

No. 182

Spring 2026



Village Newsletter



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*The next newsletter is due out in June. To be included in the next issue, send articles in anytime from now until 25th May. You can email them to timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk or deliver a written piece to either 14 The Wyshe or 15 Pyecombe Street - marked **"Newsletter"**.*

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From the Rectory

Easter Dates, Ancient Decisions, and Our Life Together This Spring

Falling on Sunday 5th April, Easter comes relatively early this year. Even so, none of us has seen—or ever will see—the earliest possible Easter, which can fall on 22nd March. That last happened in 1818 and won't occur again until 2285. Some of us, however, may remember a very late Easter. The latest possible date is 25th April, last seen in 1943, and due to return in 2038.

So why does Easter move around the calendar at all? The answer takes us right back to the early Church. In AD 325, the Council of Nicaea decided that Easter should always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon falling on or after 21st March. This was an attempt to ensure that Christians everywhere celebrated the Resurrection together.

That agreement worked well for around 1,200 years. In 1582, however, Western churches adopted the newer Gregorian calendar, while Orthodox churches continued to calculate Easter using the older Julian calendar. As the two calendars are now 13

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days apart, Easter does not always fall on the same Sunday. This year, Orthodox Easter is on 12th April, one week later than ours.

Lent and Holy Week: Opportunities to Gather

During Lent, we will again be holding a Wednesday evening discussion group, meeting from 25th February to 25th March at 7.00pm in The Royal Oak, Poynings. We will be discussing the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. This proved popular last year, and I hope it will do so again.

On **Palm Sunday (29th March)**, palm crosses will be distributed during the 10.00am Parish Communion at Poynings.

On **Maundy Thursday (2nd April)**, we will remember the Last Supper by sharing a simple meal and informal communion at 7.00pm in Poynings Village Hall. If you would like to come, please let Pauline Agg know (07803 256566 or paulineagg56@gmail.com), so that we can cater appropriately.

On **Good Friday (3rd April)**, there will be a Good Friday meditation at 12.00 noon in Pyecombe church.

And on **Easter Sunday (5th April)**, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection at our 10.00am Parish Communion in Edburton church.

You are very welcome to any or all of these occasions.

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A Word of Thanks

I must also take this opportunity to pay special tribute to Betty Eade, who is stepping down after many years of faithful service as churchwarden at Pyecombe. As well as preparing for and clearing up after Sunday services, Betty is in the church every day—tidying, cleaning, welcoming visitors, replenishing kitchen supplies for those walking the South Downs Way, and ensuring that the church is always cared for. We are not saying goodbye, but we are very much saying thank you. Betty, your long and faithful service is deeply appreciated, and your contribution to the life of our church has been immense.

With every blessing to you all, for a holy Lent and a joyous Easter,

Tim

Rev'd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267

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Pew Patter

Christmas seems such a long time ago. Our carol service was a great success with the Mid-Sussex Brass Band and our Pyecombe Village Choir. Mulled wine and mince pies were provided - thanks to Sally for all her hard work.

With all the Spring flowers coming up I think we can all look forward to warmer days and more sunshine. Easter, the most important time in the church year with the crucifixion of Jesus and his joyous resurrection, fills us with hope for the future.

Please remember our 1170 church gets no external help with its upkeep. The church is open 10am-4pm and is open to all, so if you come into the church, please put a coin in our wall safe.

Future Dates

16 th /17 th May	Plant Sale & Pyecombe Flower Weekend
20 th June	Poynings Fete
28 th November	Adastra Christmas Fayre

Our 2nd Sunday evening service will be back at 6pm from 12th April.

My thanks to all who help in the church. Without you, it would be difficult to keep open.

Church Team

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The Christmas Fair & the upcoming Parish Weekend and Plant Sale

I'm writing this message from New Zealand and sadly haven't got the papers right in front of me. But I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along in November and helped us with the Christmas Fair which was a huge success! I believe we raised around £3,000 – a staggering result, and *thank you, thank you* from us all.

Now it's time to turn our attention to the Flower Festival and plant sale. We have decided like last year to hold it in the Spring on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th May, followed by an evening of hymns at 6pm on Sunday in the church. If any of you would like to do some flower arrangements for us that would be fantastic and the theme is: ***My Favourite Book*** (- this was chosen because of the 100-year anniversary of Winnie the Pooh!) Help is always needed, and we are also encouraging sellers to come along and rent a table in the marquee to sell their own goods and to make it more interesting. We are going to have a big plant stall like last year and would be hugely grateful to anybody who can grow plants, do flower arrangements, bake cakes, or just generally help putting everything together before and after the event. If you can do this, please could you get back in contact with me, Sally Brown, on 07850 300603. If you know of anybody who would like to rent a table - which would be £20 for Saturday or £30 for Saturday and Sunday – do let me know.

