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Parish News

March 2025

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**THE PARISH OF RUSPER
SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
CHURCH RUSPER
MARCH 2025 SERVICES**



Holy Communion at 8am [said] and 11am [sung with hymns] every Sunday. Monthly at Durrants Retirement Village. Mass celebrated also every Wednesday at 10am at All Saints' Roffey.

Services in March

2nd 11am Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday 5th 10.30 am Holy Communion at Durrants Retirement Village with Imposition of Ashes

9th Lent 1 11am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

16th Lent 2 11am Holy Communion

23rd Lent 3 11am Holy Communion

Belonging, believing and behaving

Church membership can be defined in various ways. I find the three Bs a useful checklist. The rite of Baptism is the essential sign of the community of faith. For some it was conferred when they were infants, and the public practice can be occasional, sometimes dormant for long periods. It remains a sign of God's gift of grace in our lives.

Belief is not just a case of rational scientific proof. Evidence for faith can be found in many places, but the root word is below. Faith grows at an emotional level rather than purely intellectual. Sadly, we see many members of the church behaving in ways whose Behaviour, the third B falls short of the faith they profess. Indeed, every one of us falls short of our highest aspirations.

In the Church of England each parish every few years, renews its local membership list the Electoral Roll. It differs from the annual process of reviewing the Electoral Roll in that it involves everybody wanting to be represented on the Roll **submitting a fresh application**, whether they were already on the previous Roll or are applying for the first time.

I invite you to fill in the form and return to Electoral Roll Officer ahead of our Annual Church Meeting on 27 April.



Check Website and Church Facebook for news and updates. Email Nick if you would like to receive the weekly update. rusperchurch.org.uk



RUSPER VILLAGE HALL

If you wish to book Rusper Village Hall for any event, please visit the Village Hall website <https://ruspervillagehall.org.uk> which contains a booking form.

RUSPER CHAT 2025



**FRIDAY 28th MARCH 2.30PM – LORNA
4 Steeres Hill - 871012**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE MONTH'S HOST IF A LIFT
TO ANY CHAT MEETING WOULD BE HELPFUL**

ALL VERY WELCOME!

HOPE KEITH VILLAGE TRUST ACTION IN RURAL SUSSEX

Over the past few months, Villagers Connect project workers **Jasmine** and **Jo** have been out and about, getting to know the wonderful communities of Colgate, Faygate, and Rusper.

From these conversations, we're excited to announce the creation of The Hub at Faygate Village Hall!

We'll be there every Wednesday from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm, providing a welcoming space for everyone to drop by. Whether you're attending Chair-Based Yoga or simply fancy a coffee and a chat, we'd love to see you.

The Hub is all about connecting with the community and gathering ideas for activities, both at the hall and beyond. Here are a few ideas that have already been shared:

- A group for individuals experiencing hearing loss
- Springtime walks
- Fundraising initiatives
- A trip to the seaside

If you are interested in any of these, please get in touch.

We'd love to hear your thoughts and suggestions! What activities would you enjoy? What would help strengthen connections across our villages? Drop by for a chat and help us shape the future of The Hub together.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jasmine & Jo

Jasmine.Watkins@ruralsussex.org.uk

Jo.Peters@ruralsussex.org.uk



BURNS NIGHT QUIZ

Many thanks must go to Marion Fenton for organising the quiz questions for the Burns Night event. It all went with great gusto and much laughter. And thank you to all who participated, not forgetting those who kindly donated to the raffle and those who made it all go with a swing.

The evening raised £1276.50 towards the North Aisle Renovations.

Maggie True

SAVE THE DATE!

RUSPER MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Bank Holiday Monday – 5th May
Rusper High Street
Road closures will be in place

Preparations are well underway for this year's celebrations. We have had some lovely offers to help lead, organise, and support the event this year and we look forward to sharing more details with you very soon. Watch this space!

If you are interested in Volunteering, taking part or booking a stall - please email ruspermayday@hotmail.com We look forward to seeing you there.

