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February 2026

3 Herald's

STORRINGTON



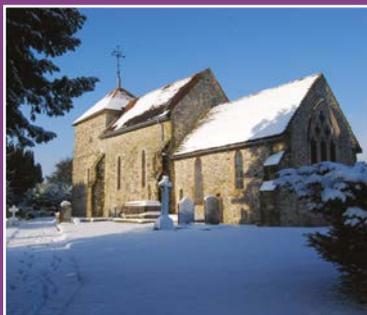
SULLINGTON



THAKEHAM



Start of Lent – 18 February



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The Rectory, Rectory Road, Storrington RH20 4EF
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For all information regarding services provided by your churches, for Storrington contact the Revd Jonathan Swindells and for Sullington and Thakeham contact the Parish Administrator.



"We do not think ourselves into a new way of living as much as we live ourselves into new ways of thinking."

Fr Richard Rohr

I can't believe it's been a year since I wrote my first piece for the 3 *Heralds*. So, here I am, again, sat at my desk wondering what to say about another Lent. Does faith/church life sometimes feel a bit like a hamster wheel? We're busy running the wheel of faith (or the parish pump) but we don't actually go anywhere!

Last year I quoted Isaiah: *See I am doing a new thing, now it springs up... do you not perceive it.* It's one of my go to texts and inspires me to put my trust in the God of Surprises and be open to the Holy Spirit's movement for me and through me. Each new Lent offers fresh opportunities for Spirit-filled renewal; renewal that will bring growth and growth that will lead to change and change that will inevitably mean that we move into the new future God has in store for us.

This Lent the various church denominations of Storrington are expressing the unity we have in Christ by reflecting together, through our Lent Groups, on prayer, the great tool for authentic spiritual renewal. A living faith is alive to the power and purpose of prayer.

However, an authentically Christ-centred faith has to face times when it feels as if God is on mute.... *My God, my God why have you forsaken me.* How can we engage and grow through the silence of unanswered prayer?

The contemporary Christian minister and writer, Pete Greig, draws from the rich spiritual and biblical traditions of Christianity to explore the reality of unanswered prayer in his book *God on Mute*, and through it a new way of living the Christ-life with renewed faith, hope and love. This Christian classic will be the basis for the Lent Groups, details of which can be found through your local church. May this opportunity for Lenten renewal bless you and your church family.

Yours in faith, hope and love
Jonathan

PS. I just want to say a big thank you to Amanda who has skilfully and very faithfully edited 3 *Heralds* for many years now and wish every blessing to our new editor, Maria.

JONATHAN SWINDELLS
Rector of Storrington

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AMANDA HAS LEFT THE BUILDING!

Well, so I come to the end of my time as Editor of 3 *Heralds* after nearly 12 years.

The February edition will be my last as I hand over the reins to a very competent Maria Radford, who has a wealth of experience as editor of another local parish magazine.

I would like to give my gratitude to all of those who have contributed to the magazine over the years. Without your input, there would be no content!

And my biggest thanks go to all the readers and the lovely feedback I have received; it has made all the hard work worthwhile knowing how much enjoyment you have had from this magazine.

I shall miss putting everything together but am sure I will soon occupy my time with other pursuits!

I will be keeping my old email address so please feel free to email me and keep in contact!

With my very best wishes and all God's Blessings

Amanda Hislop, 3Heralds@gmail.com
07702 945960



***** IMPORTANT *****

Dear 3 *Heralds* Reader

Thank you for your continuing support of the 3 *Heralds*.

The cost of the magazine for 2026 remains at £1 per copy. Your annual fee of £12 can be paid online:

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This reference is very important to identify you have paid!

You can also pay by cash or cheque, payable to **Storrington & Sullington Parish Magazine** and send to your distributor or Mrs Viv Stuart at Rectory Office, Rectory Road, Storrington RH20 4EF.

Please also let your distributor know when and how you have paid.

Thank you and best wishes for 2026.

The 3 *Heralds* Team



Loving God
and loving our
neighbour



2 Corinthians 5:17

St Mary's Thakeham

www.stmarysthakeham.org

Churchwardens

Mike James (07795 024842)
Heatherdown, Washington Rd
Storrington
RH20 4DE

Pippa Harder
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Thakeham
RH20 3EG

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stmarysthakehamtreasurer@gmail.com

Retired Clergy

Revd Jill Simpson

PCC Secretary

VACANT

Electoral Roll Officer

Virginia James
Contact via church office at
electoralrollstmary.thakeham@btinternet.com

Church Bookings

Wynn Lednor (743025)
4 Crescent Rise, Storrington, RH20 3NB

Bellringers: Tower Captain

Roger Watts

Bell Ringers Tower Secretary

Christine Hounslow (07798 610094)

Gift Aid Officer

Bob Timms (01798 813807)
Cootes, The Street, Thakeham, RH20 3EP

Safeguarding Officer

Pippa Harder
31 Furze Common Road,
Thakeham, RH20 3EG

PASTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR

Please contact Arabella at the Parish Office to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage.
Parish Office open Tuesday and Wednesday from 9.30am to 5pm.

It's not easy to capture in words just how special our Christmas was at Thakeham's Parish Church. Through a wonderful mix of events and celebrations, we came together in so many ways to share the joy of Christ's birth. Thank you to everyone who played such a valuable part.



So, whether you catered for a delicious Christmas lunch, sang or played wonderful carols, decorated our beautiful Church, looked after stubborn donkeys, welcomed people as they came through our doors, read inspiring lessons, operated sound desks, offered meaningful prayers, remembered how to run a Zoom service, brewed endless supplies of mulled wine, acted in the nativity play, or simply came along to share in the celebrations and the fun, thank you so very much.

It was truly a Christmas to remember, full of warmth, laughter, generosity and faith. Above all, it reminded us, as we celebrated the birth of that most incredible baby, that our Church is an amazing place of welcome, creativity and shared joy. If you joined us for the first time, we hope you felt at home, and if you're curious to know more, there is always a place for you among us!



Upcoming social and fundraising events

- 7 Feb **Ceilidh and Curry 7.30pm to 11pm**
- 16 May **Plant sale 11am to 1pm**
- 10 Jun **Tea with tales from the Palace 4.40pm**
- 3-5 Jul **Flower Festival**
- 6 Oct **Bridge day**
- 14 Nov **Christmas Fayre**
- 12 Dec **Beer and Carols**
- 13 Dec **Christmas lunch**



Full information for all the listed events will be available on the Thakeham page and in future editions of 3 Heralds

Thakeham Knit and Stitch Group



**Tuesday 17 February
2pm - 4pm**

Thakeham Church Room
Everyone Welcome



If you don't knit or stitch you are welcome to come along for company and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake

Further information from Wynn Lednor 01903 743025

You are warmly invited to attend our Alpha course...a series of very informal meetings, where we'll explore issues of faith. The meetings have already begun, but there is still plenty of time to join us!

ALPHA COURSE

Details on our website
<https://www.stmarysthakeham.org/alpha>

Explore Life Faith Meaning

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!



St Mary's Sullington

www.st-marys-sullington.org

Churchwardens

John Williams (07841 204330)
Sandgate Lodge,
Washington Road, RH20 4AF

Carol Lusher (07717 280590)
carollusher@gmail.com

Treasurer

David Baxter (744346)

Retired Clergy

Revd Jill Simpson

Churchwardens Emeriti

Heather Cotton (745751)
Ann Salinger (01798 813481)

Minutes Secretary

Philippa Stallard-Penoyre

Freewill Offering & Gift Aid Officer

David Baxter (744346)

Electoral Roll Officer

Philippa Stallard-Penoyre

Organist

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Safeguarding Officer

Jane Williams (742956)
Sandgate Lodge,
Washington Road,
Sullington, RH20 4AF

Church Fabric Officer

John Williams (07841 204330)

THAKEHAM AND SULLINGTON:

Please contact the Churchwardens to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage

Email stwparish@gmail.com. Details of Church Services on page 18



CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, SULLINGTON

What a most wonderful time of the year, as the Christmas song goes, and as we prepared our Church for the festive season, it certainly felt just so. Many gathered together with much happiness and joy to decorate the Church in readiness for our services, arranging our Christmas flowers and decorations, and then rewarded with a hot drink to warm us up on a very cold day.

The flowers were arranged and the Christmas trees were put into place. It looked beautiful, and the next day, at our annual carol service, the Christmas lights and candles warmed the Church with a gentle glow. We sat in a festive, peaceful, and reflective atmosphere, with a sense of joyous anticipation for the approaching festive season. It felt solemn, yet celebratory. Everyone sang with enthusiasm and joy alongside friends both old and new!

Thank you to everyone at Sullington for making it so special.



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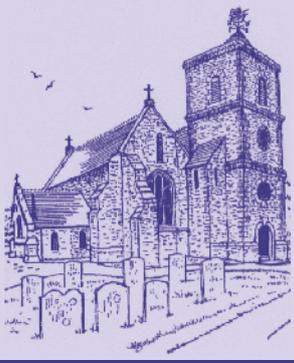
FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, SULLINGTON

Would you like to know more about this lovely Church and all that we do?

Then join Friends to receive our newsletter and news of all our events.

For details contact the churchwardens; see top of this page.





St Mary's Storrington

For Clergy see page 3 www.storringtonparishchurch.org.uk office@storringtonparishchurch.org.uk

Churchwardens

churchwardens@storringtonparishchurch.org.uk

Christine Tuson (905932)
Robinswood, George's Lane, RH20 3JH

Michael Taylor (742218)

Treasurer

David Rice (746816)
21 Longland Avenue, RH20 4HY

Parish Secretary

Vivien Stuart (742888; home 745913)
Rectory Office, Rectory Road, RH20 4EF

PCC Secretary

Marj Mitchell

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Revd John Peal (743083)
Revd Jacquie Peal (743083)

Verger and Sacristan

Michael Taylor (742218)

Sacristy Team

John Taylor (745477)
Lueen Francis

Captain of Bell-Ringers

John Taylor (745477)

Parish Visiting Scheme

Stuart Lee (743661)

Recorder

Vacant

Electoral Roll Officer

Rosemary Humphreys (367149)

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Stephen Bloxham (07391 387 225)
safestmarystor@gmail.com

Readers

Sam Ward (893794)

Director of Music

Stephen Bloxham

Assistant Organist

Ian Miles

Sidesmen

David Rice (746816)

Church Flowers

Wendy Cliffe (744467)

The Rectory Office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am – 1pm.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Church Services see page 18.

Holy Communion and Café in the Church:

2nd Wednesday at 10am HC; 10.30am Café in the Church
4th and 5th Wednesdays at 2pm HC; 2.30pm Café in the Church

Choir: Fridays, 6.40pm – 7.45pm. Anyone interested in joining the choir please contact the Revd Jacquie Peal – 743083.

Altar Servers: Michael Taylor (742218)

Bellringers: Fridays, 7.45pm – 9.30pm.

Church & Churchyard Maintenance: John Butler (745091)

Mothers' Union: Jeannie Bell (07875 220426)

Sunday Lunch Club (ecumenical): Second Sunday in the month. See page 18.

SPACE: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2pm – 4pm at the Old School. Contact Barbara (741236)

STORRINGTON REGISTERS

Funerals – we commend to God's nearer keeping ...

