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Reverend Adrian Leak MA BD.

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Website: www.withyhamchurch.org

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

Thursday 4 th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 7 th		Second Sunday of Easter
	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 11 th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion George Selwyn
Sunday 14 th		Third Sunday of Easter
·	11.00 a.m.	Matins
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Monday 15 th	8.00 p.m.	ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
		Kings' Hall
Thursday 18 th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st		Fourth Sunday of Easter
	11.00 a.m.	All Age Service
	12.30 p.m.	Adrian & Josephine's Farewell
		Kings' Hall
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 25 th	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion St Mark
Sunday 28 th		Fifth Sunday of Easter
-	9.45 a.m.	Family Eucharist
	11.00 a.m.	Matins
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
Thursday 2 nd May	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 th May		Sixth Sunday of Easter
	11.00 a.m.	Matins
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong
ALL SAINTS, BLAC	CKHAM	

Sunday 7th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW 2000)

Sunday 21st NO SERVICE at Blackham (All Age Service at Withyham)

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

On 17th March Hugo Dominic John, infant son of Christopher Baptisms and Abigail Priest, was baptised in the parish church.

On 24th March Edward Charles Holt, infant son of Peter and Bridget Clayton, and William David, infant son of James and Hayley Kenway, were baptised in the parish church.

On 19th March the funeral of the late **Kenneth David George Funerals** Stone, aged 83 years, took place at the Tunbridge Wells crematorium.

On 22nd March the ashes of twin babies, the children of **Simeon and Philippa Robbie**, were buried in the churchyard of the parish church.

On 28th March the funeral of the late Bryan Frederick Stillwell, aged 42 years, took place at the Tunbridge Wells crematorium.

LETTER FROM THE RECTORY APRIL 2013

This is my last Letter from the Rectory – my 77th – and I write it with great regret. These past seven years have been ones of much happiness for Josephine and me, and we are so sorry that they have to come to an end, but having just celebrated my 75th birthday it really is high time your rector was put out to grass. It has been a wonderful seven years. I cannot think of a better parish in which to end my ministry than Withyham and Blackham. You have all been so friendly, and we will retire with a bundle of lovely memories.

Time was when clergy never retired. They just went on and on, growing more and more forgetful, more and more dotty. Picturesque they may have been, providing a rich source of comedy for novelists and playwrights, but they became a huge worry to archdeacons and bishops, who in those days lacked the legal powers to remove them from office. They were also a grievous burden to churchwardens, whose duty it was to pick up the pieces left behind by a failed parson.

When I was a curate at Dorchester-on-Thames forty years ago, they still spoke lovingly of Father Lancaster, a parson of great antiquity, who managed to get through the Sunday service only if he was flanked by two burly servers whose task it was to keep him on course as he tottered the short distance between stall and pulpit, and to stop him from wandering off down the nave, nodding in benediction to the congregation as he made for the exit. 'Ah,' they would say, 'He were a lovely man'.

After I retire, there will be a gap – an interregnum. My successor will not be appointed for some months. You may wonder why it is that the Church of England does not do what every other institution in the land does: appoint the next person in time to take over from the last one, and not wait until the last one has gone, before looking for the next one. Well, no, I do not know the answer either (or, rather, I know the official one, but quite frankly it is not very convincing). Don't blame your churchwardens, or the parochial church council, or the patron (Lord De La Warr), all of whom would have got on with the process, if they had been allowed to do so, three months ago when I gave in my notice. It is a shame, but there we are.

During the interregnum the burden of running the parish will fall upon the two churchwardens, and, as was the case during previous interregna, the parish will be in safe hands. We have been lucky in our churchwardens, which is indeed fortunate, for it is they and the congregation, not the clergy, who these days provide the continuity of church life.

It is to them and to that large crowd of parishioners, whether churchgoers or not, whose generous goodwill is such a feature of this parish, that I now bid farewell with my deepest thanks and best wishes for the future.

Adrian Leak.

ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM THE RECTORY

The Editor has kindly allowed me to use the Parish Magazine to say a few words of thanks and farewell, independent of Adrian's usual Letter from the Rectory page.

It's hard to believe that over seven years have passed since the removal vans drove up to the Rectory, and yet in a few weeks they will be back again. Living in Withyham has been an extraordinary and memorable experience, and I would not have missed it for anything.

I would like to thank all those who have shown such great kindness and friendship not only to me, but also to my mother, Marion. We have made so many good friends, and among them I must include those we have loved and lost, but who will never be forgotten.

