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December 2025

3Heralds

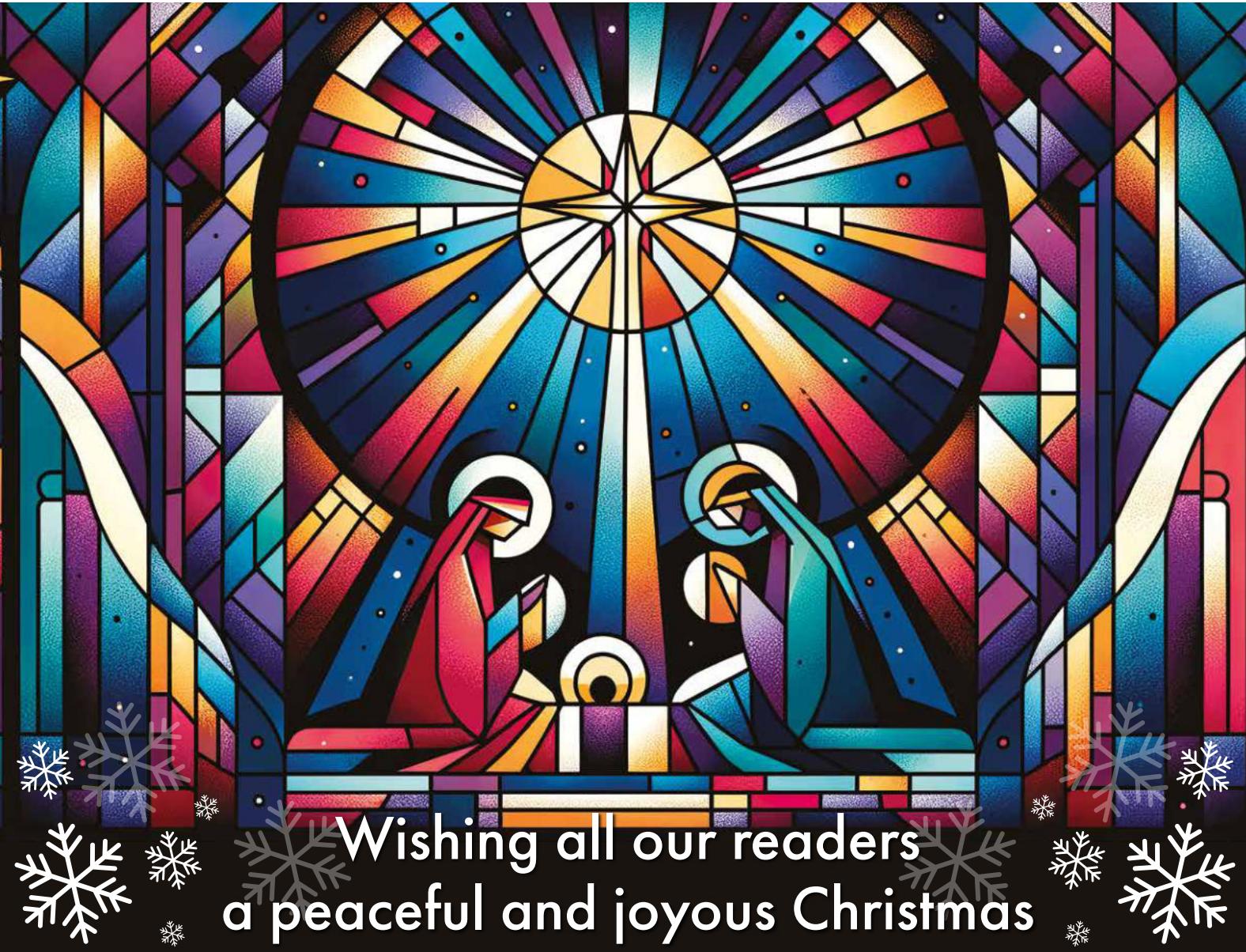
STORRINGTON



SULLINGTON



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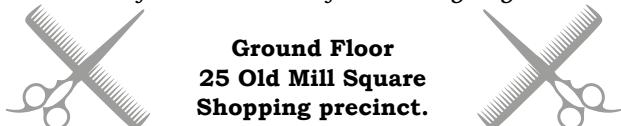
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St Mary
STORRINGTON



St Mary
SULLINGTON



St Mary
THAKEHAM

IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

PARISH CLERGY

STORRINGTON

Rector

The Revd Jonathan Swindells (07538 011579)
The Rectory, Rectory Road, Storrington RH20 4EF
(frj.stmary@gmail.com)

SULLINGTON AND THAKEHAM WITH WARMINGHURST

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.



Dear Friends

It's just over seven weeks since my heart attack. I've embraced rehab and so far so good...

Thank you for all the many, many get well messages and the assurance of prayer – powerful medicine!

I still have to take things a little easy and lots of folk encourage me with the loving warning, "Don't do too much...". Well, as a parish priest on the threshold of Christmas that could be tricky. I have the mug pictured and it's fair to say that there's more than a grain of truth in every joke.



However, I do have a wise little book which I treasure and return to at Advent. It's entitled *Do nothing. Christmas is coming* and written by Stephen Cottrel, Archbishop of York. It's an Advent calendar with a difference. Let me share with you at random one day:

6 December

"We bought the Christmas tree today and got it up and decorated. It was like Christmas had arrived, and the world felt OK again."

Most of us have a Christmas tree each year, though it might be better to buy a sustainable one. Most of us also have a box of decorations that we keep in the loft and that we unpack with nostalgia and childlike wonder. The decorations themselves usually carry the weight of memories: things our children made at school as well as decorations passed on to us from a previous generation, memories of our own childhood.

We put a star or angel at the top of the tree. This even happens in homes of those who won't be planning any visits to church at Christmas. Yet it gets us back to the heart of the story; the strange announcement to Mary that she would bear God's son; a new star rising, offering the world a different path to follow.

Archbishop Stephen goes on to give some simple but telling pointers; here's a good one:

"What star are you following – where's life headed? What angels will visit you today? What messages are you listening to? Those siren voices complaining that you aren't good enough, rich enough, clever enough, attractive enough. Or the voices of affirmation that say to you, like they said to Mary, that God thinks you're OK, that God has a purpose for your life, that he can be alive in you. The word angel means 'messenger'. There are messages here for you today."

He ends 6 Dec with a quote:

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas Tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."

I think I'll end there too.

My love and prayers

JONATHAN SWINDELLS
Rector of Storrington



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem draws us to
kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

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 2 December – Catholic Church will lead

Tuesday 6 January – Trinity Methodist Church will lead

One in faith and love and praise

FEATURES

In Memoriam - Pauline Acheson	10
Canon Palmer's Diary	16
Sussex Laundry Challenge	17
Reflections of the Past	20
Local Resident Honoured	25



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

Jenny Winton
stmarysthakehamsecretary@gmail.com

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.



EVERY CHURCH NEEDS A BARRY!

We are so grateful to Barry Laker, who does so much for Thakeham Church, and who is so amazingly versatile. So, for instance, when we're telling the story of Zacchaeus and we need a tree, we simply ask Barry!



Dates for your Diary

14 Dec Boxing Day Lunch - 12.30pm to 3pm - Thakeham Village Hall

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*



"Love one another as brothers and sisters and be kind and humble with one another"



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

Position vacant

Church Flowers

VACANT

Safeguarding Officer

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

Church Fabric Officer

John Williams (07841 204330)

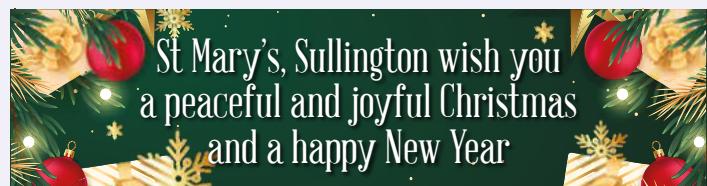
THAKEHAM AND SULLINGTON:

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

TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

St Mary's Church,
Sullington
Sunday 21 December at 3pm
All are welcome!
Please stay afterwards
for mulled wine and
mince pies.



MIDWEEK CELTIC COMMUNION SERVICE

St Mary's Church, Sullington
Wednesday 10 December at 10.30am
with Revd Joel Wilmer
We are pleased to announce that this loved
midweek service has returned after the interregnum

Dates for your Diary

7 December - **Advent Evensong at 3pm**
10 December - **Midweek Celtic Communion at 10.30am**
21 December - **Candlelight Carol Service at 3pm**
24 December - **Midnight Mass at 11.30pm**
28 December - **Zoom Service (details in Newsletter & Pews News)**
4 January - **Evensong at 3pm**



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

HARVEST FLOWERS IN SULLINGTON CHURCH



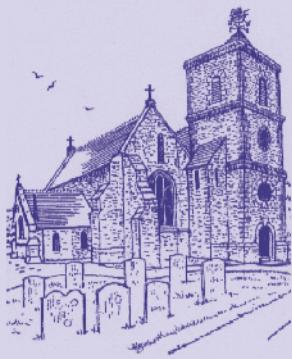
FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S, SULLINGTON

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For details contact Muriel Astley on 01798 812706.





