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with ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM			
Priest in Charge:		01892 770241	
	The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA		
Churchwarden:	Mr Peter Griffiths	01825 890872	
South	Hill House, Sandy Lane, Framfield, 7	ΓN22 5PX	
Churchwarden:	Mr Richard Carden	01342822491	
	Cat Street House, Upper Har		
Verger & Sexton:	Mr John Collins	01892 662389	
	9 Whitehill Close, Crowborough TN		
Licensed Reader:	Mrs Elizabeth Parish	01892 864989	
	6 Lynwood, Groombridge TN3 9LX		
Licensed Reader:	Mr Donald Yonge	07872529740	
_	Sue Barber GRSM ARCM DipEd	01892 770978	
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Withyham: Mrs I	Rosemary Cadogan-Rawlinson	01892 540682	
Blackham:	. 2		
Chichester Cathedral	Link Rep: Mrs Sheila Jones	01892-864117	
7	Website: www.withyhamchurch.org		

#### CHURCH CALENDAR – APRIL 2013 ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Sixth Sunday of Easter
	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>		Ascension Day
·	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Celebrant TBA)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Sa	turday 18 <sup>th</sup>	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	·	Seventh Sunday of Easter
•	9.45 a.m.	Family Service
	11.00 a.m.	Matins
(The preac	her at matins wi	ll be Judah Armani who is the new
coordii	nator for Christi	an Aid in South East England)
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Whitsunday (Pentecost)
•	11.00 a.m.	All Age Eucharist
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 23rd	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Celebrant TBA)
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>		Trinity Sunday
•	11.00 a.m.	Matins
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

#### ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

There will be no Sunday services at All Saints, during the interregnum.

First Sunday after Trinity

Sung Eucharist

Evensong

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

#### **Funerals**

Sunday 2nd June

19<sup>th</sup> April: A service of Thanksgiving for **Kurt Hellman** was held at Withyham St Michaels.

20<sup>th</sup> April: The funeral of **Kenneth May** was held at All Saints, Blackham.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the relatives of both.

11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.

#### Another Last "LAST LETTER FROM THE RECTORY"

Josephine and I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of your farewell gifts and the warmth of your good wishes on my retirement.

I am writing this on 'the morning after' amidst the packing cases and all the usual turmoil of departure. Luckily we are in the hands of very friendly removal men ('Friends Removals of Forest Row'). Let's hope their patience survives the next 48 hours.

We will have so many wonderful memories of Withyham and Blackham. The photo album full of pictures of Blackham, and the DVD recordings made by Nick Wells of the services in Withyham Church on our last Sunday, and of some previous Evensongs, are going to be treasures for the family archive. We will also keep happy memories of the tea party at Blackham Village Hall, with a wonderful performance by the Junior Choir, and the reception at Withyham's Kings' Hall, when our patron, Lord De La Warr, said such nice things about Josephine and me (including some indiscreet revelations from my past CV). The lavishly illustrated volume about the beautiful Book of Kells and the DVDs of those splendid programmes by Simon Russell-Beale about sacred music are going to give us a great amount of pleasure in the years ahead.

We have not yet decided how to spend that vast sum of money you gave us (the cheque plus individual gifts amounts to nearly £4,000), but my guess is that we will blow much of it on one of those wonderful holidays one reads about - no, not the sun-drenched Caribbean - neither of us 'does' sea, sand and sunburn - but perhaps a river-cruise up the Rhine. We'll see.

(Please don't tell the children I said that about the sun-drenched Caribbean — at their wonderful presentation at school assembly, they presented me with lots of pictures of 'Reverend Leak spending his retirement on the beach eating chocolate', and ' spending more time at home with his Mum' — it's re-assuring to know where their priorities lie).

It has been an emotional roller-coaster for us these last weeks, and we are both in a bit of a daze. You have been so generous.

Many, many thanks from

Josephine and Adrian Leak.

#### Churchwarden's Notes - May

On 15th April there was a well attended Annual Parish Assembly in the Village Hall. Rosemary Cadogan-Rawlinson stood down as Churchwarden after three extremely busy years, some of which, for one reason or another were virtually solo. Richard Carden was elected and I was re-elected as Churchwardens. I would like to welcome Richard and thank him for agreeing to stand. We both realise that we have a very high standard to live up to. I have seen at first hand the enormous amount of work Rosemary did, particularly in the reorganisation of the files and service sheets. Rosemary, we promise we will try and keep them as tidy, but you have to remember, we are only men! I would also like to thank Gillian Halcrow for agreeing to take over from Josephine Leake as Hon Secretary of the PCC. Welcome Gilly, although we will miss the canine additions to the PCC secretarial pool.

