Parish Magazine

FOR THE BENEFICE OF THE LOWER OUSE VALLEY MAY 2026

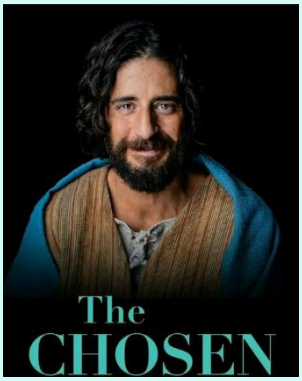
IFORD KINGSTON PIDDINGHOE RODMELL SOUTHEASE



The May Fairy
My buds, they cluster small and green;
The sunshine gaineth heat:
Soon shall the hawthorn tree be clothed
As with a snowy sheet.

O magic sight, the hedge is white,
My scent is very sweet;
And lo, where I am come indeed,
The Spring and Summer meet.

A Chosen People



I find May a much calmer month after the great Easter festival in April. Have you seen a series which we have been watching, 'The Chosen'? It's a good historical dramatisation of Jesus' life, true to the biblical account, with some artistic license. It certainly helps us visualise what life was like during that time. One thing that has impressed me is how the whole community focused on living life following God, the centrality of their religion in everyday activity, not an optional add-on. When I grew up, the existence of God, prayer and worship was far more integral to our society. I think it is much harder now, in our western culture, to admit to a faith in God, and certainly harder to base life's decisions and way of living on Biblical principles.

We are, however, also 'Chosen', a privilege that we can easily dismiss. But what does it really mean to be Chosen? For me, it's a gentle reminder that our faith isn't an accident or coincidence, but a calling that touches every part of our daily lives. Being Chosen means living with a deeper sense of purpose, seeking to reflect God's love in how we treat others, make decisions, and respond to challenges, even when it runs counter to the culture around us. It is an invitation to draw closer to God, find meaning in ordinary moments and let gratitude shape the way we live each day.

"But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear." Matthew 13:16 NIVUK

We are a minority of people who have been so fortunate to discover how much Jesus loves us and has done for us. We're not blind or deaf to the Gospel and, as believers, it can be encouraging to remind one another of this gift, especially when we sometimes feel alone in our faith. Walking this journey together helps us stay strong and reminds us that we are truly a chosen and loved part community.

"They may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" Mark 4:12 NIVUK

A quote from Steve Jobs of Apple is often true in my experience.

"We can't join up the dots looking forward, only by looking back. It is then that we can see the hand of God working in our lives. "

This gives us reason to continue celebrating Easter every day, but maybe not an excuse to eat chocolate every day!

Rev'd Joe

CHURCH SERVICES: MAY 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 3rd

08:00	PIDDINGHOE	Said Communion
09.45	KINGSTON	Family Service
09.45	IFORD	Music and Meditation
11.15	RODMELL	Parish Communion

Sunday 10th

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

Sunday 17th

08.00	KINGSTON	Said Communion BCP
09.45	KINGSTON	Informal Morning Worship
09.45	IFORD	Parish Communion
11.15	RODMELL	Celtic Service
11:00	PIDDINGHOE	Parish Communion

Sunday 24th Pentecost

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

Sunday 31st

09.45	KINGSTON	UNITED BENEFICE Parish Communion

*Note: new time

WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISHES

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

MAY				
02/05	14.00-16.00	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church
02/05	14.00-16.00	Iford	Plant Sale	At the church
07/05	19.30	Kingston	WI meeting Kingston Parish Hall	Noel Streatfeild Ballet Shoes
10/05	14.00	Rodmell	Jumble Sale	Rodmell Village Hall
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	14.00-16.00	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church
06/06	12.30 – 17.00	Southease	Open Gardens	In the village
07/06	12.30 – 17.00	Southease	Open Gardens	In the village
13/06	14.00 - 17.00	Rodmell	Open Gardens	Upper Village
14/06	14.00 – 17.00	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	14.00-16.00	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	14.00-16.00	Iford	Afternoon tea (all welcome)	At the church

SEPTEMBER				
05+06/09	14.00-16.00	Iford	Afternoon tea as part of Artwave	Iford church
05/09	17.00	Iford	Private View Artwave	Iford Church
05-20/09	everywhere		Artwave	
19/09	19.30	Kingston	Quiz Night with Fish & Chips	Parish hall
OCTOBER				
24/10	16.00	Kingston	Village Voices Autumn Concert	Kingston Church

GENERAL NEWS

Refuse and Recycling Collection Dates

Use this QR code to find your days

Citizens Advice offers free confidential and impartial advice and help with benefits, housing issues, cost of living, debt, energy and much more. The Lewes branch is holding sessions at Kingston Pavilion from 12.00-15.00 on:

19th May and **23rd June**

Free Adviceline on 0808 278 7892 Tues-Thurs 10.00-15.00

info@lewesdistrictca.org.uk

www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/rural-outreach

The Monday Group

Voluntary rights of way workers in Sussex

Founded in 1961, the Monday Group is a Registered Charity whose volunteer workers build and maintain stiles, gates and other wooden structures on public rights-of-way in the heart of Sussex, as well as working to keep them passable and clear of overgrowth.

