in the Parish Council News, now that we have agreement from the landlords, the lottery funded work on the entranceway will be starting soon. As well as all the hard work going on behind the scenes it will be good to see some more progress being made at the site itself.

Jay Ashworth

100 Club

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

It costs just £12 for a full year and you could win the monthly draw of £25

The Prize Draw is held at the Pub Quiz at the Ash Tree Inn each month

To sign up or renew your membership
Ring Robin or Gill on 01424 892674

Ashburnham and Penhurst Flower Show and Country Fair

Our next planning meeting is on Wednesday 22nd May,
7.30pm at the Sports Pavilion

Do come along if you'd like to help, or let us know if you have any good ideas for stalls or attractions!

May Diary

Wed 1	10am-12pm 7.45pm	Play Cafe Table Tennis	Ashburnham Church Hall Village Hall
Thu 2	10am-3.30pm 7.30pm 8pm	Art Group Bell Ringing Ashburnham Church Housegroups	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Church Various Locations
Fri 3	10.30am-12pm	Coffee Stop	Sports Pavilion
Sat 4			
Sun 5	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	All Age Service Holy Communion Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 6 Bank Holiday	9.15-10.45am	Yoga	Sports Pavilion
Tue 7	7.45pm	Pub Quiz	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 8	10am-12pm 7.45pm	Play Cafe Table Tennis	Ashburnham Church Hall Village Hall
Thu 9	10am-1pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	Art Group Bell Ringing Hour of Prayer	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Church Ashburnham Church Hall
Fri 10			
Sat 11			
Sun 12	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion with Children's Activities Morning Prayer Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel

Mon 13	9.15-10.45am 7pm	Yoga Filling Station	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Place
Tue 14	8.30pm	MI	Ash Tree Inn
Wed 15	12.30pm 7.45pm	Village Lunch Table Tennis	Village Hall Village Hall
Thu 16	10am-1pm 7.30pm 8pm	Art Group Bell Ringing Ashburnham Church House Groups	Sports Pavilion Ashburnham Church Various Locations
Fri 17			
Sat 18	10am-12pm	Plant Sale and Coffee Morning	Sports Pavilion
Sun 19	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Prayer with Children's Activities Holy Communion Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 20	9.15-10.45am 7.15pm	Yoga WI Tour of Ashburnham Place Gardens	Sports Pavilion Orangery Car Park
Tue 21			
Wed 22	10am-12pm 7.30pm 7.45pm	Play Cafe Flower Show and Country Fair Planning Meeting Table Tennis	Ashburnham Church Hall Sports Pavilion Village Hall
Thu 23	10am - 1pm	Art Group	Sports Pavilion
Fri 24			
Sat 25			
Sun 26	10.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion with Children's Activities Rogation Service Evening Service	Ashburnham Church Penhurst Church Ashburnham Chapel
Mon 27			
Tue 28			
Wed 29	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Sports Pavilion
Thu 30	10am-1pm 7.30pm 8pm	Art Group Bell Ringing Ashburnham Church House Groups	Sports Pavilion
Fri 31	2pm	Book Club	Street Cottage