Parish Magazine

FOR THE BENEFICE OF THE LOWER OUSE VALLEY APRIL 2026

IFORD KINGSTON PIDDINGHOE RODMELL SOUTHEASE

From Lent to Resurrection: A Journey of Hope



As the days lengthen and the first hints of spring appear around us, the Church approaches one of the most meaningful moments of the Christian year. The quiet reflection of Lent begins to give way to the powerful story of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. Lent has been a season of reflection, and perhaps small sacrifices. It invites us to pause amid busy lives and turn our hearts again toward God. In its stillness we remember that faith often grows in quiet places… through patience, kindness, forgiveness, and the gentle work of grace within us.

Then comes Palm Sunday, this year our five parishes will meet at St. John's church in Piddinghoe; when we recall Jesus entering Jerusalem to shouts of welcome and the waving of palm branches. It is a moment filled with celebration, yet we know the road ahead leads through the solemn days of Holy Week. During this sacred time, we walk step by step through the final events of Jesus' earthly life—his love shown in service, his suffering on the cross, and the deep silence of the tomb.

But the story does not end there.

Easter morning dawns with the most joyful message of the Christian faith: Christ is risen. The darkness of Good Friday is transformed by the light of resurrection. What seemed like defeat becomes victory; what seemed like an ending becomes a new beginning.
This message continues to speak powerfully into our own lives. Easter reminds us that hope is never lost, that love is stronger than fear, and that God is always at work bringing new life out of what seems broken or uncertain.

As our churches gather once more to celebrate the resurrection, may the journey from Lent to Easter renew our hearts. May it fill our homes, our parish, and our community with peace, joy, and the quiet confidence that new life is always possible.

St John recorded the words of Jesus:
"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

A blessed and joyful Easter to you all.

Rev'd Joe

CHURCH SERVICES: APRIL 2026

The UNITED BENEFICE *of*
IFORD *with* KINGSTON,
PIDDINGHOE, RODMELL & SOUTHEASE

Rector: Rev'd Joe Chipper Tel 01273 967511 email: Rev.JoeChipper@outlook.com

Thursday 2nd MAUNDY THURSDAY

17.00	KINGSTON PARISH HALL	The Last Supper Soup & Bread followed by a short reflective service at St. Pancras Church
18.00	RODMELL	Benefice Parish Communion, Altar Stripping

Friday 3rd GOOD FRIDAY

15.00	IFORD	At the Foot of the Cross: A reflective time to hear the sounds of the Passion

Sunday 5th EASTER DAY

07:00	SOUTHEASE	Sunrise on Itford Hill: Holy Communion
09.45	KINGSTON	Parish Communion
09.45	IFORD	Parish Communion
11.00	RODMELL	Celtic Holy Communion Service
11:00	PIDDINGHOE	Parish Communion

Sunday 12th

09.45	KINGSTON	Parish Communion
11.00	RODMELL	Matins Joined by Southease & Piddinghoe
18.00	IFORD	Evensong

Sunday 19th

08.00	KINGSTON	Said Communion BCP
09.45	KINGSTON	Morning Worship
09.45	IFORD	Music & Meditation
11.00	RODMELL	Celtic Worship
11:00	PIDDINGHOE	Parish Communion

Sunday 26th

09.45	KINGSTON	Parish Communion
11.00	SOUTHEASE	Parish Communion, Joined by Rodmell & Piddinghoe

WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISHES

Lets have a full diary in 2026……. PLEASE send dates/times/location of any Charity Events, Parish Meetings, Socials with local benefit (not commercial) to i.k.r.maged@hotmail.co.uk or text to 07976 254316

APRIL				
02/04	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting Kingston Parish Hall	Talk on J M Turner
04/04	14.30-16.30	Iford	Afternoon tea and cake (all welcome)	At the church
15/04	11.00	Rodmell	Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning	Abergavenny Arms
17/04	tbc	Iford	ISVS Quiz Night	Iford Hall
21/04	12 – 15.00	Kingston	Citizen's Advice Rural Outreach Project	Kingston Pavilion
29/04	18.30	Rodmell	Book Club	Abergavenny Arms
30/04	19.30	Iford	Parish Meeting	Iford Hall

