

£1

January 2026

3 Herald's

STORRINGTON



SULLINGTON



THAKEHAM



Epiphany 6 January



St Mary's Church SULLINGTON



St Mary's Church STORRINGTON



St Mary's Church THAKEHAM



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STORRINGTON



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The Rectory, Rectory Road, Storrington RH20 4EF
(frj.stmary@gmail.com)

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Priest in Charge

The Revd Joel Wilmer - Joel.stwparish@gmail.com

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.



Happy new year! 2026 has begun!

A new year is always an interesting time, and I suspect that for many of us it's a time of mixed feelings. Of course, in some ways nothing has changed, and yet the simple act of writing 2026 rather than 2025 tells us that something has changed. I wonder what significance the new year has for you?

For some, it's probably a time of feeling rather blue; Christmas with all its excitement and time with others has come to an end, and normal life resumes, with all its pressures and challenges. For others, the end of Christmas probably comes as something of a relief, and normal life can resume.

Whichever camp you fall into I suspect that there is a certain amount of taking stock which happens at this time of year. A time when we naturally look over the past year, whether that has been filled with challenges and disappointments or with success and joy, and we hope for a repeat of the last year or determinedly set our face and hope that this year will be better than the last.

In the church calendar we mark Epiphany on 6 January. I always find this a helpful festival to reflect on. I don't know how much you know about Epiphany, but for most of us we probably remember it as the time in the Nativity story when the Magi, or Wise Men, reach Jerusalem, and they recognise the birth of this very special king. Personally, I find this incredibly encouraging as it is the reminder in the story of Christ's birth that he came not only to save his people the Jews, but also to save the whole world. Of course, the coming of the Magi also brings about the start of Jesus' struggles on earth. Their appearance before King Herod leads to Mary and Joseph having to flee with Jesus to Egypt.

What we often forget is that the church festival of Epiphany also celebrates the baptism of Jesus and the wedding at Cana where Jesus famously turned water into wine. So this one festival seems to encapsulate so much of our lives. At Jesus' baptism he was baptised by John the Baptist, and as he came out of the water the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, so beginning Jesus' ministry. We might expect this to be a high point, but it is of course immediately followed by Jesus spending forty days in the desert being tempted. The wedding feast at Cana is another interesting episode as we see God celebrating with his people. It might surprise us to see God at a party, but Jesus did say that he came so that we could "have life in all its fullness."

But Jesus was reluctant to perform this first miracle as he knew once he had, his life would follow an inevitable course which would lead to his suffering.

Epiphany stands as a timely reminder that everything in this world is mixed, things are rarely purely joyful (or not for long anyway), and there is rarely a time when absolutely everything is all bad, and yet this is the very life that Jesus willingly came to live. So whether you had a great year or a terrible year last year, be encouraged by Epiphany.

JOEL WILLMER

Priest-in-Charge of Sullington and Thakeham with Warminghurst



New Year Greetings



The parish clergy and their families
wish you Peace and Joy in 2026

We have been very grateful for the kindness of your Christmas cards and greetings – please accept this as our expression of heartfelt thanks.

A PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Heavenly Father, as the wise men offered gold, frankincense and myrrh, so we make to you the gift of our lives.

Through your spirit at work within us, may many come to know you in your Son, and kneel to do him homage. For you live and reign ever one God, world without end.

Amen.



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 6 January – Trinity Methodist Church will lead

Tuesday 3 February – Church of England will lead

One in faith and love and praise

FEATURES

The Dreamer – a poem by Chrystalle Kersley	9
Canon Palmer's Diary	14
Reflections of the Past	20
Epiphany Word Search	25
Christmas Decorations Deadline	30
Is 19 January Blue Monday?	34



2 Corinthians 5:17

St Mary's Thakeham

www.stmarysthakeham.org

Churchwardens

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

Pippa Harder
31 Furze Common Road,
Thakeham
RH20 3EG

Treasurer

Liz Slaughter
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.

A NEW YEAR LETTER FROM THAKEHAM CHURCH

As you read this message, the last remains of the turkey will have disappeared, the final mince pie has been eaten, and as Twelfth Night approaches, the Christmas decorations are ready to be put away for another year.

Most of us make New Year's resolutions; perhaps to eat a little less, walk a little more, or to finally tackle that task we have meant to complete since last New Year's Day. Our intentions are always good; it's simply that our busy lives often get in the way. One resolution we might all hope to keep is to live our lives as God would have us live, rather than simply as we wish. As we venture into the new year, the words of the well-known hymn come to mind: "It's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with You."

The congregation at St Mary's Church, Thakeham, wishes everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2026. If you are not in the habit of attending our services, please do come along. You will find a warm welcome awaits you. Details of all our services can be found on our website: www.stmarysthakeham.org.

After our 10.30am services, we serve refreshments in the Church Rooms, offering an opportunity to chat with members of our church community. We'd love you to come and to get to know us!

Dates for your Diary



3 to 5 July 2026 Thakeham Flower Festival and Open Gardens
Please try not to take your holiday then, as we'll need your help!

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 20 January 2pm - 4pm

Thakeham Church Room



Buffet Lunch will be served ~ 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



Baptism

A warm welcome to Finley - 23 November

The Baptism of baby Finley Streeter on Sunday 23 November, Parents Tom and Bex Streeter. A special occasion as this was the first Baptism at Thakeham for the Revd Joel Willmer.

You are warmly invited to attend our Alpha course...a series of very informal meetings, where we'll explore issues of faith. The meetings will be on Wednesday evenings, starting on 21st January.

Explore
Life
Faith
Meaning

ALPHA COURSE

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



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

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in us

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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Church Flowers

VACANT

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

ST MARY'S, SULLINGTON GRAVEYARD TIDY UP

At 8am on 21 November, the new churchyard at St Mary's Church, Sullington, was a hive of activity. The compost heap situated at the bottom end of the churchyard has been growing larger, year by year, for many years and we needed to have it removed so we could tidy the area and start a new, tidier compost heap.



On the date agreed, a contractor arrived with a digger and began moving the compost pile to the large entrance gate, which took about four solid hours of work moving the tons of compost. When all the compost had been moved, it was picked up and loaded onto a large lorry and taken away, leaving the churchyard looking nice and tidy again. A new area solely for compost will be established shortly.

MIDWEEK CELTIC COMMUNION SERVICE
St Mary's Church, Sullington
Every Wednesday at 10.30am
Led by Revd Joel Wilmer,
it includes Celtic Communion Service with Bible Study
All Welcome!

Dates for your Diary

4 January - **Evensong** at 3pm
- everyone welcome!

Every Wednesday starting 7 January

Celtic Communion with Bible study at 10:30am

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



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.

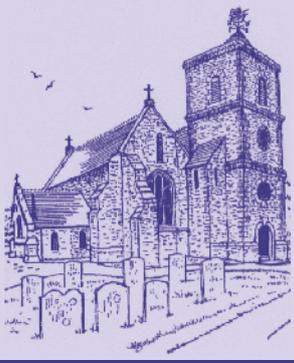
For details contact the churchwardens; see top of this page.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPLORE LIFE, FAITH & MEANING?

An Alpha course is starting on **21 January**

For more information or to book your place, email: stwparish@gmail.com, or see poster on page 4.



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

Retired Clergy

Revd Charles Hadley (740787)
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 ...

28 Nov Neil McLeod Tewsley (95 years)

3 Dec Sally Heather Sampey (91 years)

Interment of ashes only:

26 Nov Marion Ena Samuels (82 years)

CANDLEMAS, 2 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."

18 ~ 25 January 2026

WEEK OF PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY

Everyone is invited to an

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE
FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**



to be held at St Mary's Church, Storrington, at 4pm
on Sunday 18 January Light refreshments.

10am ZOOM SERVICE

We have continued to live stream our 10am Church Service to several parishioners and if you would like to join in our service this way please contact Val Rice (valrice77@gmail.com) for details.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

The
Children's
Society

Having completed the emptying of the boxes and banking, on behalf of the Children's Society, I would like to thank all box holders for their continued support and generosity in 2025. This year £1,016.00 has been sent to the Children's Society from the boxes.

A big thank you to all boxholders for their generosity and continued support and my personal thanks to Sara Harden and Maureen Sherwood for their help with the counting.

If anyone would like a box please contact me.

Pat Jenkins (744927)

PARISH VISITING TEAM...

The St Mary's Parish Visiting Team contact is Stuart Lee. Please contact Stuart on 01903 743661 if you would like to arrange for someone on the team to either speak to you or visit you.

