

No. 161 Winter 2020



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Rector's ramblings.

From the Rectory.

Well, it has certainly not been the year we were planning for. This is the year we should have been celebrating the 850th and the 650th anniversaries of our churches in Pyecombe and Poynings respectively. Instead, our churches have predominately remained

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closed, although more recently we have been able to open some of them for private prayer. Newtimber remains open all day, every day. Pyecombe was open during the day until the recent lockdown curtailed this for the time being. Poynings is open for private prayer on Saturdays, but sadly we have not been able to facilitate the opening of St Andrew's at Edburton yet, at all.

Sundays on Zoom

Church services for all four parishes have been conducted on Zoom since March, initially from the Rectory study but for the past several weeks, it has been lovely to be able to host them from within Holy Trinity, Poynings where we have also welcomed a small congregation to be present in the church. During the recent lockdown we have continued to Zoom from Holy Trinity, but without a congregation present in church. This has enabled us to continue to worship together and has, I think, strengthened our sense of being a single community.

Mid Downland Parish

Hopefully our greater sense of community will make our transition from four distinct ecclesiastical parishes to one all the more natural. We will become the single ecclesiastical parish of Poynings with Edburton, Newtimber and Pyecombe on 1st January, 2021. That's a bit of a mouthful, so our working name will be the Mid Downland Parish. This formalising of the informal union that has been in place for some time will make for easier administration and will safeguard us against the possibility of being unable to recruit churchwardens and other parochial officers in all four communities. It will also enable us to gain some

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financial benefit from managing a single relationship with utility and service providers.

There will be a single Parochial Church Council (PCC), with representatives from each parish church. All four of our churches will maintain their status as parish churches and there will, of course, remain a need for a group of volunteers with a particular interest in each of the churches. The first Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) of the Mid Downland Parish will take place in January, when churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members will be elected. Full details of the meeting will be published in due course.

Currently each church is financially independent but they already share common costs. The biggest is our Parish Share – the contribution we make to the diocese – which is simply divided between the four. Apart from that the main costs are utilities, insurance premiums, and day to day running costs. These are met through the regular subscriptions of individuals and through the wonderful fundraising efforts of each of our communities. The income and expenditure is remarkably similar in each of the four churches so bringing them under a common account will not in any way result in funds being diverted away from the community in which they were raised, and they will remain absolutely essential.

The union of our parishes does have some potential benefits to all our parishioners; for example, anyone who could have been married or baptised in any one of our churches could now be married or baptised in any of the four.

Christmas services

Our planning for Christmas is necessarily a bit speculative, but our hope and intention is to hold our Carol Service at Pyecombe at 6.00 pm on Sunday 13 December, when the Pyecombe Choir will be singing outside the church before we go in. It will be a simpler service than usual, with restricted seating and no public singing. On Christmas Eve, at 4.00 pm we will Zoom a Nativity service, with children in mind, and at 9.30 pm we will Zoom a Bethlehem Midnight Mass (Bethlehem is two hours ahead of us).

On Christmas Day, at 10.30 am a communion service will be Zoomed from within St John the Evangelist, Newtimber, when we hope we will also be able to host a small congregation so that those without access to Zoom can still join in.

I very much hope that you will be able to join us for one or more of these occasions.

If you would like to be added to the invitations to our Zoomed services, please let me have your email address and I will ensure that you receive them.

With every blessing for a joyful Christmas and looking forward with you, in hope, to the New Year.

Rev'd Tim.

Pew Patter

What a lovely splash of colour we have around us from the trees and hedges, something to brighten our days as we go into the second lockdown.

As well as the Sunday morning Zoom Service, Tim has been doing for all four churches. We at Pyecombe did manage to have a couple of socially distanced Sunday evening Services, and although we couldn't sing (only to ourselves behind our masks!), it was good to hear our organist playing for us again.

