

No. 181

Winter 2025



Village Newsletter



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From the Rectory

Christmas is a time of year that many of us look forward to and cherish — yet for others, it can be a season tinged with sadness or strain. Christmas brings families and friends together, but it can also remind us of those we miss, or of times when life felt fuller. For some, it is a season of abundance; for others, a reminder of how fragile life can be.

At its heart, though, Christmas is about something much deeper. When God chose to enter the world he so loves, he came quietly, humbly, unobtrusively. St Luke tells us that shepherds came to wonder and to worship at the sight of a baby lying in a manger. When we too come to wonder and to worship, we find ourselves drawn into the love of God — a love that holds us whether we are in company or alone, joyful or sorrowful, rich or poor.

May the love and peace that surround the Christ-child be with you and all those you love this Christmas.

I warmly invite you to join us for any of our Mid Downland Parish Christmas celebrations and look forward to welcoming you there.

O come, let us adore him!

Nov 30 • 6.00 pm — Lighting of the Christmas tree at Cora's Corner, Poynings, with carol singing, mince pies, and mulled wine.

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Dec 14 • 6.00 pm – Carol Service with the Sussex Brass Band at The Church of the Transfiguration, Pyecombe. Come early to enjoy a mince pie and mulled wine before the service.

Dec 24 • 4.00 pm – Crib Service at Holy Trinity, Poynings.

Dec 24 • 9.30 pm – “Bethlehem Midnight Mass” with Carols at St Andrew’s, Edburton.

Dec 25 • 10.00 am – Christmas Communion at St John the Evangelist, Newtimber.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

With every blessing,

Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267

Pyecombe Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre went very well. We raised just shy of £3,000. The turn out was fantastic and the feedback was very positive. We had a record number of stalls. A huge THANK YOU to everyone involved.

For your diary, next year’s fayre will be on Saturday 28th November 2026!

Sally Brown

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Pew Patter

Well done to all who donated to our Harvest Festival.

Both the Harvest and Remembrance services were well attended, and our thanks also go to the Pyecombe Village Choir who always bring such a joyous sound to our services.

We look forward to our Christmas Carol service on 14th December at 6.00 pm. This will be with the Mid-Sussex Brass Band and our Pyecombe Choir. You are warmly invited to come early at 5.00 pm and join us for mulled wine and mince pies.

As the winter evenings are getting darker, our evening services on the second Sunday of the month will begin at 3.00 pm. This will be for January, February and March.

We are grateful to all who help out in the church – especially Alison, Ken, David, Sally and Sandra. We are always looking for more help in any way you can.

We would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

The Church Team

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Display of Harvest Donations and a Thank You letter from St Peter & St James Hospice.



To everyone at Pyecombe Parochial Church,

On behalf of everyone at St Peter & St James Hospice thank you to everyone involved in the harvest donation. This donation is extremely kind and has helped us provide for our Patients & their families.

Thank you & kind regards,
Victoria (Relationship
Lorraine)

22/10/25.

Remembrance Sunday Address

Over the past couple of years, Rev. Tim has taken a name from the parish war memorial and done some research to share at the service. Below is an abridged version of his address this year:

Leading Radio Mechanic Brian James Winter (1927–1946)



Brian James Winter was born on 3 December 1927, the eldest son of Arthur James Winter and Winifred Annie Winter (née Pollard). Winifred, born in 1902, grew up in the Duke of York Cottages,

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Sayers Common, in a family long established in the Hurstpierpoint area. Arthur, born in 1897, came from a line of Poynings farm labourers. They married in December 1923.

By 1939 the Winters were living at Council Cottages, Poynings, with their four children: Margaret (14), Brian (12), David (10) and Rodney (7). At age 11, Brian became a server at Holy Trinity Church, Poynings, under Revd Samuel Jones, a role he held for seven years.