After the Annual Parish Assembly, a PCC meeting was held and the New Parish Profile, The Mission Action Plan and the Person Specification for a new incumbent were approved. All full of words I have come to know and love over the eight drafts it took to get them right! They are now with the Archdeacon, for his approval. Once this is received we can proceed with an advertisement in the Church Times for Adrian's successor.

The Gerini Paintings: We received notification from Sotheby's that, as expected, the Arts Review Body had found that our paintings had sufficient artistic merit to warrant a refusal of the export licence, to enable a British buyer to come forward. This will take three to four months. At the end of this time we will know whether we will receive the money or if a further period must elapse, to enable a prospective buyer to raise the funds. We will keep you informed of any progress.

On 21st April, Adrian preached at his last service at St. Michael's. Over 240 people were in attendance, necessitating some last minute scurrying to bring extra seats from the shed. Adrian, during his sermon, regaled us with some stories of his earlier life. Apparently, despite his now angelic appearance, he was a bit of a bolshie teenager. Something we can all probably empathise with, if my teenage years were anything to go by and certainly I can recall some positively contumacious (?!) events from my own children.

When the service was over, Adrian left by the centre aisle and as one, the congregation rose in spontaneous applause. Adrian tried valiantly to keep it all together, and almost succeeded.

I suspect that, like me, there were a few lumps in throats as he went by. It was a truly fitting departure for someone who has given so much time, commitment and of himself to the parish. And we must not forget Josephine, who gave so much support to him. They will both be sorely missed.

The sad part over, it was on to the happy part and a farewell party at the Village Hall. Thank you to all those who provided food for the occasion, it was a splendid effort. Lord De La Warr spoke of the high regard in which both were held by the parish and of Adrian's great gift for helping those in need, or recently bereaved, with words of comfort. He then presented them with some small presents, followed by a cheque for £3,700, to help in their move to a new home. Money is still coming in, so the final total will be somewhat higher. Many thanks for the generosity of the people in the Parish who showed their gratitude in such a tangible way.

On the 22nd, I attended the Withyham Parish Council's Annual Assembly in Groombridge, to represent St. Michael's and All Saints Blackham churches. The meeting was well attended and one of the guest speakers was Katy Bourne, the new Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner. She spoke quite impressively and one can only hope that she will have some influence on the concerns of the residents of Sussex.

I have been trying to arrange cover for the weekly Eucharist on Thursdays and it is proving very difficult. The priests available to us are either old, infirm or already committed on Thursdays. So far, in May, I have only been able to arrange services for the 16th and 30th. I shall continue my search and ensure that the regular attendees are aware of arrangements and whether or not a service will take place.

Peter Griffiths and Richard Carden.

#### **GRAND QUIZ IN AID OF RNLI**

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#### Did you know?.....

A dove's feathers weigh MORE than its bones

A dolphin has a bigger brain than a human



#### Dear Readers

I hope you won't suffer, but this May magazine has been edited in the United States. This tends to happen at this time of the year when we visit our daughter and grandchildren.

However, this time was rather more fraught when the laptop that I was using and on which I had virtually completed the magazine, cratered and refused to start up again. Fortunately I had all the emails and was able to resurrect the magazine by using my daughter's computer.

So if you find any omissions, I hope you will forgive me. Please let me know and I will try to put it right next month.

Regards Ed

#### THEFT OF DOMESTIC HEATING OIL

Recently Wealden Police stopped a vehicle that was involved in the theft of domestic heating oil. Three men made off from the vehicle. However the van and its contents were seized and investigations are ongoing to identify the owners.

We would like to ask for your assistance in helping us identify further offences that may occur in and around the Wealden area.

Here is a picture of the you see any vehicles like this, by men and acting suspiciously, particularly want to know if the in rural areas, especially back are more likely to be used. We reconoitre in daytime hours to and return in the night to steal the fuel.



van that was seized. If generally being driven we want to know. We vans are driving slowly lanes where oil tanks believe the thieves find potential premises,

Any suspicious behaviour should be reported by calling 101. If a crime is taking place then please call us immediately on 999.