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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)
safestmarystor@gmail.com

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)

CHILDREN'S GIFT SERVICE

Sunday 7 December at 10 am

During the Morning Service everyone is invited to bring presents for needy children which will be distributed through Family Support Work. FSW are suggesting any of the following would be much appreciated:



Board Games; Science Kits; Arts and Crafts sets;
Roleplay kits; Sensory Toys; Lego; Toy cars; Colouring books;
Gift Vouchers; Teen clothing (with gift receipts)

All gifts please should be new and unwrapped so that FSW practitioners can select the most appropriate presents for their caseload children.



CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Wednesday 10 December at 10am



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.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

AT ST MARY'S, STORRINGTON

Wednesday 24 December
4pm



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.

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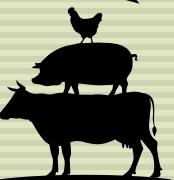
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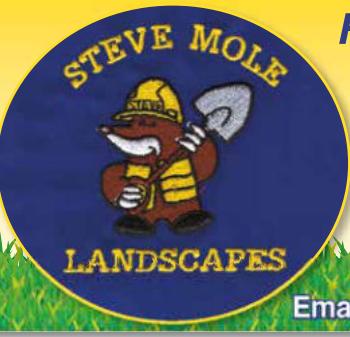
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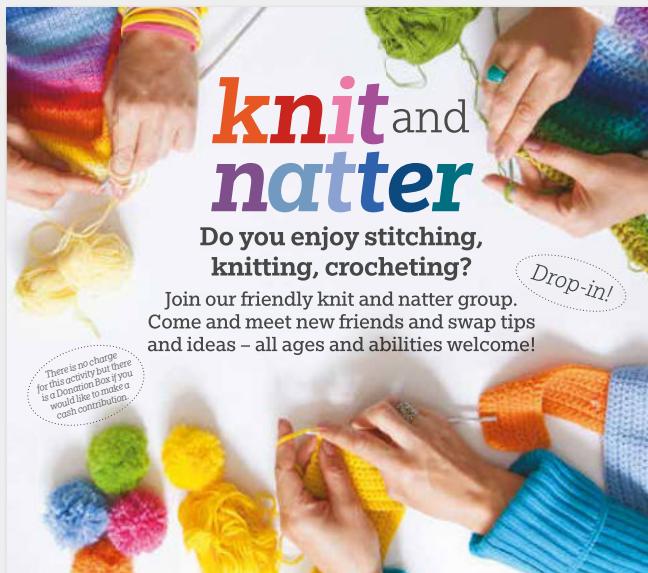
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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT WARMINGHURST CHURCH

5 to 7 December, from 10am to 4pm daily

Come and see creativity on show in a rural setting. The Friends of Warminghurst Church Christmas Tree Festival, at the beautiful Warminghurst Church, is not to be missed.

This popular community event offers the perfect opportunity to schools, charities, businesses and societies to promote their talent in festive style. The unique space is transformed with beautiful Christmas trees, and offers many attractions such as live music performance, the Friends' famous cake stall, an excellent raffle, and refreshments, to name a few.

Candlelit Carols on Saturday 6 December at 4pm

An informal carol singing with readings. Mulled drink and mince pies. Space is limited due to the trees.

For more information on the Festival please contact us by email at info.fowc@gmail.com or call Rachel on 01903 891312, or follow Warminghurst Church on Facebook for the daily programme through the Festival.

 **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 12 JANUARY 4pm



GOLD AWARD AGAIN FOR ST MARY'S, STORRINGTON, CHURCHYARD

For the fourth year running, St Mary's, Storrington, churchyard has been awarded a Gold Medal in the South and South East In Bloom competition gaining their highest score to date of 179 points out of a maximum possible 200. Congratulations to the St Mary's Gardening Team. The South and South East area covers the entirety of the large area from Dover to Bournemouth and south of the M25.





ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST. MARY'S CHURCH STORRINGTON

CHILDREN'S GIFT SERVICE

At our 10am Service on **Sunday 7 December**, everyone is invited to bring gifts for needy children which will be distributed through Family Support Work. Details are on page 6

CAROL SERVICE

The main Parish Carol Service will take place on **Sunday 21 December** at **6pm** with full choir

FOLLOW THE STAR

Inter-Church Nativity Walk arriving at St Mary's by 6.30pm for carols and festive treats

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

This special Family Service takes place on **Christmas Eve at 4pm**. A collection is taken for the Church of England Children's Society

MIDNIGHT MASS

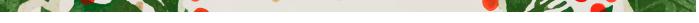
Celebrated at 11pm on Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS DAY

The main service will be Christmas All-Age Communion with Carols at 10am. There will be a Holy Communion service at 8am. No evening service on Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Collections will be taken at Midnight Mass and on Christmas Day in aid of Turning Tides and Church funds





STORRINGTON CHAPEL

Carols-by-Candlelight Service

Sunday 21 December at 4.30pm

Followed by refreshments afterwards

Family Service on Christmas morning at 10.30am





Life Community Church

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday 21 December at 10am

Chichester Leisure Centre

All are warmly invited to join us for our Christmas Service

Refreshments, mince pies, and Christmas treats will be served





DON'T BE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

Admission by ticket only

£10

Thank you

Don't want to be on your own this Christmas?
Then join us for lunch.
1pm Christmas Day at The Old School, Storrington.

Book your place by 15 December
Transport available if required.

For more details please contact:
Sue Kibblewhite – Tel: 01903 745325

Trinity Methodist Church
Thakeham Road
Storrington
RH20 3NG

Everyone is welcome
Carol Service
Thursday 18th December
3.00 pm

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion
11.15 pm

Christmas Day Service
10.00 am

TrinityStorrington trinitychurchstorrington@outlook.com

In Memoriam

PAULINE ACHESON

1950 – 2025



Susan Pauline Acheson (nee Wilson) came to live in Storrington in 1994, when her husband Malcolm took up office as Rector of the parish in succession to the Revd Michael Hore. They were accompanied by their son Joseph who was then aged 13. Joseph learned the organ, often playing for services at Storrington Parish Church, including weddings and funerals.



As a young child, Pauline was adopted by Louie and Bill Wilson, a kind and caring couple. Her childhood home was in Castleford, Yorkshire, and she attended Pontefract and District Girls' High School where she excelled in her studies.

Pauline was a highly-regarded teacher of languages (French and Russian) and music (singing, piano and flute). She trained and qualified at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; the Institute of Education in Bloomsbury; and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Successively, she was on the teaching staff of the Abbey School, Malvern Wells; Hereford Cathedral School; Belmont Abbey School; and Salisbury Cathedral School, as Assistant Director of Music.

Consequently, a good number of Storrington pupils, both children and adults, used to arrive at Storrington Rectory each week for their individual lessons in languages or musical instruments. In addition,



for several years Pauline undertook full-time employment at Lancing College, 11 miles away on the coast.

Malcolm retired as Rector in 2014, and he and Pauline moved to Eastbourne, retaining many happy memories of Storrington.

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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

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MOUTHWATERING MAYHEM & MURDER!

In mid-October, the usual peace of Thakeham Village Hall, better known for non-violent activities, such bridge, yoga, and children's parties, became the unlikely scene of mystery, malice and (thankfully, fictional) murder!

What was advertised as *A Murder Mystery* turned out to be something of an understatement. With so many untimely deaths, there were barely enough survivors left to explain the plot to two thoroughly-entertained, if slightly bewildered, audiences!

Our thanks and congratulations go to Matt Harder, who not only dreamed up this dastardly tale, but also wrote and directed it. Commiserations, and applause, to his cast, most of whom didn't make it to the curtain call! Most died with great dignity, though it's worth mentioning Nigel Barnes who, many will have considered, died with a little too much enthusiasm!

Between the bloodshed, audiences were treated to delicious refreshments of a traditional English tea in the afternoon, and a splendid cooked dinner in the evening.

A huge thank you to everyone who acted, cooked, served, and supported. It was an evening of laughter, community spirit, and very good fun, and a cheerful reminder that, even with a tale of wicked deeds, grace and good humour always have the final word!

CHRISTMAS COFFEE
with
CHRISTMAS GRAND PRIZE DRAW

at St Mary's Church, Storrington

Saturday 20 December 10am – 12 noon

Come along to St Mary's for coffee and a fantastic prize raffle including £100 cash and many more prizes

Grand Draw tickets (£1 each or books of 5) available from Gwen Fisher (744642) or Storrington Rectory Office

Raising money for St Mary's Church Community use

A warm welcome and friendship guaranteed!

More details from: office@storringtonparishchurch.org.uk

Any donations of draw prizes or cash donations towards the £100 cash prize would be very welcome and can be delivered to the Rectory Office on Tuesday and Thursday mornings

The Sandgate Choir

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER, 4.00pm
Our Lady of England Church, Storrington RH20 4LW

Wonderful Christmas music including Cecilia McDowall's *Christus Natus Est* and favourite carols for choir and audience.

Featuring The Choristers of St Paul's Church, Chichester.

Conductor: **Christopher Larley**
Accompanist: **Alison Manton**

TICKETS (including festive refreshments)
Adults £12, children £6 Available from:

- 01903 741256
- Our website
- The Card Shop, Storrington (cash only please)
- On the door

www.thesandgatechoir.com



Life Community Church Storrington

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF

Christmas Carols

BY NEW LIFE CROYDON CHOIR

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 6PM

Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Speirbridge Road, Storrington, RH20 4BG

Refreshments, mince pies and Christmas treats will be served. This is a FREE event.