11 Dec Ann Somerville-Jones (88 years)

23 Dec Mavis Anderson (84 Years)

Interment of ashes only:

3 Jan Eric Raymond Gill (90 years)

CANDLEMAS SUNDAY – 1 February

Candles are lit during the 10am Service on this day to mark the presentation of the infant Christ to the Aged Simeon and Anna in the Temple at Jerusalem, "to be a light to lighten the Gentiles."

ASH WEDNESDAY – 18 February

The main service to mark the start of Lent will take place in Church on this day at 7pm.

LENT COURSE – see page 9 for details

LENT QUIET DAY – Friday, 20 February

All welcome to any of the three sessions held in Church and led by our Rector, Jonathan, as we prayerfully reflect on Lent as a time of renewal. Please add your name to the sheet at the back of the Church if you would like to attend.

St Mary's Church, Storrington

Café in the Church

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Wednesday 11 February
10am Holy Communion
10.30 Café in the Church

Wednesday 25 February
2pm Holy Communion
2.30pm Café in the Church

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PARISH VISITING TEAM...

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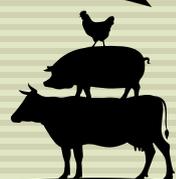
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Fr Jonathan with his Christmas cake

Singer, Freddie Lyons

CHRISTMAS COFFEE & CAROLS AT ST MARY'S, STORRINGTON

We all enjoyed a very happy morning in St Mary's, Storrington on Saturday 20 December at our Christmas Coffee and Carols and the Grand Draw, which was brilliantly organised by Gwen Fisher.

During the morning, we were entertained by two brilliant young singers with their selection of well-loved Christmas songs, and also our organist, Stephen, who led us all in some joyful singing of Christmas Carols whilst enjoying coffee and mince pies very kindly donated by Waitrose.



The Pulborough Shedders presented St Mary's with an excellent new tombola drum, handmade in their workshop, and also brought along some of their beautifully crafted gifts for sale.

A wonderful Christmas cake made by Tim Tuson attracted many guesses and assessments of its weight and was won by our rector, Jonathan. The other competition was *Guess the number of sweets in the jars*; thank you to Frank and Rosaline Preece for running this.

An enjoyable and entertaining morning was rounded off with the St Mary's Grand Christmas Draw where a first prize of £100 was won along with over 25 other prizes, all kindly donated by local businesses and generous members of the congregation and supporters of St Mary's.

The prizes were very kindly donated by...

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
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| Tesco Express, Storrington | The Little Shop |
| Green Interiors, Storrington | Old Forge Restaurant |
| SivTech Garage | The Crown Inn, Cootham |

And many, many kind friends of St Mary's Church.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped and contributed to this joyful event which allowed us to raise a record £1,007 for St Mary's community support.



Christians in Storrington Monthly Inter-Church Prayer Meetings Everyone welcome

Do join us in Storrington Priory Library, School Lane,
Storrington 9.15am to 9.45am on the
first Tuesday of each month

Tuesday 3 February – Church of England will lead
Tuesday 3 March – Our Lady of England RC Church will lead
One in faith and love and praise

CHRISTIANS IN STORRINGTON SHARED LENT COURSE

All are welcome

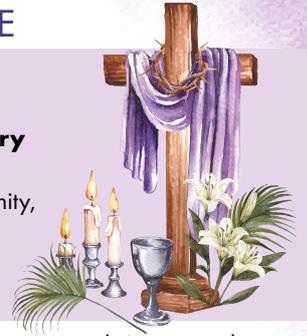
Come to just one or to all the sessions!

**Every Saturday from 28 February
to Saturday 28 March**

The Priory Hall, Chemin Neuf Community,
School Lane, Storrington.

9am – Croissant and Coffee

9.30am to 10.45am – Course



Our shared commitment to keeping a good Lent together as Christians in Storrington will be based on the contemporary spiritual Christian classic *God on Mute* by Pete Greig. The book, supported by YouTube videos, explores the profound struggle of unanswered prayer and God's silence during times of trouble and need, stemming from his wife's serious brain tumour diagnosis, and offers an honest and profoundly hopeful reflection on faith when prayers seem to go unheard. The sessions will address deep questions about suffering, doubt, and finding God's presence amidst pain, providing biblical insight and comfort for any feeling distant from God. The book also includes a 40-day devotional guide to complement the Lent Course.

For more details and to register your interest text Jonathan 07538 011579 or email frj.stmary@gmail.com

CHRISTINGLE AT ST MARY'S, STORRINGTON

**The
Children's
Society**

The total collected for the Children's Society in 2025 by St Mary's Church, Storrington, was £1,320.73.

The box opening total was £1,016 and the collection taken at the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve was £304.73. On behalf of the Children's Society, I would like to thank everyone who gave so generously.



The Christingle service was enjoyed by many children and young families; the Church was packed.

We are very grateful to all the helpers who prepared the Christingles.

If anyone would like a Children's Society box for their small change please contact me. I will be delighted to supply boxes.

Pat Jenkins (744927)

St. Mary's, Storrington, Children's Society Representative

Storrington Macular Society Support Group

24 February

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre
Spierbridge Road, Storrington
RH20 4PG



Come and join us for a hot drink and a friendly chat. Anyone affected by sight loss and their family, friends and carers are welcome.

Contact: Sue 07460 631631

Fourth Tuesday every month 1.30pm – 3pm

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help@macularsociety.org
macularsociety.org

Macular Society
Beating Macular Disease



CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S, THAKEHAM



TRINITY SUNSHINE

Trinity Sunshine is a dementia-friendly choir that serves as part of Trinity Methodist Church's outreach to the community and has been meeting since August 2023. Under the leadership of Ric Gray, the choir grew steadily and now attracts 30 or more to its monthly sessions.

Ric stepped down from his role in October 2025 and on 28 January the choir will welcome Gavin Stevens to lead his first session. Gavin studied composition, piano and electronic music at the Royal Academy of Music, winning the Arthur Hinton prize at the end of his first year for performing his compositions in a recital. He has worked for over 35 years as a teacher of piano, composition and, since 2011, guitar. As a pianist he gives frequent piano recitals and, as a composer, he has written four piano sonatas and a wide variety of other works for piano and an increasing number for guitar, including three books of studies and a set of impromptus.

Gavin has been accompanist for Heathfield Choral Society since 1999 and for Phoenix Choir, Eastbourne since 2014. He has been Music Leader at Emmanuel URC, Worthing since 2011.

The choir meets on the last Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Thakeham Road and is open to all. There is time for coffee, tea and a chat before singing starts at 11am for an hour.

Anyone interested can contact Robert Gamble on 07958 232874 or robertgamblerc@gmail.com.



Gavin Stevens

TRINITY SUNSHINE CHOIR

Are you experiencing memory problems?

Music can make it easier to recall memories when we hear pieces that are significant to us, like a particular song. Singing can improve one's brain activity, well-being and mood (Dementia UK).



The Trinity Sunshine Choir is a dementia friendly choir, but open to anyone.

Our next meeting is on 25 February
 Sessions start at 10.30am with coffee and a time to chat and make friends. Singing starts at 11am.

We meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3NG.

Anyone interested can contact Robert Gamble at robertgamblerc@gmail.com or 07958 232874.

STORRINGTON'S CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

It was in October 2015 that the idea of a lunch on Christmas Day for those people who would otherwise have been on their own was floated. Ten years later the lunch is still going strong.

On Christmas Day 2025, 48 people were served a traditional two-course lunch as the Old School came to life with laughter, conversation, and music. It was fantastic to see so many new faces along with guests who have attended Christmas Day lunch for several years or were with us on that very first one. Christmas is a great time for people to come together and enjoy lunch amongst friends old and new rather than staring at their own four walls. Santa as usual found time to visit, hand out a gift and wish everyone a Merry Christmas.



The support of businesses and people in the local community make this event possible. The generosity of Storrington & Pullborough Rotary Club, M J Suter, Hanwells, Waitrose and Tates of Sussex was central to the day's success so a huge thank you to them for their unwavering support. Donations from residents were also received. The local Blackfoot Beavers made Christmas cards for all our guests as part of their community impact badge.

The use of the Community minibuses to transport those guests who require it is something we value and the fact that we have drivers willing to help on Christmas Day to get our guests to the hall is amazing.

The day, of course, would not be possible without the help of willing volunteers who set up the hall on Christmas Eve and helped on the day to greet, host, chat, cook, transport and to make sure everyone enjoyed their day; Lucy, and her daughter Grace, arrived on Christmas Eve as usual to dress our tables ready for our guests to enjoy on Christmas day. This year again we welcomed several new helpers and welcomed back a few faces from years gone by, in total 20 helpers helped on the day.

So, to all the amazing volunteers who helped make this day happen a huge thank you.

And to all our guests we look forward to seeing you again.

Sue Kibblewhite and the Christmas Day team



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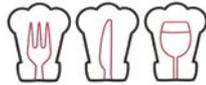
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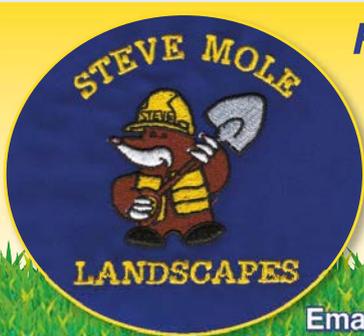
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FOLLOW THE STAR

Storrington's first walking Nativity!

A beautiful still evening on Monday, 22 December, as the walking Nativity, organised by the churches of Storrington, concluded outside St Mary's, Storrington, and formed the Storrington Stable. Warm drinks and festive treats were served in the church for our Nativity pilgrims. Thanks to everyone for taking part in this special evening.



WEST CHILTINGTON AND STORRINGTON MOTHERS' UNION

Happy New Year to all as we enter our 150th Anniversary year in 2026.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

We finished 2025 with our Christmas party, with members enjoying a festive afternoon at West Chiltington Church Hall with seasonal fare and drinks and a Christmas quiz. We were entertained by *Shipwreck*, a local folk band with folk songs, poems and Christmas carols which we sang along to. It was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.



Our members started 2026 with our New Year lunch at The Crown Inn, Cootham on the 15 January.

Join us, join in. We would love some new members to swell our ranks. All are welcome to our meetings.

Dates for your diary:

All at West Chiltington Church Hall, with a short service and tea and biscuits

5 February at 2pm – AGM and celebrating 150 years of Mother's Union

27 February at 2pm – Wave of Prayer - venue to be confirmed

5 March at 2pm – The Theology of Hymns with Stephen Bloxham

2 April at 2pm – Flower making with Sonia Fox

Sonia Fox

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

Nigeria 2026 Storrington Branch will be celebrating this Ecumenical Service at St Marys' Church, Sullington at 2pm

This service has been prepared by Christian women from Nigeria

I will give you rest, come

The service will be followed by refreshments

All are welcome!



Come and join our SPACE

Somewhere for
People to make
Art or
Crafts and
Escape from home for a few hours!



1st and 3rd Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm
at the Old School, Storrington

Everyone will be very welcome (men and women, any age or ability). Either bring along something you can already do, or have a go at something different.

For more information contact Barbara (741236).



