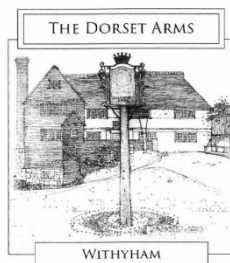


**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
WITHYHAM**



ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM

DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015



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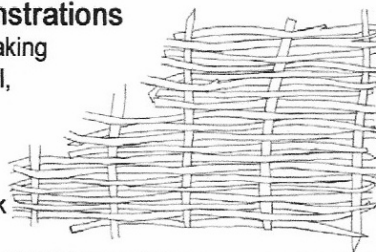
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THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM With ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

Priest in Charge: **The Revd Alastair Ferguson** 01892 770976
The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA

Churchwarden: **Mr Richard Carden** 01342 822491
Cat Street House, Upper Hartfield, TN7 4DP

Churchwarden **Mr Antony Cumberland** 01892 864347
Woodmead, Orchard Rise, Groombridge, Kent, TN3 9RX

Sacristan & Verger **Mr John Collins** 01892 662389
9 Whitehill Close, Crowborough TN6 1JG

Licensed Reader: **Mrs Elizabeth Parish** 01892 864989
6 Lynwood, Groombridge TN3 9LX

Licensed Reader: **Mr Donald Yonge** 07872529740

Organist: **Mrs Sue Stone GRSM ARCM DipEd** 01892 770978

Deputy Organist: **Mr Peter Ellefsen BSc CEng MIEE** 01892 653965

Bell Tower Captain: **Miss Valerie Cogan** 01892 655966

WITHYHAM & BLACKHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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Hillside, Lye Green, Crowborough TN6 1UU

Asst. Treasurer: **Mrs Pauline Cremer** 01892 663469
Pembury, Myrtle Road, Crowborough, TN6 1EY

Hon. Secretary: **Mrs Gilly Halcrow** 01892 770607
Backshaws, Cotchford Lane, Upper Hartfield, TN7 4DJ

Child Protection Officer: **Mr Donald Yonge** 07872529740

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Hon. Treasurer: **Mr Tony Heath, OBE** 01892 740577
The Oast House, Salehurst, Blackham, TN3 9UB

Withyham Flower Guild Secretary: **Mrs Jill Pardey** 01892 661882

Blackham: **Mrs Sue Schooling** 01892 740397

Withyham Church **Mrs Diana Muckleston** 01892 864410

Caretakers: **Diane Pedder** 01892 770240

Chichester Cathedral Link Rep: **Mrs Sheila Jones** 01892 864117

Website: www.withyhamchurch.org

1.

St Michael & All Angels Withyham with All Saints Blackham

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014 & JANUARY 2015

ANYONE FOR A MIDWEEK SERVICE? The Daily Telegraph on the 25th of November reported that Sunday mornings are no longer considered convenient for churchgoers! The article goes on to say that attendance at a short midweek service seems to be growing in popularity. Sometimes such a service is attended by mothers with young children, e.g. on the way to shopping. We would like to remind readers that we do hold a midweek service on Thursdays at 10 a.m. and all are welcome. It will be easy to adapt these for a younger age-group. A class from St Michael's School attended the Thursday service back in the summer.

Sunday in month ↓		ST MICHAEL WITHYHAM		ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM	
Sun 30 Nov ADVENT 1	5	11 am 6.30	ALL AGE EUCHARIST OF ADVENT SUNDAY Evensong		
Thu 4 Dec		10 am	Holy Communion with Advent Meditation		
Sun 7 Dec ADVENT 2	1	11 am 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist Evensong	No service at Blackham	
Thu 11 Dec		10 am	Holy Communion with Advent Meditation		
Sun 14 Dec ADVENT 3	2	9.30 am 11 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Christingle Service & Nativity Play Evensong		
Mon 15 Dec		6.30 pm	St Michael’s School Carol Service		
Thu 18 Dec		10 am	Holy Communion with Advent Meditation		
Sun 21 Dec ADVENT 4	3	9.30 am 11 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Matins SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS		
Wed 24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE		11.00 pm	MIDNIGHT MASS WITH CAROLS		
Thu 25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY		11 am	ALL AGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE WITH CAROLS & CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST		

2.