NEW LIFE
CROYDON
www.lccstor.org

Old friends

I have rediscovered an old friend in the last month. We used to be very close; I visited at least once a week, and then as I got older we drifted apart until we hardly had any contact at all. However, I'm happy to say that, although we're both older and have embraced new ways of living, the essentials of the relationship between us is unchanged, and I'm now determined not to lose touch again.



"How on earth is this relevant to eco church?" I can hear you cry. Well, I'm talking about my local library.

It came about because my book group decided to read, or in most cases reread, *Wuthering Heights*. This is not a book I like, so sorry all you Emily Bronte or Kate Bush fans out there. I know I don't like it; not even enough to download it onto my Kindle, but I am a dutiful book group member, so I decided to go to the library. Sure enough, I could borrow a copy for three weeks.



As I said before, I used to visit my local library at least once a week growing up. I can't resist showing you a picture of Jesmond Library, which won architectural awards.



Jesmond Library

It was a welcoming, friendly place. My parents encouraged us to look forward to taking our books back to the library and enjoy the thrill of swapping them for new titles. Libraries are generally important for college students, so of course I spent many an hour in my university library. After that, each time I moved house, almost the first thing I did was go and join my local library.

So why did it stop? Distance and opening hours. I moved to a tiny village in Surrey, eight miles from the nearest library. I could no longer just stroll down to the library but had to make a special journey in the car; the bus service there was twice a month on a Thursday morning to Tesco! (You think I'm joking?) And, sadly Surrey Library service wasn't as progressive as West Sussex seems to be. The opening hours got shorter so it wasn't as easy to time my journeys, so I got into the habit of buying books.

Circular economies

Producing books is by no means carbon neutral. There are loads of studies you can look at, including some done by publishers like Penguin. There seems to be general agreement that a paperback produces about 1 kg of carbon dioxide and the average figure for all books is about 4.9 kg. About 12 million books are sent to landfill each year in the UK. That is a number that shocks me.

We can all do something about this. The best thing is to restrain yourself

from buying in the first place, a struggle for me because I like the feel of a book. My Kindle isn't the same, although I found it to be useful for taking books on holiday. In years past, it was a joke that at least one of my suitcases was full of books to read.

If you must buy, there are so many suppliers of second-hand books. My personal favourites are World of Books: www.worldofbooks.com, Oxfam: www.onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk and Barter Books: www.barterbooks.co.uk. Though you don't have to go on-line, as if you want a good browse, just stroll into any charity shop, or the Community Market in the Village Hall on a Friday morning, or Place Villarest where the Rotary Club has a big book stall on a Saturday morning. And when you've finished reading the book, give it back to where you got it – this is true circular economy. That one book can generate income for many charities before it has to go into recycling.

When my husband was at sea, he visited Seafarers' Missions all over the world and could exchange books for free. He took in the books he'd read on his last voyage and swapped them for different titles. We have a similar arrangement in a decommissioned red phone box in Sanctuary Lane in Heath Common. I've seen the same in a bus shelter in Northumberland. Money doesn't have to change hands. Which brings me back to the library.

So much more than books.

Take a look at West Sussex Libraries' home page <https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/> and click on Our Services.

If I start on all the events at Storrington Library, there'll be no room in 3 Heralds for anything more, so you'll have to pop in and find out for yourself or check the What's On in Libraries tab on the website.

I had a chat to one of the librarians in Storrington Library. Of course, I knew about books in most of their forms, including large print and audio books; and I knew about music cd's, and DVD's. But did you know the library has an e-library? Can't get to the library? The library can come to you. Of all the services and possibilities she told me about, the two that catch my imagination are that you can borrow toys and jigsaws. Have you got family visiting over Christmas and wonder how to keep them occupied? The library may just have the solution ready for you to borrow.

Christine Tuson, ctuson@lineone.net

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

Christmas FESTIVE DAY

Saturday 6th Dec, 10am - 5pm
Chanctonbury Leisure Centre

Special Highlights:

- Christmas Stalls, come and buy your festive gifts.
- Santa's Grotto run by Life Community Church Storrington (Gingerbread decorating, reindeer food making and see Father Christmas for a special gift).
- Live Performances from Tom Foolery, the Sunshine choir, local Primary schools and more.
- Places to purchase food and drinks.

This Festive day is brought to you by:

CHANCTONBURY LEISURE CENTRE Becoming a healthy community

Life Community Church Storrington

WEST CHILTINGTON & STORRINGTON
PARISH COUNCIL

THE LECONFIELD SINGERS

Saturday 20th December 2025 | 6pm
St Mary's Church, Petworth

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
featuring traditional and contemporary carols
and Cecilia McDowall's Christmas Cantata of Carols

A Winter's Night

Adult £17 - £22
Child (under 18) Half Price

The Leconfield Singers
English Philharmonia Brass
Graham Willi Conductor

Retiring collection to
Petworth Food Bank

For Box Office
scan QR code

or visit
www.leconfieldsingers.co.uk/events

WEST CHILTINGTON AND STORRINGTON MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Our Thursday meeting on 6 November opened with our hymns and prayers accompanied by Chrystelle on the piano. Our speaker was Scilla Page who is MU's Prison Liaison Officer. Scilla has been involved with Ford Prison for 20 years, with volunteers supporting children and families on prison visits. At one time the children were looked after in a play area and prisoners were not allowed anywhere near them. Now children and fathers can spend time together and families can interact. Our questions were answered over a cup of tea and some of Barbara Buchanan's delicious banana and honey loaf.

We are looking forward to our celebrations for the 150th anniversary of MU next year. Please join us and join in!

Our branches are being encouraged to get involved with a fundraising idea: Prayers in High Places in June 2026. Two members will scale the O2 and say midday prayers from the summit. The top of the Southdowns has been suggested for Chichester district members. There will be opportunities to sponsor these members.

We are in the middle of 16 days of Activism, started on 25 November and lasting until 16 December. MU joins the United Nations with thousands to raise awareness of gender violence and advocate for its end.

Dates for your diary:

4 December - Christmas party for members and invited guests at West Chiltington Church Hall, with entertainment.

If you are interested in MU you can visit the website and find out more, or speak to a local branch member by contacting the Rector office at St Marys, Storrington.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Sonia Fox



**West Chiltington
Silver Band**

Christmas Singalong

**Join in with your Christmas
favourites at the best
singalong in Sussex!**



3pm | Sunday 14th December

West Chiltington Village Hall
Mill Rd, West Chiltington, RH20 2PZ

Tickets: £10

available from

Julie (simplythebest21@btconnect.com)

Richard (rabaron@btconnect.com) or

Nisa Local, Haglands Lane, West Chiltington
(under-16s free with paying adult)

★
PLUS... raffle, quiz, bar,
hot drinks,
FREE mulled wine &
mince pies



SULLINGTON 160 YEARS AGO

SUMMARY OF THE DIARY OF CANON PALMER 1865

[The American War of Independence is ongoing].

January

Saw all Christmas things with brother George, Ellen and baby at Crystal Palace.

Visited Huntington [where Canon Palmer had been curate].

Talked to my mother about exchange of livings. Invitation from Duke of Richmond to attend the meeting at the Town Hall, Brighton for the Restoration of the Cathedral. Thick snow.

February

To Chichester for the raising money for the Cathedral restoration. More snow. Little Peter has diphtheria (he was a lamb of my flock).

March

Ash Wednesday. Emmy writes letters by P. and O. from Gibraltar and Edward from Meirut [sic].

I bury poor little Peter. My mother goes to stay with Brian Bartellot at Findon. I go to Highden, dine and walk back over the downs. My mother to Town re front tooth.

"Never saw a continuous stream of tramps as now infest our roads."

April

Funeral of Cobden at Lavington. A special train brought large numbers from Town, Gladstone and Bright were pall-bearers.

Very hot. My mother succumbs to the heat. I met Emmy at Southampton.

On 27th the awful news of the assassination of Lincoln at the theatre by a man named Wilkes Booth with a pistol.

May

Preparations for confirmation. Try to drum into my classes some Sacramental knowledge; forced to refuse one, densely ignorant. Our confirmation day at Storrington. I presented ten candidates. My mother dined to meet the Bishop at Whitings. A long letter from Edward from Meirut, he is at his summer quarters for six months.

[Henry Palmer was on holiday on a ship called Silver Cloud 15th May – 18th June].

June

Glad to be back to duties (nothing more depressing to me on Sundays abroad especially places like Torquay, Plymouth and Ryde). With George Gibson to Highden to see mowing machine. Still without any rain. Had tea in the hayfield at Sandgate. Annie to London for rehearsal of the festival. Arrives home looking pale and lost her voice. To Stopham in the evening for a row on the river with George and Freddie Gibson up to the lock. Found it exciting as the river is so narrow. My mother goes to the Handel Festival in Brighton.

July

Marriage of Louisa Mary Hardwick well-conducted. Diphtheria in the village. Annie suffers a mild dose. Edward moves up country to cooler Meirut. Invitation from Gerald Vesey to Switzerland in August. Old Francis moved to his sisters at Coolham and borrowed my wagon.

August

Problems with my pump and pipe. All the Storrington mechanics invade my scullery to put up a new pump. The usual mess made without corresponding results.

