RUSPER



Parish News

October 2025

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



Holy Communion every Sunday at 8am and sung with hymns at 11am. Monthly Eucharist at Durrants Village. 10am Mass at All Saints Roffey on Wednesdays followed by refreshments.

October

Thursday 2nd Sunday 5th

Durrants Village 10.30am Holy Communion Holy Communion Bring your pets & animals, 11am

coffee and cake after the service

NON-RESIDENTS WELCOME

Sunday 12 th	Feast of Saint Wilfrid	11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th		11am	Holy Communion
Sunday 28 th			Holy Communion

Information on services is updated monthly on: www.rusperchurch.org.uk Why not visit the Rusper Church website and follow Nick on Facebook? If a priest is required at short notice and Nick is unavailable, please contact the Churchwardens.

Rector	Revd Nick Flint	01293 871251
Authorised Lay	Mr Chris Pearce	01403 268047
Minister		
Churchwarden	Mr Stephen Busby	01293 871219
Churchwarden	Mrs Maggie True	01293 871722
Treasurer	Mrs Lorna Reeves	01293 871012

The Rectory, High Street Rusper, RH12 4PX

Think Globally - act Glebally!

The first round in the fight to save Rusper's Glebe field has been a victory for the village thanks to a strong rallying of community spirit and common sense. However we remain vigilant for when the developers return with updated proposals.

Villagers gave a spirited defence of the historic field, and struck a blow for common sense green thinking. The historical and community value of the field was recognised by councillors who as a result remain to be convinced by the developers' proposals.

There is always a tension between timeless truths and healthy necessary change. I can think of many ways in which this village and church is not the same as when I became rector thirty years ago Yes- THIRTY! The life of St Mary Magdalene's has evolved. Attendance figures have gone down in line with general wider trends in the Church of England nationally, but I feel the quality of our commitment and faith is meeting the challenges. We may be fewer in number but we have grown in other ways. The building is always open. The welcome to worship is constant and inclusive.

In October we remember St Wilfrid, credited as if not the very first, then the greatest early Christian missionary to what was then the proud kingdom of the South Saxons.

Newcomers and the lapsed are always welcome and welcome back.

Signed Nick Flim Rector

Looking ahead to Christmas !!!

Do you have a Christmas crib or representation of the nativity of Jesus that you could loan to the church for the duration of the Christmas Tree festival in December. We would like to celebrate as part of the display different styles and cultures in which his birth has been celebrated . Please get in touch with Nick or the churchwardens if you can help

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



Nick is here to minister to all who have need in our parish. He is keen to be told if someone has moved in and to have an opportunity to visit newcomers. Holy Communion can be arranged for the housebound or those who are sick. Nick tries to take Friday as a rest day each week, so he kindly suggests that you only contact him on a Friday in matters of urgency.

RUSPER CHURCH 200 CLUB

Thank you to all those people who continue responding to the request for new members. The Rusper Church 200 Club is one of the continuing forms of income to our lovely church during these challenging times. You can continue to help by joining the 200 Club or buying additional shares. All the details about the Rusper Church 200 Club including past winners, the Rules and an Application Form, are on the Church's web-site 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. Many thanks to all of you who have been regularly contributing to enable us to make a significant contribution towards the running costs of the Church over the past few years.

The result of the latest draw is:

	September 2025	
1st Prize - £200	35	Mr & Mrs B
2 nd Prize - £75	75	David S
3 ^d Prize - £50	60	Hilde S

John Jory

A Tribute to June Rickett

June Rickett, a longstanding member of the Parish and of the congregation of the Church, died on 15 April 2025 at the age of 96. June moved to Little Benhams with her husband Christopher and children Charles and Henry in 1960. Born in Woking she was brought up in Surrey until the outbreak of the war when she and her family moved to Scotland to escape the bombs and to stay in her grandfather's house near Stirling, on the River Forth. Her mother was known as the games mistress and despite the privations of the war years June always looked back on her years in Scotland with great affection as a time of fun and games. The family moved back south after the war and June worked in London in various shops and travelled to America and France. She started married life in London before moving to Rusper. She took part in village life and for many years helped arrange the flowers in the Church. She was an accomplished cook and gardener and loved entertaining her many relations and friends. She was a keen bridge player until her death. She had strong views which she could not always stop herself expressing. But at heart she was a warm, engaged and loving person and will be much missed by all who knew her. She has been laid to rest in the churchyard next to her great friends and neighbours Francis and Ian McElwaine, near her brother Angus and within speaking distance of her first friends in Rusper, Jack and Avocet Phelps.

Rusper Parish News 4 October 2025

RUSPER CHAT 2025



Friday 24th October 2.30 pm Pat – Tanglewood

Any queries? Please contact: Pam 01293 871527 / Kay 01293 871566

ALL WELCOME!

