

# **ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS WITHYHAM**



## **ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM**

**DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014**

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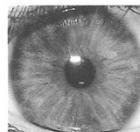
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# THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM

## With ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

Priest in Charge:	<b>The Revd Alastair Ferguson</b>	01892 770976
	The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA	
Churchwarden:	<b>Mr Peter Griffiths</b>	01825 890872
	South Hill House, Sandy Lane, Framfield, TN22 5PX	
Churchwarden:	<b>Mr Richard Carden</b>	01342 822491
	Cat Street House, Upper Hartfield, TN7 4DP	
Verger & Sexton:	<b>Mr John Collins</b>	01892 662389
	9 Whitehill Close, Crowborough TN6 1JG	
Licensed Reader:	<b>Mrs Elizabeth Parish</b>	01892 864989
	6 Lynwood, Groombridge TN3 9LX	
Licensed Reader:	<b>Mr Donald Yonge</b>	07872529740
Organist:	<b>Mrs Sue Barber GRSM ARCM DipEd</b>	01892 770978
Deputy Organist:	<b>Mr Peter Ellefsen BSc CEng MIEE</b>	01892 653965
Bell Tower Captain:	<b>Miss Valerie Cogan</b>	01892 655966

### WITHYHAM & BLACKHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Hon. Treasurer:	<b>Mrs Anne Barker,</b>	01892 661393
	Hillside, Lye Green, Crowborough TN6 1UU	
Asst. Treasurer:	<b>Mrs Pauline Cremer</b>	01892 663469
	Pembury, Myrtle Road, Crowborough, TN6 1EY	
Hon. Secretary:	<b>Mrs Gilly Halcrow</b>	01892 770607
	Backshaws, Cotchford Lane, Upper Hartfield, TN7 4DJ	
Child Protection Officer:	<b>Mr Donald Yonge</b>	07872529740

### ALL SAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Hon. Secretary:	<b>Mrs Sue Schooling</b>	01892-740397
Hon. Treasurer:	<b>Mr Tony Heath, OBE</b>	01892-740577
	The Oast House, Salehurst, Blackham, TN3 9UB	
Withyham Flower Guild Secretary:	<b>Mrs Jill Pardey</b>	01892-661882
Blackham:	<b>Mrs Sue Schooling</b>	01892-740397
Withyham Church	<b>Mrs Diana Muckleston</b>	01892-864410
Caretakers:	<b>Diane Pedder</b>	01892-770240
Altar Linen:		
Withyham:	<b>Mrs Rosemary Cadogan-Rawlinson</b>	01892 540682
Blackham:		
Chichester Cathedral Link Rep:	<b>Mrs Sheila Jones</b>	01892-864117
Website: <a href="http://www.withyhamchurch.org">www.withyhamchurch.org</a>		

1.

# *St Michael & All Angels Withyham with All Saints Blackham*

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2013

<i>Sunday in month ↓</i>		ST MICHAELS WITHYHAM	ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM
<b>Sun 1 Dec</b> <b>ADVENT 1</b>	1	11 am Informal All-Age Service with Advent Carols <b>5 pm PARISH EUCHARIST FOR ADVENT SUNDAY</b> <b>With the Licensing of The Revd Alastair Ferguson</b> <b>as Priest-in-Charge</b>	
Thu 5 Dec		10 am Holy Communion with Advent Meditation	
Sun 8 Dec ADVENT 2	2	11 am Matins 6.30 pm Evensong	
Thu 12 Dec		10 am Holy Communion with Advent Meditation	
Sun 15 Dec ADVENT 3	3	9.30 am Holy Communion (said) 11 am Christingle Service, Nativity Play <i>with the bringing of gifts for Family Support</i> 6.30 pm Evensong	
Wed 18 Dec		6.30 pm St Michael's School Carol Service	
Thu 19 Dec		10 am Holy Communion with Advent Meditation	
Sat 21 Dec		6.00pm Carol Singing at the Rectory	
Sun 22 Dec ADVENT 4	4	9.30 am Holy Communion (said) 11 am Matins 6.30 pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols	
<b>Tue 24 Dec</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		<b>11.00 pm MIDNIGHT MASS WITH CAROLS</b>	
<b>Wed 25 Dec</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		<b>11 am ALL AGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE WITH CAROLS</b> <b>To be followed by a short Christmas Eucharist</b>	
Sun 29 Dec CHRISTMAS 1	5	9.30 am Holy Communion (said) 11 am Matins 6.30 Evensong	

# CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2014

<i>Sunday in month</i> ↓	ST MICHAELS WITHYHAM	ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM
Thu 2 Jan 2014 <i>WORLD PEACE DAY</i>	10 am Holy Communion with Meditation	
<b>Sun 5 Jan</b> 1 <b>EPIPHANY*</b>	<b>11 am    <i>The Wise Men are led by a Star to Bethlehem.</i></b> <b>ALL AGE EPIPHANY SERVICE</b> <b>WITH EPIPHANY HYMNS &amp; SHORT EUCHARIST</b> 6.30 Evensong	
Thu 9 Jan	10 am Holy Communion with Epiphany Meditation	
Sun 12 Jan      2 EPIPHANY 1 <i>PLOUGH SUNDAY</i>	11 am All-Age Service for Plough Sunday 6.30 Evensong	
Thu 17 Jan CONVERSION OF ST PAUL*	10 am Holy Communion with Meditation	
Sun 19 Jan      3 EPIPHANY 2	9.30 am 11 am Matins 6.30 pm Evensong	Holy Communion (said)
Thu 21 Jan	10 am Holy Communion with Meditation	
Sun 26 Jan      4 EPIPHANY 3	9.45 am Family Eucharist 11 am Matins 6.30 pm Evensong	
Sun 2 Feb      1 CANDLEMAS	9.30 am 11 am Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm Evensong	Holy Communion (said)
Thu 6 Feb	10 am Holy Communion with Meditation	
Sun 9 Feb      2 EPIPHANY 5	9.45 am Family Service 11 am Matins 6.30 pm Evensong	

### 3.

## THE LIGHT AND HAPPINESS OF CHRISTMAS

Dear everyone,

First let me say thank you for the warm welcome you have given to Denise and to me. There have been friendly visits, wood to burn on fires, guidance about how previous Christmases have been celebrated, invitations and proposals for Carol Singing. We heard the Choir sing Evensong at Chichester Cathedral beautifully. The Psalms are similarly chanted Sunday by Sunday. The flowers are lovely. And the Church is warm! We are much looking forward to being here.

What you have told me about the style of celebration of Withyham Christmases has reminded me of the Preface to a classic book of carols of over 80 years ago. Carols, we are told, are to be *simple, hilarious* and *popular*. It's the dimension of *hilarity*, says the Editor that has so often been forgotten. And by *hilarious* is meant not so much *funny*, as *boisterous, gladsome and extremely cheerful* or something of that sort. In fact the word *carol* is closely related to a word meaning *dance*.

The Preface goes on to regret that joyfulness was sometimes discarded by those who, as he puts it, were 'professionally afraid' of jollity. Simple and boisterous carols were hijacked by the earnest and well-meaning, and their words altered in order to get across a 'message'. But we should try, he says, to get behind all this and rediscover a more *relaxed* Faith, *a spirit of a more spontaneous and undoubting Faith*.

Could this Preface have been written today? An intriguing question. It is of course a cliché to say how 'commercialised' and 'secularised' Christmas has now become. Sad to say, it has. And this unfortunately gives the impression that there are really *two* Christmases: the 'religious' Christmas, and the 'everything else' Christmas.

Now, for each of us, this year will have brought its joys and sorrows. At Christmas, however, *Joy and dancing* and *seriousness* do not represent opposite moods. English religion over four centuries has often thought they were. But, says the author, *to take life with real seriousness is only sad when it is superficial... The carol is nearer to the ultimate truth because it is jolly...*

Eighty years on, we have gone still further down the road of separating joy from seriousness. It is nowadays even harder for most of us to connect Christmas partying with the 'religious' meaning of Christmas. We just do see them as different worlds. We go to church, perhaps, but we may think it is only after church that the 'real' festivities can begin.

Well, to put all this into reverse might seem as difficult as reversing the incoming tide. And yet each time we say 'Happy Christmas', we can do just that. Because whenever we say it, we shall mean two things: 'Have good parties', yes, but also, 'Because of Christmas, peace and goodwill to you... Let it be true that, one day, all manner of things shall be well!'

The shopping, the parties, the churchgoing are part of one and the same thing: the visitation of the darkness of our present world by the Light of the Eternal Word.

In this spirit, let me wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

*Alastair Ferguson*

## Churchwardens Notes - December

**Chichester Cathedral:** On the 30th November, the choir sang Evensong at the Cathedral, and beautifully they sang too. Congratulations to all involved, especially Sue Stone, for the enormous amount of hard work and practice that went into making the evening so memorable.

**Remembrance Service:** We were delighted to welcome the Archdeacon to conduct our Service of Remembrance. Our thanks, also, to Sally Whitty who managed to fit in the playing of the Last Post and Reveille, before rushing off to hear her son perform at Tonbridge.

**Mea Culpa:** Due entirely to my omission, I neglected to thank some of the Thursday Men for the Trojan effort they put in, in clearing the Blackham churchyard. It is now neat, tidy and looking as a churchyard should. Please take a bow, John Collins, Tom Wild and Alan Muckleston.