Sun 28 Dec CHRISTMAS 1	4	9.30 am 11 am 6.30	Family Eucharist Matins Evensong
Thu 1 Jan 2015 THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS		10 am	Holy Communion with Meditation
Sun 4 Jan EPIPHANY* <i>The Wise Men are led by a Star to Bethlehem.</i>	1	11 am 6.30 pm	<i>No service at Blackham</i> ALL AGE EPIPHANY SERVICE WITH EPIPHANY HYMNS & SHORT EUCHARIST Evensong
Thu 8 Jan		10 am	Holy Communion with Epiphany Meditation
Sun 11 Jan <i>PLOUGH SUNDAY</i>	2	9.30 am 11 am 6.30	Holy Communion All-Age Service for Plough Sunday Evensong
Thu 15 Jan BAPTISM OF CHRIST *		10 am	Morning Prayer
Sun 18 Jan EPIPHANY 2	3	11 am 6.30 pm	Matins Evensong <i>No service at Blackham</i>
Thu 22 Jan		10 am	Morning Prayer
Sun 25 Jan EPIPHANY 3	4	9.30 am 11 am 6.30	Family Eucharist Matins Evensong
Thu 29 Jan ST THOMAS AQUINAS*		10 am	Morning Prayer
Sun 1 Feb CANDLEMAS	1	11 am 6.30 pm	ALL AGE CANDLEMAS SERVICE WITH SHORT EUCHARIST Evensong <i>No service at Blackham</i>
Thu 5 Feb		10 am	Holy Communion
Sun 8 Feb SEXAGESIMA	2	9.30 am 11 am 6.30	Family Eucharist Matins Evensong

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Confirmations: On 16 November, Thomas Bygrave, Elena Watson, Pandora Wilson, Tilly Wilson.

Funerals: On 7 November, **Donald Lowe**, died 11 October; on 18 November, **Grace Evelyn Jenner**, died 30 October; on 19 November, **Frank William Kemp**, died 2 November. *May they rest in peace.*

THE CHRISTMAS STORIES

Dear Everyone,

For some time the secular world has seemed to want the word *Christmas* airbrushed out. As is usual nowadays, a Local Authority freebee had no mention of Christmas in its real meaning, though it did advise on ‘how to make the most of your Christmas, from recipes to recycling, and consumer advice to country walks.’

Others say Christmas is a just a legend for children. They like to hear them sing ‘Away in a manger’ but are unsure whether to join in themselves.

The Christmas stories, though, like all good stories, are multi-layered. Consider each of the characters.

The Archangel Gabriel brings *good tidings*. **Mary** receives them, though with considerable difficulty at first. **Joseph** accepts what has happened, and supports her. **The Angels** sing ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men.’

The Shepherds hear the message, see the vision in the sky, and rush eagerly to the Manger. **The Wise Men**, take much longer. After careful measurements in the heavens, they will travel a long distance, ‘from the East’ – more than a country walk! – bringing their ‘sacred gifts of mystic meaning, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Evelyn Waugh thought the Wise Men, making their slow journey, might represent those of us who have a long and tedious journey to make to the truth.

What of **the Child** himself? We must recognise that his birth is seen in superhuman and cosmic terms:

*Hark, hark! The wise eternal Word
Like a weak infant cries;
In form of servant is the Lord,
And God in cradle lies.
This wonder struck the world amazed,
It shook the starry frame;
Squadrons of spirits stood and gazed,
Then down in troops they came.*

Two further characters have to be mentioned: **the Innkeeper**, who shakes his head; and **King Herod** who is not at all pleased to hear of another king who will be his rival. We might try identifying with each of the characters in turn . . .

The carol quoted above ends:

*Join then, all hearts that are not stone,
And all our voices prove,
To celebrate this Holy One,
The God of peace and love.*

With Advent and Christmas blessings – and also for the New Year.

Alastair Ferguson

A FESTIVE OCCASION

Sunday 16 November was a proud day for St Michaels and in particular for ten members of its congregation aged from sixteen down to eight. Each of them was either confirmed or admitted to Holy Communion, by the Bishop of Chichester.

They were initiated on this day into the very centre of that brave 2000-year-old 'resistance movement' we call the Christian Church. Its agenda is precisely the celebration of Christ's victory of good over evil, and the sharing in the holy gifts. It was a lovely service. An outsider, after looking at the photos, used the word 'magic' – as if, so to speak, some 'brightness' had descended.

For all this, the choir and congregation of around 80 joined in a service whose texts were based on the current 9.30 Family Eucharist, plus the diocesan template for Confirmation. (Both of these, of course, are not 'made up', but steeped in the Church's Tradition.)

