

St Mary's Slaughtam Parish News



Outdoor Easter Services Possibly ?

New Address for Warninglid School

What to do in the garden in March

March / April 2021

HANDCROSS - PEASE POTTAGE - SLAUGHAM - WARNINGLID

PARISH CHURCH DIRECTORY

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------|
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There is no Roman Catholic Church in our Parish. The nearest one serving this area is:
The Church of Our Lady of Fatima Staplefield, served by St. Paul's ,Haywards Heath 450139

MARCH / APRIL 2021 LETTER

As I walk down the High Street I pass the noticeboard at The Old Police House. Dave has a notice pinned to the board:

*Life's not about waiting for the storm to pass;
It's about learning to dance in the rain.*

In these times this is a great aspiration. Can we set aside our worries and stresses and celebrate what is good in our lives?

For some of us in the villages this isn't so hard - we have our pensions and our partners. For others it will be dreadfully lonely. Still others will be cooped up with others and wishing for some space and time to themselves. Some will be out of work and finding it hard to provide for their families; others will be mourning a lost one, maybe not able even to attend funerals. Finding things in our lives to celebrate can be hard.

During the last year I've seen many acts of kindness and generosity, some small, some extraordinary. It's easy to be angry and resentful when we're struggling, to question whether others are behaving as they ought. Kindness and generosity are the glue in society – they are the great underrated virtues. They needn't be huge gestures - small acts of kindness are wonderful things; they bless the giver and the recipient.

So as Lent moves us towards Easter, give up resentment, and be kind and generous.

Jon



Worshipping together?

How did **you** celebrate Christmas?

For many of us, worshipping in our churches is what makes Christmas special. The initial closure and subsequent restrictions on communal worship must comprise the main cause of distress to Christians at this time. Sitting by ourselves in front of a screen with zoom may be an acceptable way around the restrictions, but it seems to strip services of their emotion, - principally the fellowship we share in Jesus, - the love and joy of community.

So here in Slaugham we decided to hold our major festival services out-of-doors, starting with Harvest Festival on Staplefield Common. God was good to us and blessed us with sunshine and little wind so that the band's music did not blow around the Green and the choir's voices wafted beautifully over the congregation and a good number of local people joined us whom we do not normally see.

Then came Remembrance Sunday, and we went for a similar arrangement and were again blessed with similar weather and a similar congregational response, - perhaps a little cold for some of our very elderly church members, but nevertheless a very special service.

Then comes Christmas. So firstly, the Rector visited all the schools in our parish and invited them to prepare a scene from the Christmas story to be presented in a dedicated gazebo on the common. You can imagine how many parents came along on this crisp and bright winter afternoon to sing carols and admire their children's excellent work: it was amazing! Then we had not one but two midnight communion services in our churches so that all would-be worshippers could be accommodated observing the regulations. Finally, we had gentle breezes but overcast conditions for our main carol service, - until the sun blazed through the crowd in all its evening splendour, just as the Rector started to speak. With the aid of some loud-speakers everyone could be heard, despite a crowd that spread out all over the recreation ground. 'Hark, the Herald Angels' was sung and played with inspiring energy as we wended our joyful ways back to prepare for Christmas day itself, - yet another sunny service outside. God was good to us and most worthy to be praised.

So what about Easter? May we commend the outdoor solution as to how best to praise our risen Saviour in a time of sickness! Very often, adversity brings the best out in us and we were so pleased to be joined by people who may normally find the interiors of our churches intimidating, feel welcome and able to join in. Praise be to our risen Saviour!

Graham Reid

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Church Services for March and April 2021
St.Mary's Slaugham and St.Mark's Staplefield

At the time of production of this magazine, the nation is still in lockdown. Whilst there are positive signs of COVID cases reducing, we do not feel able, at this time, to publicise definite plans for this year's Holy Week services. If government guidelines allow, we will look to celebrate Easter Sunday (4th April) outdoors to allow more people to be able to attend. Please keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet for further updates.

