Parish Magazine

FOR THE BENEFICE OF THE LOWER OUSE VALLEY FEBRUARY 2026

IFORD KINGSTON PIDDINGHOE RODMELL SOUTHEASE

A poem for Valentine's Day, 14th February,
written by
Elizabeth Barratt Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.



I do enjoy the seasons, but not just the natural seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter but the Church seasons too, where we celebrate the different stages in the life of Christ. Throughout January and now continuing through into February is the church season of Epiphany. This began with the arrival of the Magi, (wise men), and ends on Ash Wednesday, this year falling on 18th February, when the next season, Lent, begins.

The Magi followed the star to discover the infant Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. You may ask if such a star ever existed? Well, in 2020 Jupiter and Saturn came together in a "Great Conjunction," looking almost like a single object, and there is some evidence that a similar event, a pair of planetary conjunctions, happened around the historically accepted time of Christ's birth.

"Epiphany", from the Greek epiphainein 'reveal', or manifestation, "when the light went on", is a realisation of reality or an illuminating discovery. As Jean Brune says: *"When a Child moves from recognising letters to decoding and comprehension, a moment of epiphany takes place, and children become empowered through their knowledge."* Perhaps you could say a "Eureka!" moment.

There is much historical evidence for the existence of Jesus, writings by Josephus, for example. I hope that if you haven't done so already, you will explore, seek, and hopefully discover the love that is greater than any other, and this knowledge will empower you to live your life as a follower of Jesus.

February can feel like a long, dark month, coming after December and January, and so I welcome the season of Epiphany, where the focus is healing, joy, glory, and especially light. The light of Christ, shining in the dark world.

Throughout Scripture, light is a powerful symbol of God's presence—seen in the burning bush in the desert, the pillar of fire guiding the Israelites through the wilderness, and the radiant glory at Jesus' birth and his transfiguration. Isaiah 60 and Psalm 27 remind us that the Lord is our everlasting light, our glory, and our salvation. Candles in church—living lights—symbolise the presence of Jesus, who offers us spiritual illumination and guidance. Jesus says:

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
John 8:12

These are good reminders to seek and share Christ's light, especially in seasons that can feel dark.



Rev'd Joe

CHURCH SERVICES: FEBRUARY 2026





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

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

Sunday 1st

8:00am	PIDDINGHOE	Said Communion BCP
9.45am	KINGSTON	Family Service: All ages welcome, refreshments
9.45am	IFORD	Music & Meditation at St. Nicholas's Church
11.00am	RODMELL	Parish Communion

Sunday 8th

9.45am	KINGSTON	Parish Communion.
11.00am	RODMELL	Matins BCP Joined by Southease & Piddingoe
16:00	IFORD	Evensong

Sunday 15th

8.00am	KINGSTON	Said Communion BCP
9.45am	KINGSTON	Informal Morning Worship
9.45am	IFORD	Parish Communion
11.00am	RODMELL	Celtic Worship
11:00am	PIDDINGHOE	Parish Communion

Wednesday 18th

19:00	IFORD	United Benefice Service: Holy Communion & Ashing.

Sunday 22nd

9.45am	KINGSTON	Parish Communion
11.00am	SOUTHEASE	Parish Communion with Rodmell, Iford & Piddinghoe

Church rotas are on page 9 this month

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

This page will never work in its aim to bring the parishes together unless information is sent in – please do!

Generally, further information on the events can be found in each villages' section in this magazine.