One of the Services was our Harvest Festival. A special thank you to the Choir for singing in the churchyard for us before the Service. Also a big THANK YOU to you, the village, who with your donations made it a bumper year. Both St Peter & St James and the Martlets Hospice were thrilled that in this very difficult year we had donated such a variety of goods that will be used for the patients and their wonderful staff, as they stated on the day of delivery and in the Thank You Letters that followed.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to hold our Remembrance Service. But at our last socially distanced Wednesday prayer meeting on the eve of lockdown, we read the names of the villagers who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars and laid a wreath. There is also a wreath attached to the porch door to mark this time of remembrance. The names of all who died from all four villages will be read at the morning Zoom Service on Sunday 8th November 2020.

The next Service *WE HOPE* to hold in Pyecombe will be the 6pm Christmas Service on Sunday 13th December. This will be very different to other years as there will be no brass band, but our organist will be playing. The Service itself will be altered to allow for a socially distanced congregation. The Choir also *HOPE* to be singing carols outside the church before the Service.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve 4pm Children's Service on Zoom

Christmas Eve Mass – Bethlehem Time 9.30pm on Zoom

Christmas Day 10.30am Zoom Service from Newtimber

We end with a very special THANK YOU to Ian Currie who has stood down as Church Warden after over 30 years! **THANK YOU, IAN, FOR EVERYTHING!**

The Church Team

Parish Council Jottings

As highlighted in the last newsletter one item which has recently been promoted is the **Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme** to boost local broadband speeds. This excellent scheme incentivises whole communities to level up with the rest of the country and access superfast broadband speeds. Eligible rural premises can claim up to £4,000 each towards the cost of installation for gigabit-capable broadband when part of a group of premises. I am sure that many residents and small and medium businesses in the villages will be able to benefit. It is hoped applications will be encouraged

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by highlighting the scheme. The Parish Council has recently circulated information on this scheme to residents on its mailing list and hope that it will be of benefit to the area.

For more information and to check eligibility see: <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> or contact broadband@westsussex.gov.uk for more information, help and assistance from West Sussex County Council.

Small Electrical Kerbside Collection Scheme

Effective 23rd November 2020 you will now be able to leave small electrical items on the kerbside on your normal rubbish collection day.

What will be collected	What won't be collected
<i>A few examples:</i>	<i>A few examples:</i>
Small kitchen appliances	Bulky electricals
Cables, plugs, chargers and controls	Lightbulbs
Mobile phones and games consoles	Microwave ovens
Power tools	TV's, laptops and monitors
Batteries (in a separate bag)	Gas cylinders from styling equipment
Personal grooming products	Black sacks

Bag it

- 1.** Place dry electricals in a carrier size bag (35 x 40 cm).
- 2.** Tie it - Knot the bag securely so the contents can't fall out.
- 3.** Recycle it! - Place the bag beside your rubbish bin for collection.

IMPORTANT: Place all unwanted household batteries in a separate bag. They will be collected with your other electrical recycling. Remove any batteries and place in a separate bag. They will be collected with your other electrical recycling.

Visit the Mid Sussex District Council website for more information at: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/small-electrical-collections/>

General Parish Update:

- Our TRO request for double yellow lines with passing places along the Old London Road is still top of the list. WSCC Highways recently met with Council representatives to discuss the final plans which will be circulated to residents in the near future.
- The flower bed under the newly renovated Pyecombe sign has been tidied up ready for the winter. Several quotes for a similar renovation to the other sign are currently being reviewed.

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- Parish Council meetings are still taking place virtually our thanks and appreciation to those residents who have continued to support these.

Christmas and New Year Rubbish and Recycling Collections 2020 – 2021

Waste and recycling collection days will change for two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.

Your festive collections are as follows:

Normal Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Monday 21 December	Saturday 19 December
Tuesday 22 December	Monday 21 December
Wednesday 23 December	Tuesday 22 December
Thursday 24 December	Wednesday 23 December
Friday 25 December	Thursday 24 December
Monday 28 December	No Change
Tuesday 29 December	No Change
Wednesday 30 December	No Change
Thursday 31 December	No Change
Friday 1 January 2021	Saturday 2 January 2021

Please make sure your bins are at the edge of your property, at the point nearest the highway, by 7am on the day of collection.

All waste and recycling collections will return to normal from Monday 4 January 2021.

