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with ALL SAINTS, BLACKHAM

Incumbent: The Rev Canon James Campbell 01892 770069
The Rectory, Withyham, TN7 4BA
withyhamrector@gmail.com

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

Churchwarden: Mr Antony Cumberland 01892 864347
The Beeches, Stonewall Park Road, Langton Green, TN3 0HG

Sexton & 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 07872 529740

Organist: Mrs Sue Stone GRSM ARCM DipEd 01892 770978

Deputy Organist: Mr Peter Ellefsen BSc CEng MIEE 01892 653965

Bell Tower Captain: Rosemary Russell 01892 610659

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Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Anne Barker 01892 661393
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

Safeguarding Officer: Mr Donald Yonge 07872 529740
safeguarding.withyhamchurch@gmail.com

ALL SAINTS REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Sue Schooling 01892 740397

OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

Withyham Flower Guild: Mrs Jill Pardey 01892 661882
Blackham Flowers: Mrs Sue Schooling 01892 740397
Withyham Altar Linen: Mrs Diane Pedder 01892 770240
Withyham Church Cleaning Rota: Mrs Diane Pedder 01892 770240
Withyham Church: Mrs Diana Muckleston 01892 864410
Chichester Cathedral Link Rep: Canon James Campbell 01892 770069
Website: www.withyhamchurch.org
CHURCH CALENDAR – August 2018
St. Michael and All Angels, Withyham with All Saints Church, Blackham

Sunday 5th: 10th after Trinity
9.00am: Breakfast Church
11.00am: Sung Eucharist
6.30pm: Evensong

Thursday 9th
10.00am: Holy Communion

Sunday 12th: 11th after Trinity
9.45am: Family Service
11.00am: Matins
6.30pm: Evensong

Sunday 19th: 12th after Trinity
11.00am: All Age Service
6.30pm: Evensong

Thursday 23rd
10.00am: Holy Communion

Sunday 26th: 13th after Trinity
9.45am: Family Service
11.00am: Matins
6.30pm: Evensong

Sunday 2nd September: 14th after Trinity
9.00am: Breakfast Church
11.00am: Sung Eucharist
6.30pm: Evensong

No services at Blackham in August.

Parish Registers – July 2018

BAPTISMS

On 24th June, the baptism took place at St. Michael’s Church, Withyham, of Hugh Wyn Helier LODWICK, son of Tom and Leila.

On 8th July, the baptism took place at St. Michael’s Church, Withyham, of Charlotte (‘Lottie’) Mary Anne CLAYTON, daughter of Bridget and Peter.
Dear Friends,

As I write this, yesterday was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Nelson Mandela. The life of the one-time terrorist who spent 27 years in prison and went on to become his country’s President is of course one of the iconic stories of our lifetimes.

It is widely acknowledged that Mandela was a Christian although it was not something that he spoke about publicly on many occasions nor did he belong to one particular denomination; he was always conscious of the need for unity. In his auto-biography, ‘The Long Walk to Freedom’, he wrote of his early experience of Christianity, praising its engagements with the society around him and attributing many of the achievements of Africans to the missionary work of the Church.

It was Mandela’s Christianity that steered him away from communism and the class struggle that was enveloping South Africa in the 1940s and 50s. He felt that his country’s problems were primarily racial in origin.

During his long imprisonment he learnt about Islam as well as attending Sunday services. He even learnt to speak Afrikaans so that he could engage with the guards and seek to change their attitudes.

Mandela once said, “Until I changed myself, I could not change others.” Reflecting on the moment of his release in February 1990, he wrote, ‘As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn’t leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I’d still be in prison.’

In his auto-biography he also wrote, ‘No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than it’s opposite.’

Perhaps Mandela’s most memorable act of reconciliation was in putting on the shirt and cap of the South African rugby team – a great symbol of white authority in the apartheid years - when presenting the trophy to their winning team in the 1995 Rugby World Cup. His example lives on.

James Campbell
Breakfast Church
Sunday 5th August at Withyham Rectory  9-10am
At 9.00am we have bacon rolls, tea & coffee, pastries, mini cereal & Sunday papers, Football table, Duplo, plus a craft or activity.
At 9.30am we have a Half Hour service which includes a well-known hymn, a Bible story, short inter-active talk and prayer time, as well as a lively action song.
It’s a chance for anyone of any age to join in relaxed informal Christian worship.

