

# St Mary's Slaughtam Parish News



**Final Edition of this Magazine**

**Remembrance Day services**

**Memories of the W.I.**

**November / December 2021**

**HANDCROSS - PEASE POTTAGE - SLAUGHAM - WARNINGLID**

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There is no Roman Catholic Church in our Parish. The nearest one serving this area is:  
**The Church of Our Lady of Fatima Staplefield, served by St. Paul's ,Haywards Heath 450139**

**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021**  
**Pastoral Letter**  
**St Mary's Slaughtam and St Mark's Staplefield**

Dear Friends,

Where can we find hope today?

If your household is anything like ours you may be finding it difficult to escape from talk of Covid-19. Our grandson tested positive for Covid-19 at the beginning of half term, and my sister and her husband (in Cornwall) have been quite unwell with the infection. These infections have had consequences for many of our family, sharply curtailing planned half term activities. Eagerly anticipated activities like football training and outings have had to be cancelled, and we have each had to limit contacts with other people, to avoid risk to others as far as possible.

But we have a very easy life compared to so many. With numbers of Covid-19 daily cases in the UK reaching new peaks and the total UK deaths now over 141,000, levels of fear are once again increasing.

This is against a background of what feels like bad news from all quarters. Violence against women, relationships with our allies soured by conflict over trade and fishing rights, rising living costs, threatened gas supplies, irreversible damage caused by global warming, among the many issues providing fuel for the increasing flames of fear.

Arguably, mankind are trustees for the care of this wonderful, beautiful planet which has been entrusted to us – and the evidence says that we are failing in our trusteeship.

As I write this, the “Conference of 26 Parties” (COP 26 Climate Conference) is convening in Glasgow. In his powerful opening speech Sir David Attenborough pleaded with world leaders to take action to limit rising global temperatures. “Our motivation”, he said “should not be fear, but hope”.

Ultimately, where can that hope come from?

Jen and I are very privileged to have been closely linked to Kagando, a rural district general hospital on the equator, under the mighty Rwenzori Mountains in Western Uganda, for the past 42 years. For 12 of those years we have lived there; our youngest son, Stephen, was born there. During this time we have watched the snow line on the mountain receding, the forests disappearing, and devastating flooding alternating with drought causing more and more hardship. Climate change is real, especially for the poor.

We still enjoy daily contacts by WhatsApp, email, phone and video calls with our Ugandan colleagues and friends. Angela (not her real name), a lovely friend and midwife, wrote to us a little while ago during lockdown, at a time of damaging floods. She wrote: “The government tell us that we are not allowed to go to shops to buy food, just to rely on what we can grow in our gardens – but our gardens have been washed away by the floods”. And Angela is among a small minority who can earn salaries; most live by subsistence on the land. Very few do not know what it means to have to go hungry.

*Cont on page 2.....*

Of all the instructions and rules in the Bible (Do not kill, do not steal, do not lie, love your neighbour as yourself, and so on) the commonest instruction of all is this: DO NOT FEAR!

Another Ugandan friend gave us a gift, a simple piece of wood on which is written: “I am not afraid of tomorrow, because I know that God is already there”. On what is that faith, that confidence in God based? Is it an illusion? Is that instruction “Do not fear!” empty and meaningless?

Victor Hugo wrote what many regard as the greatest novel ever written. Set in the context of the French Revolution, published in 1862, a story of injustice, vindictiveness, forgiveness, redemption, love and grace, it is the basis for the wonderful musical and film “Les Miserables”. At the climax of the story the hero, Jean Valjean, surrounded by utter devastation and death on the Paris barricades, raises his arms to heaven, pleading for the life of his adopted daughter’s fiancée, crying out “O God on high, hear my prayer...”

That was fiction. In reality, does God answer prayer? Is there a God on high?

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, (chapter 2, verse 20), wrote this: “This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me”. The Son of God, Jesus, demonstrated His love for us by dying a criminal’s death on a Roman cross, and demonstrated His authority over death and all creation by rising to life again – an historical fact underpinned by a huge body of evidence.

And so, yes, Sir David, real hope can indeed be our motivation, not fear. Hope in a God who is Sovereign, alive, loves us, calls us personally by name, inviting us to trust in Him and His good plans for us and all creation.

With hope, and with our love,

*Rob and Jen (Morris)*

---

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## **St Mark's Staplefield and St Mary's Slaughtam - Services and Events**

Weekly services are taking place at both churches, and all are welcome. We are also looking forward to our Christmas services!