St Mary's Church, Storrington

Cafe in the Church
2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Wednesday 14 January
10am Holy Communion
10.30 Cafe in the Church

Wednesday 28 January
2pm Holy Communion
2.30pm Cafe in the Church



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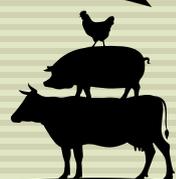
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18 ~ 25 January
**WEEK OF PRAYER for
 CHRISTIAN UNITY**
 APPLICABLE TO ALL CHURCHES

**Christian Unity Week
 takes place each year from 18 to 25 January.**

This year the main service will be on Sunday 18 January

Sunday 18 January at 3pm

The main inter-Church Unity Week Service will be the Epiphany Celebration at St Mary's Church, Storrington, followed by refreshments

Wednesday 21 January at 2pm

Unity Week Prayers at Life Community Church Village Hub, The Square, Storrington, with coffee and treats

Friday 23 January at 6.30pm

Fish 'n' Chip Supper with inter-church quiz at Chemin Neuf Community, The Priory, School Lane, Storrington

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!



THE DREAMER

An angel came to Joseph
 Although this was a dream
 He said 'take Mary as your wife
 Things are not as they seem.
 She's had a visitation
 The Holy Spirit came,
 He told her she would bear a son
 And Jesus is his name.'

An angel came to Joseph
 This was the second dream
 He said that Herod had a plot
 A nasty evil scheme.
 The magi need to travel
 Quite by another way
 So send them forth upon their trip,
 For they must not delay.

An angel came to Joseph
 Here was another dream
 He said 'quick, take your wife and child
 And flee this harsh regime!
 King Herod sent his message
 All baby boys to kill
 But you must now to Egypt go
 To foil his ghastly will.'

An angel came to Joseph
 A fourth amazing dream
 He said 'Your homeland now is safe
 So Israel is supreme
 Now leave this land of Egypt
 And set out joyfully
 Across the desert sands to go
 And then your homeland see.'

An angel came to Joseph
 A fifth and final dream
 A vision of a place of peace
 This land then to redeem.
 Unfriendly. Archelaus!
 So northward they must roam
 To Nazareth in Galilee
 Now Jesus has a home.

Chrystalle Kersley



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 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).



St Mary's Church, Storrington

Faith, Hope and Love in the heart of Storrington



Join us for

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

A traditional service of readings and carols to mark the season of Epiphany.

Refreshments served after the service.

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY 4pm





REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, SULLINGTON



At 11 o'clock on 9 November, the community gathered at the Sullington War Memorial to honour the sacrifice of all those who served our country. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Service of Remembrance. We were joined by members of our local community, Councillor Aitkenhead, the GB Submariners Association, and Nathan and Becky Buckell from the British Legion. Your support helped us mark this occasion with dignity and gratitude.

We remembered David Scott Cramp, Ernest Knowles, Edgar Towse, George Wyatt Edgell Naper, and the crew of Submarine E24.

"We will remember them."

Terence Anthony Nowell of the Submariners Association shared a report, below, from the We Remember Submariners organisation entitled 'Remembering HMS E24'. HMS E24 was salvaged in 1973 near Heligoland. A member of the Gatwick Branch of the GB Submariners Association laid a wreath at Ohlsdorf Cemetery in Hamburg in memory of the crew. The salvaged conning tower is now displayed at the Windstärke 10 Museum in Cuxhaven.



Recently WRS were able to lay a wreath in remembrance of Captain George Naper and crew lost on HMS E24

In 1973 German divers hunting for a lost U-Boat discovered the wreck of a conning tower marking the site of lost submarine. When the boat was salvaged, they realised that it was the wreck of HMS E24 lost while mining off Heligoland Bight on 25 March 1916.

The crew are buried in the WW1 section of The Commonwealth War Graves area of Ohlsdorf Cemetery in Hamburg, Germany. This is the largest cemetery in



Europe and beautifully landscaped and tended. We Remember Submariners laid a wreath for the crew at 11.00hrs on Sunday 7 September 2025.

In Cuxhaven the very modern Windstarke 10 museum (Gale Force 10) has now created an exhibit of the conning tower of HM Submarine E24 in subdued lighting illustrating the vision of the conning tower as it lay on the seabed for many years marking the gravesite of E24. There are

also exhibits of artifacts recovered from inside the submarine. The museum management were very hospitable and allowed us to lay a WRA wreath at the base of the conning tower. We were most grateful.

We gave a short few words of remembrance for the lost crew. A member of the Gatwick Branch of the GB Submariners Association made the trip, as each year they also attend the memorial service at St Mary's Church in Sullington West Sussex, where there is a monument erected to mark the loss of Captain G W E Naper and crew of HMS E24 and other British casualties.

The Museum: The conning tower and some other items had been placed in a museum of wrecks in Cuxhaven and left in the open air for several years. This wreck museum was in need of renovation and the City of Cuxhaven moved the exhibits to be merged with the former fisheries and maritime museum, providing two former fish processing buildings – Fishhalle VII and VIII and in 2013 added a new atrium between the buildings to become a very modern and professional exhibitor of maritime history. Well worth a visit.



Terence Anthony Nowell
We Remember Submariners



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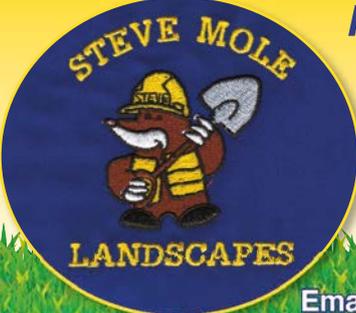
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ST MARY'S CHURCH, SULLINGTON CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre held on 15 November at Sullington Parish Hall felt like a true celebration of community spirit; one of those rare moments where the Church, Sullington parish, families, and friends all seemed to blend into one warm, welcoming crowd. From the moment people began to arrive, there was a sense of shared excitement in the air, the kind that comes from knowing you're part of something local and loved.



Our Church and visiting stallholders filled the space with colour and life: handmade crafts, homemade cakes, our pop-up pre-loved clothes, festive treats, and the kind of little treasures you only seem to find at community events. Thank you to our wonderful Church members and visiting stallholders for taking part in our event. Our hamper raffle, held in support of Family Support, raised a very good amount of money for the charity.

It was a time to welcome our visitors, catching up with familiar faces and greeting newcomers with the same enthusiasm. Nothing felt rushed; people stayed to talk, to browse, and to enjoy simply being together.

Children added their own energy, darting between activities, helping themselves to glitter and glue at the Messy Church craft table, and their laughter seemed to anchor the whole event in joy.

What stood out most was how natural the togetherness felt. It wasn't just an event run by the Church community, it was one held together by it. Everyone from stallholders to visitors played a part in creating the warm, festive atmosphere.

By the end, there was a quiet contentment in the room, the kind that lingers after something genuinely uplifting. It felt less like a fundraiser or a fayre and more like a reminder of why community matters: shared time, shared smiles, shared purpose. A simple gathering, but one that brought out the very best of the people who came.

We look forward to next year, please join us!



BLANKETS, TWIDDLEMUFFS AND BABY JESUS!

Two questions start this brief report. The first is, "What happens at Knit and Stitch at St Mary's, Thakeham?" The second is even more direct, "What is a Twiddlemuff?"

Up to twelve knitters come along to our Knit and Stitch meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Many of the knitters are extremely talented and produce amazing garments which would sell in Harrods or similar high-end shops for several hundreds of pounds.



The knitters not only create garments for their families and for themselves, but from time to time we receive special requests! We have created blankets made from colourful knitted squares to send with our shoeboxes to families in Eastern Europe, and we have knitted tiny baby Jesus wrapped in a swaddling shawl to distribute on Christmas Day to those attending Thakeham Church services. This year we were asked to make Twiddlemuffs for the Accident and Emergency Department at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester. The muffs are warm and cosy and sewn inside are buttons, ribbons, small bells, shells etc which distract and calm anxious patients. One member has made many tiny hats, no larger than a tennis ball, for the premature baby unit at St Richard's, too. The hats are very pretty and received with joy by parents at this worrying time.

Everything we make is sent with love from all at St Mary's Church, Thakeham.

 NEIGHBOURHOOD
WARDENS



Cuppa and a chat

Every 3rd Thursday
of the month
10.30am - 12.30pm

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre,
Spierbridge Road, RH20 4PG

Come and join us for a free hot drink and a chat. It will be lovely to see you.

Transport may be available, register your interest with Storrington Community Bus: **01903 740 282.**

15 January









SULLINGTON 160 YEARS AGO

SUMMARY OF THE DIARY OF CANON PALMER 1866

Sun 7: Epiphany. Drenching rain. Another rough Sunday! Only a dozen people to hear Banns for the second time of asking. I preached two old sermons. I am very tired from my excessive exercise with Hensley at Haileybury.

Mon 8: Stormy with very heavy north-west wind. Busy with letters and bills, which accumulated during my absence from home, but have more money to pay the latter with than usual, I am thankful to say. Mrs Charman still alive and may linger for some days: she suffers awfully.

Tue 9: Stormy, snow showers from the north-west. Measuring and sorting out decorations in church appropriate for the wedding: Bertha will help. My mother and I walked to call at Rock and Rowdell: Mrs B poorly after a domestic loss. The Major all agog with the thoughts of the wedding and will take Anne in gladly. Have been reading Burke's paper on the source of the Nile in the great Albert Nyauza, a huge lake 250 miles long, very deep in a fissure of granite.

