Parish Magazine

FOR THE BENEFICE OF THE LOWER OUSE VALLEY JANUARY 2026

IFORD KINGSTON PIDDINGHOE RODMELL SOUTHEASE

The 12 Days of Christmas




The official start of the 12 days of Christmas, (when my true love gave to me…) is from December 25th, with the birth of Christ, to Epiphany with the coming of the Magi, the three wise men, on January 6th




There are lots of arguments as to whether Twelfth Night is the 5th or 6th of January –it is definitely the 5th!!








"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2



As we step into January, the glow of Christmas celebrations may begin to fade, decorations are packed away, and our homes and streets return to their everyday appearance. Yet the message of Christmas does not disappear with the lights and tinsel. Instead, we enter the season of Epiphany;a time of revelation, light, and renewed purpose.

Just as the wise men followed the star through darkness to find the Christ Child, we too are called to seek and recognise the light of Christ in our daily lives. The journey of the Magi reminds us that God's promise is for all people, from every land and background. Christ came not only for a chosen few, but for the whole world—and for each of us personally.

January can feel long and quiet after the warmth and busyness of Christmas. The days are still short and winter stretches ahead, and many of us return to routines with a mixture of hope and weariness. Yet Epiphany encourages us to keep looking for God's presence—often in simple moments: a kind word, an unexpected blessing, or a renewed sense of peace.

As we begin this new year, we are invited to offer our own gifts to God—not gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but hearts willing to follow, hands ready to serve, and lives open to His guiding light. The Holy Spirit, who sustained us through Advent and Christmas, continues to lead us into new beginnings and deeper faith.

May we step into this year with trust and expectation. Whatever joys and challenges lie ahead, God goes before us. Christ is our guiding star, and His light shines in every season.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you." — Isaiah 60:1

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of a new year. Guide us through 2026 with Your love and wisdom. Help us to be instruments of peace, compassion, and hope in our homes, our communities, and the wider world. Strengthen us to face challenges with courage, to celebrate the beauty in everyday life, and to trust in Your unfailing faithfulness. May this year be one of spiritual growth, unity, and abundant blessings for all. Amen.

May the light of Christ guide your steps, strengthen your spirit, and fill your home with peace throughout the year ahead. Wishing you a blessed Epiphany and a grace filled New Year.

- Rev'd Joe

CHURCH SERVICES: JANUARY 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 4th		
8:00am	PIDDINGHOE	Said Communion BCP
9.45am	KINGSTON	Family Service: All ages welcome, by refreshments
9.45am	IFORD	Music & Meditation at St. Nicholas's Church
11.00am	RODMELL	Parish Communion
Sunday 11th		
9.45am	KINGSTON	Parish Communion.
11.00am	RODMELL	Matins BCP Joined by Southease
16:00	IFORD	Evensong
Sunday 18th		
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
Sunday 25th		
9.45am	KINGSTON	Parish Communion
11.00am	SOUTHEASE	Parish Communion - Joined by Rodmell & Iford

Church rotas have moved to page 11 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.

JANUARY				
08/01	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting	Kingston Parish Hall
21/01	11.00	Rodmell	Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning	Abergavenny Arms
27/01	19.00	Rodmell	Rodmell Parish Council Meeting	Rodmell Parish Hall
28/01	18.30	Rodmell	Book Club	Abergavenny Arms

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				
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
06/03	19.30	Iford	Parish Meeting	Iford Hall

MAY				

JUNE				

JULY				
18/07		Iford	ISVS Summer Show	Iford Hall

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 you 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, to clear the litter before it gets buried by weeds or chopped up by the verge cutter.

Alternate Weekly Bin Collections

Alternate weekly bin collections (AWC) for household waste and recycling will start from February 2026. New calendars will be sent out in January detailing the new collection days.

The new system will collect refuse black sack waste fortnightly, while recycling collections will also remain fortnightly, alternating with the refuse collection day. Food waste and non-infectious medical waste collections will continue, weekly for those who register. Various bin options are available from lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/bins

Confused about refuse and recycling collection dates? From February 2026, use this QR code when in doubt!

Recycle Festive remnants of the day

Reuse or recycle discarded wrapping paper, toy packaging, and cardboard boxes.

- Cardboard Boxes: remove any plastic inserts, polystyrene packaging, and excessive sticky tape from cardboard boxes before recycling
- Wrapping paper: Only non-foil wrapping paper is accepted in recycling bins. To check use the 'Scrunch Test', simply scrunch the paper into a ball. If it remains scrunched and does not spring back open, it is likely to be non-foil and can be recycled
- Non-Recyclables: remove ribbons, glitter, and bows

Garden Waste and Christmas Tree recycling

Garden waste collection: paused from Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 16 January 2026
Christmas Tree collection: Real trees will be collected in the garden waste collection after 16/01/26 if cut up into pieces less that 100mm in diameter. Or can be taken to collection points across Lewes District between 23 December 2025 and 23 January 2026. The nearest to all of us on the C7 are Brook Street car park, Lewes BN7 2PE and Bay Vue Road car park, Newhaven BN9 9RJ

Household waste recycling sites Booking System

There has been a booking system at household waste recycling sites (HWRS) in East Sussex from November 2025. Time slots have to be booked up to two weeks in advance of their visit at www.eastsussex.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling/booking-system-background

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

KINGSTON





St Pancras Carol Service

In a church beautifully decorated by the Christmas Flower team, organised by and with many thanks to Brenda Neller, we were treated to a wonderful Carol Service, led by Rev'd Joe Chipper and with music organised by Lucinda Houghton (aka in the village as Charlesworth). We listened to readings from Josh Siepel, Wendy Forbes, Tom Sallis, Dee Allen and Linda Creswick.