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SULLINGTON 160 YEARS AGO

SUMMARY OF THE DIARY OF CANON PALMER 1866

Thu 1: Dull and drizzly. The papers contain nothing whatsoever; dull threatening about the Jamaica business. Begin cutting my old apple tree, which requires thinning. R.G.D. nimbly assists. Dined with Drake, the pair hopes to arrive tomorrow, but the crossing will be rough.

Fri 2: Very wet afternoon. Nothing much done today. "The happy pair" arrived at Sandgate, but the bells were a little too soon! Garfit arrives.

Sat 3: Brilliant morning. Stormy afternoon. Sad weather! My pupils come upon me with a somewhat dead weight, but I do my best. George and Emmie spend the day, both looking prodigiously well. Poor Mrs Charman bleeds and sinks. God have mercy upon her, poor thing! The MPs have elected Denison the Speaker and Bright declines against the court dress.

Sun 4: Sexagesima. Thoroughly stormy and wet. Again, and again! This kind of weather would not be distressing were it not for the possibility of what to do with them. Preached to a very small congregation. The new stormy morning on the Epistle; the subject Christians' sympathy and the work of Christians God expects of man. Masters writes that I may consider myself a member of Worth Clerical Meeting. Mr Hall having observed I belonged to the Party of Progress! I suggest to Emmie my scheme for their coming here during the time the house is being built, to which my mother is very agreeable.

Mon 5: Fine and sunny after stormy morning with thunder! April. Garfit walks to Pulborough in search of his umbrella. D. refuses to go with him for which I "give it to him" quietly.

Tue 6: Mild and stormy, no rain! Today the Queen opens her VIIIth Parliament and the weather is her own. Sunny and overwarm. Today also the Volunteers had a light attack at Storrington, which considering the high wind went off very well. George had a testimonial presented to him by the members of the Corps consisting of a claret jug. I work my boys in Latin, Fractions and Decimals. We played 5s. I wrote to Elliot in New Zealand.

Wed 7: Stormy and mild, much rain in the night and morning. A regular working day; read an account in the Edinburgh Gazette "Was Shakespeare a Roman Catholic?".

Thu 8: Very fine and cold from the north-west. The Queen seems to have opened Parliament deeply depressed. She kept her eyes fixed downwards as in deep thought and hardly acknowledges the assembly. This is her VIIIth Parliament. The Gibsons and we dined at Bacon's.

Fri 9: Stormy, rough, wet, cold. Some more ratting today, 30 killed in all! Had an important consultation with George and Emmie about the plan of their coming here and they seemed to enter into it gladly: on the result of it depended an answer to another pupil (Cowan), who I agree to take for the summer if he cares to come for the short period. Government decline acting despotically in the matter of cattle plague.

Sat 10: Heavy storms from west all afternoon and evening, thunder about. Have been much upset today by a communication made by Garfit. God helped me to a right decision in the matter.

Sun 11: Quinquagesima. Heavy rain with gale. The weather of today has surpassed all that has preceded it, my congregations were 12 and 7 respectively. The wind was so strong on sighting the church that I was nearly thrown! George C. Gibson has lost a good many trees already; the lawns are strewn with scraps, new and old. The barometer has fallen to 28.78.

Mon 12: Fine and clear. Have had a wretched day indoors, not being very well and having been worried by this business of the lost sovereign. We have now absolved Dalton from my suspicions, and I have written to his father a whole account and if he is a sensible man he will let his son remain till Easter and then take him away afterwards.

Tue 13: Fine and bright – colder. Things pretty smooth today again. To Steyning to a meeting of S.P.C.K on my proposal about local depots in connection with Steyning, my ideas nearly carried out, and I hope to set

something going at Storrington in connection with Whiting before Easter. Letter from Edward at Meirut, January 6. He had just heard of the Emmie Gibson affair and was considerably astonished. He was well but saw no chance of home until April 1868.

Wed 14: Ash Wednesday. Heavy showers, dull in morning after which raw cold. A most dismal day and no congregation except ourselves to my strictly correct service which commenced at 11 am and ended at 12:30pm.

Thu 15: Dull, rain in the evening. My mother goes to St Leonards and reports Annie has a sty. The possibility seems to be that she goes to Huntingdon from St Leonards. Charlie reports that the gale on Sunday has made them flow with water, upstairs and downstairs and in my lady's chamber! Attended this evening at a "Penny" meeting at Storrington. Two Gleees, well sung and Whiting the reading, and some anecdotes of the sojourn in Skye. Garfit and I walked home in the pouring rain.

Fri 16: Again, wet and mild. Mr Dalton writes to thank me for my kind and considerate treatment of the late serious case, and we will remove Reginald at the end of term, and will take care of him at home until he goes to the Colonies, this has been ended I am devoutly thankful. Mr Cowan writes again and I give him the true state of my case and leave to elect. Laus Deo!

Sat 17: Fine and bright, evening more settled. A very deaf day which is unpleasant. Mrs Tugnett's child, who lived only an hour, just missed "naming" the little thing, was perfectly blue, by no means a pretty object. Garfit beats me at chess.

Sun 18: Lent 1. Fine, bright and frosty. Quite a treat after our 6 wet Sundays, but the church was dismally cold! Good congregations and a very good sacramental attendance. I was very confused in my head through deafness that I actually read the wrong psalms and forgot the communion formula! Preach from "and the thorns came up and choked it".

Mon 19: Fine, frosty, white. This has been a perfect day, bright, warm sun; brisk air and a keen morning and evening. George lends me a horse to enquire after Mrs Curson at Parham; she lies very dangerously ill in town and no hopes are held for her recovery; the malady is heart. Parham Park is a wreck of elms just opposite the house. I counted 10 large trees within a 15 large circle! The Habeas Corpus was suspended for Ireland on Saturday and 120 arrests have already been made! Things must be very forgone for such a step. I fear we won my first of 11 games of chess with Garfit for a chess board and men of value not less than 1 Guinea.

Tue 20: Fine, though dull and frost. Walked with my mother to Thakeham to inspect Mrs Whittington. George uses my trap and horse to convey Emmie and himself to return calls at Fryern and Chilington.

Wed 21: Dull and dry. The Frenchman writes that the parcel will be sent off when this one arrives safely, I shall trouble the doctor about one more letter about it. Mr Hemmingway tells me that Carry King has given 10 pounds towards the Storrington Flower Show! My pups have been boring today but no more; George very much so intruding himself upon my company.

Thu 22: Dull morning turning to drizzle. Hodgkinson writes from Paris, that we must send the box there before they will let the right package go – so we have directed it to him, and hope all will come right in time. Mr Dalton writes about his son smoking and Mr Cowan declines an account of the doubtfulness of my case. Mrs Brooks in sad quandary about what to do with the wretched outcast, Ann, on her return from jail this day week; I can hardly advise her.

Fri 23: Drizzly morning. After warm and muggy. Dined with George and Emmie and discussed the school; George offers the old stable and will put it in good repair for us; but we must wait for poor Mrs Charman.

Sat 24: Fine and settled. Busy. Examination for the week. Sermon. Night school only 7. Garfit poorly with influenza.



BRIGHTON WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

St David's Day Concert

at St Mary's Church, Storrington

SATURDAY
28
FEBRUARY
7pm



Under the direction of Iris Warren, the choir sings a selection of traditional Welsh tunes, many of which we'll recognise from our hymnbook. They mainly sing in Welsh, introduced each time with an English translation. However, the programme may include arrangements of classical and popular pieces. .

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Sun 25: Lent 2. Showery morning, rainy afternoon. The Bishop upon receiving a letter from the Archbishop requests us to observe March 7th as a Fast Day on account of the cattle plague; I read 2 documents to my congregation and must summon a parliament of Farmers to discuss this plague. A letter from old Aglen declaring a large amount of work; he has Bedford as his curate! Preached an old sermon in the morning about the Phoenician and a new one in the afternoon on the Collect for the day, which I consider to be a very perfect specimen of a prayer, and always applicable.

Mon 26: Some sleet in the early morning. Showery and warm. Annie arrives safely at Huntingdon on Saturday. Garfit poorly but beats me at second game at chess. Dalton and I take a walk!

Tue 27: Dull and lowering. Foggy early morning. Am whipping up my farmers to a meeting on Friday in the matter of our Fast Day and our schools: Hardwick and Hards. This morning broke raw and foggy. Snow on the Downs which soon disappeared. Wind got round to the north and about mid-day a dark threatening sky came up. I with Dalton to Cobden, a poor girl of Nicholson came home from hospital at Brighton, a wreck without reason! The Dean of Westminster came to have made a capital speech on the Vestment question.

Wed 28: Cold and bitter wind, some sleety particles. Joyful news from India! Edward writes to me; I am coming home; the order has just come out. I shall start about Feb 6th; we are all in high spirits at this, and my mother plucks up courage enough to accept an invitation to Findon on Thursday week! Sub capita! I rode coldly but fast over the Downs to Highden where lunched; the Rowleys there. Mrs does not like the notion of Lincolnshire even with a thousand a year. Finished one sermon and shall hope to write another simple one for my afternoon congregation. Whewell has had a very severe fall from his horse.

Storrington Community Café

Tuesday 10th February
Tuesday 10th March

From 11am to 12.30pm

Hanover Walk Community Centre,
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A support group for the community in a warm venue with a friendly atmosphere to chat and enjoy a cuppa and talk about any concerns you may have.

For more info please contact your Neighbourhood Wardens:
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 Email: Storrington-SullingtonWardens@horsham.gov.uk

Alzheimer's Society | Horsham District Council

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 Old School, Storrington
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Messy Church is about fun, friendship, faith and discovering God's love in Jesus. It's for everyone and all ages. Craft activities, games, songs, Godly Play and delicious treats!

FEBRUARY 1 - Painted Prayer Pebbles

You are Invited

To find out more contact fr. Jonathan at St Mary's Church
07538 011579
storringtonparishchurch.org.uk

Is wildlife welcome in my garden?

Having suggested that your February 2026 resolution might be to evaluate your garden for friendliness to wildlife, I took a critical look at my own.

I decided to think in terms of three main groups: insects, small mammals and birds. I found an RSPB resource called the Homes for Nature Scorecard which is pretty comprehensive

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/nature-connection-activity-training-resources>

Starting with insects, which are essential as pollinators, food for other creatures and as pest controllers, I do OK. I don't have a log pile, but I have some dead wood in the garden. Just a couple of weeks ago, I accidentally broke a bit of dead wood and discovered several enormous (and ugly) stag beetle larvae. I covered them up and hope they survive. I have a stone pile, three compost heaps, and a pond (but with fish in it). I love flowers like marigolds and poppies – the simple flowers that are easy for insects to get into for the pollen and nectar. We have an area we call the "wild flower meadow" where the grass grows longer. And of course we have two beehives.



I could do better. I used to have a little insect home. You know the sort of thing made of short stumps of sunflower stems or bamboo. It fell apart and I haven't made another. Apparently lacewings – good for eating aphids – like to hide in the tubes over the winter, and some bees like them for their homes. I don't have a nettle patch; I'll have to review where I could let nettles thrive. Generally, I'm not keen on them, but several species of butterfly larvae rely on them for a food source, and nettles support about 40 insect species one way or another.