Wed 10: Fine, but cold. A meeting of the SPCK today at Steyning to which I attended. I did some good by suggesting that an agency be opened at Storrington for the exhibition and sale of books. Settled our new magazine club rules. Hugh Ingrams is to be secretary. The doctor is up the Nile, in the character of the physician of charge.

Thu 11: Heavy rain all night, snow all day. Thoroughly whiting: the overflow was so great from the hill water into my pond that the house was unapproachable and the water rushed down the front road by the kitchen walk, across the lawn.

Fri 12: Fine. Thaw during sun. A wretched day for getting about and yet my mother went to Brighton about the Breakfast and Emmy and her young man to London. My mother delayed on her way home by an accident at the junction near Horsham and did not get in here till nearly 10pm! Drawn by 2 horses from Pulborough.

Sat 13: Heavy rain nearly all day. Snow nearly gone. A sudden thaw with deluging rain that has set us all in a flood again; I must do some engineering very shortly, I see. George intends to present the poor with a bottle of sherry and a piece of cake (each family) on his wedding day.

Sun 14: 2nd after Epiphany. Squally morning with south-west gale with heavy rain in the evening. Not quite so bad as the last two Sundays but ravingly rough towards evening and unpleasantly damp all day so very small attendance. Nevertheless, I asked out "the couple" this morning both being present and preached two sermons. Anne sends a gorgeous text without an envelope.

Mon 15: Fine and April-like. We are wishing for such a day as this on Thursday, nothing could be better. This morning the chancel pews were taken out and the area left plain and nice: also, the communion rails removed. Have been very busy all day doing little odd jobs here and there. Mrs Charman easier.

Tue 16: Heavy rain with gale from the south. Again, a perfect flood, the house enveloped above and below in water! The smart dresses will have the gloss taken off them if Thursday is as today. Oscillated between house and church, straight on doing very little of everything. A very few lines from Edward crushing over hopes of seeing him home before his time; his colonel had met with a severe accident. The adventures of the "Amateur Casual" described in the Pall Mall Gazette is a piece of horribly interesting reading; this gent passed himself off as a vagrant and spent a night in a casual ward attached to the Marylebone Union – his tale is hideous, cannot bear the light.

Wed 17: Dull and dreary. Got all pretty well together up at the church. Terry at work with his work inside and Hammond managed the poles for the awning outside: a couple of boards covered with fleur de lis, replaced the chancel fittings, and the whole space carpeted with matting, the rails were taken away and the space over the altar nicely furnished with a handsome decoration, partly made by Anne and part by Bertha. 6½ feet of iron wire, inlaid with moss, on which a white cross and a scroll on

which the ground was crimson calico and the letters "Rejoice with them that do rejoice". The arch of the window was wreathed and the recesses of each side of the chancel walls adorned with pots of ferns.

Our company arrived punctually with the exception of the two Chesshyres, and George and Ellen came an hour or two later. We sat down 16 to dinner, Chattee and Fred and Ballards coming late. Edwards, our waiter, managed everything very well, but the meal was slow and poor, the presents were displayed in the drawing room and made a very fair display. Heard today of the grievous loss in the Bay of Biscay of the London. Captain Martin, the ship on which Eliot went out, 270 lives lost and only one boat's crew saved, and most miraculously: the captain and passengers knew the doom was sealed some time before they went down but were brave and calm and collected. The clergy on board were unflinching in their duties. It is the saddest story I have ever read.

Thu 18: Dull and drizzly. A poor day but everything has gone most successfully: our bridesmaid's bonnets were unfortunately late, and the favours never appeared but in other respects all went well. The ceremony, owing to the delay of the Sandgate party, was not till 12:15. The carriages drove round the Hardwick's land and came down to the entrance and set down.

Kings, Gorings and Barttelots were there and when all the party had arrived Annie, who played the harmonium for the first time in its new position, began the hymn Monk's Matrimonium. I got the service without faltering and tried to make myself heard, the pressure in the background was very strong and the great crowd sitting behind. The Breakfast was a great success; 40 sat down. The table was beautifully spread and eatables and drinkables in plenty. I led in Mrs Gibbson; the bride was proposed by Mr Elers. George very briefly responded. There arose the Highden family and spoke out earnestly and heartily in praise of us all and my mother in particular with a slight allusion to me a bachelor; this by the by followed "the bridesmaids" by Freddy, and is finally worded and pluckily spoken, every sentence of which was loudly cheered. Then I got up and toasted Friends and Neighbours. Then followed many toasts. We arose at 2:30pm, and after they cast off in the chariot to Pulborough for Folkstone. The rest of the day, some of us walked to Sandgate and some went away. At 6:30pm we went to Sandgate and then danced, romped till 12pm, then home dog tired.

Fri 19: Fine with some heavy showers, brisk wind. After a merry breakfast 3 maids departed together to Steyning. Misses Bullocks fly having failed. Annie and Charlie spent the day in a high state of excitement all day. Went to sleep after dinner at Rowdell.

Sat 20: Fine. Went with Annie to Worthing in a fly and saw her on the train to St Leonards. Then paid a few bills, inspected west Worthing, which I like, and home on foot; the sea very "foul" and had been very powerful, for the seaweed lay strewn over the Parade and there were breaches in the sea wall.

Sun 21: 3rd after Epiphany. Heavy showers in the morning, then dry. Another "shuckish" Sunday. A poor morning congregation but a good afternoon one. A new chancel arrangement pleased me very much; we have changed our seat; my mother likes the harmonium better than its present position. Preached old sermons – one Huntingdonian on Philip and the Eunuch and the second on Hindrances to prayer. Mrs Carew Gibson speaks of a window again. How pleasant and refreshing a quiet Sunday after the excitement of the past week! Letters from Folkstone. George very affectionate.

Mon 22: Again, very wet in the afternoon. A very good description in the Pall Mall Magazine of a frightful storm in Torbay on the 10th when 40 out of 62 were dashed on the Brixham rocks, and 70 men drowned! A wet ride in afternoon with Storrington bills and dressmaker's invoices.

Tue 23: Fine and sunny. The weather seems to be changed for the better. Drove Tommy to Lower Beeding; found him awaiting me at his pretty little porch door at 11am; into Horsham with kind Mrs Hubbard; and looked

over the church, somewhat in detail. I retain my opinion about old glass of Clayton and Bell which I think by far are best, but a little side lancet to light the porch was quite a little gem. The seating are all of oak and remarkably good. To Worth by train. The Rev. Hoare busy at Three Bridges, whence about 10 minutes walk. Went with company with Boswell of Southwater, Scott of Horsham, Doctor Newsome of Liverpool and Mr Mariott, preacher of some repute in the Diocese of Liverpool. We had a discussion all afternoon with about fifteen of us. Most of us contributed to the erudite discussion until we left at 5pm. Home with the Hubbards and dined with them. I was much pleased with the meeting and shall try and belong to it.

Wed 24: Bright and fine with slight frost. Accepted Mr Hoare's invitation to shoot during the morning and, arrayed in gaiters of his and my serge coat, and in my inexperienced hands a Lancaster breach loader, we set forth. We had a party of five, a pack of little dogs of all kinds were turned loose in the wood and soon the fun began. We had a nice walk and got one hare and wounded another, and after lunch I trotted home. Dined at Fryern and waited for Fred who had been shooting at Petworth.

Thu 25: Very fine. Paying bills in Storrington. Dined in Sandgate.

Fri 26: As yesterday. Still. Rode to Hurstpierpoint to a Southdown Meet; nearly all Brighton seemed out and it was a pretty sight. Enjoyed the ride by Mule Burrell Arms, Comer House and Crouch Hill. Visited Woodwardian College and church.

Sat 27: Fine and some sun. Mild wind. Two pieces of bad news today; poor Jock died last night, having been ill for some days, and Paul tells me that the place is too hard for his wife and therefore he must go, we never seem likely to settle down with servants. Attended the Thakeham Union night school, 8 present, 10 on the books. Finished reading to them the "Talking Fire irons".

Sun 28: Septuagesima. Dull, mild and drifty. There has been a wind today and a few heavy drops of solid rain, but nothing came of it; and no fine Sunday yet. My morning sermon was upon "peace". The reference being to the 57 of Isaiah; the afternoon an old sermon and rather vague one on "Promise and Prohibition in Genesis" 2. The Guardian insert my letter on Tithe Rent Charge. Keble has a letter on Ritualism.

Mon 29: Cold, west wind. To Cobden; wish to establish a cottage lecture if possible. Grant Dalton was to have returned this evening, but the carriage came back at 9pm without him. Reading Robertson's Life. Mr Wagner seems to have acted very cruelly in the matter of his curate. F.W.R. was not a man to suffer patiently.