Our Kingston choir, Village Voices, sang *A Maiden Most Gentle* (Carter) and *The Sussex Carol* (arr. Williamson) – extraordinary performances by an amateur choir which is directed by Lucinda. So lovely to have our own villagers filling the church with music at a lovely Christmassy event.



We were also lucky enough to hear *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* performed by George Burrell on the Organ and Piano, singing by Mezzo Soprano, Briony Lambert and the flute played by Anne Hodgson.
A packed congregation enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies to round off the festivities.









Church Christmas Tree

Demonstrating the hard work which goes into making the churches look beautiful, Tom and Jane Sallis, ably assisted by their granddaughter and her boyfriend, managed to erect and decorate the 9 foot Christmas tree. Jane says, 'Once *again the Parochial Church Council were indebted to the Lewes branch of British Garden Centres for the generous donation of a magnificent Christmas Tree this season. Tom and I were pleased we had been 'trained' by Jan and Nick Darby and hold fond memories of Jan."*



Christmas at Iford & Kingston CE Primary School





December began with our much-loved Decorations Day, as our school was filled with colour, creativity and festive joy. Children also took part in a fantastic Nativity and a beautiful Carol Service at the church, and it was wonderful to welcome so many families who joined us to celebrate and reflect together on the true meaning of Christmas.



During our RE lessons, the children made Christingles and creatively explored the Christmas story by making Jesus in the manger. It has been a joyful and faith-filled start to the Advent season for our whole school community.







Next meeting Thursday 8th January

(NB NOT the 1st Thursday of the month as usual)

Resolutions Discussion Meeting

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

New Members Always Welcome






Carol Service



A team of flower arrangers organised by Jane Symonds, created another beautifully original series of Christmas decorations of the St Nicholas Church.



With candles along every windowsill and on the pews, a packed church was treated to a wonderful carol service with music and readings organised by Lucinda Houghton. Heralding the start with bell-ringers Allan Bradley, Larry Charlesworth and Michael Foot, the service included a magnificent choir comprised of 5/6th of the Charlesworth family with Lucinda, Larry. Harriet. Jo and Billy all performing along with Edward Caswell, Nicolas Chisholm, Peter Gritton and Joya Logan. The organ was played by Michael Tester.





Readers included Sam Cox, Charlotte Boyd, Johnnie Besley, Anna MacLeod, Chris Higgins, Rev'd Joe and an extraordinarily confident reading of The Shepherds Go to the Manger by 8-year-old Grace Ellis-Smith.





Tessa Besley organised a group of young children who joyously joined in by helping light the advent candles and putting the Nativity figures in the stable.



After the service we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies laid on by Irene Marot and Sam Cox.



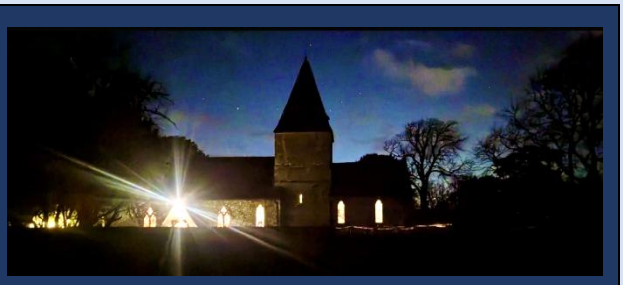
As one attendee put it *'Magical, the children were adorable and we are so lucky to have such an amazing choir among us. Excellent readers, gorgeous decorations and a welcoming vicar. What more could you ask for?'*







Midnight Mass



This lovely picture of St Nicholas was taken by Ed Pack walking through the village en route to Midnight Mass. Could this get more atmospheric?

The traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Service was well attended with 50 residents venturing out on a starlit evening. With the theme for the service being From Darkness to Light, there was a gasp as a power cut (or Divine intervention?) interrupted the service! Fortunately, the candles throughout the church lit up everything beautifully and we were able to complete the service, even singing the font carol without organ accompaniment



'Carols in the Churchyard' has quickly become an important feature in the build up to Christmas in Iford.

Some fifty local residents, and others from further afield, sang carols in the churchyard. Accompanied by Nicolas Chisholm on the accordion, we sang popular carols, followed by a glass of mulled wine to complete the evening. An enjoyable time was had by all.