Garden Waste

There will be no garden waste collections between Monday 21 December and Friday 1 January 2021. Garden waste collections will return to normal from Monday 4 January 2021

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Christmas Trees

Real Christmas trees can be composted in your garden waste bin. Just make sure the lid is closed. There will also be temporary sites across Mid Sussex where you can drop off your real Christmas tree, open from Wednesday 30 December 2020 until Friday 8 January 2021 (inclusive). Visit the MSDC website <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling> for details.

Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding various items throughout the village. These updates are very much appreciated and I will always follow up on any items raised. I do now have quite a few residents who have signed up to receive email updates on various items happening both throughout the parish and locally. If you would like to be added to the circulation list please email me at parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Parish Clerk & RFO

Pyecombe Social Committee

As you probably know by now we decided to go ahead with an online Christmas Shop and what an experience that has been! Thank heavens for Emily Grocott, our new and youngest committee member. Her knowledge of social media far outweighs the rest of us put together.

Our individual traders at @thepyecombeshop are a collection of local crafts people and/or friends of Pyecombe. The shop will be open until 13th December and whilst many things have been sold, many of the items on sale are 'one offs'. There's still plenty on offer and time for last minute purchases.

Anne Finney organised and set up iZettle for us, a payment system allowing people to pay by card or online, though cash is a preferred option. She also put every single item for sale on the inventory list along with the amount of stock available, which was no small task.

Since opening we have had a great flurry of support from everyone with sales over £1300 in the first week, which has been brilliant.

In writing this I have just heard that we are in tier 2 which means we will not be able to be in the church 5th December. However, we will try and have tables outside with some items on display for sale.

Our grand draw Raffle winner will be announced on Sunday 13th December at one of the church services.

I am pleased to say that we will for the first time have a Christmas Lunch at Pangdean, 16th December. The lunch is open to all of Pyecombe or members of the church and is £25 per head. It's a beautiful setting with plenty of space, allowing for everyone to follow social distancing rules.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Pyecombe Social Committee

Karen Lewis
07818 568999

Pyecombe Church 100 Club Winners

Sept 20	James Holdsworth	142	£10
Sept 20	Bridget Harwood	71	£20
Oct 20	Tina Hopper	145	£10
Oct-20	Shirley Strong	59	£20
Nov-20	Jim Boyce	100	£100
Nov-20	Peter Wright	38	£10

"Love Your Village"

We still love our village but with the need to social distance and restrictions on numbers gathering together, unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange an organised litter pick or pavement clean up this year. However, it has been heartening to know that there have been individuals and families out doing their own thing and picking up litter, cutting down trees across the pavements and mowing the verges to keep the village looking nice. The new litter bins provided by the Parish Council and their regular emptying have also helped. If anyone wants to get out and do their own litter pick I have litter pickers for both adults and children and rings that you can borrow. Just ring me on 01273 857378.

Mary O'Rourke

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Trees

We all take trees for granted. We chop them down, saw them up and make things with, or even burn them. But 40 years ago scientists noticed something on the African savannah. Giraffes were feeding on the umbrella from Acacia trees. Now is the amazing part. The trees don't like this and it took them only minutes to start pumping toxic substances into their leaves to rid themselves of the large herbivores. The giraffes got the message and moved on to other trees in the vicinity but not to trees close by. They walked on about a hundred yards away. The trees they



had first started eating gave off a gas (ethylene) that signalled to neighbouring trees of the same species that a crisis was at hand. Right away all the trees, forewarned, pumped toxins into their leaves. The giraffes moved on further away or upwind where the trees couldn't be warned. The process started all over again.

Just another wonder of nature!

John Hilton

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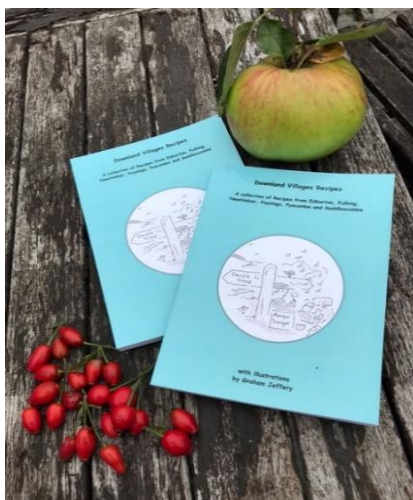
An ideal Christmas gift.