Currently, our usual pattern of services is as follows:-

Please book in advance if you would like to attend the services inside St.Mark's,

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st Sunday of month | 10am | St Mark's Staplefield |
| | 10.30am | YouTube |
| 2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Sundays | 9am | St Mark's Staplefield |
| | 10.30am | YouTube |
| 5 th Sunday | 9am | YouTube |
| | 10.30am | YouTube |
| 1st Tuesday of month | 7.45 p.m. Prayer Gathering | Zoom |

St. Mary's or All Saints churches. Please contact the church office :
 e.mail: slaugham@btinternet.com or telephone 01444 400221.

Our You Tube services can be found here:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4

Or search for: United Benefice of St Mary's and St Mark's.

Continued on page 5.....

Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat on Zoom after the YouTube services:-

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81415779955?
pwd=cTM0VGk2SVJMU1U3cW53Y2FqeCtGZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81415779955?pwd=cTM0VGk2SVJMU1U3cW53Y2FqeCtGZz09)

Meeting ID: 814 1577 9955, Passcode: 243473

Prayer ministry is available after the 10.30 online services. The phone numbers of two people will be in the weekly notice sheet and on the screen after the service, and they will be available for an hour following the service, should you wish to call them to talk and pray together.
(This is in addition to the Zoom coffee sessions.)



Warninglid School - New Premises

Warninglid Primary School will be relocating from our present location in Slaugham Lane, Warninglid, to a newly built school at **Woodgate, Pease Pottage.**

Instead of feeling sad about the closing of the school, which has been in this location since Victorian times, we want to celebrate by holding an open day in July 2021. (Government guidelines allowing).

With this in mind, we ask if anyone with previous links to the school, as a pupil, member of staff or Governor, would like to share with us any memories and photographs you have. This will serve as a wonderful reminder and memories of all our times at Warninglid Primary School.



We will keep everyone informed of the date of our celebration and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.
Please get in touch with us by emailing: officeadmin@warninglidprimary.co.uk



Scam warning

Be aware that there is a particularly threatening telephone scam occurring at the moment, where the message claims to be from HMRC and threatens arrest if the call is not returned. It is not a genuine HMRC call.
HMRC urges people to check the government website if they think they might have been approached by a scammer.

Yew - *by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust*

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' famed donkey ride into Jerusalem. Recreating that palm-branch-strewn journey in Britain has been botanically challenging, since palm trees don't grow in our climate. Instead, churches gathered sprigs of native yew to provide the ceremonial décor and in some areas, the Sunday before Easter became known as Yew Sunday, and that's why every churchyard has a yew.

Well, actually the yew's churchyard connection is because yews are evergreen and can miraculously regrow from a dead stump. The trees were planted as a symbol of everlasting life and a reminder of the Easter resurrection, but, hold up.... how come over 500 churchyard yews in England and Wales are older than their churches? It must mean that the yews themselves were pagan places of worship and the churches were built around them. Or they were planted on the graves of plague victims to purify the dead. Or it could be something to do with long bows. Or keeping the waiting congregation sheltered and dry each Sunday. No-one seems sure where this association started but, whatever the reason, yews look right at home in churchyards. Dark, dense and unmoving they solemnly preside over the sad ceremonies held underneath their boughs and have seen generations come and go. Every part of them is highly poisonous; their leaves, their bark, their seeds. Only the fleshy red arils around the toxic seeds are harmless, encouraging birds to feed on them and disperse the poisonous cargo within.

Two rival British yews are advertised as the oldest living thing in Europe, at an alleged 5,000 years old. Not many yews in Sussex can rival these great evergreen grand-daddies. Most of our whipper-snappers are probably just a couple of hundred years old. The problem is it's hard to accurately age a yew, as they get older, their blood red heart-wood rots, leaving them hollow inside and without traditional growth rings. Its heart may no longer be in it but that won't stop the yew from growing.