**Withyham Churchyard Clean Up:** An enthusiastic band gathered on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, attracted mainly by the thought of one of June Noble's lunches, to attack the autumn detritus. Leaves were blown, swept and raked, whilst all the while keeping a resigned eye on the large number still to fall. I am assured that several tons were cleared. It never ceases to amaze me, how something so light, when multiplied by several million and wetted, can weigh so much.

**A Bridge too Far?** On the 18th, many dedicated ladies and gentlemen gathered to bid, counter-bid and Blackwood each other into submission. Ranging from Acol to Zar Points, the result of their combined endeavours raised £1200 for church funds. Thank you to Judy Elliott for the organization and to Jill Pardey for cooking up the culinary delights.

**Interregnum:** By the time you read this, our new Parish Priest, the Reverend Alastair Ferguson, will have been licensed. I would like to thank all those who have helped throughout the Interregnum. But, I would particularly like to single out Elizabeth Parish, Donald Yonge, and Arthur Harris. By your efforts, you have made the job of the Churchwardens so much easier and you have ensured that the services provided each week held the congregation together and that we emerge from the Interregnum as strong, if not stronger than we entered. Thank you.

**Village Hall Quiz:** A reminder that there is still time to enter a team for the quiz night on the 6th Dec. Amaze everyone with the depth of your knowledge about obscure Russian Orthodox Saints, Punk Rock and how many whelks are left handed. Correct answers mean points and points mean prizes. 8.00 p.m. and don't be late.

**The Pantomime:** On the 3rd and 4th January 2014, three performances will take place highlighting the thespian and terpsichorean talents of the village. Dick Whittington will once again prove that anyone can become Mayor of London. And after Ken and Boris, I do mean anyone! There are only the three performances. Book your tickets at the Dorset Arms.

And Finally: As we approach the season of abliguration, it only remains for me to wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and may the New Year bring you and your families all that you wish for.

**Peter Griffiths and Richard Carden.☺**



# ?? CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT ??

## AT THE KINGS' HALL WITHYHAM.

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH AT 8.00 P.M.

Two-course supper with choice of hot and cold dishes and a mouth-watering array of puddings.

CASH BAR

GRAND RAFFLE

Prize for the winning Team.

**TICKETS £8 PER PERSON.**

Call Sue or Bryan on 01892 652515 or e-mail [bryanwilliamsB@aol.com](mailto:bryanwilliamsB@aol.com)

Hurry! Places get booked up very quickly for this event.

*St Michaels School Withyham*

## CHRISTMAS FAIR

*Saturday 7th December*

*2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.*

*Come and visit Santa in his Grotto*

*Home-made cakes \*pre-loved toys and books*

*bottle tombola \*craft zone \*decorations*

*\*secret-key raffle \*mulled wine \*mince pies*

*\*tea and coffee \*raffle*

*\*Chocolate tombola \*teddy tombola*



## Thank you Corner

We would like to thank everyone for their many cards and letters of condolence and to all those who came to Phil's funeral and for the many donations of food and offers of help. We have been overwhelmed by the support we've received from everyone who knew him.

**Meg, Andrew and Richard Stafford**

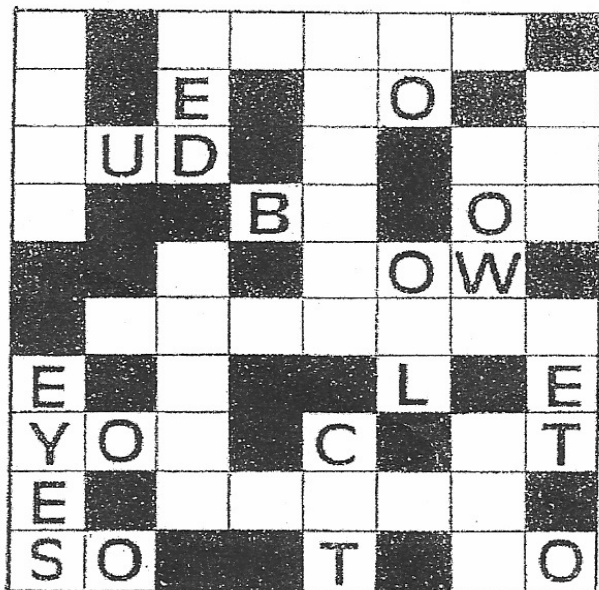
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# YOUNG CHURCH ADVENT

It's Advent! Time to start getting ready for birth of Jesus!