The Atlantic cable is broken, and no one knows why. The cattle plague is rife. Brought from Russia. Mr Shott of Stopham has lost 20 heads.

[21st August to 16th September with Gerald Vesey on the continent].

September

17th September fine, very hot. To very decent congregation. After lunch with George Gibson we discussed the school. I am to see inspector of the district.

Fenian Conspiracy, hunted out by the government. Encouraged by the Irish in the USA. Garfitt comes as pupil. Father a banker in Boston. Harvest home at Sandgate.

October

Start coaching "pup" for Trinity College. Lunch at Georges. Bad news - the plague is back. Annie is ill again.

Grant Dalton is like unbroken colt. Rode to Poynings to meet Koe (School Inspector).

To London for dividends. Death of Palmerston.

November

Grant Dalton to Pulborough for rowing. Dalton shooting with George Gibson. Ratting in the barn (60 in the afternoon, 30 in the morning).

George declares his suit and I am much vexed but have to give my consent, but not approval. "My mother will never get through it". [Age of Emily 31 and George 22].

December

Accident of schoolboy John Scutt. While undermining a sandpit the sand fell suddenly and buried him. My best Sunday schoolboy. My sermon was on death.

My mother goes to Saint Leonards to fix a winter abode for Annie.

[Christmas Day finds Henry on his own]. After service dine at Major Lanham family. Visited Mrs Charman who is transferring her secret savings to George and James, her sons. Why should the sweat of her brow be the means of hastening her drunken husband's ruin? I applaud her.




Storrington Community Café

Monday 8 Dec

From 11.00am 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 | John Sampson: 07789 943201
 Email: Storrington-SullingtonWardens@horsham.gov.uk





STORRINGTON & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



In late October members of the Twinning travelled to Villerest, set in Rhone Alps, for the bi-annual exchange visit. We were greeted, as always, with a very warm welcome and friendship. Along with the Storrington contingent, Cerrione, Province of Biella, Italy also attended, sending 30 members.

During the four-day event, we visited a local family-owned jam making factory, showing us how they start the process from freshly picked fruit to the end product in the jar. Of course, the visit was not complete without tasting many of



the different varieties on sale. The following day there was a choice of either a guided tour to visit Roanne's historic Town Hall built from 1865 with its beautiful fountain, or to visit Les Halles Diderot, a place for gourmets, selling local produce, sweet and savoury specialties,

where you will always find something to

delight you, such as the Pastry Chocolaterie, a speciality since 1958, La Pralulin has dedicated customers queuing for a long time! Then there are the Maison Mons cheese counters, fishmongers, greengrocers etc. Also, in Roanne there is the old town and its castle.

To round off the visit we were accompanied by the Mayor of Villerest and Cerrione for our last supper at the Village Hall. Whilst paella was being cooked in the kitchen, a magician entertained us. In all it was a very enjoyable visit.

We are now focusing on a return visit from Villerest 11 to 14 June 2026.

If you would like to join us and/or become involved in visiting and hosting please go to our website at Storrington & District Twinning Association or for more information please email secretary@storringtontwinning.co.uk.



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!

DECEMBER 7 - Christingle crafting
JANUARY 4 - Gifts



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



SUSSEX LAUNDRY CHALLENGE TO REDUCE MICROFIBRE POLLUTION AT HOME

What does our laundry have to do with plastic pollution in Sussex's rivers, our soils and even our bodies? Synthetic clothing sheds tiny plastic fibres during washing, and these microfibres are now being detected in rivers, coastal waters, the open ocean, farmland, and even in the human body.

Sussex Green Living is launching the Sussex Laundry Challenge in partnership with PlanetCare filters to learn how households across the county can help reduce this pollution before it leaves the home. The charity is seeking volunteers to help explain the issue and share practical solutions in their communities. Volunteers will receive training and support and can choose roles that match their interests and the time they have available. Activities may include speaking with residents at events and community hubs demonstrating ways to reduce microfibre pollution and gathering stories and feedback from people taking part in the challenge.



Microfibres are shed in large numbers during washing. Wastewater treatment removes many but not all, and those that remain contribute to microplastic pollution in rivers and coastal waters. Others are captured in sewage sludge which is applied to farmland and has become a recognised pathway for microplastics into soils.

This work forms part of wider efforts across Sussex to improve water quality, reduce waste and safeguard wildlife, giving local people a practical way to protect the environment in the places they rely on.

Carrie Cort Founder and Director of Sussex Green Living said, "Much of the plastic entering our environment goes unseen and begins in everyday activities at home. Reducing microfibre pollution at source helps local wildlife and keeps plastics out of our food system. Community involvement is essential because change in our environment starts with change where we live."

People interested in volunteering to support the Sussex Laundry Challenge can register their interest at: <https://forms.office.com/e/NRigrBCBOY>

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.



CHURCH SERVICES AT A GLANCE

DATE	FESTIVAL OR SUNDAY	STORRINGTON St Mary's	THAKEHAM St Mary's	SULLINGTON St Mary's
7 December	Advent 2	8am Holy Communion (said) 9.30am Messy Church in Old School (ends 11am) 10am Parish Communion Children's Gift Service 4pm Evensong	10.30am Joint Thakeham/Sullington Christingle Service	8.30am BCP Communion 3pm Advent Evensong
14 December	Advent 3	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion 4pm Evensong	10.30am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
21 December	Advent 4	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion with Prayers for Healing 6pm Parish Carol Service	8.30am Celtic Holy Communion 6pm Candlelight Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion. 3pm Candlelight Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies
24 December	CHRISTMAS EVE Wednesday	4pm Christingle Service (for families) 11pm Midnight Mass	4pm Nativity Service with Donkey 11.30pm Midnight Mass	11.30pm Midnight Communion
25 December	CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Christmas All-Age Communion with Carols	10.30am Christmas Communion	10.30am Christmas Communion
28 December	Christmas 1	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion	10.30am Christmas Celebration Zoom Service (Details in Newsletter/ Pews News – login details on website)	
2026 4 January	Epiphany	8am Holy Communion (said) 10am Parish Communion 4pm Evensong	10.30am Church for All service with Holy 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

14 December at 1pm

at the Old School, School Lane, Storrington

Tickets £5.00 are available from

Louisa Austin, Church Street, Storrington



WHAT'S ON

DECEMBER

Mon 1

2.30pm Reading Friends – Storrington Library – p22

7pm Storrington Slimmers – p17

Tue 2

9.15am Inter-Church Prayers – Storrington Priory Library – p 3

11am Community Café & Christmas Market – p23

1.15pm Arts Society West Sussex – Talk – p24

2pm SPACE – Arts & Crafts Club – p10

Wed 3

9.50am Arts Society South Downs Talk – p30

4pm Stay & Play – Leisure Centre – p21

7.15pm Play Reading – West Chiltington Dramatic Society – p26

Thu 4

11.30am Storrington Pop-In Lunch Club – p18

MU Christmas Party – p15

5pm Storrington Late Night Shopping

Fri 5

2.30pm Storrington Museum – Talk – p25

10am Christmas Tree Festival – Warminghurst Church – p9

Sat 6

10am Christmas Festive Day – Leisure Centre – p15

10am Christmas Tree Festival – Warminghurst Church – p9

4pm Candlelit Carols – Warminghurst Church – p9

Sun 7 Advent 2

9.30am Messy Church – p17

10am Children's Gift Service – St Mary's, Storrington – p6

10am Christmas Tree Festival – Warminghurst Church – p9

6pm LCC Carol Concert – p13

Mon 8

11am Storrington Community Café – p16

7pm Storrington Slimmers – p17

7.30pm Thakeham Gardeners' Club – Christmas Party – p30

Tue 9

2pm Knit and Stitch with buffet lunch – p4

Wed 10

10am Holy Communion followed by Café in the Church Christmas Special – p6

10.30am Midweek Celtic Communion – St Mary's, Sullington – p5

4pm Stay & Play – Leisure Centre – p21

7.30pm Sullington Windmills WI – Meeting – p33

Fri 12

6pm Beer and Carols – Thakeham Village Hall – p4

7pm Christmas Special – West Chiltington Floral Club – p21

Sat 13

10am Storrington Conservation Society – Working Party – p23

6.30pm Members' Evening – West Chiltington Dramatic Society – p26

Sun 14 Advent 3

12.30 Thakeham Christmas Lunch – p 4

1pm Sunday Lunch Club – p 18

3pm West Chiltington Silver Band Concert – p15

4pm Sandgate Choir Carol Concert – p13

Mon 15

7pm Storrington Slimmers – p17

Tue 16

2pm SPACE – Arts & Crafts Club – p10

Wed 17

4pm Stay & Play – Leisure Centre – p21

7.30pm Rotary Film Night – The Penguin Lessons – p29

Thu 18

10.30am Christmas Cuppa and a Chat – p34

3pm Carol Service – Trinity Methodist Church – p10

Fri 19

7.30pm Storrington Horticultural Society – Meeting – p26

Sat 20

10am Coffee with Grand Draw – St Mary's, Storrington – p13

Sun 21 Advent 4

3pm Candlelight Carol Service – St Mary's, Sullington – p5

4.30pm Carols by Candlelight – Storrington Chapel – p9

6pm Carol Service – St Mary's, Storrington – p9

Mon 22

6pm Carols by Candlelight – St Mary's, Thakeham – p4

7pm Storrington Slimmers – p17

Fri 25 Christmas Day – A Saviour is Born!

