RUSPER



Parish News

December 2025 - January 2026



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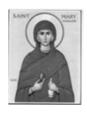
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THE PARISH OF RUSPER SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH RUSPER



Services during December 2025 - January 2026

Holy Communion at 8am [said] and 11am [sung with hymns] every Sunday. Monthly at Durrants Retirement Village 10.30am. Mass at All Saints, Roffey Wednesdays at 10am followed by refreshments

Thu 4 th Dec	10.30 Holy Communion at Durrants

Sun 7th Dec 8 and 11 Holy Communion Sun 14th Dec 8 and 11 Holy Communion

Sun 21st Dec 8 Holy Communion 4pm Carol Service

Wed 24th Dec 4pm Community Carols

9pm Bethlehem Mass [First Mass of Christmas]

Thu 25th Dec 11 Mass of the Nativity Sun 28th Dec 11 Holy Communion [said]

Sun 4th Jan 8 and 11 Holy Communion

Thu 8th Jan 10.30 Holy Communion at Durrants

Sun 11th Jan 8 and 11 Holy Communion Sun 18th Jan 8 and 11 Holy Communion

Sun 25th Jan 8 and 11 The Conversion of St Paul

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
Auth. Lay Minister	Mr Chris Pearce	01403 268047
Churchwarden	Mr Stephen Busby	01293 871219
Churchwarden	Mrs Maggie True	01293 871722
Treasurer	Mrs Lorna Reeves	01293 871012

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

Information on services is updated monthly on: www.rusperchurch.org.uk

The Rectory High Street Rusper RH12 4PX

Percy Parable and the Great Christmas Robbery

The two devoted flower arrangers, Holly and Ivy, were busy with all the church decorations when the Reverend Percy Parable had popped over to St Allsort's Church in the midst of all his own busy Christmas preparations and was praising their displays just as a visitor walked in to the church.

Welcome! Come in and enjoy the flower arrangements said Fr Percy. The newcomer looked around.

It is all very lovely of course but went on, with a mischievous smile Of course – you Christians have **stolen** Christmas!

Although taken off guard by the comment Percy smiled, allowing the man to introduce himself I'm from the Humanist Society. Sid Dent is the name Dr Sid Dent. Our local group is based over at Southbede.

Percy kept his smile but prayed inwardly 'Lord you know how busy I am right now. Is sending this man today your idea of a joke?'

Of course, this festive season predated Christianity by many centuries. Went on Sid taking full advantage of Percy leaving a pause in the conversation.

Pagans in the Northern hemisphere marked the winter solstice hundreds of years before the Roman Emperor adopted the Christian faith and used it to unify his empire in the C4th.

Percy listened respectfully and nodded in agreement at many of these points. Dr Dent seemed genuinely surprised that Percy said You are right Sid in many respects but then went on to add but maybe the word stolen is a bit strong? Meanwhile Holly and Ivy were carrying on putting some final finishing touches to the displays. Berries and leaves, red of blood and green of life, blood of animal and sap of plants the colours with their symbolism complementing and completing the overall effect. The two ladies, very different characters working in harmony. Softly spoken Ivy , Holly yes she could be a prickly character but they

were the best of friends bringing perfect balance to all they did together and really coming into their own at this season.

Light streamed through the stained-glass throwing colour on the ancient stone. The crib with its woollen figures was the first Sid had ever seen complete with knitted cow pats. Percy saw him staring at them and chuckled. He hummed a snatch of a carol – a typo in the parish carol booklet that some thought was deliberate on Percy's part with the poo and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy Percy mused out loud.

Christians have borrowed many traditions and found value in them – have added value.

Jesus living among us isn't to put a sentimental or glossy spin on Christmas. The world of his time on earth and our own remains cynical and commercialized, but light has come into this dark world, not just into the church, and warmth into cold hearts. Let pagans Christians and humanists or whatever labels people choose for themselves worship together a mystery beyond all of us yet somehow essentially simple enough for a child to grasp.

In God Jesus emptied himself of everything so yes from the manger to the tomb everything we think of *his* <u>is</u> **borrowed**. He took it from us and gave it back with an eternal meaning.

You are right - Christians don't own Christmas it is precisely a great GIFT. Let's always look for ways to share the peace joy hope and love of our Lord.

Check Website and Church Facebook for news and updates. Email

Nick

Nick if you would li rusperchurch.org.u	(7)	
Parish Register		
12th November	Memorial Service David Wightman	

RUSPER CHAT 2026







FRIDAY 30th January 2.30pm – Judy Ses Sevines, Ashmore Lane

ANY QUERIES? PLEASE CONTACT PAM 01293 871527 / KAY 01293 871566 ALL VERY WELCOME!