These nine words  
will complete the  
crossword

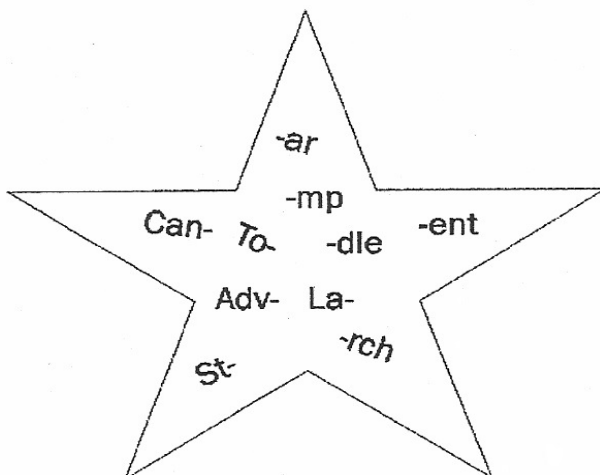
Its  
Advent  
Time  
To  
Start  
Getting  
Ready  
For  
Jesus



4 words for things  
that give light have  
been cut in half.

Can you put them  
back together  
again?

You'll have two bits  
left over. What word  
do they make?



## WITHYHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY December

After our annual AGM Helen Clark (our previous Treasurer) is now your Chairwoman, and Simon Costen has agreed to take over as Treasurer. For this we are all very grateful. We also welcome two new committee members Miriam Boobier and Gill Bath. Please note that we are seriously short of men on the committee as they are invaluable in helping set up for the shows, so if anyone would like to volunteer we would be grateful. The AGM went off very smoothly our thanks go to Anne Barker who took the chair, and also Bill Sanford who was yet again out in the cold organising the parking for us. After the official business we had drinks and snacks and then had a wonderful hour with our panel of three local gardeners who were unfailing in their knowledgeable assistance with the very many and various questions that were asked. We all had a most enjoyable evening. The committee will now spend some time in organising yet another great year for our members.

Gardening tips for December are:

1. Clear away old crops from your vegetable garden and dig in bulky organic matter such as garden compost or well-rotted farmyard manure. Should you be troubled by a clay soil, cover with polythene to keep the rain off and this will make it easier to dig.

2. Leave the last flower heads on your hydrangeas over winter as they provide important frost protection to the new buds developing further down the stem. You can cut them off once the weather improves next spring.

3. Continue to remove fallen leaves especially the ones which fall on smaller plants such as alpines, and don't forget the ones around the base of roses that carry blackspot or disease, these should be destroyed if possible and not put into your compost.

4. Brighten up the house with a new flowering houseplant such as cyclamen which need good light and cool conditions they hate hot stuffy or dark rooms, do not overwater, or azalea which appreciate a cool, well-lit position, keep the compost moist and water every few days preferable with rainwater, and of course lovely poinsettias, which thrive in warm light conditions away from cold draughts. Water when leaves wilt very slightly by giving the compost a good soak and then allow to drain.

The committee would like to thank all our members for their continued support during 2013 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**Val Edwards** Secretary (01892 661940)

**Blackham**  
**Village Hall**  
**Christmas Market**  
**Saturday 7th December 10 till 12.30**

Mulled Wine      Reindeer Café      Fair Trade Fancies  
 Christmas Cards & Gifts      Sarita's 'made in Blackham' Christmas Pasties!  
 Penny's Festive Pantry Preserves      Ho Ho Hoed Fresh Vegetables  
 Fresh free range Eggs      Soothing Aloe Vera Stall  
 Fresh Merry Perry Hill Apple Juice      Little Elves Freshly Baked Bread

and not forgetting Santa's Super Bumper Christmas Raffle!

Come and join us and meet up with your friends for some festive fun!

Blackham Village Hall market is the original local market in the area, known for its friendly atmosphere and genuine locally sourced fare.

## KINGS' HALL WITHYHAM

# *Dick Whittington*



**A Pantomime for all ages**

at 7.30 p.m.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Matinee 2.30 p.m. on Saturday

Tickets from the Dorset Arms, Withyham

## Artist of the Month - Rogier van der Weyden 1399/1400-1464

Van der Weyden also known as Roger de le Pasture was born in the French speaking town of Tournai in Belgium. Son of Henri de le Pasture and Agnes de Watrelos, he became known as one of the three most notable early Flemish painters, together with Jan van Eyck and Robert Campin.

He remains something of a mystery. But he was internationally successful during his lifetime, having copies of his paintings exported to France, Germany, Spain and even Italy, and his reputation spread deep into Europe. He never signed any of his work, which obviously makes it difficult to attribute work to him with certainty and he left no self-portraits. There are some who dispute that even some of his most famous paintings such as *The Descent from the Cross* belong to him. By the late 17<sup>th</sup> century most of his works had been destroyed by the French bombardment of Brussels in 1695. The paintings that do survive are either portraits or religious scenes.