After the Second World War, Brian joined the Royal Navy and trained as a radio mechanic. He served as a Leading Radio Mechanic aboard HMS Saumarez, an S-class destroyer completed in 1943. In early 1946 with Brian on board. she deployed from Portsmouth to the Mediterranean for service in the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla.

Following an incident in May 1946 in which British ships came under fire in the Corfu Channel, the British government declared it would give no prior notice of future passages and would return fire if attacked again. And so it was that Saumarez, among ships from the 1st Cruiser Squadron, was ordered to pass through the Corfu Strait from south to north to test the Albanian response to Britain's right of innocent passage. Crews were instructed to respond if fired upon.

On 22 October 1946 the Saumarez entered the Corfu Channel behind HMS Mauritius and HMS Leander, with HMS Volage following. Unknown to the squadron, the channel had been

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secretly re-mined. At 14:47 the Saumarez struck a mine and was badly damaged by fire and flooding. At 16:15 the Volage, moving in to assist, also struck a mine and lost a sixty-foot section of her bow. Her engines remained intact, but she could only steam astern. With both ships travelling stern first, Volage took Saumarez in tow, arriving back in Corfu at 03:10 on 23 October.

Forty-four men were killed and forty-two injured in what became known as the Corfu Incident. Brian Winter was among those killed, aged 18 years and 10 months. He is buried in Corfu, where his Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone reads:

B J WINTER
LEADING RADIO MECHANIC RN
P/MX 742378
HMS "SAUMAREZ"
22ND OCTOBER 1946 AGE 18
"HIS SERVANTS SHALL SERVE HIM"

His mother, Winifred, lived until 2001. She visited Brian's grave in 1991. Brian is also commemorated on a wooden plaque in Holy Trinity Church, Poynings.



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£20	£10
Sept - 25	Louise Greatwood	Geoffrey Strong
Oct - 25	Geoffrey Strong	Meike Thomas (donated)

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

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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.

FREE Call Blocking Offer.

Please see below a reminder about the call blocker offer. These units are free of charge and provided on loan by Trading Standards.

Tracy Field, who works for Trading Standards and is a member of FPWG, installs the call blocking units and manages their settings throughout the loan period. This ensures maximum protection against unwanted and scam telephone calls.

Having a call blocker installed is like having a personal receptionist at home — it allows calls from friends and family to come through, blocks known nuisance callers, and requests unknown callers to identify themselves before connecting.

You can either apply by filling out an application form on the WSCC web site [Stay safe on the phone - West Sussex County Council](#) or you can contact Tracy directly on 0330 222 6556 or email tracy.field@westsussex.gov.uk

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Bin Collection

With the recent changes to the bin collection dates Mid Sussex District Council has highlighted the following information.

Which day will your bin be collected?

You can check your new bin collection calendar in the [Bins and waste service area on the website](https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/bin-collection/) at <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling/bin-collection/>

Collections take place between 7am and 3pm. Place your bins at the edge of your property ready for collection before 7am on collection day. Bin lids must be closed.

These guidelines should help you make sure your bin is collected on time:

- Find out which bin should be out at the [Bins and waste service area](#)
- Leave your bins out before 7am on the day of collection
- Make sure they're at the edge of your property and not hidden from view
- Make sure it's in a bin provided by Mid Sussex District Council
- Make sure your recycling bin only [contains items that can be recycled](#)

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- Make sure the bin lid shuts, and the bin is not over-filled
- Make sure the lid can move freely, otherwise it may damage our bin lorry
- Recycling should be clean, dry, loose and not in bags. Find more details on our [recycling page](#).

According to a recent recycling survey, many residents are missing out on recycling some everyday items including:

- Trigger sprays – just squash the bottle and pop the spray back on.
- Flexible toothpaste tubes – squeeze them empty and replace the lid.
- Empty aerosol cans – yes, they're safe to recycle!
- Aluminium foil – often forgotten, but it's endlessly recyclable. Scrunch it into a ball larger than a jam jar lid to make sure it's picked up at the recycling facility.
- Coloured plastics – all colours of household bottle, pots, tubs and trays can be recycled at home in West Sussex, including black plastics like microwave meal trays.