Tue 30: Fine morning. Drifty afternoon with scud of rain. A little sea weather today; very mild. The foxhounds met at the Union; they were a pretty sight from Sandgate house where I went to see them on my own. F. Dalton came about 4 o'clock; he had been asked to stop at Southampton for the night and had foolishly consented.

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.



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.



A Community Choir in Storrington

Our next meeting is on 28th January

Sessions start at 10.30am with coffee and a time to chat and make friends. Singing starts at 11 am.

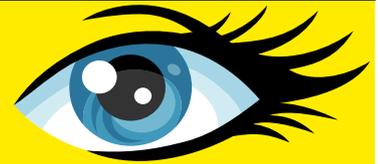
We meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Thakeham Road, Storrington, RH20 3NG.

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

Storrington Macular Society Support Group

27 January

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

0300 3030 111
help@macularsociety.org
macularsociety.org

Macular Society
Beating Macular Disease



1st Sunday every month 9.30 – 11am
Old School, Storrington
Everyone welcome and FREE!

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!

JANUARY 4 – Gifts



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

Touch the earth lightly

Looking back over all my articles for January each year since I started, I see that I have always quoted the words of George Fox, founder of the Quakers. They come from a valuable pamphlet called *Advices and Queries*.

“Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford. Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?”

We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God’s continuing creation.”

I love the directness of these words; and the challenge in them. So much environmental news feels bad; micro plastics over our beaches, environmental protections in our planning processes relaxed and just this morning I heard all about “forever chemicals.” So scary! Since I believe strongly that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, I am convinced that enough of us doing our bit for the environment will make a difference. George Fox shows me the way.

So, it being January here is a set of resolutions for 2026; one for every month.

By the by – the picture is my rhododendron trying to flower in December instead of May. Please don’t tell me climate change isn’t real.

Happy New Year

Christine Tuson, ctuson@lineone.net



JANUARY

In the light of my article last month; join the library. In addition to all the possibilities for entertainment, it is a warm space in the coldest months. Helps you save on your own heating. I’m also going to start keeping an eco diary. I’m particularly interested in how often I put out a full landfill bin and full recycling bin.

FEBRUARY

Have a critical look at your outdoor space; can you make it friendlier for wildlife? Could a hedgehog get through your fence when it comes out of hibernation? How about an extra birdfeeder? Or a micro wildlife pond?

MARCH

Do you spring clean? Maybe this is when you clear out your cupboards or wardrobe. Don’t just take it to the tip; some of it may be suitable for a charity shop, give away through *Items for free in Storrington* or even for you to sell. If you’ve finally admitted you’re never going to use those sheets of timber that you’ve been saving in the garage, then Pulborough Shedders need lots to build workbenches and to fit out their new premises in Thakeham. www.pulboroughshedders.org

APRIL

Seed-sowing time! If you can, grow your own flowers for cutting. Open flowers are best for pollinators. The cottage garden favourites like sweet peas and marguerites look lovely in the garden and in a vase. If, like me, you always sow far too many tomato and pepper seeds, offer the extras to the Community market or sell for your favourite charity.

MAY

As the weather gets better for outdoor activities, is there a local environmental project that needs your help? Sussex Wildlife Trust? RSPB? Sandgate Conservation? If outdoor work isn’t possible, there are usually lots of admin tasks that need doing, or just making a donation will help.

JUNE

Take a holiday without flying abroad, and ideally without using your car. You really can get to most places by train.

JULY

Go litter picking. It makes such a difference to our local area if it isn’t adorned with sweet wrappers, fast food containers and the other detritus of modern life.

AUGUST

There are lots of ecologically sounder products around to replace the various harmful things. Laundry sheets instead of liquid or powder; washable scrubbers instead of pot scourers, and stainless steel pans instead of non-stick that leech ‘forever chemicals’ into our food and so into us!

SEPTEMBER

A day trip to somewhere interesting can be fun, especially using public transport. Yes, the bus takes longer, but you can look all around you.

OCTOBER

Harvest time, of course. I must learn to emulate my sister and freeze as much as possible. She makes soups, pie mixes, curry sauces and if it fits in a container, she freezes it.

NOVEMBER

There should be another COP meeting. In November 2025 our Deanery Synod meeting had Rev Buff Stone as the speaker. Some of her wise words were to do with our research. She urged us to seek out reputable sources of information about issues.

DECEMBER

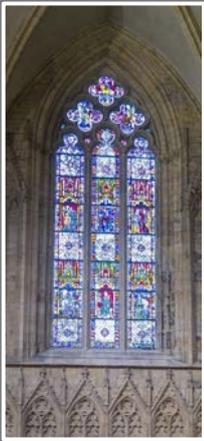
Maybe as another year approaches, it’s good to take stock. If I’ve kept my eco-diary, I may be able to evaluate how lightly or otherwise I’ve lived through 2026.



JOIN THE SANDGATE CHOIR FOR A

Singing workshop

SATURDAY 24 JANUARY 2026



Rutter Requiem

Conductor: Christopher Larley

Our friendly choir invites singers to come and participate in this beautiful piece.

Storrington and Sullington Parish Hall,
Thakeham Road, Storrington,
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11.00 – 4.00 (registration from 10.30)

Tickets: £15 including music and light refreshments.
Please bring a packed lunch.

Ample free parking is available at the hall.

For more information and to book your place please email:
johndansylvi@btinternet.com or phone John Fisher on 07836 558403.

www.thesandgatechoir.com

STORRINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

With the consent of the owners, a few months ago we started work on the restoration of Cootham Pond, which is badly silted and overshadowed. It is over 250 years old and needed some TLC to return it to its environmental health. It became clear professional expertise is necessary. On our behalf, Mick Denness is making an application to the Wilder Horsham District Nature Network Award Scheme for a grant to fund the work. It will include dredging of silt, reduction of tree cover, removal of dangerous trees, installation of pipes to reduce flood risk to the A283. Overall, it will support aquatic and terrestrial wildlife.



Cootham pond in the 1890's

Those who had low expectations of COP30 were not disappointed. 1,000's of delegates from 50 countries gathered in Brazil in November to discuss the problem of climate change. One notable absentee was the USA. No surprise. Shockingly, the final report made no reference to fossil fuels, the major contributors to greenhouse gases. This was due to China, Russia and Saudi Arabia leading opposition any such reference. Oil reigns supreme. However, there was agreement to develop alternative sources of energy, the cheapest and best being solar energy. China leads in this respect.

UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said, "The gap between where we are and what science demands is dangerously wide". Nine years ago, the COP21 Paris Agreement set a target of limiting global warming to well below 2°C. We are at present heading for 2.5°C. This doesn't seem to worry oil producers. The negotiator for Panama said the talks risked of becoming a clown show. Even those of us who are natural optimists must struggle to find anything cheerful in all this.

It is tempting to shrug and say, "Nothing I can do about it" Not true. We can make our voices heard and check that our own behaviour is environmentally friendly. For example, the emissions per passenger mile of an airliner is one of the highest, for a bus it is two thirds that of a petrol car and driver. For an electric car it is one third that of a petrol car. Cycling and walking are very friendly.

The work party on Saturday 13 December was at Sullington Warren removing invasive birch from the heathland. On **Saturday 3 January** the work party meets at 10am on Chantry Hill (top of Greyfriars Lane) to clear more scrub from the valuable chalk grass land; a good way to start the new year and reduce the Christmas excess. No previous experience needed, just come in gardening gear. All welcome to take part in this important task, enjoy good company and a coffee break.

New Year greetings to our readers. May it be peaceful and environmentally friendly.

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



Storrington Community Café

Tuesday 13th January
Tuesday 10th February
Tuesday 10th March
From 11am to 12.30pm

Hanover Walk Community Centre,
Hanover Walk, Storrington RH20 4EX



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
Email: Storrington-SullingtonWardens@horsham.gov.uk



CHURCH SERVICES AT A GLANCE

STORRINGTON St Mary's



THAKEHAM St Mary's



SULLINGTON St Mary's



DATE	FESTIVAL OR SUNDAY	STORRINGTON	THAKEHAM	SULLINGTON
4 January	Christmas 2	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 3am Evensong
11 January	Epiphany 1 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion 4pm Epiphany Carol Service	10.30am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
18 January	Epiphany 2	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion with Prayers for Healing 4pm Main Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	8.30am Celtic Communion	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion
25 January	Epiphany 3	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer
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