Wayne 07971 416787

CHURCH CLEANING

Church Cleaning Rota for March 2025

March 7 th	Eileen Hallam	01293 871417
March 14 th	Judy Butler	01293 871485
March 21 st	Maggie True	01293 871722
March 28 th	Shona Lidstone	01403 248872

Sue Matthewson 01293 8712665

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Summary of the meeting of Rusper Parish Council Planning Committee on 21st January 2025 and the ordinary Parish Council on Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7.00pm, Rusper Village Hall.

Reports from other Authorities

District Councillor Tony Hogben - reported that the **Local Plan** has halted and that the plan was pre-inspected and has been updated in line with legal requirements. The planning inspector has not officially told HDC why the Local Plan has been stopped. **Devolution** – this was announced a week before Christmas which is a concern for HDC staff; timeline is that it will be in place in 2027/28, and there is a possibility that May elections may be cancelled. There is a plan to have a Horsham Town Council in a year.

Rusper Parish - The Glebe field is coming up for consideration and objections have been made to the application. Noted that Devine Homes are attending the next planning committee meeting.

Rusper Sports Club Management

The council received a copy of the proposed underlease and the sports club relationship agreement. It was noted that the underlease cannot be agreed until the CIO has been set up and must be approved by the landowners. At the meeting with the Sports Club on 27th January 2025 there were no objections to the proposal. It was **proposed** to adopt the relationship agreement. It was **resolved** to adopt the sports club relationship agreement and Cllr M Fillmore will progress with its implementation.

Gatwick

Cllr M Fillmore attended a Gatwick meeting and a report is attached to the minute book. CAGNE has sent out a crowd funding link. The Gatwick expansion has still not been announced, council will report as soon as there is an update.

Fingerposts

It was **agreed** to compile a list of fingerposts in need of professional maintenance and fingerpost to just be cleaned, each councillor will adopt a

fingerpost to manage. This will be brought back to council for final quotation and payment agreement.

WSCC Highways

The TRO will be progressed with the Clerk and Cllr Simon White at a further meeting arranged by WSCC Highways. Carry to next meeting.

It was **agreed** to apply for a licence for a new salt bin in Ifield Wood.

It was **agreed** to apply for a licence for a new bollard outside The Star Pub.

It was **agreed** to place the new SIDs at the licenced locations at Gardeners Green and Ghyll Manor.

Reports from Representatives

Rusper Stores – The Clerk met with Rusper Stores manager, the Clerk suggested the application for a tourist brown sign to help indicate that there is a shop in Rusper. The Clerk offered to go back to the shop with the grant application form and discuss how the shop can apply for a parish council grant.

HALC report –Noted that Southwater PC are planning judicial review for a planning decision contrary to their made Neighbourhood Plan. Warnham PC reported unauthorised planning in Warnham.

80th VE Day 8th May 2025 – council **agreed** to light the beacon and to arrange an event.

Bench outside the hall – Cllr M Fenton reported that the bench is broken outside the village hall. .

Wood delivery for Playground - chat room in playground needs maintenance, the wood has arrived, the chat room is now ready to be repaired.

Playground – site meeting with Wicksteed and Streetscape for quotes have been completed. HAGS meeting is on 4th Feb Playdale and Sutcliffe Play are also visiting to quote.

TPO/1579 Wooded Roadside Strip to the East of 10 East Street Rusper

The TPO to protect the remaining trees along East Street was considered. It was **resolved** to support the TPO application.

Financial

It was **resolved** to **approve** the reports.

It was **noted** that the Clerk has issued the Precept request to HDC on 8th January 2025.

It was **noted** that the award of Grasscutting contract to Grasstex, Clerk has published on websites to adhere to Procurement legislation.

DC/24/1835 Land To The Rear of The Rectory High Street Rusper West Sussex – objection.

DC/24/1896 Ashfolds Horsham Road Rusper West Sussex – no objection.