A pond is a brilliant resource for wildlife, although less so if you have fish as we do. We have fish by accident. When we moved in, we inherited a pond with one fish in it. We decided the fish was lonely, so we got half a dozen more, and within a year we had loads! The consequence is that, although we have the most amazing dragon flies and damsel flies, we don't have frogs or newts. We have another little patch where a small cherry tree died last year (possibly honey fungus) which we're planning for a grandson to dig out to make a tiny wildlife pond. The main pond has a little rill, and it's fun watching the birds using it for washing. In the summer the bees come a take water to take into the hives.

As far as reptiles are concerned, I know we have toads behind the shed, and slowworms and the common lizard in the wildflower area. I find it a real thrill seeing any of these. I haven't seen grass snakes in the compost piles, which was common in our last garden.



"Small mammals" covers lots of things. I know that there are certain small mammals one doesn't really want to encourage, although mice and rats far enough away from the house don't unduly bother me. I often see a couple of foxes passing through the garden but I don't consciously feed them. We have a hedgehog house (my husband's very first Shedd's project); no sign of occupation – we might not have it in the right place. I

am very conscious that I don't want a hedgehog to drown in the pond, so have made sure there's an escape route, and I've made sure that there are gaps under or in the fences so a hedgehog can get in and out. Several years ago, when Storrington Primary School audited the churchyard for wildlife friendliness, they emphasised the importance of hedges and long grass to provide habitat and cover for tiny mammals like shrews.

I'm considering bat boxes. One of the pleasures of summer is sitting in the garden at twilight and seeing the bats flitting to and fro.

January was Big Garden Birdwatch. Did you do it? Like many people, we feed birds and delight in sitting in our sunroom watching the goldfinches or various tits squabbling at the feeders while the pigeons and chaffinches peck around below. Thanks to downloading the Merlin birdsong app, I've discovered we have many more birds than I see. I leave it running in the garden first thing in the morning while I make my cup of tea. I am particularly thrilled by Firecrest and Hawfinch. However, our nest boxes fell apart several years ago and we haven't put up new ones.



Another Shedd's project to make me a couple of new nest boxes. I don't think our house is really suitable for a swift box, but I might just make an enquiry with Sussex Wildlife Trust. <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/> They have an active project around Storrington to help build up the swift population.

Overall, I've enjoyed spending an hour or so taking stock. I recommend it.

This is the last edition of 3 *Heralds* to be edited by Amanda Hislop. I'd just like to record my thanks to Amanda for her patience and encouragement to me as a contributor with this column.

Christine Tuson
ctuson@lineone.net

STORRINGTON SLIMMERS

MONDAY EVENINGS from 7pm to 8pm
St Mary's Church, Storrington

The group is led on a 'friendship and support' basis and group members share knowledge and tips for successful weight loss. Anyone who would like some support in their weight loss journey is welcome to just come along on a Monday evening.



STORRINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Wednesday 25 February 2.30pm
Sullington Parish Hall

Demonstrator: *Mo Dorking*
Theme: *'On a Whim'*
Competition: *'Anything Goes'*
New members and visitors welcome



CRICKET IN STORRINGTON



A Eureka Moment: Not 1793 but 1791!

The Club has been asked by the Sussex Cricket Museum at the Hove County Ground to display some of its memorabilia in the Museum's Club Corner at the start of next year's season. While assembling exhibits in November, the writer came across a concert programme dated 1881 which stated that the proceeds of the concert would be donated to the funds of the Club "which was established in 1791". This is the only firm evidence of when the Club was started. Hitherto, for as long as can be remembered, it was believed that the Club started in 1793. In that year there is a newspaper record of Storrington cricketers joining with cricketers from other villages to play a side from Horsham at Henfield. No earlier published record of Storrington cricket has ever been found.

The concert was held in the White Horse Hotel on Wednesday 9 February 1881 and comprised two parts of songs and piano recitals. A programme footnote stated that "owing to the length of the Programme no Encores will be permitted"!

Back to 2025 and 6 a-side indoor cricket, our U13 boys had a convincing win over Petworth by four wickets. Petworth scored 54-4 in their ten overs and Storrington needed only 5.5 overs to reach their target with Jack Champion and Archie Sadler scoring most of the runs. An even more emphatic win was achieved by our U15s against Worthing whose 65-2 proved an easy target for the loss of only one wicket with Finlay Evan-Walls and Harrison Fudge being the top scorers. Worthing's top scorer was former Cygnet Thomas Clarke who left Storrington at the end of last season. A notable achievement in this match was our bowlers not conceding a single no ball or wide, the first time this has ever been done.

Indoor training continues on Sundays in the Leisure Centre from 2.30pm to 4pm with a nominal charge of £5 per session:

Girls and Women on 1 & 22 February

U12s and U14s on 8 February & 15 March

U9s and U11s on 8 March

Newcomers are always welcome.

Chris Winter

THINGS WE SAY TODAY, WHICH WE OWE TO SHAKESPEARE:

"KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?" "HEART OF GOLD"
 "IN A PICKLE" "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE"
 "FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "GOOD RIDDANCE"
 "LIE LOW" "FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE" "BAITED BREATH" "SEND HIM PACKING"
 "WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE" "COME WHAT MAY"
 "THE GAME IS UP"
 "NOT SLEPT ONE WINK" "FULL CIRCLE" "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"
 "WHAT'S DONE IS DONE" "NAKED TRUTH" "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"
 "LAUGHING STOCK" "BREADED HIS LAST" "BREAK THE ICE" "WILD GOOSE CHASE"
 "HEART OF HEARTS" "VANISH INTO THIN AIR"
 "SEEN BETTER DAYS" "MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END"
 "DEAD AS A DOORNAIL" "FOR GOODNESS' SAKE" "LOVE IS BLIND"
 "GREEN EYED MONSTER" "FAIR / FOUL PLAY / PLAY" "OFF WITH HIS HEAD"
 "THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER" "BRAVE NEW WORLD" "A SORRY SIGHT"
 "BE ALL / END ALL"

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CHURCH SERVICES AT A GLANCE

STORRINGTON St Mary's



THAKEHAM St Mary's



SULLINGTON St Mary's



DATE	FESTIVAL OR SUNDAY	STORRINGTON	THAKEHAM	SULLINGTON
1 February	CANDLEMAS SUNDAY	8am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Messy Church in Old School (ends 11am) 10am Parish Communion 4pm Evensong	10.30am Benefice Church for All Service	8.30am BCP Communion 3pm Evensong
8 February	Second Sunday before Lent	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion 4pm Evensong	10.30am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
15 February	Sunday Next before Lent	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion with Prayers for Healing	8.30am Celtic Holy Communion	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion
18 February	ASH WEDNESDAY	7pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Imposition of ashes	7.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
22 February	Lent 1	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer
1 March	Lent 2	8am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Messy Church in Old School (ends 11am) 10am Parish Communion & Baptism 4pm Evensong	10.30am Benefice Church for All Service	8.30am BCP Communion 3pm Evensong

Check parish websites and Notice Sheets for up-to-date information.

Midweek Holy Communion Service at St Mary's Church, Storrington, on 2nd Wednesday at 10am followed by Café in the Church, 4th and 5th Wednesdays in the month Holy Communion at 2pm followed by Cafe in the Church

OTHER CHURCH DETAILS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Lady of England, Monastery Lane

Sunday Mass: 9am Weekday Masses: Tuesday at 10am

Thursday at 10am followed by confessions and Adoration to 11.30am

There may be weekly variations, do check the newsletter on our website:

www.ourladyofengland.parishportal.net

Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Dingley Email: storrington@abdiocese.org.uk

Office contact number: 882297

STORRINGTON CHAPEL EVANGELICAL CHURCH

North Street, RH20 4DH

Sunday Services at 10.30am, with Communion on third Sunday

Prayer Meeting at 7.30pm every Tuesday

Email: contacts@storringtonchapel.org.uk

www.storringtonchapel.org.uk

LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH, STORRINGTON

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Road

Family Worship – Sundays 10am

Enquiries to Katherine Edwards

Life Community Church Office, 7 The Square, Storrington

Office open: Monday – Wednesday.

Out of hours contact: Nathanael on nat@lccstor.org

Tel: 07450 176315 Email: admin@lccstor.org www.lccstor.org

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Thakeham Road

Sunday Service 10.30am

Minister: Revd Steven Donnison Tel: 245799

Email: trinitychurchstorrington@outlook.com

www.facebook.com/TrinityStorrington

Our building is now registered for same-sex marriage

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wed 9.30am Registrar of Births and Deaths – Storrington Library – pre-booking only – 01243 642122

Fri 9.30am Storrington Community Market – Village Hall

STORRINGTON LIBRARY – Tel. 839050

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm, Saturday 10am – 4pm

Knit and natter Adults Wednesdays 2pm-3pm

Toddler time Under 5s Thursdays 10am-10.30am

Rhyme time Under 5s Tuesdays 10.45am-11.15am

STORRINGTON POP-IN LUNCH CLUB

Storrington Village Hall

11.30am until 2pm on the first Thursday of each month except January and August

Enjoy a nourishing meal with dessert

ALL ARE WELCOME

Buy a ticket at The Hub in Storrington

Co-ordinator: Penny Barnes (01798 815129)

Come and meet old friends and make new ones

All for only £3!



The Churches of Storrington invite you to

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

A CHANCE TO GATHER TOGETHER OVER A MEAL, AND BE WITH FRIENDS OLD AND NEW

8 February at 1pm

at the Old School, School Lane, Storrington

Tickets £5.00 are available from

Louisa Austin, Church Street, Storrington



WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY	
Sun 1	CANDLEMAS SUNDAY
9.30am	Messy Church – p15
Mon 2	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)
2.15pm	Reading Friends – Storrington Library – p26
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p16
Tue 3	
9.15am	Inter-Church Prayers – Storrington Priory Library – p9
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p21
2pm	SPACE – Arts and Craft Club – p13
2pm	The Arts Society West Sussex – Talk – p29
Wed 4	
9.50am	The Arts Society South Downs – Talk – p22
4pm	Stay and Play – Chanctonbury Leisure Centre – p29
Thu 5	
11.30am	Storrington Pop-in Lunch Club – p18
2pm	Mother's Union AGM and 150 years celebration – p13
Fri 6	
2.30pm	Storrington Museum – Talk – p23
Sat 7	
10am	Storrington Conservation Society – Working Party – p21
7.30pm	Ceilidh and Curry – Thakeham Church – p4
Sun 8	Second Sunday before Lent
1pm	Sunday Lunch Club – p18
Mon 9	
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p16
Tue 10	
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p21
11am	Storrington Community Café @ Hanover Walk – p15
Wed 11	
10am	Holy Communion followed by Café in the Church – p6
4pm	Stay and Play – Chanctonbury Leisure Centre – p29
7.30pm	Rotary Film Night – <i>The Roses</i> – p29
Thu 12	
11am	Storrington Community Café @ Storrington Library – p30
Sun 15	Sunday Next before Lent
Mon 16	
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p16
Tue 17	Shrove Tuesday
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p21
2pm	Knit & Stitch – p4
2pm	SPACE – Arts and Craft Club – p13
Wed 18	Ash Wednesday – Start of Lent
Thu 19	
10.30am	Cuppa and a Chat – p34
1.30pm	Storrington Conservation Society – Working Party – p21