MAY				
02/05	14.30-16.30	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church
07/05	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting Kingston Parish Hall	Noel Streatfeild Ballet Shoes
14/05	19.00	Rodmell	Parish Council Annual Assembly	Rodmell Village Hall
19/05	12 – 15.00	Kingston	Citizen's Advice Rural Outreach Project	Kingston Pavilion
19/05	19.00	Rodmell	Rodmell Parish Council AGM	Rodmell Village Hall

JUNE				
04/06	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting Kingston Parish Hall	Annual Business Meeting
06/06	14.30-16.30	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church
06/06		Southease	Open Gardens	In the village
07/06		Southease	Open Gardens	In the village
13/06		Rodmell	Open Gardens	Upper Village
14/06		Rodmell	Open Gardens	Lower Village
23/05	12 – 15.00	Kingston	Citizen's Advice Rural Outreach Project	Kingston Pavilion
27/06		Iford	BBQ in the Woods	by shooting lodge

JULY				
02/07	18.30	Kingston	WI meeting Kingston Pavilion	Summer Soiree
04/07	14.30-16.30	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church
18/07		Iford	ISVS Summer Show	Iford Hall
21/07	19.00	Rodmell	Rodmell Parish Council Meeting	Rodmell Village Hall

AUGUST				
01/08	14.30-16.30	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church

SEPTEMBER				
05/09	14.30-16.30	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church
05-20/09	everywhere		Artwave	
19/09	19.30	Kingston	Quiz Night with Fish & Chips	Parish hall

GENERAL NEWS



The Egrets Way

The Egrets Way Project charity was co-founded in 2011 by representatives from all Ouse Valley Communities, initially known as the Ouse Valley Cycle Network group.

The ambitious plans to develop a safe, shared riverside path connecting villages from county town to channel port has had great appeal locally. Drawing on the work of previous plans including the POLO Greenway Plan, linking up with other interested groups and with well appreciated help from The South Downs National Park, Sustrans and especially from local landowners, including Iford Estate, after 15 years… the track linking Lewes and Newhaven is nearing completion.

They are now starting to look at creating new links to the Egrets Way making it safer to cycle and walk in the Ouse valley avoiding the dangerous C7.



Family Hubs in East Sussex now have a free helpline for families to access support and guidance with anything which impacts family life such as parenting a teenager, getting a baby to sleep, supporting children with SEND or concerns about housing debt, employment or substance misuse.

Whatever the issue, the team will be able to point you in the right direction. Contact: 01323 464655. Open from 08.30 to 17.00 weekdays except Friday when it closes at 16.30

Refuse and Recycling Collection Dates

Use this QR code to find your days

citizens advice

Lewes Citizens Advice, a local, independent charity, offers free confidential and impartial advice and help with benefits, housing issues, cost of living, debt, energy and much more.

The Lewes branch is conducting a Rural Outreach Project will include sessions at Kingston Pavilion from 12.00-15.00 on:

21st April
19th May
23rd June

Free Adviceline on 0808 278 7892 Tues-Thurs 10.00-15.00
info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk
www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/rural-outreach

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

KINGSTON

Kingston Women's Institute the WI INSPIRING WOMEN

Thursday 2nd April at 19.30
This month's talk will be given by
Julia Newton
about
J.M. Turner: the man, the art, the legend

For further info:
carolctaplin@aol.com or sue@wylde.me.uk

New Members Always Welcome



Village Voices

New members of this lovely community choir are always welcome (particularly men!). You do not have to read music or be an experienced singer, just enjoy making music. We meet on Thursday mornings (term time) at 10.30 in Kingston Pavilion, sing a broad mix of music for an hour and then have coffee.
You don't have to live in Kingston.
contact Lucinda on
kingstonvillagevoices@gmail.com



Little Saplings Nursery at Iford & Kingston C of E Primary School
ROOTED IN LOVE, GROWING IN FAITH, STRONGER TOGETHER

Little Saplings

Little Saplings offers a caring and inspiring environment where children can learn, grow and thrive.



With a bright, welcoming indoor space and large outdoor area where children can explore, play, and discover the world around them, at Little Saplings, every child is valued and supported to reach their full potential in a safe, nurturing setting.