Collection dates repeat in the same pattern throughout the year. **The only exception is at Christmas and New Year which is subject to temporary changes.**

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

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Rae Corbett (1936-2025)

We have recently received the sad news of Rae Corbett's death. Rae has been missed in Pyecombe for some time following her many years as Chair of the Pyecombe Social Committee.



She had an abundance of energy and enthusiasm for the good of the village and its church, raising great amounts of money through events organised by the committee under her leadership. These

events also brought the community together in a happy and fun-loving way.

She and Albert were never backward in coming forward to help anyone in the village or listen to their suggestions and ideas to improve the quality of life here. Albert served as the parish clerk for a number of years.

Rae was one of Pyecombe's treasures.

Diane Curd and Wendy Pelling

Rae's funeral will take place at Pyecombe Church on Wednesday 10th December, 2pm.

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It has been another full year for the choir, starting with a Valentine's Day concert at Rae's nursing home back in February, where we felt privileged to sing for her and the other residents. Since then, we have been back to France, receiving a wonderful reception at the Georges Brassens Festival in Chailland – David Finney's song, "Chailland!", written specially for the occasion, was a huge success! – and, once again, being warmly welcomed at Pontmain Cathedral where we sang on Whit Sunday.



When you read this newsletter, we will be in the throes of our Christmas performances, with three in a row over the first weekend in December! As always, we will look forward to singing at the Pyecombe Carol Service, and we will finish the season by singing carols at Brighton Station at 6pm on Thursday 18th December. It would be great if any of you felt like joining us for this, fundraising for the wonderful Clock Tower Sanctuary for homeless young people in Brighton, of whom there are all too many.

Perhaps one of the most touching compliments the choir received this year was from an elderly English gentleman who came up to us after our final performance in Chailland and said, "You have done our country proud!" The choir certainly continues to do our village proud!

Happy carolling and a very Happy Christmas to you all!

Jane Cullen

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When the leaves are fallen...



After all the beautiful Autumn leaves have fallen things can look a little drab when we are looking at what we can no longer see, so we turn to waiting for Spring to come and the leafy return. There are treasures to be found in the twiggy heights though!

The previously hidden songsters are now easy to spot. I have been listening to a beautiful song while I'm lying in bed in the mornings and was treated to a full solo concert while I was in the

garden yesterday by a song thrush. I had to move around a little to see it and then there it was watching me watching it. Apparently, male and female are almost identical visually so I can only guess - but my imagination took me to believe my bird is a female. I was very grateful for the beautiful singing. Whilst I watched her, I also saw sparrows and blue tits amongst the hedges, again made visible because of the leaf gaps the recent weather has created.

Another small detail to look for are the leaf buds that hold hope and promise. The buds are so different on each plant; it's an interesting thing to notice and then check on from time to time and see the

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changes as time passes. The new leaves as they emerge have so much more meaning when you have watched the buds... like magic unfurling.

One final thing to notice are the well-constructed nests that manage to stay put in spite of high winds and lashing rain. Built with beaks as tools, sticks, moss, and spiderweb glue amongst a variety of other natural materials are put together to raise feathered families throughout the Spring and Summer. Standing mindfully for a moment, considering the amazing thing of a bird's nest may well be the gateway to bud noticing and hearing the songs and chatter of the birds that you otherwise might have been travelling too fast to hear. Happy exploring of the twiggy realms!

Vicky Clapperton

USEFUL INFORMATION

Pyecombe Village Website - **[Pyecombe.info](http://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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*The next newsletter is due out in March. To be included in the next issue, send articles in anytime from now until 20th February. 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**".*



**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes). Editors: Tim & Jane Cullen

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