CHURCH CLEANING

October 3 rd	Judy Butler	871485
October 10 th	Mary Dawe	01306 627663
October 17 th	Pat Newman	871354
October 24 th	Sue Matthewson	871266
October 31st	Maggie True	871722

Sue Matthewson 01293 871266







VILLAGERS CONNECT NEWS:



Stay in the loop!

Follow *Villagers Connect* on Facebook for the latest activities, meet-ups, and local news.

Digital Landline Switchover - What You Need to Know

Chris Hockley, BT's Engagement Manager for Digital Voice, will be giving a talk at **Faygate Village Hall on Wednesday 1st October at 11:30am**. Come along if you'd like to hear more about the changes and ask questions directly. The UK is moving from analogue landlines to digital landlines by the end of **2027**. This means your phone will connect through your internet service. You don't need broadband to keep a landline if you don't have internet, your provider will give you a simple connection box.

If you use a **telecare or pendant alarm**, it can still work but must be tested. Make sure your provider knows about it so the right support is in place. One important change is during a **power cut**: your landline won't work unless you have a battery backup. Providers must support vulnerable customers, and if you are over 75, have a disability, live in a no-signal area, or rely on your landline only, you will be offered **free backup equipment**. If you need **transport to attend the talk**, please let us know, so we can arrange transport.

Contact us at <u>villagersconnect@ruralsussex.org.uk</u> or phone **Jasmine** on **07899 894975**

Dates for your diary:

Colgate Village Hall:

Bingo - Tuesday 14th and 28th October 7.30pm & then every other Tuesday - 50p a card & a raffle

Quiz night - Monday 20th October £2 entry per person - Come along as a single/couple and join a team

Colgate Cuppa & Chat - Tuesday 28th October - contact Barry for more information barry.humphreys6@gmail.com

Pilates - Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm to 7pm contact: Carol on 07765 655872

RULK" - Colgate Village hold a free monthly run/walk on the second Sunday of each month. You can run or walk the planned 2 to 3 mile route, we meet at 9.30am at Colgate Village Hall. After the "rulk" we finish at the village hall and have a tea or coffee and share cake kindly donated by those taking part. All welcome to join us, please come along to the next one on Sunday 12th October. To keep up to date on any changes join us on Facebook- https://www.facebook.com/groups/1007721554736727/ Fish & Chips - every Tuesday 4.30-5.15pm

Faygate Village Hall

The Hub - Every Wednesday 10.30-1.00pm Jasmine on 07899 894975 or Jo on 07540 795277

Chair Based Yoga with Fay - Every Wednesday 10:45-11:30 Contact: Fay at Email: flexflowfitness2024@gmail.com

Quiz Night at the Holmbush Inn - Thursday 2nd, 16th and 30th October 8pm. Fish & Chips - every Tuesday 5.30-6.00pm Tower Hill Garage Living with Hearing Loss Group – Wednesday 22nd October 6.30-7.30pm Durrants Village – Contact Jasmine 07899 894975 or villagersconnect@ruralsussex.org.uk for details

RUSPER

Adult Ballet (over 50's) - Every Monday & Thursday 10-11am Rusper Village Hall Georgia on 07724640259 or email georgiahrixson@gmail.com
Rusper Chat - (for Rusper residents) Friday 24th October 2.30pm - contact Pam

for venue & more information 07887 653364

The Star Inn Coffee Morning - Tuesday 14th October, 11am start **Fish & Chips** every Tuesday 5.15-6.00pm Colgate Village Hall **Rusper Art Show -** Rusper Village Hall Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd of November

EXTRA events:

If you would like to sign up to attend the **BT switchover talk on 1**st **October** at 11.30am please do contact Jasmine or Jo on the below.

Jasmine Watkins 07899 894975 Working Hours: Monday-Wednesday 9am to 5pm

SAVE WEST OF IFIELD CAMPAIGN

Homes England's planning application for 3,000 houses West of Ifield is open for comments on Horsham Council's website. If you're unhappy with the plans for a massive increase in both housing and traffic in Rusper parish, with the threat of another 7,000 houses across to Faygate, then NOW is the time to object. This is the last chance to have your voice heard against the West of Ifield.

You can submit comments to Horsham Council on-line, by email, or by post. See addresses and more detail in the Process handout on our Website: https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk and in our September Newsletter here: https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/newsletters NB If emailing or writing a letter you must include your name, full address and the application reference DC/25/1312.

You can access all the application documents via the Horsham planning portal: https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications using the application reference DC/25/1312.

The deadline for comments is not absolutely clear, but we suggest trying to get comments in by 12th October, and then sending further comments over the following weeks if needed.