2/11	7.45pm	St Mary's – Prayer Gathering
6/11	4pm	Vinesong, St Mary's
7/11	9.45am	St Mark's
	10.45am	St Mary's
	6.30pm	All Saints – Worship & Prayer
11/11	10.45am	Staplefield War Memorial – Act of Remembrance
14/11	10am	St Mark's – United Remembrance Service
	6.30pm	All Saints – Worship & Prayer
21/11	9am	St Mark's
	10.45am	St Mary's
	6.30pm	All Saints – Worship & Prayer
28/11	9am	St Mark's
	10.45am	St Mary's
	6.30pm	All Saints – Worship & Prayer
5/12	9.45am	St Mark's
	10.45am	St Mary's – Toy Service*
7/12	7.45pm	St Mary's – Prayer Gathering
12/12	10.45am	St Mary's
	4pm	St Mark's – Carol Service
	6.30pm	All Saints – Worship & Prayer
16/12	6.30pm	Slaughtam village carol singing**
19/12	9am	St Mark's
	6.30pm	St Mary's – Carol Service
24/12	4pm	St Mark's – Crib service
	11.15pm	St Mary's – Midnight Communion
25/12	9am	St Mark's
	10.45am	St Mary's
26/12	10am	All Saints – United Service

## **St Mark's Staplefield and St Mary's Slaugham - Services and Events - Cont**

Our current plans are as stated on previous page, but they are subject to change. Please look out for email communication, and keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet.

### **\*St Mary's Toy Service**

The annual Toy Service will take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, in aid of Family Support Work. Everyone is welcome, and we ask that you bring along a suitable toy (all toys should be new and unwrapped) to be donated to Family Support Work. All gifts of toys will be wrapped by FSW and given out as Christmas presents to children who are in need within the Diocese of Chichester.

### **\*\*Slaugham Village Carol Singing**

Everyone is welcome to join in with the carol singing in the village on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Meet at the white gate at 6.30pm. Bring torches/lanterns, voices and friends! It ends with mince pies, punch and squash in St Mary's church.

### **Sundays**

We hope to resume children's groups during Sunday services soon, but there are no definite plans yet. Families are always welcome to all services.

Although legal COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, we aim to take a prudent approach to worship. Please be reassured that we will continue to have a risk assessment in place and we will work hard to try to enable everyone to worship safely and comfortably. We will be taking things one week at a time and are happy to receive feedback regarding the safety of Sunday morning services.

The St Mary's services are put onto YouTube and we hope they will be a blessing to those who still cannot attend in person. They can be found here:

[https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX\\_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqbms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4)

Or search for: United Benefice of St Mary's and St Mark's.

## Starting School - September 2022

The application process for children due to start school in September 2022 began on Monday 4 October 2021. We try to advertise the application arrangements as widely as possible.

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  - 4 October 2021 and 15 January 2022
  - Special rules apply for house movers until 11 February 2022
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Applications made after the closing date cannot be considered until all on time applications have been processed. This may mean it is not possible to offer a child a place at a local school. We would therefore be grateful if you could help and actively encourage all parents to apply by the closing date.

If you have any questions regarding the process please do not hesitate to contact me.

In advance, please accept our thanks for your assistance and co-operation.

Kind regards

Natalie Bailey Senior Admissions Officer

Education and Skills: Children, Young People and Learning

[West Sussex County Council](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

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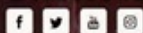
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The poster features a central illustration of a large, stylized bonfire with orange and yellow flames. Surrounding the bonfire are various firework patterns: blue starbursts on the left, green starbursts on the right, and purple starbursts at the bottom. The background is white with orange and blue curved borders at the top and bottom. The text is in a mix of bold, sans-serif and script fonts, all with yellow outlines.

# *Staplefield Village* **BONFIRE NIGHT** *and fireworks*

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## Turkey: Naked Christmas Lunch - *Michael Blencowe*

Post-modernist author William Burroughs named his infamous 1959 novel after “a frozen moment when everyone sees what is on the end of every fork.” Like the drug-fuelled characters of *Naked Lunch*, 76% of Brits will soon be itching for their festive fix from a bird which has taken a strange, disjointed trip through time and space to land on our plates. So, before you start gobbling this Christmas, allow yourself a frozen moment with the defrosted, oven-cooked, gravy-coated bird perched on the end of your fork. Let’s talk turkey.

There are just two species of turkey in the world. The stunning iridescent Ocellated Turkey is confined to the Yucatan peninsula, while the commoner Wild Turkey has a range that extends from the sun-baked savannahs of central Mexico north through the oak forests of the United States.