Fri 20	
	Lent Quiet Day at St Mary's, Storrington – p6
Sat 21	
10am	Photography Exhibition – Old School, Storrington – p17
2pm	Storrington Conservation Society – Talk and Tea – p21
6.30pm	West Chiltington Dramatic Society – Members' Evening – p24
Sun 22	Lent 1
10am	Photography Exhibition – Old School, Storrington – p17
Mon 23	
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p16
Tue 24	
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p21
1.30pm	Storrington Macular Society – Meeting – p9
Wed 25	
10.30am	Trinity Sunshine Choir – p10
2pm	Holy Communion followed by Café in the Church – p6
2pm	Storrington Flower Club – Meeting – p10
Thu 27	
2pm	Mothers' Union – Wave of Prayer – p13
Sat 28	
9am	Lent Course Starts – p9
7pm	Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir – p15

Please note – all these fixtures are subject to change, so please check with the relevant organisations.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL DAYS

FEBRUARY	
1	Brigid, c.525
2	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (Candlemas)
3	Anskar, 865 , known as 'Apostle of the North' (Europe)
4	Gilbert of Sempringham, 1189, founder of the Gilbertine Order
6	The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
10	Scholastica, c.543, Roman Catholic Saint
14	Cyril and Methodius, 869 and 885 , brothers, Greek, principle Christian missionaries for Slavic people Valentine, c.269, associated with love since high Middle-Ages; this day also remembers other saints called Valentine
15	Sigfrid, 1045, apostle of Sweden, second 'Apostle of the North' Thomas Bray, 1730, founded the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1701
17	Janani Luwum, 1977 , Archbishop of Church of Uganda, one of the most influential leaders of the modern church in Africa. Murdered in 1977 by Idi Amin
23	Polycarp, c.155, a disciple of the apostle John, who ordained him bishop of Smyrna. According to David Trobisch, Polycarp may have been the one who compiled, edited, and published the New Testament
27	George Herbert, 1633 , Welsh-born English poet, orator and Anglican priest, important British lyricist

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON - REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

REVD HENRY PALMER AT SULLINGTON – PART 44

The year 1866 opened with bad weather and February was no better. The entry in the diary for the 10th reported it "still very bad - heavy storms all afternoon, thunder by midnight with hail". Mr Palmer's pupils were causing him additional upset with "a communication by Garfitt - God help me to a right decision in the matter". The Sunday weather was, if possible, even worse with a wind so strong that within sight of the church, the Rector "was nearly thrown" and only 12 and 7 people made it to the two services. He heard that G.C.G. had lost many trees at Sandgate and the lawns were "strewn with scraps new and old". A barometer reading of 28.78ins was recorded. The pupil worries were still unresolved, things made worse during a bad day without the relief of outdoor exercise - "this wretched business of the lost sovereign..." Dalton had been absolved from suspicion and Mr Palmer wrote to his father an account of the whole business, hoping that "if he is a sensible man he will let his son remain till Easter..."

The Rector had a happier day riding to Steyning for an S.P.C.K. meeting discussing his proposal for a local depot, which in connection with Whiting [Rector of Storrington] to be established by Easter. A letter from Edward in India who had just received the wedding news, expressed his considerable astonishment at the news of the "Emmie and Gibson affair". For himself, he saw no chance of coming home for another two years.

A wet Ash Wednesday resulted in "no congregation except ourselves to my strictly correct service." A report from Charlie at Chithurst brought a description of their experience of the Sunday's gale - "has made them flow with water upstairs and downstairs and in my lady's chamber". There seems to be no let-up in the weather. The Rector chaired an enjoyable "Penny Reading" in Storrington, after which he and Garfitt walked home "in the pouring rain to which we are becoming well used." The affair of the missing guinea was ended by a kind letter from Mr Dalton thanking the Rector for "his kind and considerable treatment of the serious case, and will remove Reginald at the end of the term, and will take care of him at home until he goes to the colonies: that this has ended I am devoutly thankful."

At last, the first Sunday in Lent dawned fine, bright and frosty. The church was "dismally cold" to welcome two good congregations, but the Rector "was so very confused in my head thro' deafness [which had afflicted him for a couple of days] that he read the wrong psalms and forgot the communion formula!" There was concern about Mrs Curzon who was dangerously ill in Town. G.C.G. loaned Mr Palmer a horse to go to Parham and enquire, finding her malady was her heart with no hope of recovery. The park showed the aftermath of the storm, it was "a wreck of elms and ten large trees within a 50yd circle of the house" down.

The national news reported trouble in Ireland - so much so that Habeas Corpus was suspended there, and 120 arrests of the leaders had already been made. The diary comments that "things must be very far gone for such a step." There had been devastating famines due to the failure of the potato crops over the previous 20 years, leading to mass migrations to America. In New York, the United Irish Brotherhood members [Fenians] sent money and agents to promote outrages and foment riots. It would be two more years before Gladstone disestablished the Anglican Church in Ireland, and a parliament passed the Irish Land Act to try to improve the situation. At a meeting about the Church Fast Day and school question, which it appears George forgot to attend, "I had Hards, Agate and Hardwick unanimous but not burning-like" [about the Fast Day or the school, he does not specify].

There was joyful news from India! "Ed writes I am coming home, the order has just come out: I shall start about Feb 6". A letter from A. also in high spirits, as with the family, so much that "... my m. [mother] plucked up courage enough to accept an invitation to Findon on Thur week. "Garfitt also had news which delighted him, from his father that he was going to take a country place near Hoath in addition to his Boston house.

"G.D. sprains his ankle, yet goes out all afternoon, jumps a hurdle and then wishes he had taken my advice and stayed at home." The sovereign problem rumbled on when Garfitt received more information, per Eliza. Mr Palmer does not clarify what this was.

His very sick parishioner, Mrs Charman "was thought to be dying today after a severe bleeding but she seemed to rally again comfortably: she said that she had not long to live". A few days later "Mrs Charman sinks: she could hardly listen to me this morning for ten minutes". Then there was news that Mrs Curzon had died of which the diary records, "I am very sorry to hear of her loss". Her funeral took place four days later "which I attended out of respect to her memory: I consider her to have been a thoroughly good woman. The Bishop of Salisbury performed the service; R.C. and Robin seemed very much distressed".

Mr Palmer received a welcome invitation from "Old Thom to visit Marlborough", writing in the diary, "I shall try to go". He called on Mr Knight, Vicar of Washington, and found him photographing - he had some excellent pictures of the church. The two Clerics exchanged duties the next day of snowstorms and sunny intervals during the Day of Humiliation for the cattle plague. Garfitt and Mr Palmer walked to Washington for the afternoon service where they found "an excellent congregation. Knight preached a good tho' too rapidly delivered sermon from Ezekiel 18. My service was at 5.30". Happily the weather cleared and the evening was very pleasant, the light just suited for an hour. It consisted of the Litany, part of the Communion service and a sermon on "He that hath ears to hear..." Again, the church was very crowded, the cattle plague concerned many local farms and the farmers had excused most of their men after 5 o'clock. Dalton had spoiled the morning causing the Rector "much annoyance by his shuffling Lower School tricks". The services must have given Mr Palmer calm. The next day proved more pleasant in one respect when a long-awaited parcel of clocks arrived and G.C.G. presented him with one which "much pleased me with his generosity."

Joan Ham (Village Historian)

ST PETER'S BASILICA AND THE BORGHESE GALLERY

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

Join professional Rome tourist guide,
Stuart Harvey, as we explore St Peter's
Basilica - 2000 years of Christianity in Rome
and the treasures of the Borghese Gallery.



Two morning lectures,
refreshments and lunch

Members of The Arts Society
South Downs £35,
Non-members £40.

Bookings must be made in
advance as tickets cannot be
purchased on the day.

We regret no refunds can be
made.

Fittleworth Village Hall, School
Lane, Fittleworth RH20 1JB

Speaker
Stuart Harvey

Wednesday 25 February
10am to 2pm

Further information:
nicky.donker@gmail.com
Tel 01798 815824
www.theartsocietysouthdowns.org.uk

 THE ARTS
SOCIETY
SOUTH DOWNS



BEEKEEPING INTRODUCTORY DAY

Are you, or someone you know, one of the many people who have thought of investigating keeping bees, but didn't know what it involves? Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association (WGBKA) have an *Introduction to Beekeeping* day on Saturday 28 March in Rudgwick Village Hall.

It is tailored for those who may have an interest in keeping bees, but aren't sure if it is for them or not. The day is packed with all the information needed to become a beekeeper, including the time needed, basic equipment, costs and where to site beehives. This is a popular annual event that has been running since 2006 and tutored by very experienced beekeepers. It has introduced several hundred people to the craft.

For those who wish to go further, there will be a free follow-up sessions at the large and well-equipped WGBKA teaching apiary, where you can handle bees under supervision. This provides the opportunity to learn and achieve a reasonable level of competence using someone else's facilities before buying bees and equipment. The course is also suitable for those who may have just started beekeeping but have had little or no guidance.

WGBKA members live in West Sussex and South Surrey, within about 15-20 miles of Wisborough Green. If you know someone who might be interested, please let them know, or maybe you are looking for an unusual, but useful present for someone - well, here it is! Vouchers are available.

Contact: honeybee@wgbka.org.uk

Further information for beekeepers and non-beekeepers about the Introduction to Beekeeping Day and general beekeeping can be found on the WGBKA website www.wgbka.org.uk

Baby Rhyme Time

Join our baby rhyme time fun with rhymes, songs and musical instruments.
All babies and toddlers welcome!

Parents and carers are asked to remain with their child for this activity.
 Please note - sessions are very popular and may become full.

Tuesdays 10.00-10.30am

west sussex county council
 West Sussex Library Service

Storrington Library
 Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA
 01903 839050

WS31917 1.19

STORRINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY



On Saturday 3 January the work party met on Chantry Hill to clear more scrub from the valuable chalk grass land, a good way to start our 2026 programme. The work party on **Saturday 7 February at 10am** is at Foxmead Court (Manleys Hill), carrying out our usual work cleaning the pond and clearing nearby vegetation. On **Thursday 19 February at 1.30pm** the work party continues the scrub removal on Chantry Hill. As ever, anyone wishing to take part in any of this conservation work is very welcome. Many hands make light work, and can also enjoy the company and refreshments.

There is a range of attitudes towards climate change. From serious concern about global warming to total denial. Sir David Attenborough is a well-informed representative of the first and President Trump of the second. Most of us have attitudes somewhere in this range. There are those who do not wish to accept the science, others accept it but think or hope they will not be affected, and there are many who understand the consequences but feel they can do nothing about it. Among those who think it is inevitable are some who are like the condemned who eat a hearty breakfast. Many others know we can act to minimise the degree of warming and some of these have the courage of their convictions and protest, mostly peacefully. They show that collectively and individually we are able to reduce our contribution to greenhouse gases if we have the will. There is the problem. A few years ago when it became clear that many were wanting their political representatives to take the matter seriously, green policies were favoured. Similarly, large companies like BP responded to shareholder pressure. Now many pay lip service to green policies and BP have rowed back on green investments as big shareholders complain about smaller dividends. We cannot put all the blame on politicians and directors, they reflect the views of electors and shareholders: us. We are reluctant to change our way of life.

The sceptical about global warming should provide other convincing reasons for the wildfires in Los Angeles, Hurricane Melissa, floods in India, typhoons, tropical cyclones, shrinking glaciers and other extreme events, all in 2025, causing loss of life and costing some \$120 billion, the poorest communities being hardest hit. How will future generations view the deniers and those who maintain large carbon footprints?