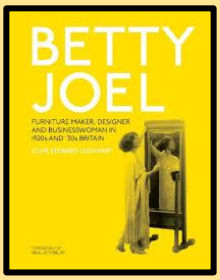


Victoria and Kenneth Hamer generously invited villagers to Iford Manor to enjoy a Christmas film show of High Noon, the iconic Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly Academy Award winner followed by afternoon tea.

Thank you!

Betty Joel Talk

In December, we were treated to a unique insight into the life and designs of Betty Joel. Her great nephew, Clive Stewart-Lockhart told the story (along with that of her husband David) of Betty as a key British designer and entrepreneur of the 1920s and '30s. Drawing upon his recollections as well as unpublished diaries, family papers and his own photographic archive, he brought to life her contribution to design history in interwar Britain. Clive's talk was brought to the hall by Christopher Baker, Chair of the Parish Meeting, who is the son of David Joel's second wife. The event resulted in a donation to church funds.



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

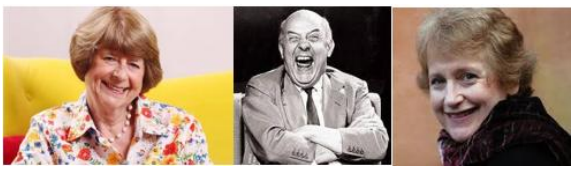
Iford & Swanborough Village Society

Quiz Night
17th April

Summer Show
18th July

Music and Meditation
first Sunday of every month. At 9.45am. St Nicholas Iford
Anyone of any religion or none welcome
Spend half an hour in silence listening to some contemplative music and embrace the opportunity to slow down in this busy world. We finish with a cup of tea/coffee at 10.15am.
Try it and see if you like it!!

Sunday 15th February, 3.00pm St Nicholas Church Iford
St Valentine's Day Poems and more
An occasion to celebrate Love with the light-hearted poetry of Pam Ayres, Sir John Betjeman, and Wendy Cope, and songs from the shows. Tickets £10 including refreshments afterwards from Nicolas Chisholm 07710 179599



A HUGE thank you to the Notice Board Fairy for the new addition in Swanborough – its lovely!!!!!

RODMELL WITH NORTHEASE

From Jenny Brown; Out and About in Rodmell

SERVICE OF LIGHT

December 7th

A huge success with numbers of people in attendance, readers and ambience. Thank you to everyone who swelled the numbers and sang with gusto!!





CAROL SERVICE
21st December 4.00pm

WOW!! How lovely was that!! Nearly 70 in our little church, plus 7 children, with candlelight, tree and Christmas flowers and John playing the organ. We also had two lovely ladies singing descant which definitely brought a lump to everyone's throat.

The Best Yet.

Thank you to everyone who decorated, cleaned and assisted with making this so very special.



A particular mention and enormous thanks to Gerry Ashplant for his help with the Christmas tree and all the lighting around the porch which looked stunning. Thank you everyone.

At the ABERGAVENNY ARMS

NEW YEARS EVE	NEW YEARS DAY
There will be no food during the evening but open for drinks till late.	The bookings are nearly full. Want a table? Book NOW.

So lovely to see the pub really buzzing every day of the week this time of year. It's great to support our local.

FOOD FOR THE FOOD BANK

We were able to take almost a full large trolley of food to the Newhaven Food Bank on Monday 22nd so it arrived in time for their Christmas distribution.
Thank you for your gifts.



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR 2026.
Jenny

Piddinghoe







These lovely knitted nativity figures adorned the altar once again this Christmas. Knitted by the villagers a few years ago, they have been carefully treasured ever since and make a delightful display.

Southease

Candlelit Service

John Warburton tells us about the Candlelit service at Southease on Christmas Eve *'the church was packed from the Altar rail to the porch as well over 100 filled the Church with the joy and excitement of Christmas . It was our Candle Lit Service led by Rev'd Joe who in support of the Readings underscored the purpose and Spirit of Christmas'.*



CHURCH ROTAS: DECEMBER 2025

	KINGSTON	IFORD	RODMELL
4th January			
Flowers	Jane Sallis	Jane Symonds	Christmas flowers and greenery
Cleaning		Michael Foot	Jenny Brown / Maureen Ford
Sidespersons	Brenda and Phil Neller	Churchwardens	Michael Sword Daniels
11th January			
Flowers	Mary Bartlett	Jane Symonds	Christmas flowers and greenery
Cleaning		Michael Foot	Jenny Brown / Maureen Ford
Sidespersons	Jan and Mike Sumner	Churchwardens	Ian Bell
18th January			
Flowers	Fiona Harrison	Sarah Money	Audrey Valentine / Jenny Brown
Cleaning		Amanda and Paul Bosley	Anne Roberts / Anna
Sidespersons 8.00 9.45	Rev'd Joe / Chrissie Chipper Jackie Brown / John Rout	Churchwardens	Jenny Brown
25th January			
Flowers	Jan Sumner	Sarah Money	Audrey Valentine Jenny Brown
Cleaning		Amanda and Paul Bosley	Anne Roberts / Anna
Sidespersons	Chrysoula Worrall / Valerie Simmons	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	Vacancy		
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 next issue is 16th January 2026.

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