The Wild Turkey is a monstrous, spectacular bird. The huge males prowl the forests, their ruffled black feathers billowing like a cloud of volcanic ash. From this darkness erupts a bare, blue reptilian head with lava flows of red, warty skin dripping from it. These grotesque, leathery skin-flaps – the snood, wattle and caruncle – inflate with blood and are irresistible to females.

This extraordinary animal was revered by primitive people who plucked its feathers for ceremonial rituals. Centuries ago, one population of Wild Turkey from the hills of south-central Mexico was tamed. By the time the Aztecs ruled the roost they wore turkey, ate turkey and prayed to Chalchiuhtotolin, their turkey god.

Spaniards returned from their Aztec conquests with ships laden with gold, silver and turkey. Not long after, in 1524, turkeys landed in England where some geographic confusion about their country of origin gave the bird its name. Soon these supposed Turkish delights were being carved and served to the wealthy. Henry VIII may well have been one of the first Brits to enjoy a turkey for Christmas lunch and then no doubt spent the rest of the afternoon asleep in front of the jester.

The turkey’s domestication continued. In eastern England, specialist poulterers developed breeds such as Norfolk Black, Cambridge Bronze and the Broad Breasted White; the bird that we eat today.

In 1620 the Pilgrim settlers, in a ‘coals to Newcastle’ scenario, shipped these brainwashed breeds back to North America and proudly gave them to the bemused native people who for centuries had been enjoying the rich, dark meat of the larger, original Wild Turkeys. It must have been like aliens landing outside Harvey’s Brewery and presenting us with a small glass of weak lager.

Today we remain a nation of turkey addicts. Ten million of them were eaten here last Christmas. It’s time to stop staring at your fork and satisfy your Christmas craving – so get it while it’s hot. It’ll be cold turkey for us from tomorrow. **Merry Christmas everybody and best wishes for 2022.**

## **Fairy Shrimp: just add water - Michael Blencowe**

I'm still disappointed. As a child, I read American Spiderman comics but I was always captivated by the inside back cover. There, an advert for 'sea-monkeys' showed a family of bizarre, grinning humanoid creatures which would become your pets and "bring smiles, laughter and fun into your home" if you sent away a fistful of dollars to somewhere called 'New Jersey'. Living in Olde England, the offer didn't apply and my childhood therefore remained devoid of "smiles, laughter and fun." I realise now that an even greater disappointment awaited if I had actually ordered these creatures. In reality, sea-monkeys were simply brine shrimps: tiny crustaceans, not incredible aquatic simians.

Just like sea-monkeys, Britain's Fairy Shrimp are also crustaceans from the order Anostraca. They have transparent bodies, antennae, blobby black eyes on stalks and twenty-two leaf-like legs which propel them, upside down, through water. They're positively prehistoric-looking and haven't bothered to evolve much since the Triassic period 200 million years ago. It's amazing they have survived so long. Unlike other crustaceans, such as crabs and woodlice, Fairy Shrimp do not have hard exoskeletons. This armour-free existence leaves them vulnerable and they can only survive where nothing will eat them, but where on earth can you find such a habitat on our hostile planet? Safe, predator-free homes don't just fall out of the sky.

As rain falls, it transforms the ruts, ditches and depressions of our world into puddles and these puddles are a freshwater fresh start for life. The Fairy Shrimp are the first settlers in this safe new world, but how do they get there? The spooky truth is they have always been there. Like Spiderman, the Fairy Shrimp have their own super-powers. Their eggs can lie desiccated and dormant in the soil for years, even decades. They are resurrected by water; the Pot Noodles of the animal world. There are legends of 100-year-old Anostraca eggs taken from museum shelves, wetted and awakened. One tale even tells of eggs carbon-dated at 10,000 years old being resurrected.

It's a long, dry wait down there in the earth but, when rain arrives, the pool party starts. Newly formed puddles teem with Fairy Shrimp but puddles are only temporary accommodation. To adapt, Fairy Shrimp have a fast life cycle; a race to produce more eggs before their home dries and disappears. Unsurprisingly, Fairy Shrimp are incredibly rare and hard to find and you're more likely to encounter some actual fairies. If you're out hiking on the South Downs looking to make a new start in 2022, keep checking those puddles. You may find some other animals trying to make a new start too.

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## **HANDCROSS W.I. 1918 - 2016**

In December 2016 it was decided to suspend the above W.I. which was a disappointment to the members, as we had not reached our 100th birthday.