A date for your diaries:

Saturday 21 February at 2pm:

Talk and Tea at Storrington Village Hall. Speaker to be announced.

For information about this and our other activities, or on becoming a member, or offering advice, please get in touch with Chairman Mick Denness on 01903 745971, or see our website. www.storringtonconservation.org.uk.

Stuart Kersley



Wednesday 4 February

**DORA CARRINGTON-
THE TRAGIC MUSE OF
BLOOMSBURY**

Speaker: Alan Read

Fascinating as much for her life as her art, Carrington (as she preferred to be known) eventually formed one corner of a typically Bloomsbury triangular relationship. She was born in 1893 and studied at the Slade School of Art where she joined an extraordinary generation of modern British artists. Her student work showed promise but at a time when it was unusual for a woman to succeed as a professional artist. Her long (and improbable) relationship with the biographer Lytton Strachey was followed by marriage to Ralph Partridge and these complexities played a part in her death at the age of only 38.



Wednesday 4 March

**HOCKNEY-THE OLD
MASTER OF THE MODERN
WORLD**

Speaker: Douglas Skeggs

From the early sixties, when he left the Royal College of Art more famous than his teachers, Hockney's paintings have shown a charm and humour that sets them apart from others of his generation. From the early abstract expressionist images, through his famous Californian scenes of swimming pools to the photo-montages of the mid-eighties, this lecture follows the career of an artist whose wit and imagination has never faltered



All members and visitors are most welcome to attend.

Doors open 9.50am for coffee. Please be seated by 10.30 am for 10.45 am start, finishing approx. midday

Visitors £10. (No booking required.)

Fittleworth Village Hall, School Lane, Fittleworth RH20 1JB

For further information please visit our website:
www.theartsocietysouthdowns.org.uk

Or phone: 01798 813314



THAKEHAM BRIDGE CLUB

We are a friendly Bridge club with weekly sessions
Fridays 1pm and Wednesdays 6.45pm at Thakeham Village Hall.

New members welcome.

Please ring Harold Linfield 01798 812276
or Christine Wright 07840 777410. Email caw2023@gmail.com



The end of the autumn term was full of exciting events in the run up to the festive period. As well as preparations for nativities in Reception and Key Stage 1, we had a wonderful Christingle service for Key Stage 2 at St Mary's, Storrington. Our Year 6 pupils also visited the Church to sing for the community



at the monthly café that happens there.

As well as all these wonderful festive celebrations we had several other exciting activities happening throughout the school.

Reception

Reception have had a very exciting half term learning and understanding about some of the jobs people do to help them. This has all been made super exciting with the kind visits we have had into our school, including a Paediatric nurse from Great Ormond Street hospital; a fire fighter complete with a real fire engine and crew; a police officer and a police superintendent with a police car and flashing light; a veterinary surgeon and three equine vets! We



are so grateful for all the support and learning we have

had from our parents and the wider community in helping bring our topic to life for our youngest children.



Sensory Garden

Have you seen what's been happening to the grassy area outside school, just up from the KS2 gate? Working with our SENCO, Mr Stevens, and getting feedback from children, our Horticultural Therapist, Miss Brown has designed a sensory garden for students to access when visiting the Hub. The design includes a Barefoot path, sound and water walls, a willow den, scented and tactile planting areas, raised veg beds and a digging patch. The garden is already taking shape and our Junior Gardeners are working hard each week to help Miss Brown make the plans a reality. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Dan Judd of Hawker Property Maintenance, who supplied and erected the fencing, and sourced the hedging plants, which we were delighted to get in the ground. We hope you will enjoy watching our progress!

Year 4

Just before the holiday, Year 4 pupils wrapped up warmly and enjoyed a festive walk to the local post office to post their persuasive letters to Father Christmas. The visit was the perfect finale to their English work on persuasive writing. In class, the children worked hard to include a range of persuasive techniques in their letters. They carefully used flattery to compliment Father Christmas on his kindness and hard work, asked rhetorical questions such as "How could Christmas be complete without...?", and confidently included commands like "Please remember to...". Some letters even featured wonderful hyperboles, promising that certain gifts would bring "the greatest joy in the history of Christmas!"

Posting their letters made the learning experience feel real and exciting, and the children were incredibly proud to send their work off on its very special journey to the North Pole. Well done to Maple and Juniper classes for their enthusiasm, creativity and excellent writing! Thank you to Liam who works at the Post Office for helping to organise this lovely event.

The spring term has begun positively at Storrington Primary and I look forward to updating you all again on the exciting goings on here in the near future.

Mr Choate, Headteacher

WEATHER WATCH

An old December weather saying tells us that 'A December fog will freeze a dog'. However, the first three weeks of December 2025 were very mild and almost every day in our district brought temperatures above 10°C. On the 10th it reached 14°C having stayed no lower than 11°C overnight on the 9th. The air circulation had been coming in from quite low latitudes in the Atlantic, but the pressure rose on the 23rd and fended off the rain bearing systems, the wind tuned more to the north and the temperature dropped. In fact, New Year's Eve was foggy for much of the day and after a sharp frost the temperature struggled to rise much above freezing point making it the coldest day of 2025. In spite of this the month was above par for temperature by some 2°C.



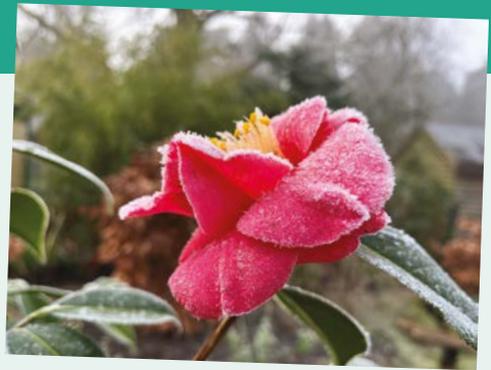
It was particularly unsettled during the first week with some hail and rainbows and during the third week. On the 17th and 18th we were deluged by 45mm of rain and despite no measurable rain falling during the last 10 days the monthly total of 138mm was about 10% above par. The 13th was sunny though for much of the day as the view shows taken by a family member from the summit of Black Down Hill, the highest point in East and West Sussex. I enjoyed a sunny walk in the Sullington and Barns Farm Hill area on the 30th before the fog descended the next day. Sunshine was about 10% above average.



It was yet another snowless Christmas and ironically it was the most southerly part of the UK, The Channel Islands, that actually saw some snow falling. We had no snow during the entire month. We have to go back to 2010 when the ground was last covered by snow at Christmas. The only snow I saw during December was inside Petworth House as part of their festive display. In fact, on Christmas Day daisies were flowering in my garden due to the earlier mild conditions and at the month's end a camellia flowered despite the frost.



So ends 2025, a year which proved nationally the warmest and sunniest in our record. The 3 Heralds area was not quite so sunny. Perhaps the most outstanding statistic was March being the driest since 1961 with just 4.5mm of rain. Many parts of the UK were deficient in annual rainfall by 25% but at my weather station it was around 6%. The dry spring and the warm summer did mean that reservoirs, such as Ardingly, had only six week's supply left before the rains came in October.



January 2026 has started with real winter cold. Will mild conditions return or will we have a winter month reminiscent of those legendary ones in days of yore? See next month's *Weather Watch*.

Ian Currie
 Weatherman, Speaker, Broadcaster,
 Editor of *Weather Eye* magazine and Fellow of the Royal Met Soc

Monthly
 Talk

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A HIGH SHERIFF



Friday 6th February - 2.30pm

Members £6 The Old School,
 Non-members £8 School Lane,
All Welcome! Storrington,
 RH20 4LL



by Dr Tim Fooks,
 High Sheriff of West Sussex



STORRINGTON
 & DISTRICT
 MUSEUM

JustGiving



Join us for our February Talk, whereupon you will learn what it means to be a High Sheriff, the role and responsibilities that are performed and the origins of the post.

Tim is serving as High Sheriff for a second time, being the first person to hold the role twice in Sussex since 1551, and the first Medical High Sheriff. He has recently retired as a GP in Pulborough, after practicing for 30 years. Tim has held several health leadership roles in West Sussex and is recognised for his national work to promote the early detection of sepsis in children.

ACTIVITIES AT THE VILLAGE HUB

Run by Life Community Church,
Storrington, 7 The Square,
Storrington



TUESDAY



In Stitches – 1.30pm to 3pm

A fun, social group for people who like to stitch. Bring your own knitting, embroidery or another project. We can teach you if you'd like to learn!



THURSDAY



Baby Club – 10am to 12pm (term time only)

Join our supportive community group and connect with others. Older siblings welcome!



Monthly High Tea – last Thursday – 2.30pm to 4pm

Meet new friends, enjoy homemade delicacies for £4 per person. Book tickets in advance from The Village Hub.



Thursdays Together – For over 65's, every Thursday except last of the month – 2.30pm to 4pm

Join us for tea, games, and company. Bring a friend and join in!

SATURDAY



Repair Café – every third Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm

Looking to repair your broken or damaged items? The Repair Cafe is here to help, so bring in any items needing mending, from clothes to appliances and more.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUPS ON FRIDAYS

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre

Sparks Toddler Group – 10am – 11.30am



Come and connect with other parents and guardians at our baby and toddler group for the local community. Each week there are toys, bouncy castles, crafts, a bible story, a song and some refreshments (for children and adults). Entry is £3 per child and £2 for each additional child, and if it is your first time it is free! There is no need to book in advance.

Fireworks Kids Club – 6pm – 7.15pm



For KS2 children from year three to five. A safe place outside of school where children can come to have fun, learn about the Bible, develop life skills and meet their friends. Each week there are games around a different theme.

Wildfires Youth Group – 7.30pm – 9pm



For children from year 6 upwards. A fun, relaxed time for young people to hang out, bring friends, and join in with games and activities.

Groups meet term time only. Run by Life Community Church.



West Chilmington Dramatic Society



In the middle of December, we held our Christmas Members' Evening, entitled *An Evening of Music and Sketches*. Around 20 members provided the entertainment, which ranged from a group acapella carol to songs from the musicals, and from the monologue *Sam's Christmas Pudding* to a sketch written by member, Jean Trew, called *Panto Does the Apprentice*. During the latter, Lord Sugar was presented with business proposals from a range of pantomime characters, and we saw some members as never before, as seen in the photo! The entertainment was followed by a festive supper and communal carol-singing.

From left to right: Elizabeth Ling, Mike Nicholson, Janet Methley, Pat Arculus, Alice Mills, Caro Anderson, Robert Ingram



We are now approaching our next Members' Evening on **Saturday 21 February**, at which we will perform Stephen Bean's *A Little Box of Oblivion*, a one-act play directed by Amanda Hislop, in association with Stagescripts Ltd. Supper will follow and we also have a raffle and licensed bar. As ever, proceedings will take place at West Chilmington Village Hall from 6.30pm. Details on tickets and how to book for members and their guests will be found on our website nearer the time: www.wcds.co.uk.

Our website also has more information about our friendly Society and how to join. We welcome new members, whether for roles on or off-stage. We are holding an Open Day at West Chilmington Village Hall on 21 March, at which there will be opportunities to see what we do, and to participate, for those who wish to do so! All are welcome. More details next month.