Relevant to the Parishes of the Lower Ouse, they have installed or repaired stiles and gates in Iford, Rodmell and Telscombe. If you see a problem locally, it is easy to report it.

Jim Redwood of the Monday Group writes, *"We are very lucky to live in such a lovely area, and many of you already enjoy walking our footpaths. Often these are ancient rights of way, legitimised by use through the ages, and now accessible by right in law as public rights of way. We need to guard our heritage closely or we'll lose it, and our fantastic footpath network is no exception. However, as walkers know so well, paths are often neglected, either because they are overgrown or too muddy or the stiles are in disrepair.*

However, we can only put things right when we know about them, so now that spring is coming, and as you get out and about more, please let us know of any problems like paths that are overgrown or dangerously boggy, or stiles that are getting too old/wobbly or difficult to cross so we can deal with them. It's easy to report things that need dealing with. Our stiles all have plaques with contact details, including a QR code. You can also contact us by phone, email, via our "Report a Problem" page on our website, or Facebook. Many people use 'what 3 words' to identify locations, or else just describe where it is as best you can. If you provide contact details, we can follow it up with you if we can't find it.



Our core area is from Albourne to Ringmer, north of the Downs, but we do work further afield including south of the downs.

I'm the fundraiser for the Monday Group and we are always grateful for donations towards our work, but please also keep us in mind as you set out into the countryside and let us know if you come across any problems. We'll do our best to fix them.

Mostly, however, get out and walk. Use it or lose it as they say! Happy walking."

Jim

Website: https://www.mondaygroup.org Email: hello@mondaygroup.org

Mobile: 07510 12716 facebook.com/MondayGroupSussex

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

KINGSTON

Thursday 7th May
at 19.30
This month's talk will be given by
Kim Reynolds on
Noel Streatfeild & "Ballet Shoes"
For further info:
carolctaplin@aol.com or sue@wylde.me.uk

New Members Always Welcome

Save the Date



Village Voices Concert

Saturday October 24th at 16.00

New choir members are always welcome (particularly men!).

Meet on Thursday mornings (term time) at 10.30 in Kingston Pavilion, to sing a broad mix of music for an hour and then coffee. You don't have to live in Kingston.

Contact Lucinda on
kingstonvillagevoices@gmail.com

Themed Services

Morning Worship is Lay Led every third Sunday of the month at Kingston Church – everybody is welcome.

In April Jeremy Boyes gave us a real treat; he chose an Isaiah reading linked to a talk about the wonderful music of George Frideric Handel (1685-1759). Organist Wendy Forbes gave a synopsis on each hymn and its link to the Messiah oratorio.

We listened to the opening piece of The Messiah and an overview of Handel's life and friendship with Charles Jennens, an English landowner and arts patron who helped Handel author the libretti of The Messiah.

Jeremy shared his research with the congregation and played a wonderful recording of Kate Royal and Ian Bostridge singing 'As Steals the Morn' from L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato - a pastoral ode by Handel.

Prayers were held for Peace of the World, linking well with the opening words in the Messiah of 'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith you God'.

Jeremy's excellent service was really appreciated by all.

Sunday 17th May

The next themed service will be taken by Jane Sallis and will include singing by Lucinda Houghton and Stephen Charlesworth, with cellist, Catherine Rimer.
Should be lovely – do come!

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

At the 9.45am family service at Kingston Church on Sunday 3rd May, we will hear how Christian Aid supports communities to grow food crops in small urban spaces and how we can stand in solidarity with our global neighbours through prayers, actions and gifts. You can sign an online petition, to call on the UK government to encourage private lenders to participate in global debt relief through changes to the law. https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/stand-with-kenya

You can also donate to Christian Aid via this link or by going direct to the Christian Aid website.
https://caw.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2026/lewes-area-christian-aid-collection






Some of the lovely flowers in St Pancras church at Easter

IFORD WITH SWANBOROUGH





There will be a Plant Sale at the church at the same time as the Community Tea (see left) being run kindly by Susan Thompson and raising funds for the church.