Wine and some very tasty food (organised by Anne Barker – thank you, Anne, and all those who cooked and brought wine!) made for a jolly party afterwards.

For the candidates, preparation for this day had included being nurtured within the Family Service for a number of years, a hands-on apprenticeship in serving at the Altar and other tasks needed for running a service (giving out books, chiming the bells, taking the collection) , and a final crash course based on a newly-compiled Withyham Confirmation Booklet.

I pray that the life of the Church here in Withyham, or wherever they each go next, will prove to be a blessing to them for the whole of their lives. I think that they, in turn, will have the imagination and energy to influence creatively any church situation in which they find themselves!

Alastair Ferguson

Churchwardens Notes – December 2014/January 2015

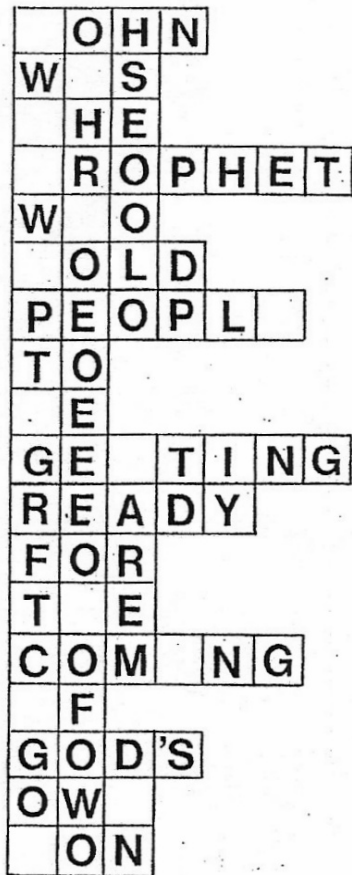
Fortunately the weather was kind to us on 15th November when it was planned to have the annual clear up of the churchyard. Just prior to that date the hedge at the top of the churchyard had been cut and one of the yew trees trimmed so there was much bonfire activity. We are very grateful to all those who participated including the ladies who provided refreshment at lunchtime. The churchyard looks much tidier as a result.

The restoration work on the Lychgate at Blackham was completed in time for a short service of rededication on Remembrance Sunday. The service was very well attended including one parishioner who participated on horseback. Particular thanks to Sheila Wellstead who has been the driving force behind the restoration and the arrangements for 9th November.

Finally it was a great pleasure to welcome the Bishop of Chichester to St Michael and All Angels for the Service of Confirmation on 16th November.

Richard Carden and Antony Cumberland

YOUNG CHURCH



14 gaps in this grid.
So can you fit in the 14 letters
of **JOHN THE BAPTIST**
to find out what he was all
about?



GROAN! GROAN!

By the way, which boy runs the fastest?
Hurry Potter!

Why are people always in a hurry?
Because they are all part of the Human Race!

So which bird is like a happy dog?
A Wagtail!



The Editor wishes you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low-stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral celebration of the winter solstice holiday (or summer solstice in the southern hemisphere) practices within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practise religious or secular traditions at all . . .

. . .and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the generally accepted calendar year 2015, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make Great Britain great (not to imply that Great Britain is necessarily greater than any other country), and without regard to the race, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform, educational attainment, union or non-union affiliation, or sexual preference of the wishee.

(By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for himself/herself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for the period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.)

COURAGE

"All our dreams can come true,
if we have the courage to pursue them."

Walt Disney

"It is easy to be brave from a safe distance."

Aesop

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand,
the spines of others are stiffened."

Billy Graham

"Courage is the power to let go of the familiar."

Raymond Lindquist

"Courage is fear holding on a minute longer."

George S Patton

"He that will not sail till all dangers are over
must never put to sea."

Thomas Fuller

"Valour grows by daring; fear by holding back."

Publius Syrus

"Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyway." *John Wayne*

"God grant me the courage not to give up what I think is right,
even though I think it is hopeless."

Chester W Nimitz

BLACKHAM SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



This years' service, took place on a fine Sunday the 9th of November and included a rededication of the village lych-gate war memorial, first unveiled at the end of World War 1 and which had recently been restored. The work was funded from a WW1 Commemoration Grant made available by Withyham Parish Council.