Angela Sloan, Chair WCDS

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Cafe – tea, coffee and biscuits

A CHEERFUL LEAP TOWARDS LESS PLASTIC AND MORE PLANET-FRIENDLY LIVING



Storrington has something to smile about! On Wednesday 26 November a lively mix of Sussex Green Living volunteers, Chanctonbury Leisure Centre staff, District Councillor Emma Beard and Parish Councillor Claudia Fisher came together to mark an exciting milestone in the village's eco-journey: the launch of a brand-new full-time mini-refill shop right inside the Leisure Centre.

Thanks to West Sussex County Council's Waste Prevention Community Funding, local charity Sussex Green Living first introduced a once-a-month dry food refill service earlier this year. After six months of enthusiastic support from local shoppers, the project has now grown up and stepped into its next chapter. On 26 November, Sussex Green Living officially handed over the reins to Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, which will now run the refill shop full-time. This new hub builds on the popular personal hygiene and household cleaning product bottle refill station installed in 2023.



So what's on offer? For the first time, Storrington residents can pop in with their own containers and top up on everyday essentials—rice, pasta, porridge oats, muesli, shampoo, hand and body wash, bathroom cleaner, washing-up liquid and laundry refills. It's convenient, affordable, and wonderfully friendly, helping everyone cut down on single-use plastic while buying just the right amount.

"Every refill helps keep packaging out of the bin and supports a more sustainable local economy," said Andi Dunstan, Leisure Centre Manager, who is thrilled to welcome the project as part of the centre's commitment to community wellbeing and greener living.

Carrie Cort, founder of Sussex Green Living, highlighted the broader impact too:

"This is the first food refill service we've run. We're currently writing a guide to help others start food and bottle refill services. This guide will be available in the spring, alongside our existing guide on how to set up a repair café."

And the momentum doesn't stop there! At the charity's monthly Sussex Green Hub in Horsham, a new partnership with Savino Giannella of Giannella Olive Oil will soon introduce an olive oil refill station, joining the popular Overherd oat drink powder and their growing range of low-waste household and hygiene products.

With its blend of community spirit, practical action and plastic-busting ambition, Storrington's new refill initiative shows just how much can happen when local organisations, councils and residents roll up their sleeves together.

Find out more: www.sussexgreenliving.org.uk/storringtonrefill



Christmas Event

Our Christmas Event fell on a beautiful moonlit evening and was the best yet, with an amazing turnout. The event hosted 50 stalls selling wonderful gifts, wine, cakes and goodies of all sorts, several food vans, pop-up restaurants and fairground attractions. We enjoyed carols from Storrington Primary School, wonderful vibes from the Worthing Steel Band, and a variety of solo and ensemble artists. The Parish



Council is very grateful to Henry Adams and Tesla Engineering for their generous sponsorship, and to the many High Street businesses who went above and beyond to ensure that the evening was a huge success.

Stork Fest

The Parish Council ICE Committee has begun planning the White Stork and Nature Revival event for **Saturday 23 May**, in partnership with the White Stork Project, the Knepp Wildland Foundation and the European Stork Villages Network. Due to the great success of last year's event, we expect increased interest from stall holders, charities and organisations. There are opportunities for sponsors to support this unique event and for volunteers who would like to get involved in organising and promoting the day. Please get in touch with the parish office with questions or suggestions for the event.

Finance

The Finance & Governance Committee is finalising the 26/27 budget in time to request their annual precept from Horsham District Council. Additional income is available to the Parish Council through the hire of the Parish Hall, allotment rentals and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a contribution payable by developers, to be spent on projects that directly benefit the community such as improvements to our play areas and other parish-owned properties and facilities.

Meadowside

A 15-strong team of Storrington Conservation Society volunteers, local councillors and HDC staff spent an afternoon of hands-on habitat care pulling out more than a hundred sycamore saplings and planting black poplars, opening up the woodland floor so existing trees can thrive.



New Website

Our new website was launched earlier this month. We would like to thank the Storrington Camera Club for partnering with us on the new gallery feature which shows people living, playing and working across the Parish. We are now inviting you to submit photos to us for the gallery update in March. Photos can be of people, activities or places around across Storrington, Sullington and Cootham. For information about the format of photos, please check on the Parish website or contact the Parish office.

Parish email: office@storrington-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Virginia Hicks, Storrington Parish Council
www.storrington-pc.gov.uk



EVENTS AT THE OLD WORKSHOP, SULLINGTON MANOR FARM

Pre-loved clothes sale and café open

Sat 21 & Sun 22 March, Sat 9 & Sun 10 May,
Sat 3 & Sun 4 October

10am to 4pm

If you find yourself in that oh-so common *full-wardrobe-but-nothing-to-wear* dilemma, then why not come along and see if you find your next staple pieces here. It's safe to say that the pair that run the sale both have an exceedingly well-trained eye, and we're lucky to be the destination for only their best finds. All sales from the clothes are in aid of St Mary's, Sullington. Free entry and parking.

Voices in Cloth – Textile Exhibition and café open daily

Thu 2 to Sun 12 April

10am to 4pm

The exclusive group, Voices in Cloth, highlight the vital role of textiles in contemporary life. Through weave, fabric, and three-dimensional works, the artists explore a rich and varied range of themes, all expressed through the language of textiles. All pieces are for sale and café open daily. Free entry and parking.

Spring Art at Sullington, exhibition and café open daily

Thu 23 April to Sun 3 May

10am to 4pm

A carefully curated programme showcases a diverse range of contemporary works, all for sale, by both emerging and established artists. The exhibition is rooted in celebration of our local and creative community and the pieces range from wood, ceramics and paintings. The café will be open daily for the exhibition, free entry and parking.

Barn dance

Sat 9 May

7pm to 10pm

Dust off your cowboy boots and get ready for lively line dancing, great music with a caller, and a delicious posh ploughman's. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or simply looking for a good night out, come join us at Sullington Great Barn (formerly Sullington Tithe Barn). All in aid of Friends of Pulborough Parish Church. Tickets to come nearer the time.

Evening Jazz with Big House

Wed 20 May, Wed 24 June, Wed 15 July,
Wed 19 August

8pm to 10pm

Join us for an evening of fun with live jazz in The Old Workshop with snacks, wine and soft drinks available for purchase. New guest artists will join us every month, bringing fresh sounds and making sure the energy never stops. Book tickets – <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sullingtonmanorfarmltd>

Quincey Jones tribute with live 18-piece band

Thu 4 June

7pm to 9.30pm

Get your friends together and enjoy an evening dedicated to Quincey Jones, performed by Phoneix Big Band, an 18-piece live band in Sullington Great Barn (formerly Sullington Tithe Barn). There will be wooden-fired pizza and wine, available for purchase. Book tickets – <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sullingtonmanorfarmltd>

Contemporary Art at Sullington, daily with café open

Thu 11 to Sun 21 June

10am to 4pm

An exciting exhibition bringing in contemporary artists, all curated by esteemed duo Penny Gambrell and Marty Lowell. All pieces are for sale and there's something for everyone. The café will be open daily for the exhibition so grab your friends and make a day of it. Free entry and parking.

Build an Opera with Songbuilders, five day children's opera workshop

Mon 27 to Fri 31 July

9.30am to 4pm daily

Children (ages 7 – 14) will get stuck into a world of creativity with tips on singing technique, costumes and sets to design, songs to write, sounds to discover and a story to make. Aided by professional opera singer Mark Bradbury, an actor, a scenic artist and professional composer Christopher Hussey, participants devise, compose, and perform a brand new piece

of musical theatre in just one week, all inspired by their surroundings on the farm. Find out more here: <https://www.songbuilders.co.uk/build-an-opera-horsham>

A Midsummer Night's Dream by 440 Theatre

Sun 2 August

5pm to 7.30pm

Celebrated for inventive staging, breakneck character changes, and playful dismantling of tradition, 440 Theatre breathe fresh mischief into Shakespeare's best-loved comedy. Fun for all the family, think lots of props, a hint of audience participation and loads of laughter. Tickets to come.

Curious Threads, textile exhibition

Thu 17 to Sun 27 September

10am to 4pm daily

A contemporary collective of nine textile artists based in the South Downs, UK, known for their themed exhibitions exploring diverse techniques like quilting, embroidery, printing, dyeing, and bookmaking, often inspired by nature, place, and colour. All pieces are for sale and the café will be open too. Free entry and parking.

Autumn Art at Sullington

Thu 29 October to Sun 8 November

10am to 4pm daily

A carefully curated programme showcases a diverse range of contemporary works by both emerging and established artists. The exhibition is rooted in celebration of our local and creative community and the pieces range from wood, ceramics and paintings. The café will be open daily for the exhibition, free entry and parking.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/libraries West Sussex Libraries @WSCCLibraries

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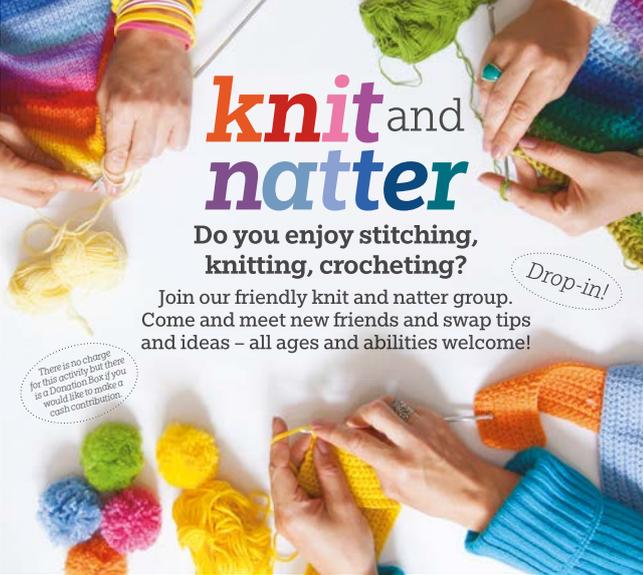


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Reading Friends isn't a traditional reading group. You don't need to be a reader to take part as we use reading, whether books, magazines, newspapers, or anything else, to start everyone chatting and help people get to know each other.



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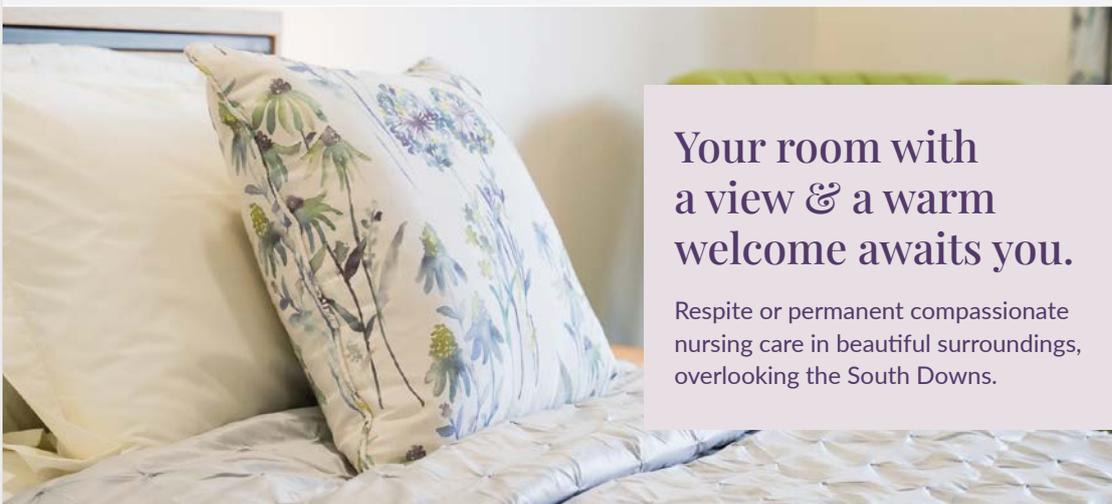
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FILM NIGHT

At Sullington Parish Hall

Wednesday 11th February 2026



Starring: Olivia Colman & Benedict Cumberbatch

Performance commences at 7.30pm

There will be an interval and Bar & Raffle.