The Downland Villages Recipe book is a wonderful collection of recipes from Pyecombe, Edburton, Newtimber and Poynings.

Beautifully illustrated by Graham Jeffery.

£5 each. Free local delivery.

***Contact Lucy Dalrymple on 01273 831876 or
lucy.newtimber@icloud.com***



Pyecombe Village Choir

What a joy it was for us all to get together in 2 socially distanced groups to sing outside Pyecombe Church before the Harvest Festival! Singing outdoors is clearly the way forward as we approach Christmas, so we will be singing carols before the Pyecombe Christmas Service on Sunday 13th December. Do pop along if you can – I imagine we'll start singing at around 5.30pm - and although there is still a lot of caution surrounding singing, humming along behind a facemask is not against any law! We will also be singing at Poynings on Saturday 19th December when the Christmas lights are switched on.

The choir recording of David Finney's song on YouTube has been a great success with 340 viewings to date! (You can find this easily on YouTube by searching *Pyecombe Village Choir* and clicking on "This Day".) It has also raised over £150 for Pyecombe Church and if you would like to add a contribution all you have to do is go onto JUSTGIVING.COM and search for *Pyecombe Church*. Since making this recording, the choir has been busy making another, this time of a favourite old Zulu song, "Siyahamba". It is wonderfully uplifting and David is putting together a great video of photos to accompany it. We will send out the link in due course when it is ready.

If you are considering joining the choir, we'd be delighted to see you in 2021. Why not ring me for an informal chat?

Jane Cullen
07736 806851

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Covid Safety Check

1. As restrictions ease, we can't be complacent about COVID-19. Let's do all we can to stop the spread of coronavirus in West Sussex.

Visit **www.westsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus** for the latest information and to sign up for our regular e-newsletter for West Sussex residents. #KeepWestSussexSafe

2. Do your bit to #KeepWestSussexSafe. Spread the message not the virus, by following these simple steps:

- if you have symptoms, get tested.
- wash your hands regularly.
- observe social distancing.
- wear a face covering.

3. COVID-19 hasn't gone away. There is still action we need to take. Spread the message not the virus.
#KeepWestSussexSafe.

4. Let's do all we can to keep our shops and businesses open and continue to take action to stop the spread of COVID-19. #KeepWestSussexSafe.

Find updates and further information about COVID-19 at www.westsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus

Newsletter New Editors

Whilst the year 2020 has been one like no other, the Village Newsletter, thanks to our regular printers, has continued to be printed and so distributed to the whole community and beyond throughout the year, as it has done so since 1979.

This issue will be the first for our new editors, taking over from Dawn Langston, our Parish Council Clerk and RFO, who has edited the Newsletter for the last four years with great efficiency and dedication, and my thanks to her for taking on the additional role.

I am delighted that Tim and Jane Cullen have now taken on this pivotal role, becoming the fifth editors since it was launched all those years ago. I wish them well, and encourage all friends and villagers alike to continue to support them with contributions in your Village Newsletter, which continues to be distributed on a quarterly basis.

David Wilson, Parish Council Chairman.

The next newsletter is due out in March. We would love to receive articles from you to share with your community. These can be news, items of interest, local history, jokes, recipes or anything that would have been passed around the campfire to keep the sense of community strong in days gone by.

To be included in the March issue please send articles in anytime from now until February 20th. You can email them to timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk or post a written piece either in the letter box at no.14 The Wyshe or at no.15 Pyecombe Street - marked **newsletter**.

Many thanks,

Tim & Jane Cullen (eds)

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes).

**Pyecombe Village newsletter is printed on recycled paper.
Editors: *Tim and Jane Cullen***

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A Happy & Peaceful Christmas to you
all!



Oh, Christmas Tree! Oh, Christmas Tree! Your ornaments shine temptingly.

I want to whack them with my paw and grab them when they hit the floor.

Oh, Christmas Tree! Oh, Christmas Tree! Your ornaments shine temptingly.

(from Catmas Carols by Laurie Laughlin)