## Withyham Kings' Hall

Annual General Meeting At 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 13th June

# All welcome. Not to be missed for sheer excitement!!!

## Thank you Corner

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful Royal School of Needlework book, "Art of Embroidery" that I was given at the Annual Church Meeting. I am shortly going to another Ecclesiastical Embroidery course at Hampton Court. I will have no excuse not knowing the history and technique of stitches.

It has been a great honour and pleasure to be a Churchwarden for the last three years. I am very grateful for all the help and support you have given me.

It was a very fortunate evening, in October 2003, when Ken and I drove across a wet and windswept Ashdown Forest to find Withyham. We had been told they had Evensong at the church. We were given a lovely warm welcome and never left.

#### Rosemary Cadogan-Rawlinson.

Kath, Fred, Adrian, Mark and Sara Stillwell, would like to thank all those that came to Bryan's funeral on the 28th April. We would also like to thank you for the generous donations.

It was lovely to see so many of Bryan's friends from both past and present attending what was a very sad occasion for all of us.

## THE WITHYHAM ART GROUP

#### EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

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#### WITHYHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

I am pleased to report that despite the really cold weather conditions we did have a successful Spring Show although as you might gather there were not as many narcissi as usual as there were not many in bloom at the time! Anyway apart from this we did have a very good day which was sunny and bright.

Sadly I have to report that due to ill health, Anne Barker has had to resign as chairwoman and our thanks go to her for the support she has given us over the past months.

The Society is now at another crossroads and if we do not get more support we will have to give serious thoughts as to what the future holds. Luckily Simon Costen who is our vice chairman has kindly agreed to continue as acting chairman up to the AGM in November. We have also lost two committee members so the committee also needs a bit more support especially on the Show days, there is a lot of work to do and at the moment it is falling on just a few people. Should you like to join the committee, put yourself forward as the next chairperson, or have any suggestions as to how you would like your Society to continue please let me or one of the committee know. We will be having a committee meeting in May where this subject will be discussed very thoroughly.

Garden Tips for this month are:

- 1. Grow drought beating Iris's there are some lovely varieties to be had and they make a very colourful display.
- 2. Keep lawns mown and dig our any daisies and dandelions making sure to dig out the roots if possible and fill the holes with soil.
- 3. In the veg. plot make sure you earth up the potatoes and now is the time to prepare a trench for your runner or French beans by digging compost or well-rotted manure deep into the ground to lock in moisture.
- 4. Add fertilizer along rows of cane fruits and strawberries, check for unwanted strawberry runners and pinch them off. Start picking rhubarb and apply liquid feed to the surrounding soil.

I realise that this year has got off to a very slow start and some of the above may not apply!

Happy gardening all the same.

Val Edwards

Secretary

### Blackham Country Players AGM

at 8.00pm on Monday May 20th in the Blackham Village hall.

Everybody welcome to hear future plans.

#### ARTIST OF THE MONTH - MAY - Albrecht Durer 1471 - 1528

He is regarded as one of the greatest German artists ever. Amongst his patrons were princes and emperors. He was born in Nuremberg and produced more self-portraits than any other artist of his day. His father was an Hungarian immigrant who was a goldsmith. Albrecht was the second of 18 children. The young Albrecht was apprenticed to his father at the age of 11 and trained in the family trade. It soon became obvious to his father that his son was talented. At the age of 17 he went to work in the workshop of Michael Wolgemut, then the leading church painter of Nuremberg.

He was known as the Leonardo of the North and there were similarities between the two artists. They both had a desire to understand nature. Towards the end of their lives both men made numerous handwritten notes, sketches and drawings. He loved to paint but his printing eclipsed his painting. He also loved engraving, woodcutting and etching. Durer's art (from about 1500) showed the influence of the mathematical theory of proportion and in the following six years he went from being a relatively little known artist to an extremely good one known not only for art but also mathematics. However in 1502 his life changed with the death of his father and he was left to look after his elderly mother. He set up his printing press and he and his wife sold his works at local fairs. Life was not easy and his health suffered as a result. His health never fully recovered.

He visited Italy in 1494 and 1505. The aim of these journeys was to broaden his horizons. During his first visit he actually produced very little work spending his time observing other artist's work, notably Mantegua and the Bellini brothers. His second visit was however a different affair as he was more preoccupied by his own increasing international fame. He was more at ease as a printmaker and was a very gifted draughtsman and many thousands of his works still survive today. His gravestone in St John's cemetery in Nuremberg shows his death as the "eighth day before the Ides of April 1528".