FEBRUARY				
05/02	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting	Kingston Parish Hall
07+08/02	All day	Everyone	C7 litter pick	All along the C7
15/02	15.00	Iford	Poems for Valentine's Day	Iford Church
18/02	11.00	Rodmell	Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning	Abergavenny Arms
25/02	18.30	Rodmell	Book Club	Abergavenny Arms

MARCH				
03/03	19.30	Rodmell	Rodmell Horticultural Society AGM	Rodmell Village Hall
05/03	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting	Kingston Parish Hall
06/03	19.30	Iford	Parish Meeting	TBC Hall Closed for renovation
18/03	11.00	Rodmell	Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning	Abergavenny Arms
25/03	18.30	Rodmell	Book Club	Abergavenny Arms

APRIL				
02/04	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting	Kingston Parish Hall
15/04	11.00	Rodmell	Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning	Abergavenny Arms
17/04	tbc	Iford	ISVS Quiz Night	Iford Hall
29/04	18.30	Rodmell	Book Club	Abergavenny Arms
30/04	19.30	Iford	Parish Meeting	Iford Hall

MAY				

JUNE				

JULY				
18/07		Iford	ISVS Summer Show	Iford Hall

AUGUST				

GENERAL NEWS

Please join in!

C7 Litter Pick Coordinator: Sue Carroll

Each village will have its own arrangements on days and timings. To join in please contact your local organiser as below:



C7 Litter Pick
7/8 February

Iford & Swanborough: Linda Cripps linda.cripps@talktalk.net
Kingston: Katherine Mondon kmondon200@gmail.com
Northease: Sue Carroll scarroll1@hotmail.co.uk
Piddinghoe: Bev Traylen bev.butterfly58@gmail.com
Rodmell:Gaye Wolfson gaye.wolfson@gmail.com
Southease: Andy Martin ajmartin@hotmail.com

The C7 Litter Pick is the annual co-ordinated litter pick along the whole length of the C7 Lewes-Newhaven Road. Groups of volunteers from the villages of Kingston, Swanborough, Iford, Northease, Rodmell, Southease and Piddinghoe all join in. Last year a group from Newhaven also took part as well as members of local walking and cycling groups.

There are usually over 60 local people taking part, wearing high viz vests and wielding litter picking sticks provided by LDC, working to clear the 6.5 miles of road and surrounding lanes over a weekend.

The litter pickers are deliberately visible to make an impact on passing drivers, in the hopes of discouraging them from tossing out litter on to the verges. LDC collects all the piles of bags and other rubbish on the Monday morning.

The date this year doesn't coincide with half term, when a lot of people go away and the vegetation on the verges is usually quite short at this time which makes it easier to clear the litter before it gets buried by weeds or chopped up by the verge cutter.

THE SAFER C7 PROJECT

Now that the Safer C7 Project is starting to implement the recommended road safety improvement measures, they are looking to expand the project team to include members with expertise in the following areas; financial, legal, communications/media, website design.

To find out more about the Safer C7 Project, you can look on the website: www.thec7road.co.uk/safer-c7-project

This is an important community project, led by a small group of local residents acting in a voluntary capacity. If you have the skills needed and are interested in joining the project team, please get in touch and tell us what you can offer. Please contact: Joe.Attwood@thec7road.co.uk



To find out refuse and recycling collection dates

Use this QR code.

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 12.00-3.00 as follows:
17th February, 17th March, 21st April, 19th May, 23rd June

Free Adviceline on 0808 278 7892 Tues-Thurs 10am-3pm
info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk
www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/rural-outreach

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

KINGSTON

Kingston Women's Institute the WI INSPIRING WOMEN

Next meeting Thursday 5th February
This month's talk
The Work of the Friends of the Victoria Hospital Lewes
By Lesley Walton
For further info: carolctaplin@aol.com or sue@wylde.me.uk
New Members Always Welcome

It would be lovely to have more contributions to this Parish Magazine from Kingston

IFORD WITH SWANBOROUGH

An appreciation of John Maddison



John Maddison, who died in December, was a long-term resident of Swanborough and will be much missed by us all.

Together with his wife Angela, he contributed an enormous amount to the life of Iford and Swanborough. Their support for Helwel Trust and subsequently MACS Malawi brought an international focus to our charitable giving.

John's researches into the hymns we sing brought us some memorable services in which he explained their origins and significance - services which filled the church. John became churchwarden on the retirement of Betty Houghton and Jane Symonds, and with Angela as his unstinting support, organised some legendary fundraising lectures and events for Iford church. We all remember the delicious food which accompanied the talks.