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

11 January at 1pm

at the Old School, School Lane, Storrington

Tickets £5.00 are available from

Louisa Austin, Church Street, Storrington



WHAT'S ON

JANUARY	
Thu 1	New Year's Day
Sat 3	
10am	Storrington Conservation Society – Working Party – p17
10.30am	Children's Construction Club – Storrington Library – p30
Sun 4	Christmas 2
9.30am	Messy Church – p15
Mon 5	
11am	Community Café – p17
2.15pm	Reading Friends – Storrington Library – p33
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p15
Tue 6	
9.15am	Inter-Church Prayers – Storrington Priory Library – p3
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p24
2pm	SPACE – Arts & Craft Club – p9
Thu 8	
11.30am	Pop-In Lunch Club – p18
Fri 9	
2.30pm	Storrington Museum – Talk – p22
Sat 10	
10.30am	Children's Construction Club – Storrington Library – p30
Sun 11	Epiphany 1
	Baptism of Christ
1pm	Sunday Lunch Club – p18
4pm	Epiphany Carol Service – p9
Mon 12	
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p15
7.30pm	WC Dramatic Society – Play Auditions – p29
Tue 13	
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p24
11am	Storrington Community Cafe – Hanover Walk Community Centre – p17
Wed 14	
10am	Holy Communion followed by Café in the Church – p6
7.30pm	Rotary Film Night – <i>Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale</i> – p24
Thu 15	
10.30am	Cuppa and a Chat – Chanctonbury Leisure Centre – p29
7.30pm	WC Dramatic Society – Play Auditions – p29
Fri 16	
7.30pm	Storrington Horticultural Society – Meeting – p33
Sat 17	
10.30am	Children's Construction Club – Storrington Library – p30
Sun 18	Epiphany 2
	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
4pm	Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer – p9
Mon 19	
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p15

Tue 20	
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p24
2pm	Knit and Stitch – p4
2pm	SPACE – Arts & Craft Club – p9
Wed 21	
	Alpha Course Starts – p4
Sat 24	
10.30am	Children's Construction Club – Storrington Library – p30
11am	Sandgate Choir – Singing Workshop – p17
Sun 25	Epiphany 3
Mon 26	
7pm	Storrington Slimmers – p15
Tue 27	
10am	Baby Rhyme Time – Storrington Library – p24
1.30pm	Storrington Macular Society Group – p15
Wed 28	
10.30am	Trinity Sunshine Choir – p15
2pm	Holy Communion followed by Café in the Church – p6
2.30pm	Storrington Flower Club – Meeting – p33

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL DAYS

JANUARY	
1	THE NAMING OF JESUS
2	Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, 379 and 389; <i>Seraphim, 1833; Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, 1945</i>
6	THE EPIPHANY
10	William Laud, 1645
11	Mary Slessor, 1915, a Scottish missionary to Nigeria. She is credited with having stopped the killing of twins among the Efik, a particular ethnic group in Nigeria.
12	Aelred of Hexham, 1167; Benedict Biscop, 689
13	Hilary, 367; Kentigern (Mungo) 603; George Fox, 1691
17	Antony of Egypt, 356; Charles Gore, 1932
18	Amy Carmichael, 1951, a Protestant Christian missionary in India, who opened an orphanage and founded a mission in Dohnavur.
19	Wulfstan, 1095
20	Richard Rolle, 1349
21	Agnes, 304
22	Vincent of Sarogossa, 304
24	Francis de Sales, 1622
25	THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL
26	Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul
28	Thomas Aquinas, 1274
30	Charles, 1649
31	John Bosco, 1888, founded the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, a religious congregation of nuns dedicated to the care and education of poor girls

STORRINGTON & SULLINGTON - REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

REVD HENRY PALMER AT SULLINGTON – PART 43

The bad weather continued, but he escorted Annie to Worthing and saw her safely on the train to S. Leonards, paid some bills and noted breaches in the sea wall and seaweed strewn over the parade, indicating a very 'foul' powerful sea. The after-effects of the weather resulted in a poor morning's congregation, but the Rector was pleased with the new chancel arrangements. "We have changed our seat and my m[other] likes the harmonium better in its present position." A quiet Sunday was welcome after all the excitement, followed by a day packing all the hampers, returning empties with the help of Master G. and Mr King.

The weather changed for the better, and Mr Palmer drove Tommy to Lower Beeding to pay a visit, then on to Horsham "with kind Mrs Hubbard", and to the church for a detailed look around, which did not change his opinions about "the old glass of Clayton and Bell" compared to later additions. He also admired the oak fittings which he thought "remarkably good", before continuing on to Worth by train...

The Rev. Mr W. H. Hoare joined him at 3 Bridges, there they met a company of others, Bramwell of Southwater, Scott of Horsham, 2 Grants, Dr Hewson of Liverpool, Mr Mariott, preacher of some repute to the Diocese of Oxford. The subject of the meeting was "In which sense may the Presbyterian of the Church of England be called a Priest in the ordinary acceptance of the word." 15 were present to debate "but there was no cant and some learning", it was evidently a gathering which Mr Palmer relished, hearing speakers like Hoare, who read "an elaborate paper", Soper, Howson and Mariott, the kind of meeting much missed by Mr Palmer in his rural parish; the discussion academic and lively. It ended with the train home at 5 with the Hubbards, with whom he dined. "I was much pleased with the meeting and shall try and belong to it."

There was some welcome news a few days later from Masters, who wrote that Mr Palmer might consider himself a member of the Worth Clerical Meeting. "Mr Hoare having observed that I belonged to the Party of Progress". Perhaps a letter in the Guardian he had written to them advocating a Fixture at the commutation price Tithe Rent Charge. The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 permitted "tithes to be commuted to a rent charge based on the current price of corn. As Mr Palmer's accounts show this was a very large part of his income, based on the great Tithe Map showing each piece of land with the owner's name and the acreage noted in the tithe schedule. It cost the Rector a whole morning [wasted] at home sitting and waiting for tithe payers to call and pay what was owed, and as his diary sometimes noted, nobody or few came. Payments were reviewed every seven years and adjusted according to the average price of corn. Even that was an improvement on the old system of payment in kind by the farmers, as the huge Tithe Barn at Sullington bears witness.

Footnote: [See Sullington Domesday to D Day pp 59-72]

There were two pieces of bad news – his little dog Jock died after some days' illness. Mr Palmer had had him since his days as the Rev. Gerald Vesey's curate in Huntingdon, so he would be a much-missed presence at the Rectory. Then his servant, Paull, told him he would have to leave as the place was too hard for his wife. The Rector lamented, "we never seem likely to settle down with servants." It is understandable that with no close neighbours and Storrington or Washington some distance, people probably coming from towns or villages to work there might be at a loss for entertainment on days off, or with long journeys to visit their home.

As a contrast to his mental exercise at Worth, he accepted an invitation to shoot the next morning, so picture him in gaiters loaned by his host [no wellingtons at that time] his "serge coat and in my inexperienced hands a Lancaster breech-loader", a party of five and a pack of little dogs of all kinds were turned loose in a big wood and soon the fun began." Mr Palmer got one hare, wounded another and then had lunch before returning home. After dining at Fryern, the next day was back to routine chiefly paying bills in Storrington and dining at Sandgate.

Hunting again, he went to Hurstpierpoint to a Southdown meet which he described as a pretty sight. He enjoyed the 17-mile ride by the Burrell Arms, Corner House and Crouch Hill, finding time to visit Woodardian College and Church. Back home he had another killing morning, "Some rattling today. 30 killed in all!" It wasn't his only enjoyment of the hunting season, he also saw the foxhounds setting out from the Union, "but did not find, they are a pretty sight from Sandgate."

The national news reported the Queen, unhappily and against her own wishes, "malgré lui même" had been persuaded to open her VIIth parliament on a sunny warm day. Still expressing her mourning for Prince Albert, she kept her eyes fixed downwards as in deep thought and hardly acknowledged the Assembly. The government declined acting despotically in the matter of the cattle plague.

The next item of interest for the family was the arrival of the newly-weds home from their Continental honeymoon trip after a rough Channel crossing, so unfortunately the welcoming bells were mis-timed and rang before they arrived! Mrs Palmer, the Rector's mother, gladly agreed that they would stay at the Rectory while their house was being built. Mr Palmer had had "an important discussion with George and Emily about the plan of their coming to him" and they seemed to enter into it gladly. On the result of the talk depended an answer to another pupil (Cowan). The Rector agreed to take him for the summer if he cared to come for that short period. A new pupil, Garfitt, had already arrived to join Dalton, "the two come upon me as a dead weight, but I do my best". Evidently not the brightest of scholars, he started them on their individual studies.

Sexagesima dawned stormy and wet, he preached two new sermons on Christian Sympathy to a very small congregation. "Again and again" he wrote, "this kind of weather would not be distressing were it not for the pupils, but what to do with them it is hard to say." Together with tutoring them, normally he would include outside exercises of various kinds: sports, walks, joining in parochial visits and his social life for a rounded education.

He was concerned when bad news came of Mrs Charman, very ill. "Poor Mrs C. bleeds and sinks. God have mercy on her, poor thing."

There was some excitement in Storrington as the Volunteers staged a night exercise, which in spite of the high wind went very well, including the fireworks. The members of the Corps presented George Gibson with a testimonial and a claret jug. In spite of a mild Septuagesima Sunday with a little scud but no heavy rain, Mr Palmer did not report a good congregation to hear his sermon on Peace. Nothing daunted by the weather, he went up to Cobden on the hill next day to talk to the cottagers about establishing a cottage lecture there, which was received with enthusiasm. He was always keen to take the church out to remoter parishioners and keep them within the community.