In terms of points to make, you may also want to look at our Objections handout here: https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk

SWOI will be arguing against Homes England's and Horsham Council's justification for the West of Ifield being that Crawley and Gatwick need the houses, and that Crawley has the infrastructure to support them. As far as we can see there are no plans for social housing, which is what Crawley does need, and no guarantee that the developers will deliver so-called affordable housing. Gatwick expansion is also not a legitimate justification given the mismatch – the majority of new jobs will be low paid and insecure.

And Crawley does not have the necessary infrastructure: the sewage works are at capacity – this is not even addressed in the plans; the need for new health services – hospitals and actual GPs, not just the space for a surgery – is not addressed; and the proposals for roads and transport are deeply flawed with

disastrous effects on traffic volumes and safety around Ifield and Rusper. No wonder Crawley Council is strongly opposed to the scheme.

SWOI is also clear that we're not just objecting to 3,000 houses in Rusper parish. We're trying to stop 10,000 houses between Horsham and Crawley to form Crawsham. Homes England have been very clear that 10,000 houses is their "masterplan" and that 3,000 West of Ifield is just phase 1. Horsham Council should be judging the application on that basis, and insisting that a full assessment of the 10,000 is considered, as well as plans for the necessary infrastructure.

SWOI will continue to organise events to help navigate the response process, and the arguments against WOI.

Please check our website for new material, and our response to the application. You can also keep up to date via Facebook.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Fenella Maitland-Smith

savewestofifield@gmail.com

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

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting, 29th July 2025

Your Parish Council met on Tuesday 29th July 2025 to discuss a wide range of matters, from the anticipated Homes England application to local grants, playground improvements, and Gatwick's future plans.

Land West of Ifield - Anticipated Homes England Application

The Council prepared for the forthcoming hybrid planning application for 3,000 homes in the east of the parish. Roles and responsibilities were allocated to ensure a thorough and professional response across key areas:

• Transport, Landscape, Biodiversity, Water & Flood Risk, Section 106 Contributions, Expenditure & Expert Support.

Rusper Stores - Supporting Our Village Shop

Two grant applications were considered under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972:

- £2,000 awarded for new refrigeration equipment.
- £500 awarded towards the running costs of the parish council defibrillator and security lighting.

The Council also expressed support for the shop's long-term future.

Gatwick Update

- Government decision on Development Consent Order (DCO) due in October 2025.
- Cllr Fillmore will attend the next GATCOM (Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee) and circulate key dates once confirmed.

Roads, Footpaths & Open Spaces

Playground Improvements

- New Slide & Equipment: Procurement process to begin, with funding of £30,000 EMR + £16,018.18 S106, plus a grant application.
- Community engagement survey to be launched online, in Rusper Stores, and on noticeboards.

Memorial Bench - Location agreed: Rusper Playground for the Liz Kitchen Memorial Bench.

Fingerposts - Contractor A appointed for refurbishment and maintenance at a cost of £6,160.

Finance - Financial reports, audits, and payments were approved.

Extra Planning Committee Meeting, 5th August 2025

Your Parish Council met at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 5th August** to discuss several important planning applications and local development matters. Here's a round-up of what was covered.

Putting the Climate First

The Council agreed that all planning decisions should be made with the **climate crisis** firmly in mind.

Planning Applications

Stumbleholme Farm – 10 Dwellings (DC/25/1166)

- Proposal: Convert farm buildings into 10 homes.
- Action: Council will object, highlighting missing location plans and lack of water neutrality evidence. An extension to the deadline has been requested.

Land Next to Pucks Croft Cottage – 4 Dwellings (DC/25/1120)

- Proposal: 4 new homes, extension to existing cottage, new access, landscaping.
- Action: Council will **strongly object** and submit a detailed letter to HDC.

CCM Depot (DC/25/0936)

- Proposal: Single-storey extension.
- Update: Application has been **withdrawn for now** due to missing water neutrality details.

Longfield House (DC/25/1255)

- Proposal: Amendments to access and hardstanding, plus fire-fighting water tanks.
- Decision: No comment from the Council.

Planning Hearing Coming Up

- Land behind The Rectory (DC/24/1835) 9 new dwellings.
- Cllr George Sallows will represent the Council at the hearing on 19th August 2025.

Since the meeting this application was refused.

Looking Ahead

The Parish Council is currently considering its response to the Homes England application for 3,000 houses in the east of the parish.

This is a significant proposal that could have major implications for Rusper's roads, services, environment, and community.

21st October – Planning Committee 28th October – Parish Council Meeting

EDITORS

Please remember to let the editor <u>underlined</u> below have all items for the November 2025 edition by 14th October 2025.

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Treasurer – John Jory. For donations towards the cost of publishing the Rusper Parish News. These can be made by bank transfer to - Sort Code: 30 94 41 Account Number: 00007348 Account Name: PCC RUSPER – MAGAZINE.

Advertising and Editorial Manager - Sue Matthewson (871266) (<u>sue.matthewson@btinternet.com</u>)

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