DC/25/0074 Curtis Farm Green Lane Horsham West Sussex RH12 4PP – objection.

DC/23/2325 Scrag Copse Farm Prestwood Lane Ifield West Sussex – objection.

East Street, Rusper - It was reported to council that the unauthorised removal of hedgerow and trees from the verge in East Street had occurred. There appears to have been no felling licence or highways or planning licence for works. The Clerk reported it to the necessary authorities and action to place a TPO on the remaining trees has been applied.

Lisa Wilcock

Clerk to Rusper Parish Council

c/o Rusper Village Stores, East Street, Rusper RH12 4PX

Tel 07380 468256

RUSPER CHURCH 200 CLUB

All the details about the Rusper Church 200 Club including past winners, the Rules and an Application Form, are on the Church's website at www.rusperchurch.org.uk under "THE CHURCH IS YOU" tab. Just print off and complete the Application Form and then either e-mail it to me at johnmjory@gmail.com or send it to me at: Elsinoro, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, RH12 4PR.

The result of the February 2025 draw is:

1 st Prize - £200	44	Andrew C
2 nd Prize - £75	129	David W
3 rd Prize - £50	57	Sue S

John Jory

A SHORT STORY

Jason and his Newts

Jason jammed his fingers into his ears. His mum was about to erupt. 'You can't do this to us!' His crimson cheeked mum flung open the kitchen window. 'You're ruining our village and destroying nature.'

'Mum,' he began, but she was leaning out of the window, waving a letter and bellowing loudly. 'Just dig up our Village Green will you? Destroy the land our families have played on for generations. Over my dead body.'

Unplugging his ears, Jason peered out of the window. 'Mum, there's no-one there.' She slammed the window shut, thrusting the letter at him as she spoke. 'But there will be. If the Property Developer gets his way, the Green will be turned into a housing estate.'

Slowly Jason read the letter. He felt all sick and shivery. 'But Mum, what about the pond on the edge of the green?' He felt his eyes start to well up. His Mum's face lost its angry look. 'It's all wrong love I know, but this letter says that they've put in for planning permission.'

'Mum. No. If they dig up the pond what will happen to my newts?' 'Sorry love, but there's more to worry about than your little newts.'

Embarrassed by his tears, Jason turned away. 'I'm going down to the pond.'

'Off you go then. Enjoy them while you can love. Six months, and it will be a building site.'

Jason ran out into the field, throwing himself onto the damp grass on the edge of the pond, his tears dropping into the shallows, as he sobbed.

A week later, Hazel showed Jason an official looking letter from the Property Developer.

'I'm sorry Jason, but this is it.'

'But what about the May Day show?' asked Jason, with a worried frown.

'There's going to be an Unusual Pet competition.' His eyes grew large and round. 'Geoffrey Gregory, that famous conservationist man from TV, he lives in the next village and he's judging it. I want to enter my newts. It will still go ahead won't it?'

'Don't worry love. The Developer has given us their permission. It'll be the last event on the Green, but at least we can go out in style. And your

competition will still go ahead.’ Jason let out a sigh of relief as his mother carried on talking.

‘And you really are entering newts are you love? She looked worried. ‘I mean, who ever heard of pet newts? Everyone will laugh at them’

‘Well, I’m going to enter one and I’ve called it Roger.’ Jason replied firmly.

Jason was up early on the day of the May Day show. Through the kitchen window he could see a freshly erected sign. ‘Modern Homes. Town living in the countryside’. He’d met the Modern Homes representative only yesterday and asked him if he would like to come down to the pond and see his newts, but the man had waved him away, showing no interest in what he rudely called ‘all that froggy stuff.’ Across from his pond, was the gazebo, where Geoffrey Gregory would be judging the Unusual Pet competition. And there next to it was the shiny suited representative from Modern Homes. He was looking pleased with himself.