Sun 28 Christmas 1

Mon 29

11am Community Café – p23

7pm Storrington Slimmers – p17

Wed 31

2pm Holy Communion Followed by Café in the Church – p6

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL DAYS

DECEMBER

1 Charles de Foucauld, 1916, hermit in the Sahara

3 Francis Xavier, 1552, considered to be one of the greatest missionaries since St Paul

4 John of Damascus, c749, saint and author of many texts and hymns

Nicholas Ferrar, 1637, founder of the Little Gidding Community

6 **Nicholas, Bishop of Myra**, c.326, saint with a reputation for secret gift-giving and is the model for Santa Claus

7 **Ambrose**, 397, patron saint of Milan, Italy

8 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

13 **Lucy**, 304, patron saint of blind; island of Saint Lucia named after her

Samuel Johnson, 1784, poet and essayist, wrote *A Dictionary of the English Language* (150 years before Oxford English Dictionary published)

14 **John of the Cross**, 1591, one of foremost poets of Spain, as well as a saint

17 **O Sapientia**, Worship - part of Common Worship liturgy in C of E

Eglantyne Jebb, 1928, British social reformer and founder of Save the Children

26 ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR, mentioned in the Book of Acts

27 ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, remembering when Herod ordered all new born males to be killed

29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170, saint and martyr

31 John Wyclif, 1384, translated the Bible into common language

The new year of 1866 began with the weather very bad, a dire prospect for Emily's wedding. By 7 January, "Another rough Sunday, drenching rain... only a dozen people to hear the banns for the second time of asking. Am very tired from my excessive exercise with Hemsley at Haileybury."

He attended an SPCK meeting at Steyning making the journey "en cheval" where he did some good, suggesting an agency be opened at Storrington "for the exhibition and sale of books". The new magazine club was settled and the rules established with Hugh Ingram as its secretary. "Had a sumptuous lunch at the Ingrams."

By 11 January the weather was still dire. "Heavy E. all night, snow all day. Thoroughly wintry. The overflow was so great from the hill water into my pond that the house was unapproachable, and the water washed down the front road and by the kitchen garden walk across the lawn in a noble river – waded to Storrington on many little businesses connected with this day week, and saw Mrs C. who lies pretty much at rest, I hope."

Wedding arrangements could not be put off, and the next day being fine despite a thaw and frost, "a wretched day for getting about and yet my m[other] went to Brighton about the Breakfast and E. and her young man to London. My m. delayed on her way home by an accident at the junction near Horsham and did not get in here till nearly 10! Drawn by two horses from Pulborough. The next day brought a sudden thaw with heavy rain all day. Although the snow had nearly all gone the deluge "set us all in a flood again. Must do some engineering very shortly I see". G. announced his intention to present the poor with a bottle of sherry and a piece of cake to each family on his wedding day. While G. did "a full amount of courting". There was some good news from Annie, who sent a "gorgeous text," although in her excitement at receiving £10 for her "cat story" from Bell and Daldy – [good publishers] she forgot to put her letter in an envelope." The weather on Jan. 15 was fine and April-like. We are wishing for such a day on Thursday.

Nothing could be better [only 3 days to the main event]. There was still much to do. The chancel pews were taken out of the church, so that it was left blank "plain and nicer, also the communion rails removed. It was a busy day with various jobs here and there". Mr Palmer still made time for the ill Mrs Charman, reported to be easier.

Two days to go to the big event, but still no let-up from the weather. "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, doing a little of everything." There was also news from Edward, "... crushing our hopes of seeing him home before his time: his colonel had met with a severe accident. There was also an account in the Pall Mall Gazette, "... the adventures of an 'Amateur Casual' described ... a piece of horribly interesting reading. This gent passed himself off as a vagrant, and spent a night in the Casual Ward attached to the Marylebone Union – this tale is hideous, cannot bear the light" – well, Mr Palmer could have told us what happened instead of bothering to record a spoiler! But there, he had the wedding and weather to occupy his time and energies. Much more important.

The eve of the big day –

"Got all pretty well together up at the church: Terry at work with his 8 inside, and Hammond managed the poles for the awning outside and a couple of forms covered with a fleur-de-lis drugged 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 Annie, and partly by Bertha, 6½ foot of open iron wire, inlaid with moss, on which a white cross and a scroll of which the ground was crimson calico, and the letters white cloth – text "Rejoice with them that do rejoice". The arch of the window was wreathed and the recesses on each side of the chancel walls adorned with pots of ferns [etcetera].

Our company arrived punctually with the exception of the two Chesshyres who, missing Geo. and Ellen at Redhill, came on an hour or two later. We

sat down 16 to dinner. Chattie and Fred and Ballards coming. 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."

There was some serious news – "Heard today of the grievous loss in the Bay of Biscay of the London Capt. Martin, the ship in which Elliot went out: 270 lives lost and only one boat's crew saved, and most miraculously; the captain and passengers knew their doom was sealed some time before they went down, but were brave and calm and collected under it. Dr Woolley, Bishop of Sydney, and a Mr Draper were the clergy on board and were unflinching in their duties to the very last. It is as sad and touching a story as I have ever heard."

Emmy's Wedding Day – 18th – Dull and drizzly

A poor day but everything has gone off most successfully. Our bridesmaids' 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 awning was required and answered capitally, the matting was underlined with straw. Carriages drove up round the Hardwick's drift and then came down to the entrance and set down. Kings, Gorings and Bartelots were there, when I went up with Miss Syms at ¼ to 11 when all the party arrived. Annie, who played the harmonium for the first time in its new position, began the hymns, Monk's Matrimonial 2, which seemed to go pretty well. I got thro' the service without faltering and tried to make myself heard; the pressure in the background was very strong – a great crowd seething in behind. When all was done we had a few salutes all round, and then departed. The breakfast was a great success: 40 sat down, the table was very beautifully spread and the eatables and drinkables in plenty. I led in the Gibsons, the bride was proposed by Mr Elers who said, here was separation of mother from daughter or of daughter from home, [etcetera]. G.C.G. briefly responded. Then arose the Highden Bart. and spoke out earnestly and heartily in praise of us all, and of my m[other] in particular with a slight allusion to me as a bachelor; this, bye the bye, followed "the bridesmaids" proposed by Freddy, in a finely-worded, well got up and pluckily-spoken address: every sentence of which was loudly cheered: for them Alfred, who did his part well, to Sir Charles, answered Henry King – quite unexpectedly, but in warm and enthusiastic "say" and sat down abruptly. Then I gave the Friends and Neighbours and coupled it with Sir C. Goring who replied. Then George gave Mrs Carew – supported and seconded by Geo. Cartwright, answered by Eddy in 2 or 3 words, then Capt. Liddell gave me and I answered with a reply suitable, as I hoped; speaking of George as my chief parishioner and praising him, as I ought.

This closed the proceedings; we rose at 1.30 and at 2.20 they went off in a chariot and a pair of porters to Pulboro' for Folkestone. The last of the day was not spent heavily – some of us walked up to Sandgate, and some went away. Brother George, Ellen and Miss Syms. Then at 6.30 we who remained; Miss Bullock, 2 Miss Chesshyres and G.C. went up to Sandgate, and there danced, romped and eat till 12, when home, dog tired."

And that is how an important wedding is recorded without photographs or video recorders! Considering the feelings of Mr Palmer and his mother when the engagement was announced, " vexed, my consent but my approval never!" and Mrs P. "... can never get round it," their feelings were put aside to give Emmy a happy day, the Rector even rearranging the church radically for the event.

The next day, "After a merry breakfast under the [illegible] of G.C. the 3 maids departed together to Steyning, Miss Bullock's fly having failed – Annie and Charlie spent the aft. My mother in a high state of excitement all day, went to sleep after dinner at Rowdell, where met the General and the Jems."

Joan Ham (Village Historian)



STAY AND PLAY FOR CHILDREN WITH SEN OR AUTISM

Free weekly sessions 3 & 10 Dec

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





WEST CHILTINGTON FLORAL CLUB CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

MY KIND OF CHRISTMAS

BY
David Thomson

AT
WEST CHILTINGTON VILLAGE HALL (RH20 2PZ)

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER
7pm for 7.30pm
Festive Raffle

TICKETS £15 (to include a Glass of Wine)
Tel: 01798 - 813712 / 839188 / 813608



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 Café 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.

THE VILLAGE HUB IN DECEMBER

As we come to December, everyone gets busy with Christmas preparations. In the Village Hub we like to help our customers celebrate the season as well as choosing gifts and treats. Many of our goods are ethical, sustainably sourced and locally made or produced by and for charities. We offer pretty jewellery, handicrafts, edible treats, Christmas cards and cards for every other occasion, Christian books both new and second hand, bags big and small, glasswork and pottery.

Every week we have regular activities and they are likely to have a Christmas flavour this month. The second Monday of the month we have French conversation which gives you a chance to brush up your spoken French in time for next years' holiday. On Tuesday afternoons *In Stitches* meets, where we knit, crochet or stitch personal projects.