If you have plants to give or want to buy, Please come along and then have tea!!!

MUSIC & MEDITATION

Sunday 3rd May 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!



Easter Gardens 2026

We had several beautiful Easter Gardens on display outside the church railings over Easter week.

Thank you to all those who took part and helped to disseminate the Easter Story.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 12th April

Fourteen parishioners attended the APCM

- **Nicolas Chisholm** and **Stephen Charlesworth** were re-elected as Churchwardens.
- **Jeanne Symonds** remains Treasurer.
- **Jane Symonds** continues to look after church rotas marshalling some 46 people to help.
- **Lucinda Charlesworth** and **Charlie Beauchamp** were also re-elected and will continue their roles in music and bells respectively.
- **Tessa Besley** who had been co-opted during the year was also elected to the PCC.

After many years looking after the fabric of the church and the churchyard mowing, **Brian Newbury** retired from the PCC. Brian was thanked for all his hard work over the years and was presented with a case of wine in recognition of gratitude of the PCC and all parishioners

The Annual Report and Accounts were approved by all present.
If anyone has not had a chance to read the report please contact the churchwardens.

IFORD WITH SWANBOROUGH … CONTINUED

Weddings in the Church and Hall this year



28th April (Hall and Church)
3rd May (Hall and Church)
16th May
30th May20th June
3rd July
11th July (Hall and Church)
25th July
8th August
5th September (birthday party)
10th October

Artwave 2026

Such has been the success of Artwave in St Nicholas Church Iford that we will again be showing the talents of artists and makers from Iford and Swanborough on Saturday 5th /Sunday 6th and Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th September 2026 from 11.00am till 5.00pm each day.

Artists and Makers:

Here is your chance to show friends and neighbours your creativity.



We are limited to 19 exhibitors so please do let Irene Marot, Wenda Bradley or Nicolas Chisholm if you intend to present work this year. Now is the time to get creating.

Vestry Redevelopment Update

The Biopure treatment plant is now installed, and the accessible loo has had its ceremonial flush. The final details of the decoration are now sorted and the whole project is complete. The architect and Philcox, our contractors, will sign off the project and we will take over the vestry thereafter. The facility will be ready for the next Community Tea on May 2nd.



Thank you to all who have contributed to the project in time, money and energy. If you feel able to donate to the church to help the running costs, please contact the churchwardens or treasurer.

Now for the next project!

Iford & Swanborough Village Society

A fun time was had by all at the ISVS Quiz Night with fish and chips from The Abergavenny. A great variety of question compiled and masterly delivered by Mark Wignall.



Events Coming up

- BBQ In the Woods June 27th
- IFORD AND SWANBOROUGH VILLAGE SHOW
  Saturday July 18th 1pm – 4pm
  This will be great!! The usual delights, tasty Aaron BBQ, Rob's Bar, Dog Show, Art, Cakes, Flower judging, Vegetable growing, Tea and Cake, Howard's Band, Prizes, Raffles, Games, as well as Skittles and Wet Sponge Chuck, and, yes, New Games coming….. BunEng, Produce, so many things, Potato Weighing, Pimms… etc etc Everybody from anywhere is welcome!

RODMELL WITH NORTHEASE

From Jenny Brown; Out and About in Rodmell

PLEASE NOTE
As from the beginning of this month
ALL SUNDAY SERVICES AT RODMELL and Southease 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.

Local Election Voting
May 7th
Village Hall.

Open all day
7am - 10pm.



EASTER DAY 5th APRIL

The walk up Itford Hill on Easter morning was amazing with 18 participants and one dog.

The sunrise was dazzling and communion was very moving experience. The bacon butties at the Youth Hostel after were well received and a huge thank you to the staff there who provided much needed warm drinks as well.

Every church had excellent attendance at their later services with beautiful floral arrangements to greet Easter Day. Thank you ladies who worked so hard and John who played for Rodmell.



RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

14TH MAY 2026

7PM IN RODMELL VILLAGE HALL

Come and join Rodmell Parish Council to:

- Hear what we have been up to this last year and are planning for next year.
- Find out the progress of the Playground Project.
- Listen to Vanessa Rowlands, Chair of the South Downs National Park, and hear about the work that is done to keep the South Downs a special place.
- Find out who is the Rodmell Resident of the Year. *
- Further speakers tbc.