Moving on to the end of the year, our Christmas Fair will be held in the Adastra Hall on Saturday, 28 November from <http://www.pyecombe.info>

10am until 3pm and there again stall holders and helpers would be gratefully received.

It is a never-ending battle trying to raise money to keep the foundations of our lovely church going, and we do appreciate all the kindness and help we receive from you all.

It is a great sadness that I must tell you that Betty Eade is going to retire from being our church warden this Spring after 25 plus years. There again if anybody else is interested in helping us with this position, we would be hugely appreciative.

I thank you all again and look forward to hearing from you about these upcoming events.

Kind regards, Sally.



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Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£100	£20	£10
Nov - 25	-	Jean Carpenter	Marion Jamison
Dec - 25	Wendy Pelling	Geoffrey Strong	Tim Cullen
Jan - 26	-	Anne Finney	Geoffrey Strong

New players always welcome! Please email
pye100c@gmail.com for details.

Parish Council Jottings

Community Projects

The parish council are keen to hear from local residents who have ideas for community projects that will enhance the village.

If you have any suggestions, please email these to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

The Wyshe Children's Play Area

In December, the project was awarded £75,000 in funding from the Veolia Environmental Trust. We're happy to confirm that the funding agreement has now been signed, allowing Mid Sussex District Council to move forward.

Discussions have already taken place with the supplier to ensure work can begin as soon as the equipment has been manufactured. MSDC anticipate this being around Easter.

There will be the opportunity for the public to meet with the designers and contractor to talk through plans before work starts. The Parish Council have requested additional input into the final design and will communicate the date for public meetings once received.

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Free wellbeing support in our libraries

Did you know our libraries have year-round activities, services, and resources to improve your emotional, physical, and mental wellbeing?

To celebrate Wellbeing Month this March in libraries we're holding special 'Live Well for Longer' events where you can get a health and hearing check, get information on future independence and care as you age, and even pick up a new pair of safe, comfy, slip-free slippers.

All year round you can borrow blood pressure monitors to use at home for up to 3 weeks to check your heart health, reminiscence packs to help with dementia care, and of course thousands of books and eBooks - as reading for pleasure is proven to reduce stress and boost your wellbeing.

Food Waste Collections

New separate food waste collection services are being introduced across West Sussex, following new legislation introduced by central government.

Residents will be able to recycle food waste including tea bags, plate scrapings and crusts – even items that can't be composted, like bones and cooked meat.

These collections can help highlight how much food is thrown away in UK households and support you to cut down on waste. Reducing food waste could also save you money by helping you buy only what you need and make the most of leftovers.

About food waste collection and recycling

When your food waste collections will begin depends on where you live.

Your local district or borough council will collect your food waste each week.

The food waste that's collected will go to an anaerobic digestion plant in Horsham. The plant recycles the waste into:

- fertiliser to help farmers grow crops
- energy to power the plant

If there's extra energy, it's sent to the national grid to power homes and businesses.

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Food waste items you can recycle

When your council starts collecting food waste, you'll be able to recycle:

- meat (including bones)
- fish and shellfish
- cheese and yoghurt
- cooked or uncooked vegetables, including peelings
- inedible materials, for example fruit skins or eggshells
- bread, cakes and pastries
- rice, pasta and beans
- plate scrapings
- mouldy and out of date food
- pet food
- tea bags or coffee grounds
- solid fats

If you put anything else in your food waste bin, your council will not collect it.

Why separating food waste is important

We want to reduce the amount of food waste produced in West Sussex.

While we can't avoid some food waste, like tea bags or banana skins, we can reduce others such as cooking or buying too much.

When people separate their food waste from other rubbish, they usually throw less away. When we see how much food we're wasting, we can change what we do.

What you will get and how to use it

You will get:

- a grey caddy for your kitchen
- one roll of compostable caddy liners, to help start you off, with the exception of Mid Sussex
- a grey and orange outdoor bin, with the exception of:
 - people living in flats who will have a communal food recycling bin
 - people in Mid Sussex who will have a different coloured bin

You will need to do:

- store your caddy in your kitchen
- remove any packaging from your food waste, making sure you recycle what you can

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- place your unpackaged food waste into the caddy instead of your general waste bin
- empty your caddy into your outdoor bin or communal food recycling bin
- put your bin out at the boundary of your home by 6am on your weekly collection day - make sure it's not hidden by your other bins

If you live in a flat, your district or borough council will empty the communal bin every week.