This month we have made a Nativity set which is being auctioned for Life Support Charity which provides homes and education for children in Zambia, Rwanda, Uganda and Malawi. Tickets are 50p each or five for £2, and the raffle will be



drawn on the Storrington late night shopping night on 4 December. Drop in and buy a ticket or five for the special children in your life! The Nativity includes all the characters in the Biblical story and several animals within a stable. Wednesdays have a Bible reading and discussion group in the morning. A recently added activity is the Men's Den which meets on the first and third Wednesday afternoons and offers men a chance to meet and chat. Thursdays are busy with Baby Club in the morning, and access to

appointments for debt and benefit advice from Liasse debt counsellors. It's a non judgemental service and anyone is welcome to make an appointment and get some advice. The afternoons offer is *Afternoons Together*, with chat and/or games and once a month High Tea which is always popular, but requires advance booking.

On the second and fourth Friday evenings we have a board games evening from 6.30pm to 8pm, ideal if you have a competitive streak and are looking for fellow gamers! The Repair Cafe meets on the third Saturday morning of the month where small sewing and electrical repairs can be done for a donation.



Special events for Christmas include the Storrington late night evening when you can browse the goodies in the Hub as well as many stalls set up in the village and enjoy festive refreshments. You can buy that Nativity raffle ticket before the draw! On Saturday 6 December from 10am to 5pm, Santa and Mrs Claus and his elves will be visiting the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre where there will be many other Christmas stalls and activities.

You can visit the Hub every day of the week for a friendly welcome, and a wide selection of gifts, cards or a hot drink to keep the winter blues at bay. We will be also having an Annual Carol Concert at the Leisure centre, so drop in and enjoy the festivities.

Barbara Workman



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

Are you interested in meeting new friends,
having a good chat over a cuppa
and sharing your love of books and reading?



THE READING AGENCY

ON 1 DECEMBER THIS MONTH!



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

Storrington Library is offering friendly and fun Reading Friends monthly sessions. It's a chance to chat and connect to new friends through the sharing of stories, memories and experiences.

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.

STORRINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Our AGM on 1 November was well-supported. It began with our Chairman Mick Denness outlining the year's activities. He mentioned the numbers attending the Saturday and Thursday work parties had increased, as had the membership and the number of projects, with conservation being the major activity. The Treasurer's report showed our finances are in good shape. The committee was re-elected, with the exception of Steve Harvey, who is retiring. He was thanked for his many years of service.

The AGM was followed by an illustrated talk by Dr Erica McAlister, giving an entertaining and knowledgeable insight into the secret life of flies. She mentioned there are 185,000 species worldwide, 8 types ranging from pollinators to herbivores to parasites. Amongst other useful attributes they pollinate cocoa plants (chocolate lovers note), eat aphids and deal with food waste. They have some amazing life cycles. Their irritating buzzing will never seem the same. Dr McAlister is the author of several books of interest to those who wish to know more.

It has now been authoritatively reported that an irreversible climate tipping point has been crossed. Rising sea temperatures have caused widespread coral dieback, yet there are still powerful wealthy interests either calling climate change a hoax, or appearing to think it won't affect them. The Brazilian Government has just allowed more oil drilling in the Amazon rain forest, and licensing of further drilling in the North Sea is still under consideration. Tell all that to those living in post hurricane Jamaica or on Pacific islands liable to be submerged by rising sea levels.

It is easy to ask others to act to reduce greenhouse gases, but each nation and individual can do something. One or two figures puts things in perspective and the following gives average per capita carbon footprints for different groups in tonnes per year:

World: 6.3; UK: 8.8; Post Code RH20: 12.4. By contrast, for many African countries the figure is about 3.5 with some as low as 1.5. Food for our thoughts. There are four main areas to consider which make up our personal footprint: home, food, belongings and travel. To check on individual figures, Google 'Carbon footprint calculator.'

The work party on 8 November was at Hurston Warren continuing the heathland restoration whilst the work party on 20 November cleared more grassland on Chantry Hill. On **Saturday 13 December** we meet at 10am at Sullington Warren to remove invasive birch from the heathland. All welcome to take part in this important task in fresh air and good company.

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



NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN UPDATE

It's that time of year when I'm starting to think about Christmas and New Year. I have received the present lists from my grandchildren and I know I will be looking on-line and buying from adverts I see. But we all need to be safe. Here are some tips for online safety.

Buy online safely

Nowadays you can buy pretty much anything on-line but fraudsters use auction sites, social media networks and other online marketplaces to lure in their victims with advertisements for products that simply don't exist. Also, watch out for the scam notifications from delivery companies that say the postage is not enough and you have to send money to get it delivered. The first thought is to panic that it's not going to be delivered in time. However, you can check to see if you paid for delivery when you purchased the product.

To learn how to spot the signs of an untrustworthy advertisement, post, or email, visit: <https://www.getsafeonline.org/personal/articles/shopping/1/#:~:text=Youneedtodothis,beforeyoumakeyourpayment>

And to find out whether a website is likely to be legitimate or fraudulent, visit www.getsafeonline.org/checkawebsite

Remember – if it looks too good to be true, it probably is (too good to be true!).

If you think you've been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. Also contact your Bank or credit card company for help with any fraudulent transactions.

December activities and events:

Tuesday 2 December, 11am to 12.30pm

Community Café and Christmas Market
at Hanover Walk Community Centre.

Thursday 4 December, starts at 5pm

Storrington Late Night Shopping.

Monday 8 December, 11am to 12.30pm

Community Café at Storrington Library.

Thursday 18 December at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, 10.30am to 12midday

Christmas Cuppa and Chat.

I know there will be residents who will be on their own this Christmas. Please spare a little time to speak to a neighbour and check on them.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Poore: 07795 046743

storrington-sullingtonwardens@horsham.gov.uk



STORRINGTON DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and hoping you have a happy time with your relations, friends and neighbours.

It may be that you have seen, or missed, our panto, but for those that missed it, better luck next time! I am sure those that saw it had a couple of hours of energetic amusement!

It takes a lot of hard work to produce a panto of such high quality, not only from the actors but also the directing, scenery, costumes, coaching and organisers all play a distinctive role.

I am sure some may leave thinking "I could do that" or "I could paint that better". If so, then please consider joining our small but happy band, as your input would be very welcome and every suggestion taken on board. We all want our plays, and not just the panto, to be the best we can produce, not only verbally but visually as well.

Talking of productions, we are already reading three plays, one of which will hopefully be presented in late March or early April. So don't delay! Make yourself known to us any Tuesday or Thursday from 9 December onwards at 7.30pm at Sullington Parish Hall. Don't be shy – come and try! We're reserving a big welcome for you!

David Chinn

The autumn term seems to be flying by at a rapid pace this year. As with all terms here at Storrington, there are lots of wonderful activities that have taken place over the past month which the children have thoroughly enjoyed being part of.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, the school community came together to make donations to the local Storrington Food Bank. We had a lot of fabulous donations that were made by our families that have gone out to those in need in our community.

Reception

Reception have enjoyed learning about Diwali and had a fantastic morning learning about the festival of light and celebrations that take place during Diwali. They made barfi sweets, Diva lamps and created Mehndi patterns using coloured rice. The children worked creatively and collaboratively together and we



were so proud of their engagement with all the different activities.

Year 3

Year 3 have enjoyed having a hands-on emersion day whilst learning about the Stone Age. They were lucky enough to be visited by an archaeologist who taught them about different artefacts and how we can find out about how people lived in the past from the things that were left behind.



Year 4

Year 4 have completed some amazing work on The Romans. In art, Maple and Juniper Class stepped back in time to the days of the Roman Empire. Pupils designed and crafted their own Roman shields, drawing



inspiration from traditional patterns and colours used by Roman legionaries. Once their masterpieces were complete, the school field transformed into a training ground as the children took on the role of Roman soldiers. With shields raised and voices united, they practiced the famous testudo (tortoise) formation, charging forward with impressive coordination and enthusiasm. It was a brilliant blend of creativity, history, and teamwork, and a fantastic way to bring the Roman topic to close!

School Disco fun!

As well as the amazing work being completed in lessons, our Friends of Storrington ran an incredibly successful school disco before the half term break. The children thoroughly enjoyed this event and it was lovely to see so many of them there, enjoying the music with friends and staff.

As we move further into December, Christmas is beginning to make its way into Storrington Primary. Already there are rehearsals taking place

for the upcoming Reception and Key Stage 1 Christmas performances. Our KS2 children are busily practicing their songs and carols ready for our trip to St Mary's, Storrington later this month for a Christingle service and are looking forward to visiting the Church again following the lovely Harvest Festival.

Our Year 6 pupils are also looking forward to visiting the Church and performing to the local parishioners later this month.

If any readers would like to volunteer at Storrington, we would appreciate any support that can be given. It may be something as simple as coming in to hear readers in one of our classes. The staff really appreciate the support and the children love having the opportunity to meet with people from our community. If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01903 742047 or via email on office@storringtonprimary.co.uk.

All that is left for me to say is I wish you a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2026!

Mr Choate, Headteacher



Tuesday 2 December

A talk by Hilary Guise

**Star of Wonder, Star of Light:
New Evidence for the Star of Bethlehem**



The real Star did exist, but what it was and where it shone has been taken on trust for two thousand years. What we learn in this lecture, aligns perfectly with prophesies in the Old Testament and the astrological readings of the Magi.