Action VILLAGERS CONNECT NEWS



Villagers Connect - A Year of Community, Connection and Hope

It is remarkable to reflect that it has been only a year since we first met the wonderful communities in Rusper, Faygate and Colgate. Since then, Villagers Connect has made significant progress. We are deeply proud to be part of this journey and grateful for the communities, encouragement and thoughtful guidance that have shaped our work. Over the past year, we have kept our mission and values at the heart of every decision. Through partnership, genuine engagement and asset-based community development, we have built on the excellent foundations laid by Age UK and worked with residents to bring new activities to life - celebrating all that is strong and vibrant in our villages.

A Legacy of Connection - Remembering Hope Keith

Our work exists because of the extraordinary generosity of Hope Keith, whose legacy lives quietly but powerfully at the centre of this project. Although we sadly never met her, the insight offered through Evelyn Joll's wonderful writing has given us a glimpse into a woman of conviction, resilience, and deep care for others. Hope's later life was shaped by personal loss and diminishing independence, experiences that may well have inspired her wish to support older people who risk becoming isolated. Her gift, made possible through the sale of her remarkable watercolour collection, continues to foster community, comfort and connection. We are honoured to be guardians of this forward-thinking project and to carry her vision into the future.

Highlights of the Year

Our activities continue to grow and bring people together. The Littlehampton trip was a joyful day of sunshine, sea air and companionship—at a gentle pace, with plenty of benches and even an unexpected iguana sighting. Brian captured the spirit of the day perfectly: "I worried I'd hold people back, but I'm so glad I came."

Chair Yoga at The Hub is thriving, now so popular that a second class will launch in January. Fay is also introducing her SH1FT-inspired **Mind Workouts**—45 minutes of movement designed to build flexibility, mobility and stability through mindful, functional exercise.

The Rusper Art Exhibition once again showcased remarkable local talent, from Pam's atmospheric landscapes to Sue's soft watercolours and Margaret's vibrant, joyful still-life work.

Our monthly walks, supported by brilliant volunteers, have provided fresh air, friendship and gentle exercise. Over winter, we look forward to using our Wakehurst membership for accessible, well-surfaced routes.

Living With Hearing Loss - Connection & Confidence

Our new group at Durrants Village is growing steadily, supported by a resident with lived experience of hearing loss and her husband. With a hearing loop in place, participants can share tips, encouragement and understanding. A lip-reading course is planned once the Hope Keith Room opens, ensuring no one faces hearing loss alone.

Looking Ahead – Transport Matters

Transport remains a major challenge for many. With no flexible service locally, we're exploring whether a scheme like West Sussex's Book-a-Bus—or a regular inter-village service—would help residents stay connected.

(3) Look out for our questionnaire and have your say.

The Hope Keith Room - A Space for Everyone

Opening next year, this new space will host Villagers Connect on Tuesdays. We're forming a User Group and would love to involve anyone interested in shaping activities or sharing their skills.

Calling Future Singers

We hope to start a friendly choir in Colgate and are looking for musicians, song-leaders or enthusiastic helpers. If you can strum a guitar, guide a few songs, or simply lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you.

Together, we can create a warm, vibrant, and connected space that brings joy, support, and opportunity to local people.

Contact: Jasmine Watkins 07899 894975 Jo Peters 07540 795277 Email:

villagersconnect@ruralsussex.org.uk

Living with Hearing Loss group meets once per month please contact Jasmine for more information.

Villagers Connect Monthly walks – Getting out and about in nature for January, please call Jo to find out more.

Choir -if you fancy trying a choir or you are a seasoned singer, please contact us, particularly if you can help support this venture to start in the New Year.

Colgate Village Hall:

Bingo - 9th December

Quiz – Monday 15th December

Colgate Cuppa & Chat – Usually on the last Tuesday of the month 10.30am contact Barry for more 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. To keep up to date on any changes join us on Facebook- https://www.facebook.com/groups/1007721554736727/

Faygate Village Hall

The Hub - Every Wednesday 10.30-1pm Jasmine on 07899 894975 or Jo on 07540 795277 (Last one for 2025 17th Dec, starting back 2026 7th January)

Chair Based Yoga with Fay - Every Wednesday 10:45-11:30 Contact: Fay at Email: flexflowfitness2024@gmail.com If you are new please call to book a place. (Last one for 2025 17th Dec, starting back 2026 7th January)

Quiz Night at the Holmbush Inn - Every other Thursday 8pm

RUSPER

Adult Ballet (over 50's) - Every Monday & Thursday 10-11am Rusper Village Hall Georgia on 07724640259 or email georgiahrixson@gmail.com

Rusper Chat Usually the last Friday of the month 2.30pm - contact Pam for venue & more information 07887 653364

The Star Inn Coffee Morning – Tuesday 13th January, 11am start.