#### Self-portrait at the age of 28 (1500)

This is the last of his three painted self-portraits. He was almost 30 years old and viewed himself as creative and independent equal to the best of the Italian artists. The self-portrait is regarded as similar to many portrayals of Jesus Christ. It has been suggested that Durer depicted himself like this due in part to his arrogance and a wish to show how his talent as an artist was God-given. He once said "Why has God given me such magnificent talent? It is a curse as well as a great blessing. "It is likely that the painting was sold or donated to the Nuremberg city council. In 1805 it was sold to the Bavarian Royal Collection. It is now in the Alte Pinakothek, Munich. (with grateful thanks to Ian Morgan)

## Blackham Village Hall AGM

at 8.00 p.m. on Monday May 27th in the Blackham Village Hall. Members of the public are invited to attend & enjoy a glass of wine

#### Ashurst and Blackham Sports Association (ABSA)

**SUNDAY MAY 5<sup>th</sup>:** The formal opening of the pavilion and a chance to get together to find out more about the activities going on and see the improvements made, including the area for the nursery, decking, shed and new pathway.

**SUNDAY JULY 7<sup>th</sup>:** The Ashurst and Blackham Fete – details next month. The fete sub-committee need more people to support them and you don't need to be on the full committee but someone who can help make the events happen. The only requirement is enthusiasm! Please contact Jeremy Syers for the fete (01892 740326)

Stoolball is progressing well and practices every Monday & Wednesday at 6.00pm. The season starts on May 8th and support for your local team is welcomed.

Football has been disrupted by the weather and waterlogged pitches but there are now several teams playing on Saturday and Sunday. We are looking for a coach to start a Junior team. Can you help?

The Model Flying Club visit on a regular basis.

#### Christian Aid Week 12th to 18th May 2013

As in previous years we will not be undertaking a street to street collection in Withyham, but a Christian Aid envelope is enclosed with this magazine and you are asked to give as generously as you are able towards their valuable work. Please place the envelope in the box provided at the entrance to the church (during Church Services at St Michael's). Alternatively if you are unable to attend church services in CA Week, you may deliver the envelope at the Rectory. Please also complete the Gift Aid declaration (on the envelope) if you are a tax payer.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May Judah Armani, Regional Director for Christian Aid in South East England will be addressing the 11.00am service at Withyham St Michaels to give a brief insight into the work of Christian Aid.

Any queries please contact Barry Davis on 01892 664162

#### WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL (WPC) Notes – APRIL

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY (APA):** Councillors have volunteered for various tasks, and the content of the WPC stall has been agreed. In particular photographs will be displayed of the two main celebrations, the **Diamond Jubilee** and **Will Bayley's homecoming**, and **the Launch of the WPC Website. WDC and ESCC:** A legal challenge has been lodged against the Core Strategy.

WARD REPORTS

**Groombridge:** A table tennis table is to be installed by the Guide Hut on the Recreation Ground. It was noted with concern that the Astroturf to be laid under the table will cost £1,250. Will has kindly agreed to open this table tennis table on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Bark chips are to be delivered and then spread in the playgrounds in Groombridge and Balls Green.

**St John's ward:** Two local residents had met with Charles Hendry MP., about the parking issue in Hoadleys Lane. It was decided that a wider entrance could be created between the properties owned by WDC which will allow cars to be parked on some hard standing. A good street meeting had taken place at the top of Hoadleys Lane with the PCSO and this was well attended.

**Withyham/Blackham:** Cllr Mandy Bowler reported that a dog waste bin had been installed outside St Michael's school but that there is also a need for one at Teasley Mead. Would anyone like to take on the role of a parish councillor representing the views of residents in this ward? Please contact the parish office.

**NEW PARISH OFFICE at the Old Station, Groombridge:** 'Moving Day' took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The main meeting room will be equipped as a Training Room. There will be an "Open Day" once the clerks have settled in. All future WPC planning and council meetings will take place at the new parish office.

**BALLS GREEN PLAY AREA:** Letters are to be sent to parents of children at St Michael's School seeking their views on a future play area at Balls Green.

**RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE:** Stephen Bowler has expressed an interest in becoming Chairman.