Usually attendance numbers are small but this year 50 people attended as well as one horse and rider! The crowd, which closed the road, included relatives of three of the service men and war veterans. Also members of the Farnes family related to the late Percy Farnes, one of the craftsmen (and last village wheelwright) involved with the building of original lych-gate. The restoration work has been carried out by Matthew Goad, Grandson of

Percy Farnes, and Paul Beavis.'

The service with the Royal British Legion Standard-bearer started in the Church and concluded with the Act of Remembrance at the lych-gate. The service made reference to the original memorial's unveiling ceremony on 31 July 1921. Following the service, refreshments and a village history exhibit were provided in Blackham village hall. The exhibit included details of all 15 service men named on the lych-gate, researched by Richard Coomber and Frank Wiltshire, with contributions from relatives. All of this information with pictures of the 2014 restoration and ceremony with an extensive collection of the village history are on the village's website www.blackham-village.co.uk

Sheila Wellstead

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL EVENTS.

A full list of events, including concerts and exhibitions, is on the Church notice boards but your attention is drawn particularly to the following:

CHRISTMAS FAIR at 10 a.m. on Friday, 5th December.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH PARTY from 12.30pm on Thursday, 11th December.

FRIENDS' FESTIVE LUNCH from 12.30pm on Friday, 9th January, 2015. Cost £19.50 (to include drinks and coffee).

Please contact me if you would like further information about any of these events.

Sheila Jones, Cathedral Link.



St Michael's School Withyham CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 6th December 2014 2pm - 4pm

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 •
- pip pip hooray stall • guide hair braiding
- chocolate tombola

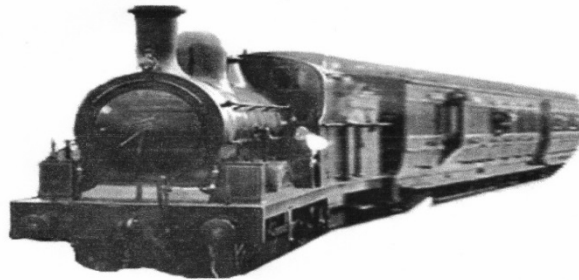


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presents

Edith Nesbit's

The Railway Children



adapted by Dave Simpson

3rd - 6th December in Groombridge Village Hall. TN3 9QX

All evening performances start at 7.30 pm - Saturday Matinee at 2.00 pm

Tickets on sale from 3rd November

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Friday and Saturday - Supper nights tickets: £16.00

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<http://groombridge-gads.blogspot.co.uk/>

??? CHRISTMAS QUIZ ???

AT THE KINGS' HALL, WITHYHAM
FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER AT 8PM.

RAFFLE

STILL ONLY £8

CASH BAR

INCLUDING A SUMPTUOUS 2-COURSE SUPPER WITH HOT AND COLD CHOICES.

THIS IS A VILLAGE HALL FUND-RAISING EVENT FOR.

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PLEASE NOTE: THIS EVENING USUALLY SELLS OUT. SO IF YOU BOOK AND CAN'T COME, PLEASE LET US KNOW. THEN WE CAN FIND ANOTHER BOOKING FROM THE WAITING LIST.

Kings' Hall Withyham

Cinderella



A Panto for all Ages!

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th January

2015 at 7.30 pm

Matinee 2.30 pm on Saturday

Tickets from the Dorset Arms

ADVERTISING IN THE PARISH MAGAZINE

Each year, eleven magazine editions are printed and distributed free of charge to almost all households in the parish. Some eight to nine (out of 24) pages of the magazine are devoted to advertisements.

During December the current advertisers will be asked whether they wish to renew, cancel or change their existing advertisements w.e.f. February 2015.

The PCC has agreed that the charge for 2015 should be raised to £90 for a half page advertisement, £45 for a quarter page and £22.50 for an eighth page. This, for eight pages would raise £1,440, contributing approximately 50% of the cost of printing the magazine. The other 50% comes from donations by individuals to an appeal made in April of each year. To date, we have succeeded in covering the cost of printing the magazine.

New advertisers are encouraged to grasp this opportunity to leap onto the bandwagon by submitting their copy, preferably as attachments to emails in word.docx, adobe.pdf or jpg format and we will do our best to fit you in.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Ed

WITHYHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

After our AGM on the 4th November, I can tell you that your committee stays virtually the same although we said a fond farewell to Mr Fred Stillwell. After being involved with the Society since the 1960's, he has served as a committee member and Show Secretary for many years and although he has left the committee he will of course still remain a member, we thank him for his abundant knowledge of all things horticultural, his commitment and tireless work and hope he will enjoy his retirement. We look forward to seeing him and Kath at our future shows and events. We did not get any other nominations for the committee and although there are only eight of us at present we will try our very best, with your support of course, to give you a full and varied programme for 2015. If anyone feels they can help out in any way during the year please have a word with one of the committee, as we would be grateful for any offers, and we do thank the people who do help us in setting up the shows and events.