Finally, it was time for the Unusual Pet competition. Clutching the jar carefully, Jason joined the queue and found himself at the end of a long line of pet owners. He studied Roger carefully. Maybe his mum was right. Too late to back out now though, for suddenly it was his turn. He put his precious cargo onto the table. Geoffrey Gregory picked up the small jar. ‘And what have we got here young man?’ he asked with a rather condescending smile.

The judge looked frighteningly large and scary in real life. Jason stammered a reply. ‘It’s m... my newt. He’s called Roger.’ With a wobbly voice he ploughed on. ‘He’s not exactly a pet, but I like him.’

Geoffrey Gregory looked at the jam jar. Roger peeped out from behind some pond weed. The judge looked a bit closer, then peered more intently, before gasping loudly, his eyes almost popping out of his head.

Jason was expecting to be told off for being a time waster, but instead, the expert, cradling the jam jar carefully in his hands said ‘this Roger of yours isn’t just any old newt. No indeed. This is a Great Crested Newt. This is an extremely rare specimen of an amphibian, that we thought was close to extinction.’

Jason found his voice. ‘But there’s loads here. I mean, they’re in the pond. Right over there.’

'Loads of them did you say? Over there?' gasped Geoffrey Gregory, clutching the jam jar to his chest and staggering backwards.

'Yes,' said Jason... , 'But they're going to be gone soon. It's all going to be a housing estate.'

'I don't think so,' said the judge. 'Your pond is undoubtedly the unique habitat of a rare species of newt.'

Clearing his throat, he tapped the microphone.

'Ladies and gentlemen. May I have your attention please. The winner of the 'Unusual Pet competition 'is this young man, with his entry of Roger the Great Crested Newt.' Jason was dancing with excitement as Geoffrey Gregory picked up a small silver cup and, with a sweeping gesture, presented it to him. He cast a glance at the man from Modern Homes, who didn't look half as smug faced now.

The judge rolled on regardless. 'I would like to tell you all what an important discovery has been made' Puffing out his chest, he wrapped his arm around Jason. 'We have unveiled the unique habitat of the Great Crested Newt. This newt is a very rare amphibian whose habitat must be protected at all costs. There will be no building on this Green, either now or in the future.'

A huge cheer went up from the villagers and everyone congratulated Jason, patting him on the back, His mum pushed her way through the crowd and gave him a huge hug.

'Jason, you clever boy. Who would have thought that one of your little newts would have saved our Village Green from being turned into a building site.' Jason grinned. 'Well, Mum, it seems that even little newts have a place in the world!'

ANON

SAVE WEST OF IFIELD CAMPAIGN

Although at the time of writing this we're still in limbo waiting to hear the fate of Horsham Council's draft Local Plan, please find below a quick update on some of the issues relevant to the West of Ifield proposals.

1. **Progress with HDC's draft Local Plan** – from HDC's website: "Latest News 3 February 2025: The Horsham District Local Plan Inspector has informed the Council he remains committed to writing to the Council as soon as he possibly can. He has now indicated that this will not be until towards the end of February/early March 2025 at the earliest. His response will be placed on the Local Plan Examination webpage in due course.

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-examination/Latest-News-from-Local-Plan-Examination> "

2. **Crawley Borough Council's** recent restatement that "The council strongly opposes Homes England's latest proposals for a residential-led development west of Ifield" – 5th February. For more details:

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/crawley-borough-council-re-states-opposition-to-plans-to-build-thousands-of-homes-west-of-ifield-4978327>

3. **Lack of sewage processing capacity.** Financial Times, 13th February: "Most of Thames Water's sewage plants unable to cope with demand – At least half of Thames Water's sewage plants lack the pipes and tanks to process enough waste water, leading untreated effluent to spill into rivers and waterways across its network, according to the company's own data. ... The state of Thames' network – including its lack of information about a large part of its system – is hampering the company's efforts to raise financing to stave off bankruptcy." <https://on.ft.com/413pYY9>