Contact us at Email: Villagersconnect@ruralsussex.org.uk or Call Jasmine or Jo on 07899 894975 or 07540 795277

RUSPER CHRONICLE

Our n	ext meeting will be on	Tuesday,	9 th December	in the small	village hall a	t
7pm.	Everyone welcome.					

Joan Frazer			

Christmas Tree Festival Join Us for a Festive Celebration at Rusper Church

Everyone is warmly invited to come and enjoy the magic of the season as our village church is transformed with beautifully decorated Christmas trees, each one very kindly sponsored by local people and businesses.



Festival Date Saturday December 13th 4.00-6.30 pm

Here's the timetable of events

- 4.00 Switching on of Christmas Tree lights in Church followed by trail through the village to see the '12 days of Christmas' windows
 5.15 Carol singing in Church for everyone led by Choral Ensemble
- 6.00 Prize giving by Rusperella's Prince Charming, for the 3 best dressed '12 days of Christmas' windows
- 6.30 Time to go home

Organ music for Christmas, Christmas market and festive food and drink for all ages throughout the festival

Come along for a great start to Christmas for you and your family

RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

Rusper Parish Council - October 2025 Meetings

Your Parish Council met recently to discuss a wide range of matters affecting our village and community. Below is a summary of key updates and decisions.

Gatwick Airport Expansion

The Council received an update from CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions) on the proposed second runway and airspace changes. Following review of their funding application, the Council agreed to award £2,000 towards CAGNE's legal costs for the Judicial Review, to be budgeted for FY26/27.

Planning Matters

- West of Ifield (DC/25/1312): The Council strongly objected to the proposed large-scale development.
- Hilly Barn Road Appeal (DC/25/0447): The appeal was noted; no further comments were required.

Finance

Financial reports for July and August and the schedule of payments were approved. The Council also agreed to purchase a poppy wreath for Remembrance commemorations.

Rusper Sports Club

Updates were received on the Sports Club underlease and financial monitoring arrangements. Cllr Simon White will continue work to ensure full compliance and transparency. The Council also noted recent issues with cars accessing the pitch at night — the football club will install posts to prevent vehicle entry in line with lease terms.

Open Spaces & Roads

- The Liz Kitchen Memorial Bench update was deferred while playground maintenance continues.
- Fingerpost repairs are due to start in October; two missing posts are being investigated.
- The speed limit (TRO) application was unfortunately rejected, but the Council will support the licence for the SID socket on Horsham Road.

Climate Commitment

The Council reaffirmed its recognition of the climate crisis, confirming that all decisions continue to take account of environmental impacts.

Governance & Training

Councillors noted Code of Conduct training will take place on 2nd October 2025, and the transition to the new.gov.uk website and email system will be completed by the end of October.

Playground Improvements

Following a full tender process under the Procurement Act 2023, Wicksteed was appointed as the preferred supplier for the new slide and playground apparatus at Rusper Playground.

Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces Update

- Trees: A meeting has been arranged with Andrew Bush to discuss potential Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) for The Glebe Field.
- The Glebe Field: The Council will submit an Asset of Community Value (ACV) application to help protect this important green space.
- Millfields Open Space: The Council continues to liaise with developers over the transfer
 of the open space and has requested a more robust playground provision.
- Rusper Sports Field: The barrier padlock will be refitted and new posts installed to prevent vehicle access.
- Fingerposts: Repairs are underway, with inspections planned once work is complete.
 Missing fingerposts have been identified at Ifield Wood, Prestwood Lane, and Hilly Barn Lane.
- Other Matters: WSCC Public Rights of Way will meet councillors to discuss the Sussex
 Footpath closure; a motorbike petition was noted; and a new dual bin has been installed
 outside Rusper Stores, with more planned near the Church and Sports Club.

Planning Committee Highlights

- Bonwycks Lodge Farm (DC/25/1548): The Council objected to proposed airport parking due to traffic, noise, light pollution, and harm to the countryside and public footpaths.
- 7 Cooks Mead (DC/25/1514): No objection to the rear extension.
- The Cabin, The Vineries (DC/25/1442): No objection, provided the use remains ancillary to the main property.
- Moonrakers (DC/25/1337): Concerns raised about new access and highway safety; any approval should ensure the accommodation remains ancillary.
- Hawkesbourne (DC/25/1635): Concern noted about the impact on trees.
- The Royal Oak, Friday Street: Appeal rejected.
- Faygate Stores: Licence renewal noted with no objection.
- West of Ifield: The Council will continue to oppose the proposal and write to Horsham District Council and local MPs ahead of committee consideration.