After our meeting we had a local Beekeeper Steve Bowler who gave a talk and presentation on the subject, which was very informative and entertaining he was kept very busy with lots of questions after his talk.

The last event for this year's programme will be the visit to Rochester Christmas Market, we have had a good response for this and if all goes well will probably keep it in for next year.

Helen and the committee would like to thank our members for their continued support during 2014 and hope they have all enjoyed our programme, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

Val. Edwards (Secretary)

St. Michael's Primary School

The Christmas term is always exciting and busy and this year is no exception. We recently held our Open Day for prospective parents to come and visit the school. It was lovely to see so many parents and their children. If you are interested in your child joining St. Michael's in September 2015 but were unable to make the Open Day, don't worry, we are happy to make an appointment for you to come and see the school in action. You still have until January to complete the admission form.

The Parents Association are busy organising the Christmas Fair to be held at the school on Saturday 6th December, 2pm – 4pm. Please do come along and support the school, there will be loads of fun activities and you may even catch sight of Father Christmas.

Of course our children are also very busy. Years 3 – 6 are hard at work rehearsing the annual drama production which this year is a musical version of Jack and the Beanstalk. Performances will be on Tuesday 9 December at 2.00 and Thursday 11 December at 6.30. Do come along, the children would love you to see their show.

Catherine O'Shea Head Teacher

You may be aware that all schools are required to have a Governing Body (the school's accountable body). It is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The Governing Body aims to ensure that children are attending a successful school, which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being. It sets the strategic direction of the school, challenges and supports the school by monitoring, reviewing and evaluating and ensures accountability.

It is a real privilege to be the Chair of such a friendly, caring school that always has the children at its heart. The focus of all our staff and the Governing Body is on continuously creating an environment in which all our children can reach their full potential and grow to be rounded confident individuals. To achieve this the Governing Body works alongside the staff and always invites suggestions and comments from all our stakeholders; children, parents and staff.

The role of governor is voluntary, thus there are times when we are on the look-out for new members to join our team. You do not need to be an educationalist or a parent at the school. In fact we always aim to have a variety of people and skills on our Governing Body, for example, building maintenance, finance, marketing, public relations, information technology and networking to name just a few. If you feel that this may be a role you would like to know more about please contact me at governors@st-michaels.e-sussex.sch.uk. I will be happy to answer your questions so you can evaluate whether this is a way you would like to give time to your local community.

Fiona Wiles Chair of Governors

WITHYHAM ST MICHAEL'S BRIDGE LUNCH & AFTERNOON

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success of the Bridge Day in November.

We raised **£1,533** for the church, and thanks go to Jill Pardey and her kitchen team for excellent catering, and to all those who supplied the raffle prizes and came to play Bridge on what was a very successful afternoon.

Judy Eliot

WITHYHAM PARISH COUNCIL – (WPC) NOVEMBER

A member of the public questioned how planning approval for 160 houses within the Ashdown Forest 7km zone had been achieved. WDC explained that in the WDC Core Plan, the land had been designated as development land in order to fill WDC's site allocation. The WDC residents' letter could have been clearer.

ESCC & WDC: ESCC agreed that merely sweeping, rather than clearing the verges before resurfacing Ironchurch Lane was unsatisfactory and would arrange for a site visit to be made. WDC's annual electric blanket testing had taken place and 37% failed: one caught fire during testing!

POLICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORTS: Following a street meeting in School Lane, St Johns a new Community Speed Watch group is to be set up with training to be carried out in the New Year, if anyone would like to join the group please contact PCSO Roberts.

The police continue to monitor speeding and parking around the schools, to encourage parents to park safely and legally.

WARD REPORTS: WPC thanks Royal Mires Garden Centre for allowing a parish noticeboard to be sited in their car park.

An audit of grit bins has been carried out and will be considered at the next meeting.

GATWICK AIR NOISE: The first meeting of North Weald Councils against Air Noise has taken place and an inter-council group will put the views of North Weald Councils to ESCC and MPs.