Joan Ham (Village Historian)

Retired professional or business ladies
are invited to consider joining

Fryern Ladies Club

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

If interested please phone for more information

07733 216114

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.



THAKEHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

Our speaker in November was Dr Steve Millam who explained to us why *Soil Matters*.

Steve was born locally in Angmering and studied at Pershore College before working in Wolverhampton, Dundee where he specialised in Anya potatoes, then Edinburgh and finally Brinsbury. Soil is important for numerous reasons. It provides food by growing agricultural crops, supports natural vegetation and foundations, biodiversity and mitigates climate change, contains bacteria and microbes, minerals such as calcium and iron, shelters insects and absorbs water. Relevant to gardeners, it holds plants up and provides air, water and the nutrients for growth.



Soil starts as rock which breaks down in time. It takes an amazing 500 years to make 1" of topsoil and 1 teaspoon of soil contains between 1 million and 1 billion bacteria and between 150 and 500 micrograms of fungi. Soil consists of sand silt and clay. The ideal soil is humus but all soil can be improved by adding organic matter to help it breathe. Clay soil can have lime added to it and should not be worked or walked on when wet. Steve also advised to not overdo the fertiliser, to compost and recycle garden waste, to match plants to your soil type and, very importantly, not to remove stones as these help to keep air in the soil.

There is no monthly meeting in January so instead members will enjoy a lunch at the Crown in Cootham on Thursday 22 January.

Sandra Jenkins



STORRINGTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

First of all, the Society wishes all readers, and especially our supporters, a very happy, prosperous and healthy new year.

We are already in the process of reading several plays and by the time you read this we will, hopefully, have selected one for performing in April. The selection depends a great deal on the talent provided by the actors wishing to take part. The pantomime attracted some very good youngsters who made an excellent impression on the older members, but we still rely on older, new members, aged 20 years and upwards, willing to join us in order to represent the script in the best possible way.

Fancy *treading the boards* but don't know if you could? Come along to Sullington Parish Hall on Tuesday or Thursday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and say hello. We are a very friendly group who will make you feel most welcome.

Please note we will not be meeting on the following dates:

23, 25, 30 December and 1 January.

David Chinn

Monthly
Talk

BESIDE THE SEASIDE by Sheila Willis

FOR
2026!

Friday 9th January - 2.30pm

Members £6
Non-members £8
All Welcome!

The Old School,
School Lane,
Storrington,
RH20 4LL



STORRINGTON
& DISTRICT
MUSEUM

JustGiving



Join us for a lively talk which will take us on a nostalgic trip down to the sea and sand as our speaker, Sheila Willis, covers the evolution of the iconic British seaside holiday; saucy postcards, penny arcades, beach huts and donkey rides, to name just a few.

With crisp January days, we're sure the talk on summer experiences will give us a warm and enjoyable afternoon.

Sheila Willis grew up by the sea, where her parents owned a seaside café. She later joined the police force but has always retained her love of the seaside.

2026 BRINGS.....

- 110th anniversary of Conscription being introduced
- 100th anniversary of the birth of Queen Elizabeth II
- 100th anniversary of Winnie-the-Pooh book published
- 80th anniversary of Avro Lancaster first flight
- 40th anniversary of Top Gun film released
- 30th anniversary of Pokémon launched
- 25th anniversary of The Lord of the Rings first film released



Councillor Vacancy

There is one vacancy on the Parish Council, and a by-election has been requested by ten or more residents of the parish. If more than one candidate is nominated, the by-election will be contested, and the polling day will be on 22 January.

New Warden

The Council is delighted to welcome our new warden, Dave Bone who is working alongside Chris Poore. Together they will deliver an extensive programme of events ranging from the play afternoons for children with special needs to the Warden & Parish Fun Day (Monday 17 August). They will also organise social events for older people who can be isolated alongside their vital work in community liaison, improvement, enforcement, and problem solving. Huge thanks to Chris and Dave.

Remembrance Silhouettes



Take a look at the beautiful display of metallic silhouettes at the Memorial Pond which commemorate the contribution of military from the parish on land, at sea and in air. These charming silhouettes were designed by Storrington based firm, Peter Potter Limited which has donated one of the three to the parish. We thank them most sincerely for its generosity.

Pond News

The Memorial Pond is in need of significant restoration; quotes for a topographical and structural engineering surveys have been approved by the Parish Council for speedy action. Improvement works are also expected to commence at Mill Pond in the autumn next year, funded by HDC.

Climate Action

The Parish Council has agreed to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency and commit to taking practical local action to cut carbon, protect nature and work with our community to build a more sustainable future via the adoption of a Climate Action Plan.

This means the PC will consider the impact on climate and nature in all council decisions and activities, support our community to reduce carbon emissions and protect local wildlife and work with others to build a more resilient and sustainable parish. This decision is in line with similar declarations taken locally by HDC and both Henfield and Steyning Parish Councils with whom we will share knowledge and resources. More details can be found on the Parish Council website.

Website

The Parish Council is finalising the new-look website which we will launch early in 2026. There will be a gallery featuring photographs from around the parish by local residents. More information will be available shortly.

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

WEATHER WATCH

With twenty-one days having measurable rain, November 2025 could best be described as unsettled but it was a month of two halves temperature wise. Up to the 15th it was the warmest on record spanning several hundred years. There was no frost, either in the air or at ground level, and plants continued to bloom and thrive. Some nights were as warm would normally be experienced in July and on the 13th it reached 17°C by day.

But then the winds turned to the north and cold air swept in from the Arctic and on the 19th, thick, very large, feathery flakes of snow fell on our area typical when snow occurs when the air temperature is just above freezing. Because of the previous mildness and soil temperatures reaching 13°C on the 14th, the snow did not lie to any extent though for a time the Downs were covered, and I noticed it particularly so on the slopes west of Petworth. A strong north wind during the afternoon of the 19th with an air temperature of just 3°C to 4°C made it feel like minus 4°C. Coats, hats and gloves were the order of the day in Storrington High Street;

winter had arrived. Overnight the wind dropped out, and the cloud cleared and by dawn it was a very chilly minus 4°C and down to minus 9.5°C on the ground. It meant the demise of my geraniums we had not covered that were away from the house, hydrangeas blackened, marguerite daisies looked forlorn, and it hastened the autumn leaf fall. Despite this colder weather the month overall was still around 1.4°C above the long-term average.

There were some sunny days, and my wife and I enjoyed an invigorating walk to the tree lined summit of Chantonbury Hill on the 21st. The ice and frost were slippery underfoot, but the views were superb. However, within 24 hours we had the wettest day of the month with 23mm of rain, and it resulted in quite a waterfall along the course of the little stream that flows in the Sandgate Reserve.

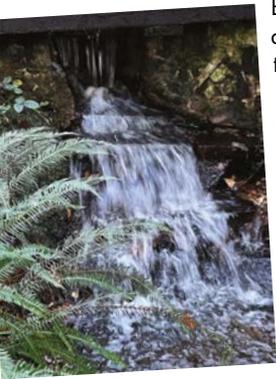
There was no thunder or hail during the month at my Heath Common weather station, but fog lingered until the afternoon on the 15th. Although it was mostly changeable our area had a slightly below average rainfall total at 99.2mm and we escaped the severe flooding that some parts of the UK suffered; for example, at Monmouth on the 14th.

December has begun in a very unsettled mood. Will it turn Festive with a traditional fall of Christmas snow? Something very rare these days, but see next month's Weather Watch.

May I wish a happy Festive Season to all readers.

Ian Currie

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



Storrington Community Café

Thursday 20 January
Thursday 13 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
Email: Storrington-SullingtonWardens@horsham.gov.uk





Free Sessions
7th, 14th, 21st,
28th January.
4th and 11th
February

STAY AND PLAY FOR CHILDREN WITH SEN OR AUTISM



Wednesdays
4pm - 5.30pm
Term time only

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre,
Spierbridge Road, RH20 4PG

A fun packed session for young people to enjoy lots of new activities!

We have a bouncy castle, table tennis, soft play area, quiet area and other activities. Parents are required to supervise, siblings welcome.

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





NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN UPDATE

Happy New Year!

We thought we would start by giving a recap of some of our events from last year.

STAY AND PLAY

We got funding to run this each Wednesday in term time at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre. It's a group for Autistic and SEN (Special Educational Needs) children aged up to 10 years. Activities include a bouncy castle, soft play, table tennis, archery and more. We averaged 15 children a week and it was great to see them all enjoying themselves.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS

This gaming club for older youths is run every two weeks. We have a group of 15 that regularly attend and it's good to see them enjoying the games.

CUPPA AND A CHAT

This has been running for three years and is getting bigger every month. We run this every 3rd Thursday of the month at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre. We regularly get over 25 people attend, so we have opened our community Café at Storrington Library and also at Hanover Community Centre once a month. All the groups are open to anyone, so do come along and enjoy a cuppa and chat with new and old friends.