One of the oldest yews in Sussex can be found in Stedham churchyard near Midhurst. It's estimated to be a mind-boggling 2,500 years old. Over in Wilmington, at the foot of the Long Man, a monstrous yew dominates the churchyard. At a reputed age of 1,600 years the tree is 600 years older than the church. Supported by wooden props and straining against rusting chains, it's as if a travelling circus is exhibiting an aging dinosaur. It's worth a visit to both these old timers. For me, standing in the shadow of a plant that is 40 times older than you is humbling and a reminder that for us mere humans, life is brief.





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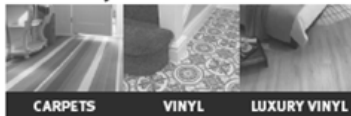


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Thank you so much to those who have given generously to the Community Pantry. Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to get food to the people who need it most, and the generosity of people in our community has been wonderful.

We are sure that you are aware that the need for organisations like the Handcross Community Pantry has grown considerably over the past year and, with a large number of people facing potential unemployment in the months to come, that need is going to continue to grow.

Our aim is to be committed to being here for the community as long as there is a need, and so we are asking those who can, to continue to be as generous as possible for the sake of those who can't.

You can donate to the Pantry in a number of different ways:

- ◆ Regular donations of food and toiletry items. (See below for details of items we accept.)
- ◆ Organise a one-off donation with a group of people. Perhaps at work or school or in your street, you could arrange a larger community donation.
- ◆ Give financially. We have a team of people who do shopping for the Pantry each week. We also aim to provide vouchers for use at the Handcross Butcher whenever we can, and your financial donations enable us to do this.

All donations can be delivered to Handcross Hardware & Craft or to the Handcross Community Pre-school. Financial donations can also be made via BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 81842242, account name Slaughtam PCC, reference 'Pantry' or 'CP').

If you or anyone you know are in need of help, then please don't hesitate to contact us on 01444 400221.

Thank you again for your support.

Grace and Peace,

The Handcross Community Pantry Team

Welcome items:

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Baked Beans

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(e.g. rice pudding, custard)

Cleaning cloths & Cleaning products

Washing Up Liquid

Long life milk (semi-skimmed)

Tinned meat

Tinned pies

Cereals

Sugar

Toilet Rolls



Brimstone butterfly - by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

This lockdown has certainly felt harder because of the winter. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed the bleak beauty of the season: bare trees, frosted landscapes, but now I need something to get my heart racing. I need a sign – some hope in these challenging times, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour.

In March my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly. On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the brimstone butterfly makes his elegant entrance into the New Year on those bright March days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' was the inspiration for the word butterfly. This claim may be a myth and it's also untrue that these March brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. By the time brimstones appear in March they are already on their last (six) legs. Fresh brimstone butterflies emerged from their chrysalises in late summer, so by now they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly, almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under holly and ivy, yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon. When they awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.

The brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which, like the butterfly, are widespread across Sussex. When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days before I evicted the gnomes and planted an alder buckthorn. The following spring I was excited to watch a brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree, content in the knowledge that I was doing my bit to raise the following year's brimstone brigade.

My first brimstone sighting each year doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. After the tough winter that we've all just suffered, that's good enough for me. Either way, this beautiful yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. Let's hope that with the spring comes hope for a brighter year for us all.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book,

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“What is prayer, and how do I pray? If there is a God, does He, *can He* heal? Why did Jesus die? Can I rely on the Bible as a reliable way to find Truth? Is there such a thing as objective Truth?”



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Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John Chapter 10, verse 10, New International Version). Do you long for ‘life to the full’?

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March garden notes

February heralded a mini 'beast from the east' with sub-zero temperatures, chilly winds and some snow.