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

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

Doors open 1.15. Coffee & tea afterwards

Non-members welcome - £8

**Contact Jackie Buckler on 01903411086
or email westsussex@theartssociety.org
www.theartssocietywestsussex.org**



WEATHER WATCH

Quite often prolonged warmth and sunny weather during the summer or early autumn triggers heavy rain and unsettled conditions. A good example was in 1976 following a remarkable spell of heat, sunshine and drought during the summer. Autumn then produced 500mm (19.5 inches) of rain in many parts of Sussex which ended water restrictions and filled reservoirs. More recently in 2022 July produced an extraordinary temperature of 40.3°C(104°F) in eastern England and 38°C was measured in the north of Sussex and it remained warm during August. November saw a massive 303mm of rain in Storrington, three times the average monthly rainfall. And following the record-breaking heat in September 2023, 237mm of rain (9.3 inches) was measured in my gauge during October and 155mm in November. Warm sea temperatures were partly responsible for these autumn downpours.

So, I had some trepidation when October began in unsettled mood following this year's very warm summer. Storm Amy battered the north of Britain, with winds reaching 96mph in Scotland, and I recorded 20mm of rain here in Storrington. But the air pressure then rose, and the weather settled down, and the next 15 days only mustered half a millimetre of rain with hardly a breath of wind as high pressure became centred over the UK. It trapped cloud beneath what meteorologists call

an inversion and, in this example, it started at about 2000 metres (6500 feet) above us. The temperature actually increased with height for several hundred metres. With light winds and the layer of cloud, sunshine became very illusive and the temperature did not change much from day to night.



It was during this quiescent weather that I visited Ardingly Reservoir near West Hoathly and the marvellous gardens of Wakehurst. It was quite a sight as it was only about 25% full with just six week's water

supply left. People were walking on the dry bed of the reservoir and lifeline apparatus was looking very incongruous several hundred metres away from the water's edge when normally there would be about 6 metres depth of water close by.

However, on the 19th the pressure fell, the wind rose and the rains returned with 77mm of rain in just four days and it remained unsettled for the rest of the month. In spite of this, Ardingly reservoir was still only 32% full in early November.

Statistically, October 2025 was mostly an uneventful month. The temperature was about 0.7°C above par and the rainfall at 104mm was close to average. There was no thunder or hail and there were 16 calm days, no air frost and only two slight grass frosts. Sunshine though was lacking and nationally it was the third dullest October on record.

The often quiet conditions and the lack of any real cold weather and following the warm and sunny weather earlier in the year meant that there was still a lot of colour in my garden as the month ended and we headed into November. Will November continue where October left off or will frosts and chill winds arrive? See next month's Weather Watch.

Ian Currie

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

Monthly
Talk

The Life of CHARLES DARWIN

By Ian Worley



Friday 5 December 2.30pm

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

**Members £6 • Non Members £8
All Welcome!**



**Storrington and
District Museum**

www.storringtonmuseum.com

BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL AWARDED TO LOCAL RESIDENT



Pamela Sloan, a member of the congregation at Storrington Parish Church since moving to West Sussex in 2024, was presented with a British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Colonel Sir Edward Bolitho, on 2 November. Pam was awarded this honour in His Majesty's Birthday Honours 2025 for services to the community in Bodmin, where she lived for over 20 years before moving to Storrington. Pam returned to Bodmin to receive her medal at St Petroc's Church.



ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WASHINGTON



What a fantastic autumn term we have had at St Marys. Children have fully engaged with all the learning, immersing themselves in all the activities inside and outside of the classroom, whether that be with the class group or as an extra-curricular activity.

Our newly appointed pupil leadership children have proved to be great role models and mentors; showcasing the school's teamwork value, whilst shaping themselves as future leaders in secondary school and in future the workplace. Curriculum experience and visitors in school have included a Roman Soldier, a toy creator, a cartoonist and inventor!

Pupils have been able to participate in sporting activities at other schools, giving them an opportunity to work with new and other children in team events.



We have even been able to offer training workshops to parents, which have been well-attended, an opportunity to give parents confidence with their children's education.

Children have had many opportunities to increase cultural links, in particular working with the Christian charity, *Life Support*. As part of our connection, we welcomed visitors from Zambia, who have been passing our letters to our pen pals and keeping us up to date with how our new friends have been getting on in school. It is fantastic that our children are able to make links across the world and make real life connections with children who have a different experience to share.

St Mary's is a hidden gem! Nestled within the South Downs, we are an ambitious primary school for children aged 4-11. The uniqueness of our small school means we know every child as an individual, enabling us to nurture their talents. It's where creativity meets excellence.

For additional information, please visit the school website www.stmaryswashington.co.uk.

Jo Maxted

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

West Chiltington Dramatic Society



Following our November Production of Simon Williams's *Nobody's Perfect*, we have two more events before the end of the year.

Play Reading

We will be reading *Rumours* by Neil Simon on **Wednesday 3 December** in the conservatory of The Five Bells, West Chiltington, 7.15 for a prompt 7.30pm start. Caroline Woodley will be directing this comedy for our first 2026 production on the evenings of 21, 22 and 23 May. If you are interested in finding out about this play, you are welcome to come along, whether to read or to listen. Please let Angela know if you are attending, so we can manage seating: chair@wcds.co.uk or 07973 393913.

Auditions for this production of *Rumours* will be held in the Windmill Room of West Chiltington Village Hall on **Monday 12 January and Thursday 15 January 2026** at 7.30pm.

There is a cast of 5 females and 4 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!

Christmas Members Evening on Saturday 13 December An Evening of Music and Sketches

West Chiltington Village Hall

Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start

Entertainment provided by a range of members.

Festive pie supper, licensed bar and raffle.

Tickets: Members – Adults £8, Under 18s £4;
Guests – Adults £12, Under 18s £6

Details on how to book on www.wcds.co.uk (deadline 8 December)

This website also has more information about WCDS and how to join. We welcome new members, whether for roles on or off-stage.

Angela Sloan, Chair WCDS



STORRINGTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Spooky Sussex

At the October meeting we enjoyed a talk by Kevin Newman, a local historian who has written many books about Sussex. Because Sussex has so much coastline, there has been a long history of invaders, smugglers and hundreds of shipwrecks. Kevin talked us through stories of towns which were built on the beaches of Sussex being washed away by storms, huge battles fought between smugglers and customs men, and shipwrecks with brave rescues.

We also heard about buildings of Sussex which have a long and interesting history, including Preston Manor, Shelly House, The Towers, and our own local White Horse in Storrington. We also heard stories about many pubs, including the most haunted pub in Brighton, the Druid's Head, the Mermaid in Rye with a smugglers' secret passage, and the Snowdrop in Lewes on the site of the only avalanche ever recorded in England. Some pubs, such as the Half Brick in Worthing, were regarded as terrifying places as smugglers frequented them and, in fact, pub cellars were often used for morgues and autopsies.

The stories were accompanied by wonderful period pictures and illustrations.

The evening finished with light refreshments and a raffle.

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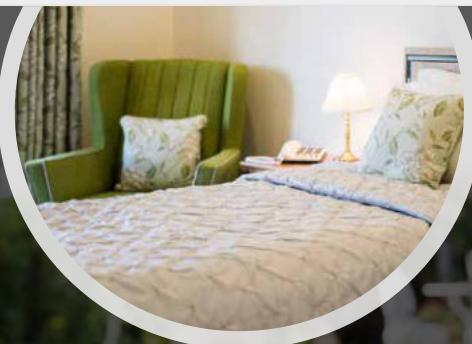


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3 Heralds // December 2025



Taking time off from doing nothing

In September, 20 of our members visited Shoreham Fort. Having walked past it many times over the past few years, both before it was fenced off and afterwards, many of us assumed that the site would be of only limited interest. Oh, how we were wrong, as members listened in utter amazement to our most knowledgeable and engaging guide, Gary Baines, for nearly two hours talking so passionately about its history since it was built in 1857 as a defence against the threat from Napoleon III to invade British shores. Naturally falling into disrepair, a good start has been made to make good and the aim is to raise enough money to restore the Fort to its full former glory.



Unfortunately, due to potential and actual vandalism, the Fort has been fenced off for a long while, so casual visits are not possible but the Friends of Shoreham Fort hold a number of events open to the public and organised group visits are most welcome.

In October, 40 of our members spent an enthralling afternoon at Thakeham Village Hall listening to a talk by Sue Riches, who was part of an all-female team who walked to the North Pole in 1997.

The following week, 10 of our enthusiastic walkers explored Steep Wood, Williams Wood and Furnace Pond on a 4½ mile walk between Warninglid and Crabtree.

The Club welcomes new members and meets for lunch monthly on the second Wednesday. For more information please go to storringtonprobus@outlook.com.

Paul Weaver, President



FILM NIGHT

At Sullington Parish Hall
Wednesday 17th December 2025

The Penguin Lessons



Steve Coogan, Jonathan Pryce & Bruno Blas

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

The Penguin Lessons, starring Steve Coogan, is inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Expecting an easy ride, Tom discovers a divided nation. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside-down.

The film on Wednesday 14 January will be *Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale*.