SUMMER FUN DAY

Last year's was the best so far. The weather was perfect and we saw over 700 children and families enjoy the day. The Fun Day's activities were all free, as we managed to get funding to hold the event. It was so popular that we are repeating it again this year – keep 17th August 2026 in your diary.

These events are just a snapshot of our year and there are many more events too numerous to mention.

We would like to thank Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, St Marys Church Storrington, Waitrose, Rotary Club, Community Minibus and Tesco for their support and generosity as well as everyone who turns up to make the events worth doing.

Finally, we hope that, by now, a new additional Warden has started. We couldn't include their photo or contact details in this issue, as the deadline was too early, but look out for them next month.

Chris Poore: 07795 046743
storrington-sullingtonwardens@horsham.gov.uk

STORRINGTON COMMUNITY MARKET

Storrington
Village Hall,
West Street



EVERY FRIDAY 9.30 – 11.30am

FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE

Homemade Cakes, Quiches and Biscuits
Sausage Rolls • Fruit • Veg • Plants
Homemade Marmalade, Jam, Chutney and Honey

PLUS

Carol's pet rugs, cushions, quilts and bunting
Books and free magazines • Locally produced cards
Katie's Forever Living Aloe Vera • Velda's aprons
Elaine's Glass Art and Jewellery • Lorraine's Fashion and Accessories • Sussex Green Living recycling collection point
Cafe – tea, coffee and biscuits

Rotary 

FILM NIGHT

At Sullington Parish Hall
Wednesday 14th January 2026



Joanne Froggatt, Elizabeth McGovern, Michelle Dockery & Hugh Bonneville

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 Michelle Dockery and Hugh Bonneville.

The film follows the Crawley family and their staff, as they enter the 1930's.

The film on Wednesday 11 February will be *The Roses*, starring Olivia Colman and Benedict Cumberbatch.



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



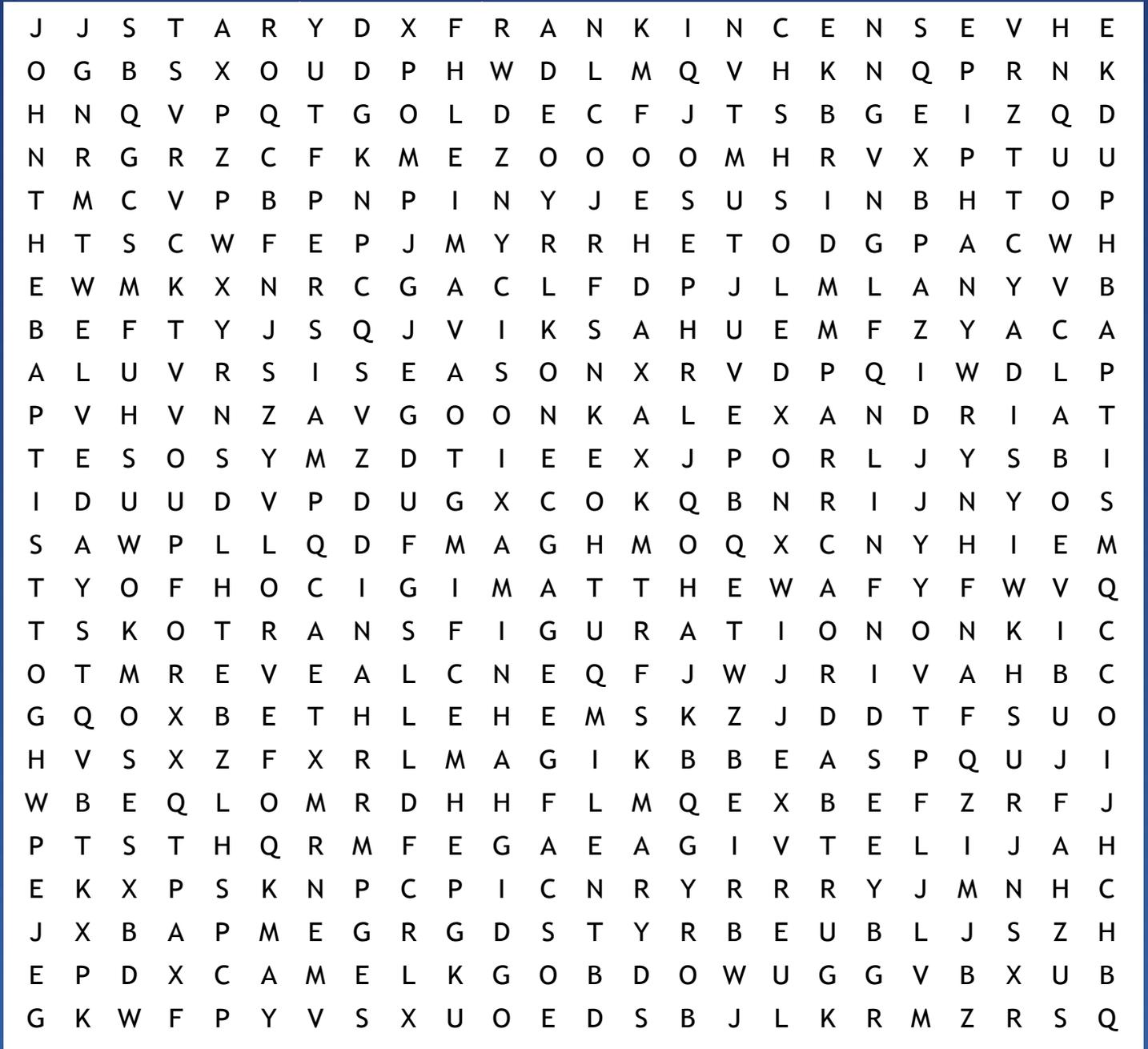
Storrington Library

Ryecroft Lane, Storrington, RH20 4PA

01903 839050

WS31917.1.19

Season of Epiphany



Matthew
Elijah
Joseph
Persia
John the Baptist
Transfiguration
Frankincense
Twelve Days
Alexandria
Reveal
Season
Bethlehem

Epiphany
Baptism
Camel
Jesus
Moses
Myrrh
Gold
Lent
Magi
Mary
Star



CRICKET IN STORRINGTON

Annual General Meeting & Indoor Cricket Underway

The Club's well-attended AGM took place on the evening of Thursday 13 November. Changes to Officers and Captains are as follows:

Chairman: James Harrington

Vice Chairman: Martin Fisher who continues as Safeguarding Officer

Secretary: Tim Laker

Club Captain (a new role): Martin Fisher

2nd XI Captain: Laurence Nash

T20 Captain: Guy Humphries and Vice Captain: Thomas Wroe

Sunday XI Captain: Steve Watkins

Sponsorship Officer: Andrew Hawley

Women's Captain & Representative: Louise Laker & Carly Osborn

A full list of Officers and Captains can be seen on the Club's website: storringtoncricket.club

Peter Meadows was elected as Vice President and he was also awarded the Rose Bowl for his invaluable umpiring services.

Martin Fisher explained his new role of Club Captain which aims to provide a bridge between the senior and junior sections of the Club by facilitating the retention and progression of youngsters into adult cricket.

Jude Houghton, the Club's Treasurer, reported on the healthy state of the Club's finances, boosted by fund raising for the pavilion development project.

Shorter than usual, the discussion about subscriptions and match fees resulted in some changes.

After the conclusion of the Meeting's main business, the floor was given to John Loney and Bill Aitkenhead, representing the Parish Council, who gave Members insights in to the Parish Council's bid for a £2 million share of the Community Infrastructure Levy pot held by Horsham District Council. If successful, the Parish Council will be using the money to enhance the facilities provided to the village community by the Cricket Club, the Football Club and the Leisure Centre.

Indoor cricket started in November with our U15 and U13 teams notching up victories over Worthing, Ferring and Findon. Massimo Phillips, Harrison Fudge, Finlay Evans-Walls, Archie Sadler and Ernest Wood were all in the runs whilst Alice Cunningham outshone all the bowlers taking 3 wickets for 7 runs in the defeat of Findon. Our Womens softball team, skipped by Leanne Tomsett, played four matches in the ALC Indoor Cricket Festival at the start of the month, beating Wisborough Green but losing closely in their three other matches. Two of our U14 girls, Alice Cunningham and Tilly Tomlinson, were part of the team and their brilliant bowling helped to restrict the winning opponents to their lowest scores in the tournament.

Our indoor training programme for youngsters will be re-commencing in the Leisure Centre on Sunday 11 January from 2.30pm to 4pm. The Club is keen to increase its junior membership and free taster sessions are available for newcomers.

Happy New Year to all our readers and supporters.

Chris Winter



Dora Carrington the Tragic Muse of Bloomsbury

Next talk on
**Wednesday
4 February**



Portrait of a Woman, c. 1914, private collection (20 x 14cm)

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.