Thanks, too, to everyone who understood that my work commitments and occasional health problems prevented me from being the sort of pro-active and visible Rector's Wife they may have hoped for when Adrian was appointed. Sometimes there were just too many balls in the air to juggle successfully.

I would like to apologise for leaving without having returned much of the generous hospitality shown to us by so many people. As so often happens, my best intentions have not been matched by action.

My six-year stint as Secretary of the PCC will end with our departure. On reflection I think that the Members of the Council will remember me for two things; firstly for my insistence on having a Jack Russell or two present during the meetings, and secondly for being possibly the worst-tempered PCC Secretary they have ever had. I apologise for my often barely-disguised irritation. It became clear early on that I don't really have the right temperament for committee work...

I will miss too much to mention, but two things stand out: The first is Blackham Market. It's such a happy occasion, with friendly people to talk to, and delicious food of all kinds to buy and eat. I always looked forward to going there on the first Saturday of the month.

The second is Choral Evensong, which is sung at St Michael's almost every Sunday evening of the year. As a choir is essential, it's a tradition which few parish churches can still maintain, and so the service is now almost only held in cathedrals. Thanks to the choir at St Michael's, of which I have had the pleasure and privilege of being a member for the last seven years, Choral Evensong is still miraculously alive and well in Withyham. It's a wonderful way to end the day, and I commend it to all.

Josephine Leak

There will be a Farewell Drinks Party in the Kings' Hall, Withyham for Adrian and Josephine

at 12.30 after the All Age Service on Sunday 21st April

Churchwardens' Notes - April

We start with a threat of banishment to the naughty step! Some people are carefully walking round the "Keep Off the Grass" signs, at the front of the church. Please do not do this. The grass must be given time to recover after the building work and with the weather conditions we are experiencing, it is taking longer than usual.

Sotheby's have agreed to represent our interests at the meeting of the Reviewing Committee on 10th April. With luck, they will decide that the export of the paintings can go ahead, but we are not holding our breath.

You may have noticed the handsome new bookcase on the right hand side of the entrance to the church, which now holds all the prayer and hymn books. This was donated by John Gower, in memory of his wife Shirley and crafted by John Collins. Our thanks go to John for his generosity and to John for his workmanship.

The Thursday Men assembled on Friday 22nd, (we are occasionally very late getting out of bed!) and cleared the fallen tree, just above the car park. Thank you to them once again. The Rectory now has an elegant sufficiency of firewood.

Please do not forget that the Annual Vestry Church Meeting will be on the 15th April, 8.00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Equally important, is Adrian's final service on 21st April, followed by farewell drinks at 12.30 in the Village Hall. No excuses will be accepted, unless you have a note from your Mum!

Rosemary is collating the Church keys. If anyone has a key, to the church, vestry, toilet block, etc. would you please let Rosemary know.

Finally, Robert and Anne Clark held an extremely successful Coffee Morning/Afternoon Tea, plus bring and buy sale at their house on the 22nd. The magnificent sum of just over £600 was raised. Thank you to all who attended and purchased items. Thanks also to those who helped out, but most of all thank you to Robert and Anne for all their hard work.

Rosemary Cadogan-Rawlinson and Peter Griffiths.

CHRISTIAN AID

COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES ON SUNDAY 21ST APRIL
AT ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, WITHYHAM
& ALL SAINTS BLACKHAM,
WITH THE KIND AGREEMENT OF ADRIAN,
WILL BE DONATED TO CHRISTIAN AID, TO SUPPORT THEIR
EFFORTS FOR THE SYRIAN REFUGEES
ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THIS DATE FOR CHURCH
MEMBERS TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE DAY

YOUNG CHURCH LENT

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CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL EVENTS: Spring 2013

A comprehensive list of events is on the Church noticeboard; the following are but a few of the many varied and interesting ones:

FOOD FOR THOUGHT Luncheon Talks

Wednesdays 10th April, 8th May and 5th June.

GETTING TO KNOW CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL a series of tours.

If you require any further information or details, please contact me.

Sheila Jones (01892 864117)

Church Flowers at Withyham St Michaels

As many of you know, after 20 years I am giving up being in charge of the flowers in our lovely church and I would like to thank everyone past and present for all the faithful service the teams have given.

Jill Pardey will be taking over the rosters and Molly Packer will organize flowers for special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Weddings etc.

However, this Easter I will still be taking names and money for the lilies in memory of loved ones. We are still only charging £1.50 per lily. Cheques should be made payable to Withyham Church Flower Fund.