MEMBERS OF RODMELL PARISH COUNCIL LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU WITH DRINKS AND NIBBLES ON ARRIVAL.

*To submit your nomination for Resident of the Year, please pop into the Abergavenny Arms and fill out a slip or contact one of the Parish Councillors via email .

PLAYGROUND



If you would like to contribute to this project to restore the village playground, please donate via GoFund.Me/band.slip.cool or use the QR code

JUMBLE SALE

Sunday 10th May
Rodmell Village Hall
2pm

Entrance fee 50p (cash please)

Parking in Monk's House car park at the bottom of the village

Take donations to the hall on Saturday 9th between 4 and 7pm

RODMELL WITH NORTHEASE .... CONTINUED

The Rodmell Good Neighbour Scheme (RGNS) was founded as a community group of volunteers run by local residents to provide assistance for neighbours who need a little bit of extra help and who might not have family nearby. It covers Rodmell, Northease and Southease

Do you want to ask for or to offer help to your Rodmell Neighbours? See next column as to how to join the WhatsApp Group

Apply to join the WhatsApp group by contacting:
Tim Rabjohns on 07958 958162
Jo Magowan on 07875 269831
Caroline Archer on 07875 259060

If you don't have access to a smart phone, please find a neighbour who can be your 'smart phone buddy'. For further information visit: https://rodmell.net/good-neighbour-scheme/



Rodmell Open Gardens is taking place over two days this year

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

Entry £6.00 14.00-17.00

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.

The Spring Show on 28th March was a cold but lovely event.



There were fewer narcissi (daffodils) than usual due to the early Spring weather but there was an array of tulips and flowering shrubs. As usual, the flower arrangements were stunning.

The domestic classes showed the many talents in the village in baking and preserving. The tea along with home-made cakes were lovely and r=the raffle was well supported.
Well done to all the winners and many thanks to the Horticultural Society Committee and all the volunteers who created and ran a lovely show.

The lovely sunshine has brought all the gardens into Spring blossom and everything looks glorious, ENJOY.
BEST WISHES *Jenny*

Southease



Open-Air Holy Communion
ITFORD HILL

Dawn was ushered in by a stimulating breeze(!) and the rising sun appeared for 0700 on Easter Morning as we started our Communion Service led by our intrepid Father Joe who welcomed the 19 of us to Easter.

Joe demonstrated his ability to multitask in leading the Service, delivering his 90 second Sermon preparing and offering Communion to us all and pretending not to be chilled to the bone, all at the same time!

We were grateful and strode down from the top of Itford hill in joyous style, to enjoy our bacon butties!



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 any information, news, village updates, events etc to:
i.k.r.maged@hotmail.co.uk

CHURCH ROTAS: MAY 2026

	KINGSTON	IFORD	RODMELL
3rd May			
Flowers	Elaine Pumphrey	Anna MacLeod	Carol Putnam / Carolyn Orchard
Cleaning		Michael Foot	Jenny Brown / Dierdre Parkes
Sidespersons	Fiona Harrison / Elaine Pumphrey	Churchwardens	Michael Sword Daniels
10th May			
Flowers	Mary Bartlett	Anna MacLeod	Carol Putnam / Carolyn Orchard
Cleaning		Michael Foot	Jenny Brown / Dierdre Parkes
Sidespersons	Jeremy Boyes / Caroline Fry	Churchwardens	Audrey Valentine
17th May			
Flowers	Jan Sumner	Erica Barnard	Pam Carpenter / Marcie Heywood
Cleaning		Charlotte and Owen Boyd	Anna Carasso / Jenny Brown
Sidespersons 8.00 9.45	Rev'd Joe and Chrissie Chipper Jane and Tom Sallis	Churchwardens	Ian Bell
24th May			
Flowers	Chrysoula Worrell	Erica Barnard	Pam Carpenter / Marcie Heywood
Cleaning		Charlotte and Owen Boyd	Anna Carasso / Jenny Brown
Sidespersons	Jean Taylor	Churchwardens	At Southease
31st May			
Flowers	Jane Sallis	Jane Symonds	
Cleaning		Jane Symonds	
Sidespersons		Churchwardens	At Kingston

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

	RODMELL		
Churchwarden	Jenny Brown	Abergavenny House, Rodmell BN7 3HS	01273 473939
Treasurer	Helen Macaulay	147 Lewes Road, Newhaven BN9 9SU	07850 130878

	SOUTHEASE		
Churchwarden	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		
Churchwarden	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 June issue is 16th May 2026. Please send items to the email below.

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