It's amazing how some plants look terrible when frozen but they recover incredibly well. Some evergreens lose a limb here and there with snow load, so check for damage and prune off as appropriate. Some salvias and penstemons may be knocked back to the base but the insulating affect of the snow usually protects the basal shoots. March often brings warm sunny days in between cooler spells (remember the start of the first lockdown !?) so make the most of drier ground conditions to prepare vegetable plots, flower borders and rake worm casts which is much easier when dry. Sowing of some of the hardier annuals can be done this month under glass or cloches e.g. sweet peas, antirrhinums, alyssum, marigolds, larkspur, clarkia and lobelia. Also start sowing tomatoes, peppers and aubergines for greenhouse production. When pricking out remember to hold by a leaf not the stem as there's only one stem but a leaf is replaceable. Also don't leave it until the seedlings are too congested with roots entwined which leads to damage when trying to untangle. Sow more thinly next time if you have a 'forest'. Sow lettuce, leeks, broad beans, sprouts, cabbage, broccoli, kale (give protection against pigeons and other birds) and, when you've prepared and raked the plot ready, peas, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, kohlrabi, rocket, spinach and corn salad can be sown directly along with yellow onion sets, but leave the red varieties till April to reduce bolting. It's too early for courgettes and the other members of the tender squash family, likewise French and runner beans and sweetcorn which you can leave until May.

Over-wintered fuchsias, osteospermums, chrysanthemums and pelargoniums can be propagated by cuttings with the help of bottom heat in March.

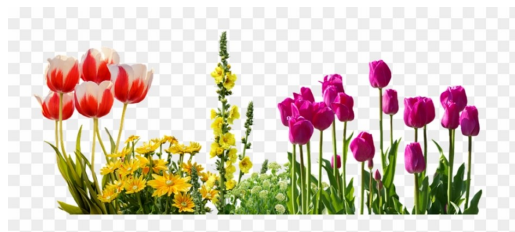
Finish pruning apple and pear trees by the first week of March as the blossom starts to appear soon after but it's the right time for pruning hybrid tea roses - cut each stem to 6 inches from it's base, floribunda roses - cut down to 12-15 inches and thin out congested or crossing stems. Also buddleias, cutting them back hard, leaving just 1-2 inches of last year's growth and removing any old woody stems. Other pruning includes viburnums, choisyas, mahonias, winter jasmine, and other early spring flowering shrubs.

Lift and divide any congested clumps of herbaceous plants and throw out the old middle section and replant the newer outer parts before their growth really gets under way. Pot on houseplants where roots are coming through the base of the pot. Plant into the next size up, not several sizes bigger as roots sitting next to a large volume of wet compost don't always appreciate it. Houseplants always benefit from being turned round regularly from their fixed position so as to balance up the light each side receives.

If we have a prolonged mild, dry spell, pull out the mower and cut the grass on a high setting.

Enjoy the beautiful spring bulbs and blossoms as they burst forth.

Lindsay Shurvell



Coronavirus

We are well on our way to spring now and it seems incredible that this time last year we were in the same situation - little did we realise that a year later we would still be fighting this awful virus. However, fortunately, thanks to the fantastic work and expertise of scientists and virologists the world over, the end is in sight. Now that we have all got used to this 'new' way of living I'm sure that some of the adaptations that have been put in place will remain. Certain aspects of business for example, working from home etc., doctor's consultations on the telephone, all seem to have worked well and efficiently, and especially on-line shopping. Many favourable comments about less traffic on the roads have been heard. Sadly though, very many businesses have been affected and found it particularly hard, and of course have had to be wound up.

We are not 'out of the woods' yet though, as we are being advised constantly. So of course for the time being we still have to adhere to the government's 'road map' as they call it, which now means that certain aspects of the lock-down have been released - schools re-opening for example - our youngsters will surely be relieved (not to mention the parents), when they are able to attend their lessons etc., in person instead of in front of a computer screen.

Home schooling has been a challenge for so many parents, not least because maybe the teaching technique is very different from the way the parents themselves were taught.

Come June, by the time the next magazine is due, maybe.....just maybe.....we will be out of lock-down and slowly getting back to 'normal', so let's pray that this summer will be like old times.

The words of a song by Vera Lynn comes to mind "We'll meet again!"

Ed.



***All articles for the May / June 2021 Magazine
should reach us by Monday 26th April AT THE VERY LATEST.
Addresses and e-mails on inside of front cover.
Thankyou. Editor.***

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