On Wednesday, 22nd September 2021, Mrs. Alison Merrison, the archivist for West Sussex County W.I. collected our minute and record books that are now in safe keeping in the archive office of West Sussex County Council at Chichester. Also she took the photograph albums and scrapbooks that were in the heritage room at North Lodge, Chichester, the head office of West Sussex County W.I.

The records had been given to me by Mr. Barry Ray who had put all the details of Handcross W.I. of the last 98 years on the Slaugham, Handcross, Pease Pottage, Warninglid and Staplefield archive website. There were some record books missing but there is plenty of information on line.

Memories of some of the W.I. projects that members were involved in are contained in the records. The money for these various projects was raised by having events in the parish hall with the support of members and residents of the villages. The main projects to mark various birthdays of the W.I. are:

- 1) The village sign that is near the entrance to Cow Wood footpath which was to celebrate the 60th birthday. I cannot remember who designed it, but a local blacksmith made it.
- 2) The illuminated sign over the entrance to the parish hall was given to the committee for our 65th birthday, and which has been a great help on dark nights.
- 3) The third project was to celebrate our 75th birthday. It is the wall hanging in the parish hall which members worked on for about 5 years. The designers of the hanging was Mrs Pat Long and Mrs Janet Masters. Janet went around the parish villages taking photographs of buildings and interesting items so that members could design and work on them. The wall at the bottom of the hanging contains all the names of members in the W.I. at the time. The frame for the hanging was made by Mr Avery in Crawley. The hanging was unveiled by brother and sister Mr Michael Warren and Mrs Mary Habershon at our celebration meal in the hall in January 1993 with invited guests and members. It was a very enjoyable evening.
- 4) The last project we worked on was a table-cloth for the year 2000 which represented different activities that we had taken part in. This is now in the Heritage Room at North Lodge for safe keeping.

I thought that there might be former members of the W.I. and possibly their families who would be interested in reading and knowing about the various activities, and also where old records are kept and can be found.

*Daphne Morgan.*

## Help At Hand

With effect from the end of October, Dennis Dakin has decided to step down as Treasurer of Help At Hand. He has carried out the account duties for approximately 15 years, and now, partly for health reasons, he feels it is time to hand over the reins. Also, having not lived in the village for almost 9 years, it makes sense for a local member of the community to carry on. He would be more than glad to meet up with whoever

decides to take over the role, and to answer any questions.

Ian Ratcliffe the Chairman, we know, would be happy to give any help and advice with regard to any drivers' expense claims in the meantime. Ian's telephone number is in the back of the magazine directory.



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## Magazine Editor

This edition of St.Mary's Slaugham Parish News is the last in which I, Brenda Dakin, will be involved in. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the outreach that the magazine has provided, and being in touch with people, activities and groups in the villages and particularly St.Mary's.

Strictly speaking it is Diana Hawkes' legacy and many years ago it was her idea to have some regular update and news each month with regard to St.Mary's services and general activities. Also, to let people know what the Slaugham Parish was 'up to', and local businesses were happy to pay to advertise in a local publication. St. Mary's PCC at the time agreed, and it was suggested any costs resulting from a shortfall in local business advertising was taken up by the church.

So the magazine was born, albeit just an A5 sheet of paper to begin with.

James Larkins and I took over from Peter Green in December 2007 after he sadly died. I used to help Peter by typing out various articles that had been handed to him on scraps of paper and then give him the 'floppy disk' (grandparents please explain what these were!), and James providing all the local news of the villages as well as organising all the advertising, and the income from those which of course covered most of the production costs. James had taken over from Sid Beard who, (with his wife Helen) was a faithful member of St.Mary's and a warden for many years.

Dennis and I moved out of the parish nearly 9 years ago, and it has been our pleasure, to keep in touch with old friends as much as possible.

## **Handcross Community Pantry**

Thank you so much to those who have given generously to the Community Pantry. Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to get food to the people who need it most, and the generosity of people in our community has been wonderful. We are sure that you are aware that the need for organisations like the Handcross Community Pantry has grown considerably over the past year-and-a-half and, with a large number of people still unemployed in the pandemic's wake, that need is going to continue to grow.

Our aim is to be committed to being here for the community as long as there is a need, and so we are asking those who can, to continue to be as generous as possible for the sake of those who can't.

You can donate to the Pantry in a number of different ways.

1. Regular donations of food and toiletry items. (See below for details of items we accept)
2. Organise a one-off donation with a group of people. Perhaps at work or school or in your street, you could arrange a larger community donation.
3. Give financially. We have a team of people who do shopping for the Pantry each week. We also aim to provide vouchers for use at the Handcross Butcher whenever we can, and your financial donations enable us to do this.