PARISH PLAN: Thank you to everyone who completed the parish plan survey. After analysis this will inform WPC's next 5 year plan and budget setting.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2015: Date for diaries: Saturday 18th April 10am at Groombridge Village Hall with speakers and local societies.

FINANCE: Grants totalling £4,822 were agreed, to be paid in May 2015 depending on the required Precept being received. There will be a further grants round in February for projects benefitting the parish – please see the WPC website for information about how to apply. WPC hopes to become a CAB Skype location, depending on whether bandwidth at the parish office is sufficient.

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed Tuesday 23rd December to Friday 26th December inclusive.

Withyham Remembers World War 1

As anyone who lives in Withyham knows, it is a talent-rich village. It took literally four emails to Sue and Michael Stone, the Williams, Alexander Bishop and Nancy Thomas and we were up and running. Sue and Michael arranged a musical programme featuring popular songs from 1914 to 1918 and got the church choir on board. One chat with Bish and he was up for some solos. Nancy busily recruited the children's choir. Bryan and Sue Williams and Nick Lom set to creating the narrative. The whirlwind that is Julie Ruse was recruited as hall designer and PR and Anne Barker narrated. Two meetings and two rehearsals later you saw the results of all their endeavours on the evening of Saturday 22nd November in the Kings' Hall

All this creative talent was supported by the fantastic catering team of Linda Charlton and Anne Radford, a huge casserole was donated by the Buckhurst Estate, a slick bar was run by Paul and Lycia Sellars and anything we had not thought of was left to Paul Radford and Rick Hunnam. To everyone who contributed to the success of the commemoration evening I wish to extend a million thanks.

At the end of the evening I overheard a member of the audience suggest that those whose lives we were remembering would have been heartened that our special Village, which had no doubt prompted and informed their service, remained so vibrant and also respectful of their sacrifice. I hope that was the impression that all those present took away with them. I also hope that we managed to send away a young generation who in 50 years' time, when World War 1 is even more remote, will have memories of a night they spent during their childhood hearing the songs of that era.

The primary purpose of the Commemoration was not to be a fundraiser, but due to the generosity of all of you over £1,000 was raised. These funds will be divided equally between Help for Heroes and Médecins Sans Frontières. **Jane Lom**

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Blackham Village Hall Christmas Market Saturday 6th December 10-12.30

- ~ Reindeer Café, ~ Fair trade fancyes ~
- ~ Sarita's 'made in Blackham' Christmas pasties ~
- ~ Penny's festive pantry preserves ~
- ~ Christmas cards and gifts ~ Fresh free range eggs ~
- ~ Little elves freshly baked bread ~
- ~ Fresh merry Perry Hill apple juice ~
- ~ Soothing Aloe Vera stall ~
- ~ And Santa's traditional bumper Christmas raffle ~



Everyone Welcome!

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



BLACKHAM VILLAGE 2015 CALENDAR

Our third edition is a must have! Ideal gift for friends, family, past villagers.

A lovely representation of Blackham village, countryside views and community - *available from -*

**Blackham Village Hall
Christmas Market**

Sat Dec 6th 10:00-12:30

**or Hartfield Doctor's Surgery, Villa
Golf, Parish Office or reserve/collect**

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Many thanks for all the contributions, photographs included are from: Mandy Bowler, Penny Hawes, Jean Langridge, Luke Morgan, Linda Weekes and Sheila Wellstead.

Keep taking photos and submit to the 2016 calendar at <http://calendar.A264.co.uk>

HARTFIELD VILLAGE FETE SOCIETY

The AGM of the Society will be held at 7.30 p.m. in The Village Hall in Hartfield on Monday 15 December 2014, and will include an announcement of distribution of funds to local groups, societies etc. All welcome.

Pauline Burnett-Dick Secretary Hartfield Village Fete Society 01892 770088

HARTFIELD & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014-Christmas Table Centre making session with Sara Greenwood (Tutor at Plumpton College) in the Pavilion on the Croft from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. with refreshments. Price-£10 members/£12.50 non-members to include all materials. . **BOOKING ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE LIMITED.**

The AGM of the Society will be held at 8.00 p.m. in the back bar of the Anchor in Hartfield on Monday 19th January 2015. Major item for discussion will be the provision of Allotments within Hartfield-come along and have your say. All welcome.