There will be a list at the back of the church. Will you please print names. Thank you all once again, **June Noble**

FLOWER ARRANGERS

If anyone would like to go on the flower arranging roster, please could you contact Jill Pardey on 01892 661882

GRAND QUIZ IN AID OF RNLI

IN THE KINGS HALL, WITHYHAM
FRIDAY 10TH MAY 2013
QUIZ STARTS AT 8PM.

ENTRY £8.00 INCLUDES HOT FOOD, COLD BUFFET AND PUDDINGS.

BAR AND RAFFLE. PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM.

CONTACT SUE ON 01892 770420



WITHYHAM ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 8.00 p.m. MONDAY APRIL 22nd GROOMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

Guest Speaker: Katy Bourne,

The recently elected Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner

Come and meet local organisations, societies, schools and businesses based in Withyham Parish and find out what they are doing in your community

> Local services or businesses can promote themselves Information Stalls and Refreshments from 7.00 p.m.

> > EVERYONE WELCOME

ADRIAN AND JOSEPHINE'S FAREWELL TEA PARTY

ON SATURDAY APRIL 6TH FROM 4.00 P.M. — 6.00 P.M. WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE AS MANY VILLAGERS AS POSSIBLE BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD RING 01892 740261 SO THAT WE HAVE SOME IDEA OF NUMBERS FOR CATERING PURPOSES. ANY OFFERS OF HELP ON THE DAY AND COOKING ALSO GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

100 more years of music in Withyham

THE B SIDES!

Friday 12th April 8.00
The Kings Hall Withyham
Tickets will be on sale in the Dorset Arms
To be involved, ring Andrew Stafford on 07824 901506 or 01892 770035

Thank you Corner

Robert & Anne Clark would like to thank everyone who so generously supported their recent open house day in aid of church funds. Just over £600 was collected!

THE WITHYHAM ART GROUP EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS

SATURDAY, SUNDAY & MONDAY 4th, 5th,and 6th May 2013 KINGS' HALL, WITHYHAM. DOORS OPEN 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. ADMISSION IS FREE

THERE WILL BE FRAMED AND UNFRAMED PAINTINGS AND CARDS FOR SALE.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

WITHYHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Spring Show is nearly here again this year. It will take place on Saturday 6^{th} April. The schedules are now printed and should be with you soon. Membership cards have also been printed and Liz Hunt would be grateful to receive your subs as and when you see her, but she will be at the Spring Show. Please note that these have gone up to £3 and £2.50 for over 60's. Once you have your card this will allow you to get 10% of plant purchases at Royal Mires Garden Centre. I will also be at the show taking names, and money for the trips this year, which are to Wisley on the 27^{th} April for which I will require the money, and on 7^{th} September we shall be going to Sissinghurst Castle, these are both on a Saturday.

Garden Tips for this month are: 1. Give dahlias a head start by planting up dormant tubers into pots or trays to encourage lots of stems to develop which will form bushy plants that will bear more flowers this summer. 2. Congested primulas will not flower so profusely so now is the time to divide them, but take care not to damage roots in the process. Pot up and keep in greenhouse or cold frame, water regularly and after a couple of month start a weekly feed. 3. Put in your onion and shallots sets this month. Snip off the long dry ends to prevent the birds pulling them back out. 4. Try germinating you parsnip seeds on a moist paper plate of kitchen towel. Space seeds evenly and cover with cling film. Seeds should germinate within 14–21 days. The next step is to transplant them into a moist shallow trench (5cm deep) put a covering of good seed compost in the bottom and hold gently by the seed coat to avoid touching delicate roots and shoots. Space evenly, cover with compost and keep moist if weather is dry.

I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Show when I hope the weather will be kind with some warm sunshine. Should you require any further information on either the show or trips please contact me on 01892 661940, or of course any of the committee.

V. Edwards

Secretary

ARTIST OF THE MONTH - APRIL - GUSTAV KLIMT. 1862 - 1918

Born on 18th July in Baumgarten near Vienna, the son of an immigrant gold engraver, Gustav Klimt spent his childhood in relative poverty. His brother, Ernst joined his father's profession but Klimt had other ideas. At the age of 15 he was producing pictures from photographs and subsequently began a career as a decorative painter. Then he trained at the Vienna School of Decorative Arts under Ferdinand Laufbergen. He found that he was increasingly drawn to Avant-Garde art, being influenced by both impressionism and symbolism and in 1897 he founded the Vienna Secession. Secession artists pushed for independent exhibitions which enabled artistic experimentation. Secessionism originally came from Paris and became known by the more popular term, art nouveau. Klimt acquired a reputation for paintings where facial features took on the realism of a photograph in contrast to the rest of the painting. Der Kuss (below) is an example of this.