The Council thanked the Chair for his dedication in finalising and submitting the objection letter on time.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th December 2025 – Combined Planning and Council Meeting, Rusper Village Hall, 7pm.

Residents are warmly encouraged to attend — it's your chance to stay informed and help shape Rusper's future.

Parish Council Clerk

RUSPER ART GROUP 54th ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The Art Group's annual show, held recently in the Village Hall, was a wonderful celebration of local creativity and community spirit. The hall was filled with an impressive range of members' artwork from paintings and drawings to photography and more. Each piece reflected the individuality and imagination of the artists, showcasing the depth of talent within our village. Visitors enjoyed browsing the displays, chatting with the exhibitors and discovering the many different styles and stories behind the works.

As always, the event was about more than just art. It provided a welcoming space for people to meet, catch up with friends and neighbours, and enjoy refreshments and home-made cakes together in a relaxed atmosphere. The sense of connection and pride in our community was clear to see.

Art Group members expressed their thanks to everyone who contributed their help or came along to support the show. With such a positive response and lively turnout, there's already excitement building for next year's event - a true highlight in Rusper's community calendar

Daniel	Matthe	₽WS		

Save West of Ifield campaign

There are now 440 responses from the public to Homes England's planning application published on the Horsham Council website. This is great news. And we encourage everyone to **continue to submit views**.

There is no hard deadline for responses. We can all submit right up until the application goes to Horsham's Planning Committee for a decision, which Horsham Council hope will happen in early 2026. So even if you've already responded, you can respond again, plus more than one member of the same household can submit views. If you need help, please see the Save West of Ifield website: https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk, the Rusper Parish Council website: https://www.rusper-pc.gov.uk/community/rusper-parish-council-20862/west-of-ifield-plans/ or email us at: savewestofifield@gmail.com Encouragingly, since our report last month more official bodies have responded challenging the application:

- **CPRE** objects, explaining that "The scheme is not sustainable", and that Horsham Council's Sustainability Appraisal of the West of Ifield was "incomplete, lacked essential information and detail, and was therefore inadequate and not proportionate, contrary to NPPF Policy 32".
- England Golf objects because "the application fails to demonstrate compliance with planning policy, fails to provide equivalent or better replacement provision, and fails to recognise the social, sporting, and environmental value of lifeld Golf Club. ... The needs assessment is outdated, inaccurate, with questions over some of the methodology used, failing to reflect current participation trends, local demographics, and the true capacity of alternative facilities".
- Sport England argues that the golf needs assessment is not robust enough, and asks that "an appropriate mitigation package for golf is negotiated and secured ... that includes provisions to ensure that the loss of IGC is satisfactorily mitigated and specifically, so that IGC can continue to operate in a manner that is comparable to the way it does currently. These mitigations are required prior to IGC being lost to ensure continuity of provision for the club."
- Horsham Council's Ecology officer has submitted a holding objection against the claim of biodiversity net gain saying "there can be no net gain whilst there are impacts on irreplaceable habitat and no provision of a sufficient compensation strategy." Modifications are also requested with regards to the location of the sports pitches and allotments due to the risk of these polluting sensitive habitats.
- **Horsham Council Enterprise** welcomes the inclusion of buildings for employment and commercial use but notes they are "insufficient to support the needs of a 3.000- dwelling community and misaligned with the strategic

economic objectives set out in the Council's Enterprising Horsham Economic Prospectus ... Without a more ambitious approach, there is a risk that West of Ifield will function as a commuter-led residential extension to Crawley."

Horsham Council's landscape architect raises concerns with the masterplan, for example "... it remains unclear the right type of [open space] provision can be secured in the right place, with the right specification and buffer zone requirements, given the number of constraints within the site."

But the application could still be approved?

Despite all these objections and challenges, it's still possible that Horsham Council (or the Secretary of State) will approve the application. If they do, then the only channel open to us is to launch a judicial review citing failures by Homes England and Horsham Council in terms of legal compliance and reasonableness. This would be similar to the judicial reviews recently launched by campaign groups CAGNE and GACC against the Secretary of State's decision to approve Gatwick's northern runway project.

As the application stands today there would be strong grounds for a judicial review, for example:

- The application is premature and is missing a large amount of essential information across key areas. The application is full of holes, and consequently full of risks,
- It is not legally compliant, particularly with regard to the EIA Regulation and the BNG Regulation, and
- The proposed mitigations across key domains are wholly inadequate. In particular, the mitigations for increased traffic congestion and rat-running, for loss of habitats, and for the loss of Ifield Golf Club are all completely inadequate.