About your caddy

You can use the liners that come with your caddy at first. When you run out, you can put food waste in the caddy without a liner. To help keep it clean you could use:

- newspaper
- compostable liners from any supermarket
- a sheet of kitchen roll to soak up any liquids

Do not use plastic or carrier bags in your caddy. That's because when we're recycling, we can't get rid of all the plastic. Tiny bits called microplastics get left behind. The microplastics go into the fertiliser we make from recycling

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the food waste. This reduces the quality of the fertiliser and harms the environment.

About your food waste recycling bin

Your outdoor food waste recycling bin has a locking handle. Use the bin for all acceptable food waste and make sure you keep it locked. This should keep the waste inside if the bin falls over and helps prevent unwanted smells. This should also avoid foxes and other vermin being attracted to it.

We recommend that you wrap any smelly food waste in newspaper or compostable liners before putting it in your food waste bin.

Other ways to prevent pests

You can avoid flies and other pests being attracted to all of your waste bins by:

- keeping all bin and caddy lids firmly closed
- not leaving food, including pet food, uncovered in your home
- double wrapping pet waste before you put it in your general household waste bin
- rinsing off food and other residue from all your recycling, allowing it to dry before putting it in your recycling wheelie bin
- leaving your bins out of direct sunshine, where possible
- washing your bins and caddy regularly with hot water using washing up liquid or a strong-smelling detergent

Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding assorted 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 assorted 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

Dawn Langston – parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Telephone contact – 07909 332605

USEFUL INFORMATION

Pyecombe Village Website - **Pyecombe.info** (this site is in addition to pyecombevillage.co.uk which is the parish council site).

Information is added to the village site but the Facebook page & WhatsApp message board is more frequently used for updates. If you want to add anything to the website, you will need to send the complete article electronically to:

keith.a.gough@btinternet.com

Facebook Page is **Pyecombe Village Newsgroup**

WhatsApp - **Pyecombe Neighbours Group**

The administrator for these two groups is Keith Gough. Message him on 07966 292601

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After another very busy Christmas period, we are enjoying a nice gentle start to the year – learning new songs, revisiting “old” repertoire and starting to formulate programmes for

our Summer concerts and performances. One new composer to us is the American, Morten Lauridsen, and we will be taking time out in our March rehearsal schedule to watch a beautiful documentary film about his life and work.

We are looking forward to returning to sing at the Henfield Festival of Gardens and Arts in June and we are also delighted to be giving a concert in aid of the Malagiri School, Nepal, on Saturday 22nd August at St George’s Retirement Village, Ditchling Common. Watch this space for further details nearer the time.

Just a reminder that rehearsals are on Friday evenings from 5pm-6.30pm. If you are new to the village and enjoy singing, do come along!

Jane Cullen

07736 806851

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Why the Ancient Tree Register Matters

Across our towns, villages and countryside stand some of the oldest living beings in the UK: veteran and ancient trees. Some have been growing quietly for hundreds, even thousands of years, long before our homes, roads and communities existed. I recently stood inside a 4,000 year old yew tree! The Ancient Tree Register exists to make sure these remarkable trees are known, valued and protected.

The Register is a national record of the UK's veteran, ancient and notable trees, maintained by the Woodland Trust. By recording where these trees are and what condition they are in, the Register helps ensure they are considered in planning decisions, land management and conservation work.

Veteran and ancient trees are incredibly important for wildlife. As trees age, they develop features like hollow trunks, deadwood, cracks and rot — things we might think of as signs of decline, but which actually provide vital habitats. Hundreds of species of insects, fungi, birds, bats and mammals rely on these trees for food and shelter, many of which cannot survive anywhere else. These trees are also part of our shared history and sense of place. They may mark old boundaries, historic routes, commons or gathering places, and often feature in local stories and memories. Once lost, an ancient tree cannot be replaced within our lifetime.

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Recording trees on the Ancient Tree Register helps raise awareness of their value, encourages sensitive management rather than removal, and gives these trees a better chance of surviving for future generations. Anyone can help by noticing veteran or ancient trees in their local area and submitting records — a small action that can make a lasting difference.

You can explore the Register and find out how to get involved at:
www.ancienttreeregister.org.uk



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