CRICKET IN STORRINGTON

More Sussex Cricket Pathway Selections

The Club is very pleased to report that more of our Cygnet youngsters have been selected by Sussex Cricket for the next round of the Pathway programmes that provide coaching and training at Hove out of season plus the opportunity to be selected for county representative matches during the season.

Our Pathway players are:

Dylan Sillet for the boys U10 programme

Freida Phillips, Bella Laker and Marley Caunter-Smith

for the girls U11 programme

Massimo Phillips for the boys U14 programme

Emily Nash for the girls U14 programme

Our own winter training programme in the Storrington Leisure Centre held on Sundays from 2.30pm to 4pm is underway with the following remaining dates:

30 November – Boys U9s and U10s

14 December – Women and Girls

Free taster sessions are available for newcomers who can contact the Club via our website: www.storringtoncricket.club.

Chris Winter



THAKEHAM GARDENERS' CLUB

Our AGM was held on 13 October. Our Chairperson Gil reported on a successful year which saw our financial position improve. As well as our monthly speaker meetings, we enjoyed several social events. In January our annual lunch took place at the Crown in Cootham, a Bluebell walk in April, a trip on the Wey and Arun Canal with a cream tea in June, a visit to Apuldrum Roses with tea and cake also in June, and finally a visit to Chalk Farm Flowers in September where once again we enjoyed a cream tea. Rosemary, our very competent secretary for several years, has retired and Brenda Linfield was elected as our committee secretary and Vicky Day as our media secretary. The remainder of the committee were re-elected en bloc.



The official business concluded, members enjoyed a table quiz put together by member Colin Chenery whilst partaking of a glass of wine and nibbles.

Our October Plant Sale took place on Saturday 11 October and as well as our Club selling plants, local craftsmen were present selling honey and related products, bird boxes and other wildlife items made from recycled pallets, products from sheep's wool, and jigsaws. Cakes made by members were enjoyed with a welcome cuppa.

Club meetings are held monthly, usually on the second Monday, at 7.30pm in Thakeham Village Hall and visitors are warmly welcome. For further details please contact Chairperson Gil on 01798 812748.

Sandra Jenkins



The Arts
Society
South Downs

All members and visitors are most welcome to attend a talk on:

Wednesday 3 December

A TUDOR CHRISTMAS

Speaker: Siobhan Clarke

We might assume that our modern Christmas owes much to the Victorians. In fact, carol-singing, present-giving, mulled wine and mince pies were all just as popular in Tudor times. This lecture is based on Siobhan's book with Alison Weir, *A Tudor Christmas*. It was a twelve-day-long festival, over which the Lord of Misrule held sway; so beloved by English people that its traditions survived remarkably unchanged in an age of tumultuous religious upheaval.

Siobhan Clarke BA Hons has worked for Historic Royal Palaces for 20 years delivering tours and lectures on Hampton Court, Kensington, the Tower of London and the Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the lecture and please remember to bring cash to purchase tickets for the Christmas raffle.

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Talks are in Fittleworth Village Hall, RH20 1JB

Doors open 09.50 am for coffee.

Please be seated by 10.30 am for 10.45 am start.

Members free and non-members £8. (No booking required.)

Further details on: www.theartsocietyouthdowns.org.uk

Or contact: Jane Allison on Tel 01798 813314

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	3RD & 5TH	STORR & W/CHILT	DIAL POST / OLD BARN NURSERY	£4	11AM
	4TH	STORR & W/CHILT	VARIOUS / MACULAR GROUP (Chanttonbury Leisure Centre)	£3	12.45PM
WED	EVERY	STORR & W/CHILT	PULBOROUGH LUNCH CLUB (Pulborough Village Hall)	£4	10.30AM
	3RD	STORR & W/CHILT	RUSTINGTON (Lunch & Shop)	£6	11AM
THUR	EVERY	WEST 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	1PM
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TUES	2ND DECEMBER	STORR & W/CHILT	ARUN VIEW / LITTLEHAMPTON (CHRISTMAS LUNCH)	£10	11AM

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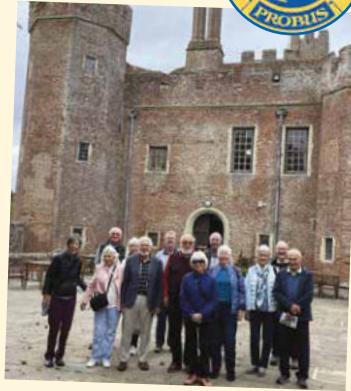
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On a somewhat desultory day in early October, members of our Club attacked Herstmonceux Castle, as well as the Observatory! Fortunately, we weren't repelled, in fact, we were welcomed and had a most interesting day where the local guides led us through the amazing history of the site. We visited the Observatory first where there are six copper covered domes which can be seen from a distance, all having turned a verdant green with the atmosphere. Our guide explained that the whole site of 300 acres is now owned by Queen's University in Montreal, Canada! The story behind this revelation is that the buildings of the Observatory and particularly the Castle had fallen into a state of disrepair in the 1990's when it was no longer wanted by The Royal Observatory in Greenwich. Along came Mr Bader who had been a Czech refugee before the last war and had become fond of Kent before he settled in Canada. There he became a very wealthy man and wanted to show his appreciation to both countries, so he bought the Herstmonceux site and restored the Castle for the benefit of international students, especially Canadian ones, who come here to study. It is now known as The Bader College.



Back to the Observatory; our guide first took us into one of the domes and went through the history, where we were told that the original site was given in 1066 to a monk, but in about 1200 a Norman named Herst occupied it and married Ms Monceux, hence the conjoined name. Then the Castle was built about 1400, unusually out of brick, locally sourced, as we like to say today. It then had a chequered life for a few hundred years before the line ran out when it enjoyed a variety of owners, including MPs, before it was purchased by Lt Col Lowther in 1911 who commenced the restoration. A mighty task! He died in the 1920's and was followed by other rich incumbents who continued the restoration until the Royal Observatory bought it in 1946. After that you know the history.

Next, we followed our excellent guide to another dome in which was placed the massive telescope and he then engaged us all in the discoveries that this telescope had made and opened the dome and circulated the massive telescope so that it could see the stars. Well, it was daytime and cloudy so we had limited expectations! He was extremely technically knowledgeable and satisfied those of us with enquiring minds. So that was a great visit and exceeded our aspirations.

We all had lunch in the lovely café, before we went on to the Castle itself and met another guide who was also excellent at relating more of the history and showed us around some of the rooms. It is the study centre now, so there is little of the historic furnishings to see. We were also very lucky because we were the first visitors to be shown around after all the scaffolding from the repairs had been removed.

There is lots to see at Herstmonceux as well as an excellent scientific playground for youngsters which was being well used by a group of schoolchildren. It is all open to visitors and we enjoyed our visit immensely.

Don Johnston



Parish Council Vacancy

We are sorry to announce that Cassie Tucker has resigned from her role as Parish Councillor. We would like to thank Cassie for her contribution to the Parish, particularly her interest in youth work, and wish her well. The position will be advertised by Horsham District Council, to be filled either via a by-election, run by Horsham District Council if parishioners request one, or otherwise filled by co-option. Any interested applicants can contact the parish office.

Pavement Clearance

We would like to thank everyone around the Parish who has cut back their hedging and shrubs where they blocked or limited access along our road-side pavements. Thanks also to three of our councillors and Mike Denness, Chairperson from the local Conservation Society, who spent three mornings last month clearing pathways around the leisure centre. Nearly 75 bin bags of vegetation were bagged up from this area alone. There are plenty of areas around the Parish which still need cutting back so please check your own pavements. We would also love to hear from any volunteers who could help with smartening up our pathways. Please contact office@storrington-pc.gov.uk

Memorial Pond/Sullington Hall Improvements

Assessment of works will commence imminently at the Memorial Pond where remedial work is required.

Users of Sullington Hall will notice several much-needed improvements to the interior with new blue carpet in the entrance hall, and plans are underway to replace the stage and blackout curtains in the main hall as well as the update of some essential appliances in the kitchen.

Priority Services Register

Another reminder that anyone vulnerable or at risk during severe weather or utility outages are encouraged to register on the Priority Services Register. Energy suppliers and network operators have their own registers. Friends and relatives can assist with registration for those who may need a bit of help. More information and links to your service providers can be found here: www.thepsr.co.uk.

Christmas Evening 4 December

Come and join the fun! Just a few days until our annual Christmas Event in Storrington village centre, starting with a torchlit procession at 4.45pm from the Library to Henry Adams, and open until 8pm. There will be lots of live music, fairground attractions, festive food and drinks, craft stalls and Santa's Grotto. The Parish Council would like to thank all the sponsors for their contribution. More volunteers are needed for the event so please get in touch urgently if you can help.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas! Please support our wonderful shops by shopping locally!

Cllr Virginia Hicks

the WI WI NEWS INSPIRING WOMEN SULLINGTON WINDMILLS

Sullington Windmills WI meet every month, on the third Wednesday at 7.30pm in Sullington Parish Hall. New members are always welcome, and prospective members can attend up to three meetings before committing to membership.

Our November meeting heard from Michael Blencowe on *The Wildlife of Sussex*, which was an extremely informative and amusing talk. Our meeting on 10 December features David Allen wishing a Merry Christmas Mr Dickens, which sets out some of the Dickensian traditions which we still enjoy now.

We look forward to greeting any new members.

Lynn Harris, Secretary

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