**Neighbourhood Planning.** It would appear that this is a long expensive process and, because it must conform to the Core Strategy and other top down government planning, does not necessarily reflect the views of the community

**Parish Council Website:** This is due to go live shortly and will be launched at the APA.

**BROADBAND:** will be discussed at the next WPC meeting.

Diana Kelly (Chair: WPC)

(WPC contact information can be found on the back page of the magazine)

#### KINGS HAUL 100 CLUB

Sorry for the temporary absence of 100 Club results. The collector has been unwell, so there have been no collections or draws yet for March or April.

However, here are the results for the Kings' Hall 100 Club for February 2013

1st	monthly	£20	No. 10	Mrs Pat Taylor
2nd	monthly	£15	No. 58	Mrs M. Stafford
3rd	monthly	£10	No. 33	Mr Paul Walsh

#### **PARISH DIARY MAY 2013**

LAM AK I	GROUP
	tAM AK I

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> ABSA Formal Opening of the Pavilion

**ABSA Sports Ground** 

Sunday 5th 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> In the Kings' Hall, Withyham (See Magazine)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m. WPC Meeting

The old Station, Groombridge

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 8.00 p.m. **GRAND RNLI QUIZ** 

Kings' Hall, Withyham (See Magazine)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>** 8.00 p.m. **Blackham Country Players AGM** 

Blackham Village Hall (see Magazine)

#### Midday Saturday May 25th - Deadline for June Magazine

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 8.00 p.m. Blackham Village Hall AGM

Blackham Village Hall (see Magazine)

**ADVANCE PARISH DIARY JUNE 2013** 

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 8.00 p.m. Withyham Kings' Hall AGM

Kings' Hall, Withyham (see Magazine)

#### Midday Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for July Magazine

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 2.00 p.m. Blackham Country Players BBQ Blackham Village Hall (see next Magazine)

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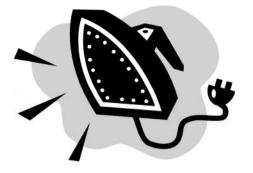


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#### LOCAL INFORMATION

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Kings' Hall Withyham	Lettings: Mrs Meg Stafford	01892 770035		
	Equipment Hire: Bill Sanford	01892 770740		
Blackham Village Hall	Bookings: Mrs P Hawes	01892 740574		
Doctors	Dr A Wolfle, Dr M James			
,	The Nook Surgery Groombridge	01892 863326		
:	Saxonbury House, Crowboro'	01892 603131		
]	Beacon Surgery, Crowboro'	01892 652233		
District Nurse	Sister Kay	01892 603109		
Family Social Work	Mrs Miriam Boobier	01892 662780		
Withyham Art Group	Mrs Rosemary Goolden	01892 770351		
Withyham Horticultural Society: Mrs Anne Barker 01892 661393				
St Michael's School	Miss Katie O'Shea (Headteacher)	01892 770307		
Withyham Parish Counci	l can now be accessed at:	01892 864557		
Their email is: clerk@with				
Dorset Arms Angling Club Fred Stillwell 01892 770661				
Withyham Cricket Club Tristan Tully 01892 541137				
Blackham Country Players Linda Weekes 01892 740261		01892 740261		
Citizens' Advice Bureau, Crowborough, selected hours 01892 655303				
Council for the Protection of Rural England Local Office 01825 890975				
Withyham Parish Charity This Trust can provide financial help for those in				
need and towards the	expenses of further education or	training schemes.		
Applications to <b>John Gower</b> , the Clerk to the Trustees 01892 654395				
Timetable Information	Rail	08457 484950		
	Arriva Buses	08712 002223		
	Brighton & Hove Buses	01273 886200		
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**Richard Pardey** Smugglers, Hoadleys Lane, Crowborough, TN6 1TH Email: richard.pardey@talk21.com 01892 661882

Withyham Parish Council Office: The Old Station, Groombridge			
email: clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk			01892 864557
<b>Opening Hours</b>	Monday	09.30 - 12.30	14.00 - 17.30
	Wednesday	09.30 - 12.30	
	Friday	09.30 - 12.30	14.00 - 17.00
Councillors hold "surgeries" on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month 08.30 - 10.00			

# Telephone Numbers for the reporting of incidents Highway and Footpath damage (location and problem) Highway Lights out (Give the lamp number and location) Vandalism (all relevant details) Abandoned Vehicles and Fly Tipping (Give all details) Pollution (Give location of river, pond etc) 08456080193 08456070999 01892 602735 08708506506

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