Places are currently available. We would love to welcome you and your child to our nursery community. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit. 01273 474973 iknursery@skylarkfed.education

A little bit of History

In the early 1960s orchard land between the old village (the Street) and the 1930s Ridgeway houses, was developed to provide family houses, many of which were occupied by the newly established University of Sussex faculty. During the construction of the estate, a new village green, St. Pancras Green, was established and featured tennis courts and a cricket ground. In the summer there were rounds of the traditional Sussex game of stoolball. At the time, the radical reputation of the university influx earned this new green the nickname 'Red Square' from some of the more traditional locals.



IFORD WITH SWANBOROUGH

Services over Easter

This year's 20.00 Maundy Thursday United Benefice service will be held in Rodmell.

The Good Friday reflection 'At the Foot of the Cross' will take place in St Nicholas, Iford at the earlier time of 15.00 on Friday 3rd April.

We look forward to welcoming a large congregation for Parish Communion at St Nicholas Church at 09.00 on Easter Day 5th April.

We welcome Canon Richard Moatt who will be taking the service.

Easter Gardens 2026



Create an Easter Garden – calling families and anyone young or old to bring their garden to St Nicholas Church on Maundy Thursday 2nd April by sunset. Neighbours and visitors and passers-by will be reminded of the story of Easter.

Join forces with others to create your Garden if you'd like to. For more details contact Nicolas and Auriol Chisholm.



4th April
2nd May
6th June
4th July
1st August
5th September
(with Artwave)

ISVS and the PCC take it in turns to run a lovely afternoon tea on the first Saturday of the month in the church and churchyard if fine.

Everyone is welcome from along the lower Ouse valley and bring along friends, family, neighbours.

Mouthwatering locally made cakes, lovely coffee and tea, and the occasional Pimms!

14.30-16.30



Vestry Redevelopment

It was with great relief that we received the news, reported in the March Parish Newsletter, that planning permission had finally been granted to complete the installation of the BioPure Treatment Plant to the east of the church.

Weather permitting, the work will begin just after Easter on April 7th and the whole project should be handed over to the PCC by the end of the month in time for the second Community Tea of the year on May 2nd.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
17.30 on Sunday April 12th
before Evensong at 6.00pm

All those who joined the new Electoral Roll last year are entitled to vote for the PCC and Churchwardens and to receive the Annual Report and Accounts. We will soon be sending out this illustrated report.

If you would like a copy and do not receive one by email please contact Nicolas Chisholm.

Sunday 19th April at 09.45
St Nicholas Iford

Anyone of any religion or none is welcome

Come and spend half an hour in silence listening to some soothing music and the sound of silence in this noisy world.

Finish with a cup of tea/coffee at 10.15am.

You can join us then too if you prefer!

Iford & Swanborough Village Society

ISVS's aim is to organise social occasions throughout the year. Any money raised from such events is for worthy projects in the parish, to support other events in Iford and Swanborough, St Nicholas's church or to be donated to local charities. Recently, from the £1,000 for charity, £333 has been donated to Homelink.

The ISVS committee is looking for another two charities to which to donate the balance.

Future ISVS Dates for your Diary

4th April
Community tea in the church

17th April
Quiz Night in the hall with Fish & Chips

27th June
Summer BBQ in the woods

18th July
Summer Show at Iford Hall

October
Apple Day on Swanborough Green



Banoffi Pie Evening

The evening was a real delight from start to finish. With a glass of wine in hand, villagers and visitors were happily drawn in by the promise of a talk on that most delicious local creation, the legendary Banoffi Pie!

Ian Dowding (formerly Head Chef of the Hungry Monk restaurant in Jevington), proved to be wonderful company. He shared stories from his life starting an unplanned career as a chef in the late 60s. A friend suggested he could arrive in any city in chef's whites and with his own knives, and find work by knocking on kitchen doors. Ian thought that sounded like a good idea and so the adventure began.

We learned how his now world-famous Banoffi Pie came into being, with fascinating memories of his days at college and even ventured into skullduggery with tales of smugglers in Jevington.





What a truly lovely, humble and gentle man. We felt very fortunate to spend the evening in his company. He kindly answered questions about pastry vs biscuit bases and exploding toffee tin experiences, as well as sharing tips on how to avoid such sticky mishaps.