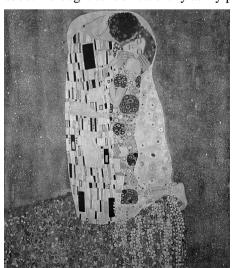
When he was 30 years old both his father and brother died leaving Klimt to provide for their families as well as his own.

Although he developed an interest in landscape, he was best known for his beautiful portraits of distinguished women and would work on several pictures at the same time. He was not immune from criticism though. In fact in 1905 he ended up returning his fee because some of the panels he had painted for the Vienna University were regarded as too indecent. When he had had enough of the attention of critics and living in the city he moved to the countryside, concentrating on private commissions.

It is said that he had a great appetite for life and fathered at least fourteen children.

In 1918 Klimt contracted pneumonia as a result of the influenza epidemic prevailing that year and died in Vienna after suffering a stroke.

He once wrote about himself "There is nothing special about me. I am a painter who paints day after day from morning to night. Whoever wants to know something about me ought to look carefully at my pictures."



The Kiss (Der Kuss) 1907-1908

The painting is considered to be Klimt's most popular painting. It is believed that his companion Emilie Floge, modelled for the composition. The use of gold in the painting was inspired from a visit to Ravenna in 1903 where he came across the Byzantine mosaics. The couple kiss on a carpet of flowers and the woman kneels before the man suggesting a ritual of presentation and offering. He illustrates the "insurmountable" difference between men and women. The man is "angular" wearing a robe with rectangular ornaments in black and white, in contrast to the "soft" woman. Her dress is flower like and contains colourful circles.

(with grateful thanks to Ian Morgan)

THINNING

There was a house painter called Smokey Macgregor, who was always interested in making an extra penny or two, so he often thinned down his paint, to make it go further. He got away with this for some time, but eventually his church decided to restore the outside of one of their buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was the lowest, he got the job.

He erected the scaffolding, set up the planks and bought the paint, which he proceeded to thin with water. He started painting and after several days was almost finished, when there was a horrendous clap of thunder, a flash of lightning, the skies opened and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint away and knocking Smokey off the scaffolding and onto the ground amongst the gravestones, surrounded by the tell-tale puddles of thinned paint.

Now Smokey was no fool. He knew that this was a judgement from the Almighty, so he fell to his knees and cried, "Oh God, Oh God, forgive me. What should I do?"

And from heaven a mighty voice spoke.... "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

(with grateful thanks to Peter Griffiths)

PAYING FOR YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE

As you are probably by now aware, your parish magazine comes to Withyham and Blackham churches' parishioners free of charge.

But every year, it still costs about £2,500 to print it.

So where does that money come from?

Two sources actually. The first is advertising and the kind advertisers contribute £1,440. For the rest we put a begging envelope into the April edition of the magazine, and ask you to reach into your pockets, take out your money, (fold it!), and put it in the envelope. We then ask you, either to put the envelope through the Rectory letter-box or give it to the person who delivers your magazine to you.

In this way the magazine is not a burden on the churches or you our happy customers. Thank you very much for your generosity. Ed

WITHYAM PARISH COUNCIL (WPC) NOTES – March WARD REPORTS

St John's ward: WPC and St John's PCC have agreed to share the funding and use of a new notice board to be located outside St John's church. Local craftsman Gerald Fowler will make the board and Colleen Thirkell will carve the lettering.

Withyham/Blackham: Cllr Mandy Bowler, who lives in Blackham, has agreed to be the next ward chair.

Balls Green Play Area –WPC is seeking views on children's needs for a play area in Balls Green and is hoping that parents and children may respond to a questionnaire circulated in St Michael's school.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: This is now awaiting final photographs before we go live. It will be launched at the Annual Parish Assembly. Apart from enabling you to access agendas and minutes it will provide links to other sites, notifications of public and local government meetings and updates on parish initiatives. As well as the opportunity I am given to communicate with you all through this parish magazine – for which we are most grateful, I have been told that it will need a Chairman's Blog! Prepare yourselves!

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 22ND APRIL 7.00 p.m.

We hope you have the 22nd April 2013 already inked into your diary. This is an opportunity for residents of the parish to come and hear more about the activities that go on in the parish, and listen to and question speakers on topical issues.