The church building looks so well cared for now because of the work he and his team put in to ensuring that the fabric of the church was in the very best condition. We all owe a great deal to the care, energy and enthusiasm he brought to all he did for the community.

John's funeral was very well attended with people coming from far and wide. Angela writes,

'Thank you to our wonderful local friends, who helped so generously and lovingly in so many different ways to make John's service and 'bun fight' in Iford Hall so special.

Our family felt the warmth and love surrounding us, and the sun shining all day was a bonus.
Bless you all, Angela

Music and Meditation

Sunday 1st February at 9.45am
St Nicholas Iford

Anyone of any religion or none is welcome

Come and spend half an hour in silence listening to some wonderfully contemplative music and to enjoy slowing down in this busy world.

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

You can join us then too if you prefer!

Welcome Wednesday

is back!
10.30am – 12.00 noon
4th February in the church

Come and join us for a cup of warming tea or coffee and banish those winter woes.

All welcome

St Nicholas Church, Iford
SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY
3.00pm
Come and celebrate Love with light-hearted, witty poetry and Songs from the Shows
in aid of Church Funds


Wendy Cope


Sir John Betjeman


Pam Ayres

Tickets: £10.00 – to include tea and refreshments
Tickets in advance from Nicolas Chisholm
07710 179599 or Nicchis@aol.com
or 2 Manor Cottages, Iford

10 -16-year-olds free

PCC Meeting

Tuesday 10th February

If any parishioner has a question to raise, please get in touch with the Church Wardens; Nicolas Chisholm and Larry Charlesworth.

Lent
Starts on
Wednesday 18th February,



Come from all corners of the Benefice and join us at St Nicholas Church, at 7.00pm for our special Ash Wednesday Service.

Rain report for 2025

After the deluge of 2023 and 2024 it should come as no surprise that 2025 turned out to be driest year since 2011. Nature always finds a balance in the end. The months of March, April, May and June were particularly dry but there was clearly enough rain for fruit to swell and vegetables to fill out to the delight of gardeners.



Iford & Swanborough Village Society

Dates for your Diary

Quiz Night **17th April**
Summer Show **18th July**

Notice Boards

Further to the thanks from last month, a proper thanks now to Myles Axtell for the replacement of the Swanborough notice board paid for by the Parish Meeting and to John Robinson for the new notice board in Iford.

Rodmell with Northease

From Jenny Brown; Out and About in Rodmell.



The Rodmell Horticultural Society AGM
Rodmell Village Hall
3rd March 7.30pm

After the short meeting there will be a break for light refreshments, followed by a talk by our esteemed local historian **Roger Ford, "Goings On** "about Rodmell's gardens; past, present, and possibly future.

Don't miss it!

Local Wildlife

Recently spotted wildlife in Rodmell includes snipe, water rail, kingfishers, cormorants, stonechat, red kites and, on 3rd January, a seal on the riverbank.



Abergavenny Arms



The pub has been closed while decorating has been carried out. Its open again and all beautiful!

Dr John Maddison

On January 24th we said goodbye to Dr. John Maddison at Iford church. So many people attended there was an overfull church.

John and his wife, Angela, amongst many other things did so much work for the MALAWI project, raising funds for numerous sorely needed items including, books, sewing machines and school necessities. They never stopped!!

We will miss John greatly.



We are approaching Lent at the end of February and it feels as though the cogs are turning so fast. Is it really almost a year since we stripped the altars and had bare churches?

The gardens are coming to life again, daffodils, primroses and violets not to mention all the gorgeous smelling daphne overhung by baby catkins!

Next month Easter will be almost upon us!!

Jenny



Southease

A Wassailing we will go!

Tracey Winning tells us about wassailing in Southease

On Sunday 18th January, Southease, residents took part in an inaugural Wassail of the village's apple trees. Stemming from the Anglo-Saxon "*Waes Hæl*", the word 'wassail' (or wassell) means "be healthy", and the tradition was historically intended to ensure a good harvest.