The evening ended on a high note with a wonderful spread of homemade treats, all with a Banoffi theme - creative, delicious, and the perfect convivial way to end such a memorable talk.

Our guests clearly enjoyed it too, one writing, *"Thank you for such an entertaining evening. Ian's talk was fascinating and the banoffi biscuits were absolutely yummy!".* What a wonderful community we are!

RODMELL WITH NORTHEASE

From Jenny Brown; Out and About in Rodmell

LAST CHANCE : Spring Show – 28th March

Hopefully you'll still have time to go to the beautiful Spring Show in the village Hall.

Open from 14.00



EASTER DAY 5TH APRIL

At 06.30 you are invited to meet [with dogs] at Southease Youth Hostel to walk up Itford Hill for communion at sunrise. If you have never taken part in this, it is a very moving event.

Afterwards, David De Mallet Morgan has organised breakfast at the Youth Hostel Café at 08.00.

There is a choice of Tea or coffee, Bacon, Sausage or Veggie Sausage Bap (£3.75pp – please bring cash).

Breakfast orders must be made in advance by phoning Favid on 07690252644

Please do this ASAP



At 11.00 there will be a Celtic Communion at Rodmell when the flower ladies will have decorated the church with beautiful Spring flowers and the lovely old church will look glorious.

PLAYGROUND

On March 21st a tea and cake sale was held in the playground behind the school to raise much needed funds for restoring the equipment in the playground.

The plans for this sound amazing and the finished product will be useable for everyone to include picnic tables and benches. The views from here are incredible.



If you would like to contribute to this project, please donate via

GoFund.Me/band.slip.cool

Or use this QR code:

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
12th APRIL

After the Matins service at around 12noon, the APCM will take place and all are invited to this. This is when the PCC are elected for various roles. You are only able to vote if you are on the electoral roll.

Stripping The Altar service

On Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, this very solemn service takes place here in Rodmell at 20.00. This is a communion service. It prepares us for the crucifixion of Christ on Good Friday the next day. So called because he died to save us all and opened the gates to eternal life in heaven.

RODMELL WITH NORTHEASE ..... CONTINUED

PLEASE NOTE

As from May this year
ALL SUNDAY SERVICES AT RODMELL WILL BEGIN AT 11.15

This allows time for Rev'd Joe to travel from his previous service and time to change in readiness for the next service.

It is most important that he has time to converse with parishioners after his previous service too and not have to rush off.



This year Rodmell is holding Open Gardens over TWO days

Saturday 13th June - Upper Rodmell (properties off and on Mill Lane)
Sunday 14th June - Lower Rodmell

If residents in Mill Lane are interested in opening their gardens, please phone Jenny Brown on 01273 473939 if I haven't already called on you. A lot of help will be required on both days, cakes please and parking cars and, most importantly – TAKING THE MONEY – any offers gratefully received. The teas will be on the Dicklands Green. All money raised is going to the church this year.

THANK YOUS

	Bell Ringers	Rodmell now have a very dedicated team of bellringers which are sounding magnificent!! Thank you to everyone who turns up to ring for practise on Fridays and service on Sundays. It is really lovely to hear our ancient bells pealing again.
	Organists	Thank you to John and Michael who play for us throughout the year and come when called upon for services which are not on the regular list, we are truly grateful.
	Churchyard mowing and cleaning	This is done by another Michael and you may notice how smart the pathway is now all the way from Street to the school playground. Michael worked hard to remove all the old leaf litter and clear it away. Thank you Michael.
	Parish Newsletter	Thank you to you Anna for producing this magazine monthly throughout the year!!

Southease



Sunday 5th April EASTER DAY
07.00
Open-Air Holy Communion
on
ITFORD HILL whatever the weather

Meet at the Youth Hostel by the car park at 6.30am to walk to the top of Itford Hill for Holy Communion Service at 07.00 then back to the Youth Hostel Café for breakfast at 08.00.