All donations can be delivered to Handcross Hardware & Craft. Financial donations can also be made via BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 81842242, account name Slaugham PCC, reference 'Pantry' or 'CP').

If you or anyone you know are in need of help, then please don't hesitate to contact us on 01444 400221.

Thank you again for your support.

Grace and Peace,

*The Handcross Community Pantry Team*



## **PARISH DIRECTORY HANDCROSS**

<b>Surgery H.Cross Balcombe</b>	Ouse Valley Practice Gilletts	405750 405750
<b>Help At Hand</b>	If In Need ....Dudley House If offering Help .... Ian Ratcliffe	400212 400763
<b>HandX C.P.School</b>	Sharon Bondonno Head Teacher e.mail: head@handcross.w-sussex.sch.uk	400291
<b>Royal British Legion</b>	John Stephens (Branch Rep.) 25 Truggers Handcross E.mail:stephens915@yahoo.co.uk	400584
<b>Outing Club</b>	Mrs Sheila Lyon 35 Kilnmead Northgate,Crawley.	01293402867
<b>Rosemary Club</b>	Mrs Helen Arnold (Chair) Albertine Horsham Road Handcross	07540 816170
<b>Parish Hall</b>	Gail Boustead (Secretary) Mrs Marion Burchett (Booking)	07887 535638 400612
<b>Handcross Ladies Assoc.</b>	Mrs Janet Masters e.mail:handxladies@gmail.com.	
<b>Sports &amp; Social Club</b>	Mrs S Savage (Sec) e.mail: hssc@hotmail.com	400328
<b>Handx Allotments</b>	Sally McLean	01403 733881
<b>Bowls Club</b>	Mr.L Jones 4 Ash Road,Three Bridges, Crawley	01293 408829
<b>Les Bonnes Boules De Handcross</b>	Jane Sibbring e.mail:handcross-petanque@sibbring.com	01825 723640
<b>Handx Tigers Junior</b>	Hilary Kidd 5 High Beeches Cottage	400084
<b>Rifle Club</b>	Mr J.C. Holdsworth (Sec) 4 Bramber Close Horsham	01403 263879
<b>Community Choir</b>	Mr.Graham Reid e.mail:gandc.reid@gmail.com	400467



## **PARISH DIRECTORY PEASE POTTAGE**

<b>G.A.P.P. Co-ordinator</b>	Lorette Holborn	07771193284
<b>Secretary</b> P.P.R.A.	Carol Whiteford e.mail: peasepotresidentsassoc@gmail.com	01293 553447
<b>P.P.Comunity Centre &amp; Handx Sports Pavilion</b>	Carol Whiteford bookings.peasepottagecc@gmail.com	07873160361

## **PARISH DIRECTORY WARNINGLID**

<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Karl Peet Karl.peet@indymail.me.uk	
<b>Residents Society (Chair)</b>	Mr.Richard Barham richard.barham.1965@gmail.com	461051 07847 536399
<b>Residents Society</b>	Louise Brown e.mail louise190e@gmail.com	07801 568070
<b>Primary School</b>	Mrs Marion West. (Head) e.mail: <a href="mailto:officeadmin@warninglidprimary.co.uk">officeadmin@warninglidprimary.co.uk</a>	461329
<b>Seaforth Hall,W.Lid</b>	Linda Lowe linda.lowe.1965@gmail.com	461051 07815 708511
<b>Allotments</b>	Louise Brown e.mail:louise190e@gmail.com	07801 568070
<b>Cricket Club (Secretary)</b>	Rob Green, robgreentob@gmail.com	

## **PARISH DIRECTORY SLAUGHAM**

<b>Slaugham Society</b> (Hon.Sec.)	Linda Helliwell e.mail:linda.helliwell@icloud.com	4000092
<b>Twinning Assoc. [contact]</b>	Lesley Read E.mail: lesleyread52@gmail.com	400301
<b>Angling Club</b> <b>Chairman-Sec-Treasurer</b>	Mr E Prescott e.mail: slaughamac@gmail.com	07825 575343

## **SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Handcross & Pease Pottage, Warninglid & Slaugham**

\*Julia Elliott - 01444 401749 - Chair  
\*Michael Earle - 01444 401086 - Vice Chair  
\*Eric Prescott - Planning Chairman - 07825 575343  
\*Lesley Read – Recreation Chair 01444 400301  
Bob St.George - 01444 401380  
Lorette Holborn - 07771 193284  
Nick Dale - 07917 880537  
Colin Smith - 01444 400481

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Sally McLean Tel 01403 733881 [clerk@slaughampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@slaughampc.co.uk)