He had a reputation for amazing detail and technical ability and tended to work with life models. Facial expressions were typically detailed (an example of this is Nicodemus' stubble in *The Descent from the Cross*) although not always totally accurate. He pandered to his commissioned sitters, flattering them in his portrayals, whether or not deserved. Erwin Panofsky, the German art historian said "Rogier felt and expressed emotions and sensations-mostly of a bitter or bittersweet nature-that no painter had ever recaptured".

Robert Campin was his teacher to whom he was apprenticed in 1427. By 1432 Rogier had gained the status of an independent master, settling in Brussels, where he spent most of his life. By 1436 he had become the city painter running a large workshop with his son. Even though he held no position in the Burgundian court he did produce works for the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Good.

Following his death, his name faded from view mainly due to changes in tastes but interest began to rekindle in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century his reputation as a leading 15<sup>th</sup> century Flemish painter was reborn.



### The Middelburg Altarpiece c1445-1448

This scene depicts the Nativity and is the central panel of a Triptych (a set of three pictures or panels which are hinged together). It is now housed in the Staatliche Museum in Berlin. Baltic oak was used as panels. Nativity scenes tended to contain Mary, the newborn Jesus, Joseph and sometimes angels (who were usually depicted as musicians). In this depiction however the male figure dressed in black is wearing clothes more akin to the fashions of the Duke of Burgundy and a member of the upper classes.

*(Gratitude to Ian Morgan for this article)*

# Ashdown House

is delighted to announce that it is now welcoming children into  
‘The 6s’ – the new pre preparatory department.

- Small classes
- Inspired teachers
- Superb facilities shared with the prep school
- Very competitive fees

**So GET IN THE SWING and come and visit us!**

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**01342 822574**

[www.ashdownhouse.co.uk](http://www.ashdownhouse.co.uk)



[secretary@ashdownhouse.com](mailto:secretary@ashdownhouse.com)

## SCALE NEW HEIGHTS.

**Are you looking for a hobby that will give you a real break from your normal routine?**

Something that will be fun and active, and extremely rewarding?

1st Hartfield Scout Group are looking for some good people to join and support our vibrant leader team.

This could mean:-

- helping at the weekly meetings
- helping with the admin or program planning
- teaching the young people about your hobby or interest
- helping at camp

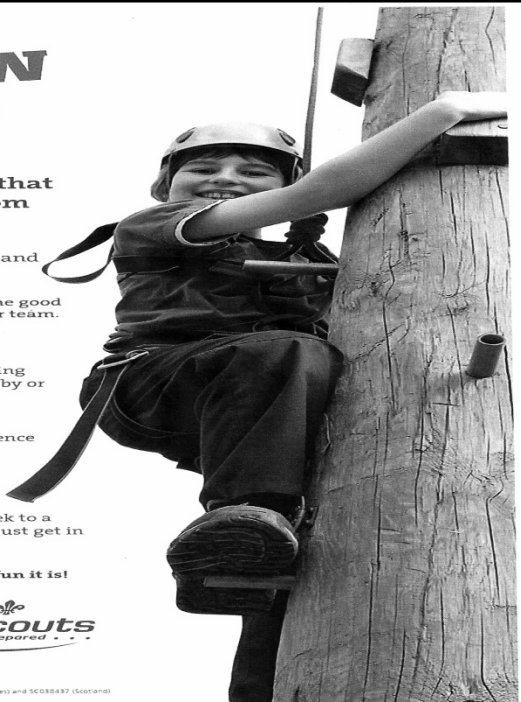
You don't have to have any previous experience

- whatever role you take within the group, there is full training and support available to you every step of the way.

If you think that you might be able to help, regardless of whether it's coming every week to a meeting, or once a year to Summer Camp - just get in touch.

**We think you'll be surprised by how much fun it is!**

Suzie Vickery  
1st Hartfield Scout Group  
01342 850 680  
[Chair@1stHartfield.co.uk](mailto:Chair@1stHartfield.co.uk)



## WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL (WPC) November 2013

To find out about **WPC** activities you can access information via our website or on Facebook (*see the back cover of the magazine*). You can also request Minutes of meetings from the Clerks at the Old Station, Groombridge.

**HARRISON ROCKS: A Coup for WPC!** As reported previously the Harrison Rocks facility might have been shut down. WPC called a meeting of the main stakeholders at which Sport England acknowledged that it had not been aware of the impact that the closure would have, and agreed to make the necessary repairs to the toilet block so that it may be reopened in the New Year. This will enable the camp site to open as well. They will also repair the car park. WPC has offered to assist the Forestry Commission in seeking a suitable tenant from November 2014. WPC propose to call an Open Meeting to seek the views of residents so that these can be fed into the survey that the Forestry Commission will be conducting.

**WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (WDC): Are you still having difficulties in getting your bins emptied?** Around 2% of properties are still being missed because the new vehicles cannot get up narrow tracks or because the staff are unfamiliar with the routes. Please inform the WPC clerk if this is happening to you, and she will advise WDC. Last month WDC undertook its annual electric blanket check and of the 248 tested, 101 (40%) were found to be dangerous. Have you had yours checked recently? Contact the WPC clerk for details of the next testing.

**POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH:** Please be vigilant in securing your house and outbuildings when you go out. There have been a spate of burglaries and break-ins in the St John's area and it is possible the perpetrators will be moving on to other parts of the parish. Leave lights and radios on and shut all windows. If you would like items security marked, please ring 07787 685737 or 101.

### WARD REPORTS

**St John's Ward:** The new shared noticeboard at St John's Church has now been installed. WPC are now fully involved in the new burial ground which it is proposed to build in the field next to the Forest Fold Baptist Chapel. Residents are concerned, among other things, about the speed of the traffic on that stretch of road, the possible run-off from that land and the impact of the two planned buildings on an AONB

**Withyham/Blackham Ward:** WPC will be studying quotations for the replacement of a bench at Balls Green/Station Road corner, which has been irreparably damaged. The A264 footpath petition should be discussed at the next WDC meeting.

**PARISH OFFICE:** WPC wish to ensure that the Parish Office pays for itself. They are, therefore, advertising their Meeting Room for firms looking for a Training Day venue. Please pass this on to those who may be interested. There will be special rates for residents!

**WPC with the SVR will be holding a joint Open day on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

**WPC Newsletter:** Whilst WPC wish to continue communicating with you through our church magazines we are proposing to issue a quarterly WPC quarterly newsletter.

**Diana Kelly, (Chairman)**

## The Church Flower Arrangers.

I would like to thank the ladies who not only arrange but also provide the flowers for the Church each week.

I would especially like to thank Molly Packer, Kath Stillwell and June Noble, who have created some wonderful arrangements for a number of the many weddings we have had this year.

The Christmas arrangements will be done on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December.

**Jill Pardey**

### NEVER, NEVER UNDERESTIMATE CHILDREN

An Elementary School Teacher presented each child in her classroom with the first words of well-known proverbs and asked them to come up with the rest of the proverbs. It's hard to believe these are answers of six-year-olds.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Don't change horses                             | until they stop running.        |
| 2. Strike while the                                | bug is close.                   |
| 3. It's always darkest before                      | Daylight Saving Time.           |
| 4. Never underestimate the power of                | termites.                       |
| 5. You can lead a horse to water but               | how?                            |
| 6. Don't bite the hand that looks                  | dirty.                          |
| 7. No news is                                      | impossible.                     |
| 8. A miss is as good as a                          | Mr.                             |
| 9. You can't teach an old dog new                  | math.                           |
| 10. If you lie down with dogs,                     | you'll stink in the morning.    |
| 11. Love all, trust                                | me.                             |
| 12. The pen is mightier than the                   | pigs.                           |
| 13. An idle mind is                                | the best way to relax.          |
| 14. Where there's smoke there's                    | pollution.                      |
| 15. Happy the bride who                            | gets all the presents.          |
| 16. A penny saved is not                           | much.                           |
| 17. Two's company, three's                         | Musketeers.                     |
| 18. Don't put off till tomorrow what               | you put on to go to bed.        |
| 19. Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry | and you have to blow your nose. |
| 20. There are none so blind as                     | Stevie Wonder.                  |
| 21. Children should be seen and not                | spanked or grounded.            |
| 22. If at first you don't succeed                  | get new batteries.              |
| 23. You get out of something only what you         | see in the picture on the box.  |
| 24. When the blind lead the blind                  | get out of the way.             |
| 25. A bird in hand                                 | is going to poop on you.        |

One more proverb and superb answer is sadly not suitable for this magazine.



13.