This year we have **TWO SPEAKERS** – Katy Bourne, newly elected Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and George Moss, who is team leader for First Responders. George and his team assist the Emergency Services when arriving first on the scene of an emergency assess the patient's needs. They have saved many lives by using their medical knowledge and emergency pack to make the first response. WPC have funded First Responders to purchase one of their emergency packs which George will be bringing along to demonstrate.

PARISH OFFICE: WPC is shortly moving into its new office at Groombridge Station. We are working with Spa Valley Railway (SVR) to achieve a layout that will provide an easily accessible building for residents to meet us, a roomy and work efficient area for the clerk's, and a Ticket Office and SVR's Station Master's Office.

Diana Kelly: (WPC Chair)

(WPC Contact details are on the back of the Magazine)

Someone said to Joseph of Arimathea, "That was such a beautiful, costly, hand-hewn tomb. Why did you give it to someone else to be interred in?"

"Oh," said Joseph, "he only needed it for the weekend."

KINGS HALL 100 CLUB

PARISH	DIARY	APRIL	2013
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Saturday 6 th	- 1-11 - 1-11	Farewell to Adrian & Josephine Leak
-		Blackham Village Hall (See Magazine)
Monday 8 th	7.30 p.m.	WPC Monthly Meeting
	_	Blackham Village Hall
Friday 12 th	8.00 p.m.	THE B SIDES a Musical Event
		The Kings' Hall, Withyham (see Magazine)
Sunday 21st	12.30	Farewell to Adrian & Josephine
		Kings' Hall, Withyham (see Magazine)
Monday 22 nd	8.00 p.m.	WPC Annual Parish Assembly
-	-	Groombridge Village Hall (See Magazine)

Midday Thursday April 25th – Deadline for May Magazine

ADVANCE PARISH DIARY MAY 2013

Saturday 4 th	WITHYHAM ART GROUP
Sunday 5th 10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.	EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS
Monday 6 th	In the Kings' Hall, Withyham (See Magazine)

Friday 10th 8.00 p.m. GRAND RNLI QUIZ

Kings' Hall, Withyham (See Magazine)

Midday Saturday May 25th – Deadline for June Magazine

My friend was stopped for excessive speeding yesterday! He thought he could talk his way out of a ticket until the officer saw our dog in the back seat..



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LOCAL INFORMATION

Kings' Hall Withyham

	Equipment Hire: Bill Sanford	01892 770740			
Blackham Village Hall	Bookings: Mrs P Hawes	01892 740574			
Doctors	Dr A Wolfle, Dr M James				
ŗ	The Nook Surgery Groombridge	01892 863326			
9	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 Council can now be accessed at:		01892 864557			
Their email is: clerk@with	yhamparishcouncil.org.uk				
Dorset Arms Angling Clu	01892 770661				
Withyham Cricket Club	Tristan Tully	01892 541137			
Blackham Country Playe	rs Linda Weekes	01892 740261			
Citizens' Advice Bureau,	Crowborough, selected hours	01892 655303			
Council for the Protection	n of Rural England Local Office	01825 890975			
Withyham Parish Charity	y This Trust can provide finan	cial help for those in			
need and towards the	expenses of further education of	or training schemes.			
	er, the Clerk to the Trustees	01892 654395			
Timetable Information	Rail	08457 484950			
	Arriva Buses	08712 002223			
	Brighton & Hove Buses	01273 886200			
Magazine Editor and Advertisements					
Richard Pardey Smugglers, Hoadleys Lane, Crowborough, TN6 1TH					
Email: richard.pa	rdey@talk21.com	01892 661882			
Withyham Parish Council Office: The Nook, Withyham Road, Groombridge					
email: clerk@withyhampar	rishcouncil.org.uk	01892 864557			
	onday 09.30 - 12.30	14.00 - 17.30			
W	ednesday 09.30 - 12.30				
	iday 09.30 - 12.30	14.00 - 17.00			
Councillors hold "surgeries	s" on 3 rd Saturday each month	08.30 - 10.00			
Telephone Numbers for the reporting of incidents					
Highway and Footpath damage (location and problem) 08456080193					
riigiiway and rootpatii dan	nage (location and problem)	08456080193			

Lettings: **Mrs Meg Stafford** 01892 770035

08456080193

08456070999

01892 602735

08708506506

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Highway Lights out (Give the lamp number and location)

Abandoned Vehicles and Fly Tipping (Give all details)

Pollution (Give location of river, pond etc)

Vandalism (all relevant details)