More info: James & Mary Campbell
01892 770069 / withyhamrector@gmail.com

HARVEST FESTIVALS 2018
The All-Age Harvest Festival at St. Michael’s, Withyham will be on Sunday 16th September at 11.00am.
All the dry and tinned food brought to Church will again be given to those supported by the Family Support Work.
It will be followed immediately by the annual Parish Barbecue in the Rectory garden.

There will be a Harvest Service at All Saints, Blackham on Sunday 30th September at 6.30pm (no Evensong at Withyham that day).
The Harvest Supper will be in the King’s Hall the following day, Monday 1st October at 7.00pm.

Church Wardens’ Notes
Despite heavy competition from other fetes in Langton Green and Crowborough and also the England quarter final tie in the World Cup, this year’s fete still managed to take a respectable sum in excess of £7,000. Considering that most people had left in time for the kick off at 3, this was a wonderful result which after expenses will give a good boost to Church funds. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with putting up the marquees and gazebos, the stall holders for all their hard work and those who helped tidy up after the event.
James and Mary hosted a ”thank you” supper for all those who helped during the event and we thank them for their kind hospitality.
An All Age pet service took place outside the rectory on Sunday 15th July. This event was well attended, by both people and animals. Sufficient shade was found so that the participants did not overheat. Proceedings concluded with an unofficial tortoise race.

Richard Carden & Antony Cumberland
YOUNG CHURCH

Noah's Ark Word Search

animals  build  covenant  criticize  dove  evil  flood  good  land  obedient  promise  rainbow  raven  saved  supplies  two
Family Activities @ Chichester Cathedral

A fun-filled family day, to be held in Chichester Cathedral

Join us to design and make a pair of great crazy glasses or a beautiful stained glass window or sun catcher. Follow the trail and see all the ‘Crazy Colours’ around the Cathedral - collect your prize when you finish!

No need to book for this event; just drop in. The cost is **£2.50 per child.**

Suitable for children aged 3 – 12 years, who must be accompanied by an adult. There will also be a carpeted area available with soft toys for children under 3 years, who come along with their older brothers and sisters.

Enjoy the Cloisters café offer of a child’s meal for £1.50 when an accompanying adult buys a lunch item, with a valid voucher that can be collected on arrival.

**Come along and join in the fun!**

For further details please contact Luna on 01243 812986 or email luna.russell@chichestercathedral.org.uk

**CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL FRIENDS**

[http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/friends](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/friends)

What is a Cathedral For?

This question was the subject of a Food-for- Thought lunchtime talk given by the Bishop of Chichester, the Right Reverend Dr. Martin Warner, to a recent meeting of the Friends. In his talk, the Bishop covered many wide-ranging facets of modern Cathedral life and helped those present to travel back in history to further their understanding as to how and why Cathedrals came into being.

A clear theme that emerged from the Bishop’s talk was that the main purpose of a Cathedral has been, and still is, a centre for worship and mission. Mission and love are involved in the complex task of creating an appetite for faith at a time when western culture says there is no need for this dynamic, and so it should continuously aspire to be a house of theological enterprise of relating faith to life.

The Cathedral will uphold the musical traditions of the church and continue its patronage of the arts, which has been a major form of its life in honouring God with these expressions of human gifts.

The Bishop also spoke of the Cathedral as an open space, available to all and a place to bring people together, and not only for formal services. With its active learning and engagement programme it is encouraging children and young people to come in. While there, it is important for them to appreciate that this is a sacred place - where they can experience the presence of God within – a big and holy building, and in the true sense of the word – awesome!

The Cathedral is for ever & for all a sacred place; the House of God and a gate to heaven.
‘Thresholds’ – An exhibition by award winning international sculptor Diane Maclean

A stunning collection of five large-scale sculptures, by the award-winning sculptor and installation artist Diane Maclean, can be seen at Chichester Cathedral until 30th September. Exploring themes of transformation and journey, Diane’s unique sculptures incorporate light, reflection and colour. The sculptures are positioned both inside and outside the Cathedral, and several have been created especially for this event. Visitors are invited to follow a sculpture trail and experience these fascinating installations in this very special setting. Diane Maclean is a fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors; her work has been exhibited in the UK, China and Norway. Open daily with free entry.

Lunchtime Concerts at Chichester Cathedral – Autumn 2018

Tuesdays from 11th September – 20th November: 1.10pm – 2.00pm
Admission is free. Bring your sandwiches and come along and enjoy the concert. Coffee provided. All are very welcome. For more information please see: www.chichестercathedral.org.uk

The recent “Clock-to-Clock” Challenge undertaken by William Murray Willis, Richard Everall and Tom Peat was by all accounts a great success. Apparently it was just as hard as they had feared, but they made it! They have already raised over £11,000 and donations are still coming in. It is hoped that there will be an account of their achievement in the Kent & Sussex Courier soon. For the background to the Challenge, and to donate, go to www.clock-to-clock.com.