## **BLACKHAM VILLAGE 2014 CALENDAR**

*Our second edition is a must have!*

*Ideal gift for friends, family, past villagers.*

A lovely representation of Blackham village,  
countryside views and community

*available at – Blackham Christmas Market*

**Saturday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> or Hartfield Doctor's Surgery,  
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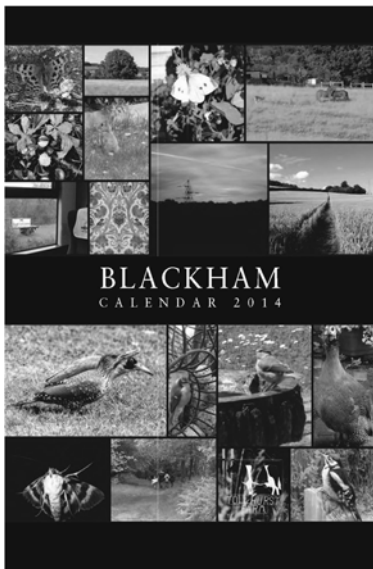
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*Also available this year Blackham Village  
Christmas Cards with choice of two village scenes*

Many thanks for all the contributions, photographs included  
are from: Charlotte Ashby, Mandy Bowler, Chris Charteris,  
Sue Dall, Claire Gray, Penny Hawes, Peter Kershaw, Mandy  
Waller, Jean Washer, Linda Weekes and Sheila Wellstead.

**Keep taking photos and submit to the 2015 calendar  
at <http://calendar.A264.co.uk>**



## **ASHURST & BLACKHAM SPORTS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS MINGLE**

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER FROM 6.30 TILL LATE.

AT THE ABSA PAVILION AT THE SPORTS GROUND

THERE WILL BE A FILM FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE CHANGING ROOM WITH  
POPCORN.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE. MULLED WINE, HARVEY'S BEER,  
TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH FREE MINCE PIES AND  
NIBBLES.

CALENDARS WILL BE ON SALE.

THE VILLAGE CAROL SINGERS WILL MAKE AN APPEARANCE  
AND THERE WILL BE A CHANCE TO CHAT AND SING.



## **Withyham Parish Council (WPC)**

WPC wishes to employ a person to carry out various maintenance  
duties on a part time basis and also to maintain clear and safe  
pathways and public areas across Withyham Parish at times of  
snow. Duties will cover the Council's assets, children's play areas and other  
grounds within the Parish.

Hours of work are seven hours per week. Working patterns are to be agreed with  
the successful applicant and to be flexible depending on seasonal conditions.

The hourly rate is £10. If you would like further information, please contact the  
Clerks on: Tel: **01892 864557** or at WPC, The Old Station, Station Road,  
Groombridge, East Sussex. TN3 9RD

Or email:[clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 4th December 2013 at 5pm

Interviews will be Monday 9th December 2013

## Family Support Work (FSW)

This year's Christingle and Nativity Service at St Michael's is being held on 15th December-the 3rd Sunday of Advent. I am extremely pleased to be able to remind you that the toy and gift Service in aid of FSW will take place at the same time.

In the past few years I have been humbled by the kindness and generosity of so many people in respect of this giving.

If you feel able to contribute in some way-it will be greatly appreciated.

It would be most helpful please if you can leave any gifts unwrapped, in order that we can identify who the possible recipient will be.

If you are not able to attend the Service on the 15th-it is possible to leave a gift either before that date-or later on if you feel able to.

It is my intention to collect the gifts from the Church the following morning with Michelle Smart-our Deanery Family Support Worker.

With sincere thanks,

**Miriam Boobier**

*Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and frequently humorous.*

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right – only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
11. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
12. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
13. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
14. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
15. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder for me to find one now.

## 15.

Letter from the Trenches from my Grandfather to his mother between 1915 and 1917. He married my Granny after the war. Granny was a senior sister at St Georges Hospital, Hyde Park. They met after he had been casevacked to recover from shrapnel wounds. He was then sent back to the front line. They married in 1919 in Houlton, Maine. Thanks to Joe Putnam and his trust in God, there are 14 direct descendants who have been brought up or live around Hartfield and Withyham.

*My Dear Mother,*

*Just a few lines to let you know that I am in the best of health and as I heard that you were sick around the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and I sincerely hope that you have recovered your health back by this time. I have received a lot of mail since the 1<sup>st</sup> of June but as we were at it hammer and tongs for the last three weeks I have had no time to write. I shall make up for the lost time this week as we are out for a rest and believe me we certainly needed one. The fighting has been something fierce along our line but we are still (blanked out). Expect we shall see more until peace is declared which we are looking forward for soon. A battle is something to go through namely when it lasts more than one day. The last one raged for about ten days. They say that it was the fiercest bombardment as yet seen on our front. I would much rather be in an earthquake.*

*Those blasts which we set off for the enemy were nothing compared with the bursting of a big shell and when they are coming about ten a minute there is*

*no chance to run and hide. If one runs from one shell one is very likely to bump into another so the only thing to do is to hug mother earth and trust in God.*

*One has queer feelings when undergoing the first shell fire. But we all know what we are here for and just keep our eyes open watching for fritz. There is not much hard to hand fighting as both sides are very well entrenched and it takes heavy shell fire to knock the trenches to pieces. Our artillery pounded fritz in good shape last week and we took fifteen yards of his trenches.*