4. **Reorganisation of local government.** The government has approved the joint bid from the County Councils of West and East Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Council to create a combined 'mayoral' authority for Sussex, for which a mayor will be elected. It is likely that district councils will have much less power, and that planning decisions will be taken at the unitary authority level – West Sussex would be roughly the size for a unitary authority. The government will hold a consultation on the devolution proposal for Sussex, which is expected to run until March 2025. The local elections for West Sussex,

due to be held in May 2025, are postponed.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/future-of-local-government-in-sussex/>

5. It seems that reaction to the Government's planning reforms is ramping up. We read more and more press articles and reports point out that relying on the private sector to deliver 1.5 million houses won't work because of the acute skills shortage in the construction sector, because housing associations are prioritising removing cladding and mould rather than building, and because developers will delay building if house prices aren't "high enough" (hence the 1.4 million permissions currently held by developers but not being built). Plus, on 5th February the House of Lords Built Environment Committee wrote to Angela Rayner stating: "We have significant concerns about whether the Government can effectively coordinate all of its planned changes to the planning system, and the impact of uncoordinated changes on local planning authorities. ... We are not satisfied from our discussions with Mr Pennycook and Mr Burgon that the Government has a sufficient understanding of the implications raised when introducing concurrent intersecting planning policies, risking its ability to deliver them in a coherent way."

https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/46504/documents/236967/default/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWQCMTEAAR0axi38FoQYiEoH9tgwERTVygZ4bZOrm3DYwCl6Gz-Rr7t-9usZYrGv3do_aem_og41xzPuMqV-pcpol6F01Q

Thank you for your ongoing support, and if you are able, please consider making a donation to the campaign – see website for details.

Fenella Maitland-Smith

savewestofifield@gmail.com

<https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/>

Rusper Sports Club AGM 2025

Monday 7th April 2025

7.30pm

at

the Sports Club pavilion.

Everyone welcome, both members and non-members.

Can you help?

The Sports Club Committee have worked really hard this year, improving the

football, tennis and basketball areas so that members can enjoy playing sport in Rusper on quality pitches and courts. We are planning further improvements and would really love some extra help on the committee. Rusper Sports Club exists to maintain the sports facilities in the village for both adults and children alike, but without volunteers, this cannot happen. There is no age limit, but it would be lovely to have more younger people/parents on the committee so that we can best cater for all ages. We meet around six times a year, so being a committee member is not an onerous task. Meetings usually last one to two hours and are held face to face or on Zoom

You don't need to be sporty nor have any qualifications, just community spirited to ensure that the club continues for the current and future generation - any help at all would be greatly appreciated. Please come along to our AGM at the pavilion, next to the sports field, at 7.30pm on Monday April 7th to meet us and to find out more. We're a friendly bunch, honest! :)

Viv Sallows

NEWDIGATE BOWLS CLUB - At the heart of your village!



Ever fancied trying lawn bowls as a pastime? Or if you've bowled in the past, why not start playing again? Bowls is one of the few outdoor sports that men and women can play together and compete as equals. It is a great activity that naturally promotes both physical and mental health. NBC is a small, friendly club located by the Brocus with a playing green envied by many larger clubs in the area!
We are now recruiting for the 2025 season!

Key Dates for the Diary: Our popular Club Night runs every Tuesday from 6 pm starting in April. You are very welcome to come along, chat to existing members, have a drink at the clubhouse bar, and we will introduce you to bowls through three complimentary coaching sessions on a Tuesday evening. Coaching for beginners is available on **22nd April, 29th April, 6th May, 13th May and 20th May**. New membership costs just £60 for the year, and we offer non-playing social membership too at only £30!

For all enquiries and further questions please contact the Club Secretary Diana Banthorpe at secretary@newdigatebowls.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

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EDITORS

Please remember to let the editor underlined below have all items for the April 2025 edition by 14 March 2025.

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SAT: 8:00AM - 4:30PM
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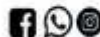
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