The Royal British Legion

As all are aware, this year marks the Centenary of the end of the First World War. In addition to the normal Remembrance Day Services, this year on Sunday 11th November 2018 a chain of beacons will be lit across the UK at 19:00 hours to symbolise the light of hope that emerged from the darkness of war. There will also be other special events. Together, the Royal British Legion links in the villages of Ashurst, Blackham, Fordcombe, Penshurst and Speldhurst would like to remember and commemorate the sacrifice made by so many from our villages, as well as celebrate the end of the conflict. An Evening of Remembrance is being planned on Friday 19th October, to be held in the Memorial Village Hall, Fordcombe and hosted by the Royal British Legion. Tom Tugendhat, MBE VR MP has kindly agreed to join the evening and talk on an appropriate military subject, having served on operations during the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan.

If anyone has any local WW1 stories, pictures or memorabilia, or ideas to include in the programme, then please contact Jeremy Syers, Chairman Local Branch Royal British Legion Tel: 01892 740326. Or speak to RBL representative for Blackham, Sheila Wellstead. An email address is also available to share your ideas or contributions RBL@A264.co.uk

**SAVE THE DATE!**   **FRIDAY 14th SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm**

It can't really be Pantomime Time yet can it? Oh yes it can! ... well nearly.... but we do need to start a bit earlier this year for various reasons.

So, on Friday 14th September we will be having our first Script Read-Through and Casting at the Kings' Hall Withyham for our annual Panto.

This year it will be Little Red Riding Hood.

Rehearsals will start around mid-October and Performance Dates are Friday 4th and Saturday 5th January 2019.

Plenty of parts for everyone and of course children are most welcome.

We'll start at 7.30pm which I hope is early enough before the children's bedtimes but late enough for busy Commuters to make it.

If you want further details - or you can't make the read-through but want a part - please call me on 01892 652515.

Or e-mail me on suewilliamsB@aol.com

See you there! *(Sound of slapping of thigh)*    OUCH!    **Sue**

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**Groombridge and Hartfield Surgery Patients Participation Group**

Our Practice has a very large catchment area which includes villages in rural and semi rural areas, parts of the towns of Crowborough and Tunbridge Wells and some of the furthest points of the Ashdown Forest, all of which overlap other Practices which are closer. Drs. Wolffle and James are applying to reduce the boundaries on some of the furthest areas. Doing so would help release GP resources especially at times of high demand. All existing patients in those areas could remain with this Practice but newly registering patients / new residents would be served by Practices closer to their homes. The PPG committee believe this move is in the best long-term interests of our Practice and fully supports the proposal. A map showing the current and proposed boundaries is on display at both surgeries together with comments forms; they can also be found on the Practice website: [www.groombridgeandhartfieldmedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.groombridgeandhartfieldmedicalgroup.co.uk)    **Tony Howell**

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**The Medici Bank and the Pazzi Conspiracy**

Come and listen to the story of the Medici, one of the most powerful banking families ever to exist. However, when you are this successful and powerful there will inevitably be another rival family who will want to take your place by whatever means available.

A talk by Ian Morgan

Saturday 8th September 7.00pm at Blackham Village Hall
Price per ticket £3 (to include refreshments)
(Advanced notice would be appreciated to allow for catering)
Contact mail@marnie144.plus.com
The Kings’ Hall Withyham 100 Club

NB – the July draw will be made in August together with the August draw, so no winners list this month. As always, we are keen to encourage local people to become members of the 100 Club, to provide funds for future maintenance & improvements. Each number costs £12 per annum; to join, contact Rick on 01892 770347 or rickhunnam@hotmail.com.

Forthcoming Events at the Hall

Sept. 15th: ‘Not The Hoople’ (featuring Ralph ‘Ginge’ Millington) – music & dancing
Oct. 12th/13th: Mamma Mia, with the ‘Local Ladies Immature Dramatic Society’
Oct. 27th: A Murder Mystery
Nov. 10th: World War I Commemoration
Dec. 7th: Quiz

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

As the good work of FSW continues, it’s good to hear from Michelle that she has caught up with her ever increasing workload and that the situation is now under control. Sadly, Michelle has recently seen increasing problems in areas of our own leafy countryside. These include poverty, family breakdowns, illness of a parent or child and depression, with some causing unprecedented mental health issues in children as young as 7. Recently, assisted by some extremely generous local people, I have been able to help with the funding of various items for some of the families that are in need. These have included the purchase of a guitar for a boy of 12, who I’m delighted to say is now having music lessons after school, something that he enjoys very much and that is helping him enormously. One very kind local lady funded the purchase of a new tumble drier for a young mother whose previous drier caught fire with the family clothes inside. Another recent cash donation has enabled me to provide WH Smith vouchers for a young boy who will be moving on to a new school in September, to purchase much needed pencils, pens etc. As always, I’m happy to discuss such cases in slightly more detail privately, but obviously without disclosing any personal details.