We wait to see how Homes England fill all the holes in their application. Please check our website for new material, and our responses to the application https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/. You can also keep up to date via Facebook

Thank you for your ongoing support

Fenella Maitland-Smith savewestofifield@gmail.com

Where Have All the Rusper Residents Gone?

"Could do better. More effort required."

Teacher talk for the disappointing number of people from Rusper, Lambs Green and Ifield Wood who haven't bothered to respond to Homes England's planning application to build 3,000 houses (and ultimately 10,000) in Rusper Parish. Stand in the naughty corner! Many Horsham and Crawley residents have responded, but only a few from Rusper Parish.

Do you love the rural environment? Have you ever walked around the area in question, Ifield Court Farm, which is earmarked for obliteration? Why not take a look for yourself to see what all the fuss is about and why it would be a travesty if this area were to be destroyed. Confusingly, it is referred to as West of Ifield, despite being in Rusper Parish. It is teeming with wildlife, including colonies of internationally rare Bechstein bats that are declining due to the destruction of ancient mature forests. Wetlands, rivers, farmland, ancient hedgerows and woodland abound, providing food and shelter for many animals, birds and invertebrates and a wonderful mental health boost for humans. Take a walk here or on Ifield golf course, to see what will be lost forever.

Frequent moans are heard from villagers about the traffic in and around Rusper, Lambs Green, Ifield Wood, Faygate and Charlwood – there's too much of it, it's going too fast, near misses on bends, it's eroding the verges and country lanes, it doesn't slow down for

horses/cyclists/hikers.... If this planning application goes ahead, there will potentially be 4,500 more vehicles rat-running through the villages so today's traffic will be nothing in comparison. It's no good talking about it amongst yourselves, you need to tell HDC.

Do you use Ifield Station for commuting? If Homes England's plan goes ahead, you will no longer be able to drive to the station direct, but will have to make a long detour via Ifield Village, costing you more time, fuel and traffic hold ups.

Do you walk, cycle, ride or drive carriages around here? If you think it's dangerous now, wait until this development is built...

Have you had to wait a long time for a hospital appointment or at A & E or for an ambulance to arrive? 3,000 more houses will result in even longer waiting times.

Do you play golf at Ifield Golf Club? This will be amongst the first things to be concreted over so you'll have to find an alternative site, not easy with so many clubs having been bought for development and the remaining clubs being more expensive.

There are so many reasons why this is the wrong site for such a major development. Visit www.savewestofifield.co.uk for more ideas and help. The good news is that Horsham District Council are accepting comments until this application goes before Horsham's Planning Committee, which is expected to be in the New Year. Don't leave it until later or for someone else to do. Everyone in your household can submit individual comments and if you think of something at a later date, you can comment again. You don't have to write an essay nor have a degree in English: even one or two comments will help. You do have to care deeply about the future of your village and the beautiful environment that we are all so lucky to be surrounded by.

Email: planning@horshamgov.co.uk and you MUSTquote reference DC/25/1312 and your name and address

Comment on Horsham's planning portal: public-access.horsham.gov.uk and you MUST quote reference DC/25/1312

Post: Jason Hawkes, HDC, Planning Department, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB and you MUST quote reference DC/25/1312 and your name and address.

Come on Rusper – you can do better. Rusper needs you NOW.

VIV Sallows		

CHURCH CLEANING

December and January rota

5 th Dec	Chris & Carrie Johnson	07771 633705
12 th Dec	Keith Davies	07710 601081
19 th Dec	Barbara Lloyd	01293 871472
2 nd Jan	Fiona Lear	07816 584908
9 th Jan	Gill Fleming	01293 871371
16 th Jan	Ros Maiden	01403 257088
23 rd Jan	Chris & Carrie Johnson	07771 633705
30 th Jan	Judy Easter	01403 251979

Sue Matthewson 01293 871266

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:

	Nover	nber 2025
1st Prize - £200	155	M & PJ
2 nd Prize - £75	106	Graham H
3 rd Prize - £50	65	M & EB
lalam lami		

John Jory

EDITORS

Please remember to let the editor <u>underlined</u> below have all items for the February edition by 14 January 2026.

	21ellagb@gmail.com	
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Please contact:

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) (sue.matthewson@btinternet.com)

General Enquiries - Judy Butler (871845) (raybenbutler@gmail.com)

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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.

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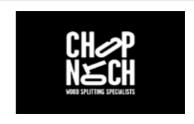
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