Tickets £5 from 'The Card Shop' in Storrington.

Unsold tickets will be available for purchase on the door on the night.

For further details please contact

Ken Collins on 01903 740745

Rotary Club Members can provide transport to the Film Night for local residents who are unable to make their own arrangements. Anyone needing transport should contact John Ollerton on 07523322554

Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District

Starring Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch.

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy and Theo: successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposed ideal life, a storm is brewing as Theo's career nosedives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites.



THE ARTS SOCIETY
WEST SUSSEX

Tuesday 3 February

Talk by Rebecca Hossack

Australian Aboriginal Art: Rock, Bark, and Ochre

One of the most important things to know about Australian Aboriginal art is also one of the most curious: this is an art form that is both the oldest continuous artistic tradition in the world, and one of the newest 'art movements'.

Tuesday 3 March

Talk by Dr Helena Rufus-Ward

The Mosaics of Ravenna: For the Glory of Kings, Emperors and Empresses

Ravenna became the capital of the western Roman Empire in 402AD and prospered under Ostrogoth and the Byzantine rule. This left Ravenna with a legacy of richly decorated early Christian buildings earning it UNESCO World Heritage status.



Talks held at 2pm in Fittleworth Village Hall, RH20 1JB

Doors open 1.15pm. Coffee & tea afterwards

Visitors most welcome - £10

For further details contact Gilly Myers on 07805731663 or

email westsussex@theartsociety.org

www.theartsocietywestsussex.org

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN UPDATE

This month I would like to back-track a bit and share with you a community activity that I was proud to support.

Community Café and Bingo

I was asked to help arrange events at Hanover Walk, in the community centre, because if it was not used it would be lost. So I extended the Community Café to Hanover once a month and also a Bingo session every other week. These were open to the wider community of Storrington.

Defibrillator

At one of the events I was asked if I could help arrange for the Hanover community to have a defibrillator, as the nearest one was too far away. The group needed to raise as much money as possible, not only to get the defibrillator, but also to train five volunteers, one for each block, in basic first aid, to be able to assist. A Christmas Market was arranged which was a great success, raising £1000, with additional donations coming from the Bingo session and individual contributions. This enabled us to purchase the defibrillator and carry out training. It was great that a community came together to achieve this goal. A big round of applause and well done to all that put the time in to achieve this.



New Neighbourhood Warden

My new colleague, Dave, joined me as a Storrington and Sullington Warden in December. Do please come and say hello when you see us out and about.



Chris Poore: 07795 046743

Dave Bone: 07789 943201

storrington-sullingtonwardens@horsham.gov.uk



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For more information please contact your Neighbourhood Wardens:
Email: Storrington-SullingtonWardens@horsham.gov.uk
Email: Ashington.wardens@horsham.gov.uk



BRITISH YORKSHIRE PUDDING DAY

1 FEBRUARY

British Yorkshire Pudding Day, celebrated on the first Sunday of February, is a moment dedicated to one of the most iconic staples of British cuisine: the Yorkshire pudding.



This annual observance honours a dish that has been part of the national culinary identity for centuries, cherished for its versatility, simplicity, and comforting presence at the heart of the traditional Sunday roast.

The origins of Yorkshire pudding reach back to the early 18th century, when cooks sought clever ways to make the most of precious ingredients. Before modern ovens, roast beef was cooked on a spit over an open fire, and a pan was placed beneath to catch the drippings. Resourceful cooks began using those rich drippings to flavour a simple batter of eggs, flour, and milk or water, creating what was first known as "dripping pudding". This early version was served as a first course, particularly in poorer households, where it helped dull the appetite before the more expensive meat was served sparingly.

Over time, the pudding evolved into the airy, crisp-edged, soft-centred delight recognised today. Its association with Yorkshire likely stems from the region's reputation for producing especially light and well-risen puddings, though the dish was enjoyed throughout England. By the 19th century, the name "Yorkshire pudding" had firmly taken hold, and it became an essential component of the Sunday roast tradition.

British Yorkshire Pudding Day encourages cooks of all levels to celebrate this humble yet beloved dish. Whether served with roast beef and gravy, filled with sausages as toad-in-the-hole, or reinvented in modern wraps and desserts, the Yorkshire pudding remains a symbol of British ingenuity and comfort. The day invites everyone to appreciate its history, enjoy its flavours, and keep the tradition alive.

Editor's note – I believe every day should be Yorkshire Pudding Day! Have you tried them for dessert with lemon and sugar on? Divine!

Storrington Community Café

Thursday 12 February
Thursday 17 March

From 11am to 12:30pm

Storrington Library, North Street Car Park,
Storrington, RH20 4NZ

A support group for the community in a warm venue with a friendly atmosphere to chat and enjoy a cuppa and talk about any concerns you may have.

For more info please contact your Neighbourhood Wardens:
Chris Poore: 07795 046743 | Dave Bone: 07789 943201
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DAY	WEEK IN MONTH	FROM	TO	FARE	PICK -UP
MON	EVERY	STORRINGTON	STORRINGTON / WAITROSE	£3	10am
TUES	2nd & 4th	STORR & W/CHILT	SHOREHAM / HOLMBUSH, TESCO, M&S	£6	1pm
	3rd	STORR & W/CHILT	DIAL POST / OLD BARN NURSERY (Coffee / Lunch)	£4	11am
	4th	STORR & W/CHILT	VARIOUS / MACULAR GROUP (Chanctonbury Leisure Centre)	£3	1pm
WED	EVERY	STORR & W/CHILT	PULBOROUGH LUNCH CLUB (Pulborough Village Hall)	£4	10.30am
	3rd	STORR & W/CHILT	RUSTINGTON or HORSHAM (Rotates monthly. Lunch & Shop)	£6	11am
THUR	EVERY	W/CHILTINGTON	STORRINGTON / WAITROSE	£3	9am
	1st	STORR & W/CHILT	STORRINGTON POP IN LUNCH	£3	10.45am
	EVERY	STORRINGTON	STORRINGTON / WAITROSE	£3	1pm
FRI	EVERY	STORRINGTON	STORRINGTON / WAITROSE	£3	9am
	EVERY	STORR & W/CHILT	PULBOROUGH / TESCO, SAINSBURY'S	£4	9pm
	EVERY	STORR & W/CHILT	PULBOROUGH / TESCO, SAINSBURY'S	£4	1pm
SPECIAL OUTINGS (March to December. Bookable up to two months in advance)					
TUES	3rd MARCH	STORR & W/CHILT	PUB LUNCH - THE FOX, SMALL DOLE	£8	11am
TUES	7th APRIL	STORR & W/CHILT	SHOREHAM AIRPORT - HUMMINGBIRD CAFÉ	£8	1pm

Annual Membership, £12.00. Lunch and refreshment costs are in addition to all trip fares



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We caught up with Heath Fraser, the owner of Just Shutters Sussex, to learn more about his passion for shutters and what makes his work so rewarding. With over eight years of experience and a commitment to outstanding service, Heath takes pride in helping homeowners across Sussex transform their spaces.

Originally from a fast-paced background as a Business Support Manager in the pub and restaurant trade, Heath decided to launch Just Shutters to find a better balance between his professional life and time with his family in the lovely village of Angmering.

What do you love most about your work?

"The 'WOW' moment! Seeing a customer's reaction when their shutters are installed is priceless. It's incredibly satisfying to know I've helped transform their space and added something truly special to their home. I never let a day go by without taking time to evaluate. Running a business is all about learning and improving. Reflection helps me stay focused and ensures we're always delivering the best possible service."

What is the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

"Focus on what you can control. Letting go of things outside your influence reduces stress and allows you to focus on making a positive impact. It's a mindset that improves productivity and overall well-being."

Name five things you can't live without.

"Family, my dog Florence, music, sport, and the sun!"

(See advert on p.2 for company details)



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(in Storrington) to enjoy friendship and a monthly pub meal with guest speaker.

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SOUTH DOWNS PROBUS



South Downs had an outing to The Weald and Downland Living Museum at Singleton recently and what a good time we had as all the different activities were busily working.

The ancient water-driven flour mill was grinding away in full spate producing its own types of artisan flour. The forge was hammering away making red-hot ironwork; the joiner's shop was carving up spokes for wheels. It was all capped by watching some of our members chasing each other around a maypole, even though May was out, some time ago! By ducking and diving they eventually made a complex woven pattern on the pole itself. So we had a very rewarding morning there, followed by a good lunch at the local hostelry.

In November, at our regular lunch at The George & Dragon at Dragons Green, we welcomed a new member and enjoyed the talk from Dr Geoff Mead on the development of Brighton, both geologically and historically. Geoff is a geography lecturer at The University of Sussex. He looked at the landscape and social makeup of the town in the mid-late 18th century before it became the fashionable resort patronised by royalty. Geoff said the town grew up on the junction of broad Downland valleys with the Channel coast. Its steep hills, thin soil and damp valleys meant it was not a favoured agricultural area and depended for its prosperity on deep sea fishing and imports of coal and timber. It was also not favoured by powerful landowners, and by 1790 about 30 people owned small areas of land held in medieval field strips. This lack of major landholders meant there was much scope for individual advancement and with nobody to say 'No!' it had a long history of difference.

In the 1600s it was stated the town was full of 'dissenters'. The parish church of St Nicholas sits outside the Old Town, high on a hill and nowhere near the central area. It is located in an area of pre-Christian burial mounds and tumuli, so may always have been the religious centre for Brighton, just not in the area of the later urban centre. The ancient sandy beach at the west end was removed for building leaving the stone which had been left behind after melt-down from the last ice-age. Brighton had one C of E church, but two synagogues, two Quaker Meeting Houses, Huguenots, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Independent chapels galore. It was this air of dissent that has come down to the 21st century where Brighton has two universities, a large gay population, a Green MP and is internationally known as a hedonistic party town and entertainment centre. Didn't mention the parking!

We are looking for new members, so if you are interested in joining our Club, please look at our website www.southdownsprobusclub.com and contact Don at donjohnston@btinternet.com.

Don Johnston





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3 Heralds

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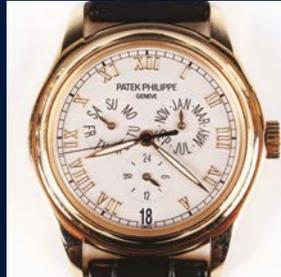
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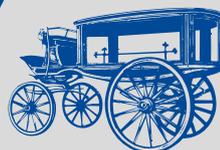
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