Sunday September 16th brings the All Age Harvest Festival Service at Withyham. In line with previous years, James has kindly agreed for FSW to be the recipient of any goods that are brought to the Church on that day. With that thought in mind, I would be most appreciative if gifts could be non-perishable please. Tins, jars, packets of cereal, biscuits etc., and any other such goods with a long sell-by date are really helpful to us. I have mentioned previously how very generous the congregation at Withyham always are, and this continues to be the case. I really don’t know what I’d do without you all! Continued thanks and my love for your kindness and support.

On Saturday October 27th I am organising a Fund Raising Event at Withyham Kings Hall, commencing at 7.30pm.
This will be a Murder Mystery entitled “MURDER AT LAVENDER HALL”
All proceeds will be shared between two charities: CLIC Sargent (Cancer and Leukaemia in Children) and FSW.
I hope this will be an exciting evening with lots of thrills and surprises, so please do keep the date in your diary. I would be delighted to receive your kind support.
More details next month as the mystery deepens……!!

Miriam Boobier
Groombridge Horticultural Society

Don’t forget the **Annual Flower and Vegetable Show at 2.30pm on Saturday 8th September** in the Village Hall. There are plenty of classes to enter for both adults & juniors including vegetables, flowers, floral art and cookery. Full details can be found on our website and it would be appreciated if entries were provided by email by 8pm on Thursday 6th September.

**ENTRANCE IS FREE**, everyone is welcome and there will be delicious refreshments available. We look forward to seeing you there.

- Staging of entries 9 am to 12 noon
- Judging 12.15 to 1.30 pm
- Open for viewing 2.30 pm
- Prize Giving 4 pm

**2018 Programme of Events**

- **Saturday 13th October** - Autumn Plant Sale
- **Thursday 18th October** - Sue Marshall, owner of Iris of Sissinghurst, speaking on the English love affair with the Iris
- **Thursday 15th November** - Floral decorations for Christmas demonstration.

If you have any queries, please contact Gillian Gray on 01892 864580 or email groombridgehorticulturalsociet@gmail.com. Find our website by googling **Groombridge Horticultural Society**

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**Groombridge Film Society Annual General Meeting**

Monday September 10th at 8pm in Groombridge Village Hall Club Room

You are invited to attend our inaugural AGM for an update on the Society’s activities and future plans, with a complimentary drink!

We will be appointing the officers and committee members for the 2018/19 season, and would be delighted to hear from members who would like to join the committee.

*For further information please contact – Janet Sharples, GFS Secretary – horshar11@gmail.com*

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**Hartfield Fete**

Horticultural & Dog Show

**1st September**

Town Croft 12 noon - 4.30pm

Withyham Parish Council met on Monday 9th July at The Old Station, Groombridge. Action from the last meeting is on our website www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk and Facebook on http://www.facebook.com/WithyhamParishCouncil.

Minutes can also be obtained from the Clerks at the Old Station, Groombridge.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: County Councillor Whetstone outlined the budget cuts that will take place between 2019 and 2021, in response to £82m less income. £17m cuts have already been made this year with £10m achieved from adult social care by amalgamating two sites and reducing outreach activities. East Sussex has the second highest number of over 85 year olds of all counties. It is hoped that additional council tax from new builds will help but £46m of extra cuts are to be expected. Grass cutting has been reduced from 6 cuts to 2 cuts per year. ESCC is unable to provide more except at dangerous junctions. Concern was expressed about how the contractors’ equipment will cope with the length of grass when it is cut.

Councillors expressed their frustration about this and about the public consultation on the closure of recycling centres at Wadhurst and Forest Row as it was felt that the opinions expressed by the public were not taken into account.

District Councillor Rutherford reported back on Keir and the missed bin collections in the parish. They no longer achieve the target of 100 or less missed bins — the average being 300-400 missed bins per week. Last week 1000 bins were missed due to broken down vehicles and crew absences. They were fined by Wealden District Council (WDC). We would like you to report any missed bin collections to WDC so that Keir’s performance may be monitored.