*We cannot depend on the weather as when there is a heavy bombardment the weather is always disagreeable. We are having great times now that we are out of the trenches and talking over our narrow escapes. To be buried under or lifted clear of the ground is nothing after it has happened.*

*I expect that you are out to the lake now and having a good time. I shall make up for lost time when I get back. I am so used to living in the trenches that I'll have to get permission from the water Company to sleep in their pipe ditches when I get home. One does not have a chance to look around in the day time or in the trench line, therefore life is something like that of a rat. We have quite a few rats here too. They don't seem to mind the shell fire as we do. I was very near shell shocked this last trip. Shellshock puts a chap's nerves on the barn. You lay in your trench shivering and shaking all over. You notice some of the boys shaking all over when they come out of the cold water after swimming a long time. Well, shell shock is the same only about fifty times stronger. One is not afraid but you cannot help shaking. It wears off after being under fire once or twice.*

*I must close now as it is time for dinner. I send my love to you all.*

*Joe Putnam*



## KINGS' HALL 100 CLUB

Here are the results for the Kings' Hall 100 Club for September 2013

1st monthly	£20	No. 36	Mrs D. Loshana
2nd monthly	£15	No. 44	Lord de la Warr
3rd monthly	£10	No. 30	Mrs E. Hunt

Here are the results for the Kings' Hall 100 Club for October 2013

1st monthly	£20	No. 103	Mr L. Stone
2nd monthly	£15	No. 19	Mrs M. Sanders
3rd monthly	£10	No. 21	Mrs V. Marshall

### PARISH DIARY DECEMBER

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 p.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT</b> Kings' Hall, Withyham ( <i>see Mag</i> )
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 to 4.00 p.m.	<b>CHRISTMAS FAIR</b> ( <i>see Mag</i> ) <i>St Michael's School, Withyham</i>
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 to 12.30	<b>Blackham Village Hall Market</b> ( <i>see Mag</i> )
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 p.m.	<b>ABSA CHRISTMAS MINGLE</b> Pavilion at the Sports Ground ( <i>See Mag</i> )

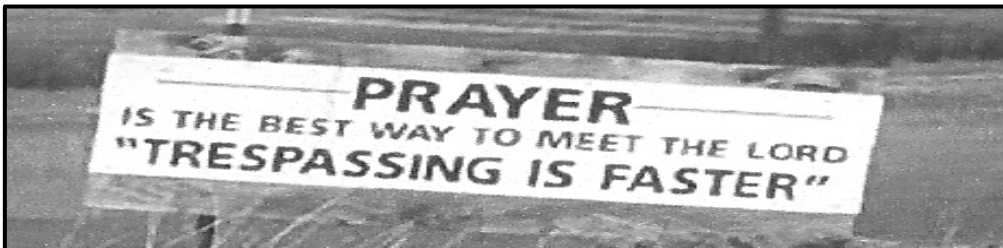
### PARISH DIARY JANUARY 2014

Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 p.m.	<i>Pantomime Dick Whittington</i>
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.	Kings' Hall Withyham ( <i>see Mag</i> )

**Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> Deadline for February Magazine**

### ADVANCE PARISH DIARY FEBRUARY 2014

**Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> Deadline for March Magazine**



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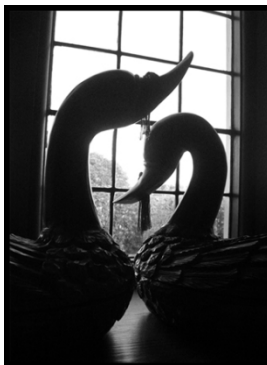
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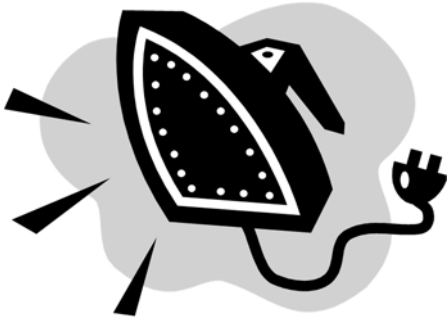
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<b>Withyham Cricket Club</b>	<b>Tristan Tully</b>	01892 541137
<b>Blackham Country Players</b>	<b>Linda Weekes</b>	01892 740261
<b>Citizens' Advice Bureau</b> , Crowborough, selected hours		01892 655303
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<b>Timetable Information</b>	Rail	08457 484950
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### **Withyham Parish Council (WPC). Office: The Old Station, Groombridge**

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**WPC Office** Monday 09.30 - 17.00

**Opening** Tuesday 09.30 - 12.00

**Hours** Wednesday to Friday 09.30 - 12.30

Councillors hold "surgeries" on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month 08.30 - 10.00

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