Pauline Burnett-Dick

Membership Secretary Tel: 01892 770088 www.hartfieldhortionline.co.uk

Groombridge Horticultural Society

The AGM will be held on 15th January at 7pm in the Groombridge Village Hall (Club Room). All members and prospective members are welcome to come along. Subscriptions are now due for the 2015 year and can be paid on the night. We welcome new members at any time and membership costs just £3 which is excellent value as it gives you free entry to all talks throughout the year, discounted trips and 10% off purchases at Royal Mires Garden Centre. We have even more events than usual planned for 2015 including four visiting speakers, two day trips, 3 shows and 2 plant sales.

Following the AGM we will have our first speaker of the year on the subject of “**More Garden For Less Effort**” by garden designer **Alison Marsden at 8pm in the Groombridge Village Hall (New Hall)** with tea, coffee and biscuits served. Given our busier and busier lives this is sure to be of great interest! Free for members and £3 for non-members (which gives full membership benefits for the 2015 year).

Any questions to **Gillian** on 01892 864580 or gillian@rowans.clara.co.uk

The Hartfield Singers Christmas Concert

Join us and our Musical Director, Helen Walker, to celebrate a Medieval Christmas with food, drink and song on Saturday 6th December in Hartfield Village Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets: £10 (to include buffet) are obtainable from Robert Jackson 01342 823081 or Hartfield Stores, High Street, Hartfield.

For more details see our website (www.hartfieldsingers.co.uk).

PARISH DIARY DECEMBER 2014

Wednesday 3rd	7.30 p.m.	The Railway Children
To Saturday 6th	2.00 and 7.30 p.m.	Groombridge Village Hall (<i>see Magazine</i>)
Saturday 6th	10 – 12.30	Christmas Market
		Blackham Village Hall (<i>See Magazine</i>)
Saturday 6th	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	St Michael's School Christmas Fair
		St Michael's School Hall (<i>see Magazine</i>)
Saturday 6th	7.30 p.m.	Hartfield Singers Christmas Concert
		Hartfield Village Hall (<i>See Magazine</i>)
Monday 8th	7.30 p.m.	Withyham Parish Council Meeting
		The Old Station, Groombridge
Friday 12th	8.00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS QUIZ
		Kings' Hall, Withyham (<i>see Magazine</i>)
Sunday 14th	3.00 for 4.00 p.m.	elf
		St Michael's School Hall (<i>see Magazine</i>)

ADVANCE PARISH DIARY JANUARY 2015

Friday 9th and	7.30 p.m.	<i>Cinderella</i>, The Withyham Pantomime
Saturday 10th	2.30 and 7.30 p.m.	The Kings' Hall, Withyham (<i>see Magazine</i>)

Midday Sunday January 25th Deadline for February Magazine

Kings' Hall Events (to end of 2014)

MONDAYS Early evening: Withyham Choir. A sing-along for all abilities and ages. Starts around 7.30pm and last an hour. Contact Julie Ruse for details (julie10085@yahoo.co.uk)

8.45pm Badminton

TUESDAYS Indoor Bowls night

WEDNESDAYS Mornings - Withyham Art Group

Evenings - Withyham Choir. Contact Julie Ruse.

THURSDAYS Pilates 8.15pm - 9.15pm. £8 per person per class.

FRIDAYS Available for hire

SATURDAYS Available for hire

Dates may change as bookings come in.

For details of events call Sue on 652515

To book or enquire about booking the Hall call Meg on 770035.

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Blackham Village Hall	Bookings: Mrs P Hawes	01892 740574
Doctors	Dr A Wolffe, 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:	Valerie Edwards	01892 661940
St Michael's School	Miss Katie O'Shea (Headteacher)	01892 770307
Dorset Arms Angling Club	Fred Stillwell	01892 770661
Withyham Cricket Club	Tristan Tully	01892 541137
Blackham Country Players	Linda Weekes	01892 740261
Citizens' Advice Bureau , Crowborough, selected hours		01892 655303
Council for the Protection of Rural England Local Office		01825 890975
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Withyham Parish Council (WPC). Office: The Old Station, Groombridge		
Website: www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk		
Facebook: www.facebook.com/withyhamparishcouncil		
email: clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk		01892 864557
WPC Office hours	Monday	09.30 - 17.00
	Tuesday	09.30 - 12.00
	Wednesday to Friday	09.30 - 12.30
	Councillors hold "surgeries" on 3 rd Saturday each month	08.30 - 10.00

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