Tea or coffee, Bacon, Sausage or Veggie Sausage Bap (£3.75pp – please bring cash)
Orders in advance to Favid 07690252644 ASAP

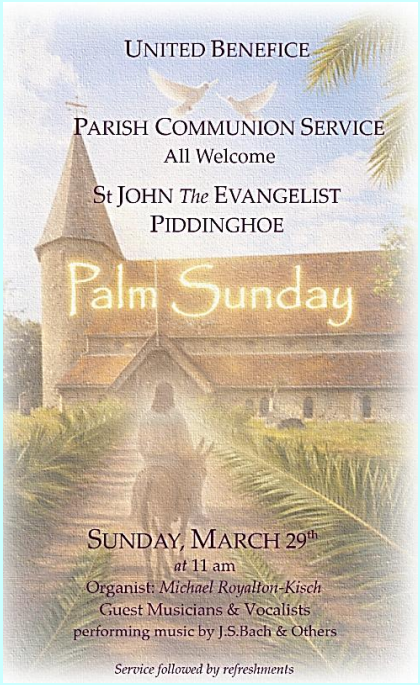
Southease Open Gardens
Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th June 2026
12 Noon and 1700

This is a lovely Village Event with marvellous gardens, teas, coffee and cakes. All monies are for the repairs etc of our Ancient Church building.

Please come and enjoy!!



Piddinghoe



There has been no contribution from Piddinghoe again this month.

Now that Piddinghoe has joined in with the rest of the Benefice, it would be lovely to be able to include some information to continue bringing the Parishes and people together.

If anyone feels inclined, please send info to i.k.r.maged@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH ROTAS: APRIL 2026

	KINGSTON	IFORD	RODMELL
5th April			
Flowers	Easter Team	Easter Flower Team	Easter Flower Team
Cleaning		Easter Team	Jenny Brown / Maureen Ford
Sidespersons	Brenda and Phil Neller	Churchwardens	Churchwardens
12th April			
Flowers	Easter Team	Easter Flower Team	Easter Flower Team
Cleaning		Easter Team	Jenny Brown / Maureen Ford
Sidespersons	Jackie Brown and John Rout	Churchwardens	Ian Bell
19th April			
Flowers	Easter Team	Susan Thompson	Sandra Webb / Jane Finch
Cleaning		Hall and Pearson Families	Carol Putnam / Carolyn Orchard
Sidespersons 8.00 9.45	Rev'd Joe and Chrissie Chipper Jan and Mike Sumner	Churchwardens	Audrey Valentine
26th April			
Flowers	Elaine Pumphrey	Susan Thompson	Sandra Webb / Jane Finch
Cleaning		Hall and Pearson Families	Carol Putnam / Carolyn Orchard
Sidespersons	Linda and Michelle Creswick	Churchwardens	At Southease

CHURCH CONTACTS

Rector: Rev'd Joe Chipper The Rectory, 14 Lockitt Way, Kingston BN7 3LG

Email: rev.joechipper@outlook.com Mobile: 07526 482936 Church Office: 01273 967511

	IFORD		
Churchwardens	Nicolas Chisholm Larry Charlesworth	2 Manor Cottages, Iford BN7 3EP Chartside, The Avenue, Kingston BN7 3LL	471733 07973 837515
Treasurer	Jeanne Symonds	1 New Cottages, Iford BN7 3ER	479030

	KINGSTON		
Churchwardens	Vacant		
Treasurer	Jeremy Boyes	Deeping, Kingston Ridge, Kingston BN7 3JX	01273 473238

	RODMELL		
Churchwardens	Jenny Brown Anne Roberts	Abergavenny House, Rodmell BN7 3HS 6 Barley Field, Rodmell BN7 3HQ	01273 473939 01273 473643
Treasurer	Helen Macaulay	147 Lewes Road, Newhaven BN9 9SU	07850 130878

	SOUTHEASE		
Churchwardens	David de Mallet Morgan	Buckle Point, Marine Parade, Seaford BN25 2QR	01323 897977
Treasurer	Helen Macaulay	147 Lewes Road, Newhaven BN9 9SU	07850 130878

	PIDDINGHOE		
Churchwardens	Vacant		
Treasurer	Helen Macaulay	147 Lewes Road, Newhaven BN9 9SU	07850 130878

If you would like a paper copy of this magazine, they are available in Kingston church for a contribution of £1.00. Deadline for the May issue is 16th April 2026. Please send items to the email below.

Editor Anna MacLeod, Swanborough i.k.r.maged@hotmail.co.uk 07976 254316