Speaker: Alan Read

Please be seated by 10.30am. The talk should finish at 12 noon.

Coffee from 9.50am.

Visitors are most welcome to attend – Admission £10. No booking required. Fittleworth Village Hall, School Lane, Fittleworth RH20 1JB.

Further information:

www.theartsocietysouthdowns.org.uk

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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
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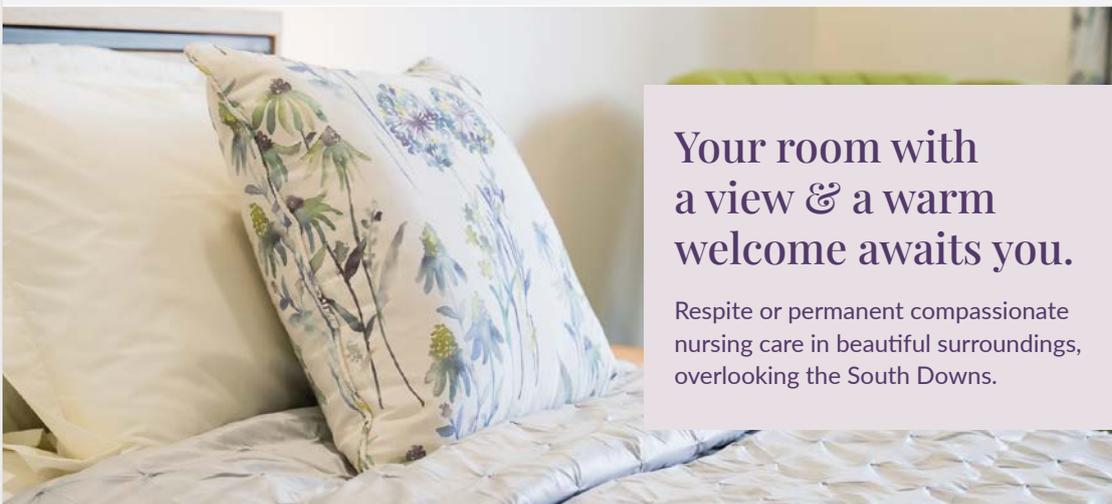
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We are all familiar with the saying "my work is very rewarding" and this is true for me, as everyday is very different from



the one before due to the variety of people I meet and the differing backgrounds they come from, and they all have their own stories to tell. The sense of satisfaction I get at the end of the day knowing I have helped to make a difference to someone's life, however large or small, is so rewarding.

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I live in Pulborough and cover the local areas of Storrington, Pulborough, Ashington, West Chiltington, Fittleworth, Billingshurst and anywhere in between!

If you or someone you love would like to chat about how I can help you, then please contact me on:

My mobile: 07763117589

Email: gillking72@gmail.com



West Chiltington Dramatic Society



We will be kicking off the New Year with auditions for our May production. This will be *Rumours* by Neil Simon, directed by Caroline Woodley. This comedy will be performed at West Chiltington Village Hall on the evenings of 21, 22 and 23 May.

Auditions for this production will be held in the Windmill Room of West Chiltington Village Hall on **Monday 12 January and Thursday 15 January at 7.30pm**. All are welcome, whether they wish to act or help out behind the scenes. There is a cast of 5 females and 5 males, all adults. The time period is contemporary and this is the British version of the American original.

Synopsis: *Ken and Chris have found their host, Charley, a prominent Government official, in his bedroom, too dazed to speak, with a bullet wound in his ear lobe! Len and Claire arrive, themselves injured in a car crash, and are soon joined by Ernest and Cookie, Glenn and Cassie, each with their own problems. A second, accidental, gunshot leaves Ken temporarily deaf, the police arrive and Len has to pretend he is Charley, concocting a touching and fantastic explanation...*

For further information, please contact Caroline Woodley on 07595 024517.

Our website www.wcds.co.uk has more information about our dramatic society and how to join. We welcome new members, whether for roles on or off-stage.

We wish you all a *Happy and Healthy New Year* and look forward to welcoming you to some WCDS events.

Angela Sloan
Chair WCDS



Photography EXHIBITION

21st and 22nd
February 2026
10-4pm

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about Amberley Road Allotments
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CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS DEADLINE



No need to panic! Apparently we don't have to worry about rushing to take down our Christmas decorations by Twelfth Night! Indeed, we will not incur bad luck or attract bad spirits even if we leave them up until the beginning of February as, according to English Heritage, it was just a rule brought in by the Victorians so that business wasn't affected by continuing celebrations. Mill owners were keen to get the workers back to the looms.

In Medieval times, the Christmas Season lasted 40 days until Candlemas on 2 February, which was a Feast Day marking the presentation of Jesus at the Temple and the Purification of the Virgin Mary. Traditionally, this is the date that all the candles for use in church in the coming year are blessed by the priest. For Christians, these blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life". In the 16th century as a reminder of this, Christians put candles onto Christmas trees, although the risk of fire was considerable. Thankfully, by 1882 the first electrically lit Christmas tree had been developed.

The February date also marks the ending of the darkest quarter of the year. It seems a good idea to me to leave a few festive lights up for a bit longer, until the eve of Candlemas, to keep my spirits up and dispel the gloom!

Sally Churchus

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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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STORRINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our November meeting began with the AGM, during which the operation of the Society for 2025 was discussed.

We were then entertained by a talk entitled *People, Plants and Places* from Jim Gardiner VMH, Vice President of the RHS, former RHS Director of Horticulture, and Curator of Wisley. Jim told us about some of the highlights of his long career as a distinguished plantsman, working at famous public gardens, including Edinburgh, Liverpool, and Hillier. He was at Wisley for 22 years, starting just as staff were clearing up following the great storm of 1987, and oversaw many changes and innovations, including the creation of the new glasshouses.

Jim is a past President of the Magnolia Society International, he serves on the RHS Woody Expert Group and the RHS Awards Committee and is a Trustee of The Tree Register. His talk was illustrated by pictures of trees, plants, gardens and the people he has worked with.

The evening concluded with a raffle and light refreshments.

Storrington Horticultural Society will continue to hold monthly talks on the third Friday of each month through 2026 at 7.30pm in Storrington Village Hall. More details about the Society can be found on our website <https://www.storringtonhorti.org.uk/meetings>

Jo Myland

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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.



Billingshurst
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Rotary
Storrington &
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RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

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Just SCAN here



Or visit www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree

Registration opens 15th November 2025
Closes 7th January 2026

Once again we have the support of JustHelping who support volunteers, businesses and charities to contribute to their community and the environment. The national Christmas tree collection raises essential funds for charities in the local community.



ROTARY CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SCHEME TO RAISE FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

The Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District is again providing a service that is welcomed by the Community and which helps to green the area.

Rotary has been raising funds by collecting used local Christmas trees for the past eight years and money collected this year will support Chestnut Tree House (Children's Hospice Care) and other worthy local causes. This year we are collecting with help from Billingshurst & District Lions Club. Residents Christmas trees will be collected, for a donation, from 11 January to 14 January inclusive from postcodes in RH20 and RH 14 and the village of Amberley.

You just have to register by midnight on 7 January at www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree. Registration is now open.

We are once again supported by many local businesses and by JustHelping, a charity that brings communities together through volunteering, with its Christmas Tree Collection event uniting thousands to support over 150 charities, making a lasting impact both locally and nationally.

For more information please contact Anne Fielding Smith: recyclexmastree@hotmail.com.

STORRINGTON FLOWER CLUB

Wednesday 28 January 2.30pm

Sullington Parish Hall

Demonstrator: Katie Baxter

Theme: 'Spring is on the way'

Competition: 'Winter Magic'

New members and visitors welcome



IS 19 JANUARY BLUE MONDAY?

This is supposedly the saddest day of the year, but is it really? There is no actual scientific proof.

The term was first coined in 2005 by a UK travel company's marketing department, as it is a time when the reality of the end of the Christmas season causes a dip financially, emotionally and psychologically. Colder weather, darker days maybe leading to Seasonal Affective Disorder and trouble sticking to New Year's resolutions also add to the burden.



However, it has now become a day to think and talk about mental health, which is a good thing. Suggested tips to counteract the feeling include:

- ✓ thinking of things to be grateful for
- ✓ setting small goals
- ✓ living in the moment
- ✓ going for a walk in nature (exposure to light is helpful)
- ✓ meeting or chatting to a friend or family member
- ✓ doing some form of exercise or something that you really enjoy such as reading a good book.

Be kind to yourself and seek help if need be – sometimes it's ok not to be ok.

And there's always the happiest day of the year, according to a press release from an ice cream company, which varies slightly from year to year but is towards the end of June, near Midsummer's Day, to look forward to!

Sally Churchus

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Any articles, reports and submissions should be sent by email to the editor or submitted to the Rectory Office by 7th to ensure consideration of inclusion in the following month's edition.

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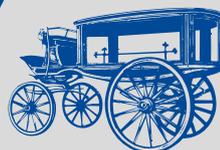
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