According to The Apple Source Book:

"It usually takes place after dark on Old Twelfth Night, 17th January, but is sometimes held closer to Christmas and New Year. Villagers go to their local orchard, sometimes lit by bonfires, and gather round the largest or most prolific tree — the Apple Tree Man. Feted as the guardian of the orchard, cider or beer is poured over its roots and pieces of cider-soaked toast or cake are placed among the branches for the robins, guardian spirits of the trees. The wassailers fill cups with cider and toss it into the branches, then drink and sing a toast to the tree."

On further reading, however, it's clear that wassailing traditions vary widely from place to place and have always been fairly broad in scope. In the Middle Ages, peasants would initiate charitable giving from their feudal lords by drinking to their good health — and that of their livestock and crops. This may even be the origin of some Christmas carols, such as We Wish You a Merry Christmas, particularly the rather forthright request to *"give us some figgy pudding"* and *"be of good cheer"*.



Despite regional differences, the central purpose of wassailing remains the same: to wake the dormant trees, chase away evil spirits, and encourage a good crop for the coming year. Interestingly (and perhaps unsurprisingly, given the quantities of cider involved), merriment and joy are considered essential components of a wassail. In this way it has much in common with May Day traditions, which link abundance and fertility with celebration and collective happiness.

It strikes me that this isn't entirely different from modern ideas of "manifesting", where feeling joyful, hopeful and energised is seen as the starting point for abundance and good things arriving in one's life. If reviving these traditions gives us more reasons to gather, connect, and cultivate joy together, that can only be a good thing.



For me, the energetic exchange felt genuinely meaningful. We were able to give something back, symbolically, and to celebrate and give thanks for trees that play an important role in the village year — from apple juicing days to local juice being sold at the Open Gardens event in summer. After last year's bumper crop, it felt right to mark the moment by initiating a new village tradition.

With plenty of scope to make the ritual our own, we gathered songs and toast, prepared hot mulled cider, and went from garden to garden (in daylight, which proved far more practical). In each garden we chose a "head" apple tree to toast (both literally and figuratively), sing to, and splash with cider from last year's harvest. Armed with pots, pans, tambourines and a cowhorn, we created a joyful hullaballoo to wake the trees and drive away any less savoury spirits.

By the end of our rounds, we'd more or less found our rhythm — and I like to think the trees appreciated our efforts. Time, and this year's crop, will tell. All agreed: we'll be wassailing again next year!

Piddinghoe

No news has been received from Piddinghoe this month.

CHURCH ROTAS: FEBRUARY 2026

	KINGSTON	IFORD	RODMELL
1st February			
Flowers	Chrysoula Worrall	Jane Symonds	Pam Carpenter / Marcie Heywood
Cleaning		Lucinda and Larry Charlesworth	Deirdre Parkes / Audrey Valentine
Sidespersons	Fiona Harrison / Elaine Pumphrey	Churchwardens	Michael Sword Daniels
8th February			
Flowers	Jackie Brown	Jane Symonds	Pam Carpenter / Marcie Heywood
Cleaning		Lucinda and Larry Charlesworth	Deirdre Parkes / Audrey Valentine
Sidespersons	Barbara Cunningham / Caroline Fry	Churchwardens	Ian Bell
15th February			
Flowers	Elaine Pumphrey	Jane Symonds	Jenny Brown
Cleaning		Tessa Besley and Addie Dalhuisen	Anne Roberts / Anna Carraso
Sidespersons 8.00 9.45	Rev'd Joe and Chrissie Chipper Jane and Tom Sallis	Churchwardens	Mike Parkes
22nd February			
Flowers	Caroline Halvatzis	LENT	LENT
Cleaning		Tessa Besley and Addie Dalhuisen	Anne Roberts / Anna Carraso
Sidespersons	Jean Taylor	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 March issue is 16th February 2026.

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