WARD REPORTS

GROOMBRIDGE WARD: The May Fair has now replaced the fence post which was removed for safety reasons on the day of the May Fair. Advice is being sought on access requirements for future events. Overgrown grass and hedge at the railway bridge has been reported by the Community Warden as it completely hides a driver’s view of the Twitten gate and of exiting pedestrians who, in turn, have difficulties seeing if cars are approaching.

Groombridge Playground: The next meeting of the refurbishment group will take place on Wednesday 18th July where they will be considering a proposed action plan and looking at the next stages in the planning of the renewal. Hopefully under Sarah Cooper’s lively auspices tasks may start to be allocated to move the project forward. Lots of children are anticipating the outcome with glee!

ST. JOHN’S WARD: An accident was reported on Gillridge lane bridleway where a cyclist came off his bike. ESCC had been informed of the incident and asked for clarification on its liabilities.

WITHYHAM / BLACKHAM WARD: A car accident had occurred involving a deer on Ladies Mile due to the long grass obscuring the view — do please be alert to the possibility of deer throughout the parish who now have the added camouflage created by the long grass verges, which prevents drivers from seeing them until the last minute.

Some graffiti has appeared on the telephone box at Balls Green which the residents had requested be purchased from BT by WPC for their adaptation to other uses such as a book exchange/plant swap kiosk etc. A pane of glass now needs replacing.

WITHYHAM PARISH VOLUNTEERS (WPV)
The WPV group has been meeting to review volunteering in the parish. It is currently looking at tasks needed to be undertaken in the parish and ways of managing those who have volunteered to commit some of their time and their skills/experience to completing these tasks. There is so much to do and there are only 13 of us on the Council so we really value offers from you to work with us. We are currently considering looking for a volunteer co-ordinator who will work alongside the parish clerks and the leads of volunteering projects to
recruit and manage volunteers. Time commitment is flexible but ideally we are looking for someone to undertake this role at least 1 day a week. If you are interested in helping the parish council develop new volunteering opportunities do please contact us – details below.

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 10th September at 7.30pm. All are welcome.
Diana Kelly: Chair   Clerks at 01892 864557 / clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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**Withyham Parish Amblers**

Walking at a relaxed pace for pleasure

*No walk in August but look out for details of the September walk in the next magazine!*  
For more information:  
karen.white@ferviduswhite.com  07941 055011  
clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk  01892 864557

A Withyham Parish Council *Forward for 5* Initiative

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**BLACKHAM VILLAGE MARKET**

(First Saturday of every month except January)  
**Authentic village life atmosphere** - Local produce for sale

**Saturday August 4th - 10:00am to 12:30pm**  
Blackham Village Hall, TN3 9UD

Meet other village folk & buy local produce & gifts! Enjoy filter-fresh coffee, tea and homemade cakes at ‘The Stage’ café!

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**Withyham Art and Crafts** will be holding a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 19th September at the Kings’ Hall, Withyham, 10.00 to 12.00. All are welcome to join us!

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**WANTED - The owner of 100 Euros!**

Amongst the many books kindly donated to the Church Fete this year was one with an envelope stuffed in it. Inside the envelope was a Clintons’ card with the words ‘A treat for you’ but no writing on it, together with 100 Euros. If you think the money might be yours, please do get in touch. I may need you to try and identify the book it was in if there is more than one claimant! If no one claims it, the money will be added to what raised at the Fete. **James Campbell**
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Citizens’ Advice Bureau, Crowborough  01892 655303

Council for the Protection of Rural England  Local Office  01825 890975

Withyham Parish Charity  This Trust provides financial help for those in need
Applications should be made to Richard Carden,
Telephone Numbers for the reporting of incidents
Highway lights and footpath damage (location and problem)  03456 080193
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Waste collection queries  03456 080193
Trading Standards  03456 080197
Problems can also be reported to: eastsussex.gov.uk/fixmystreet

Magazine Editor  Stephen Whittaker  withyham.mag@gmail.com
Magazine Advertising  Mrs Anne Barker  01892 661393

Withyham Parish Council (WPC), The Old Station, Groombridge, TN3 9RD
Website:  www.withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Facebook:  www.facebook.com/withyhamparishcouncil

Email:  clerk@withyhamparishcouncil.org.uk  Tel:  01892 864557
WPC Office Hours:  Monday  09.30 - 17.00
Tuesday to Friday  09.30 - 12.30

A Councillor is always present at the monthly Community Café in Groombridge.