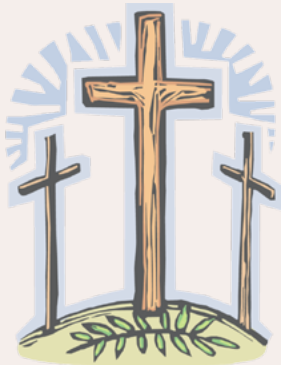


# Easter at Maresfield Church



## PALM SUNDAY – 2ND APRIL

11:15am All Age Service

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00pm – Maundy Thursday Meal

*A simple meal with hymns, reflection and holy communion.*

## GOOD FRIDAY

2pm Hour at the Cross – At Nutley Church

## EASTER SUNDAY

10:45am Holy Communion Service

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# PARISH MAGAZINE

## APRIL 2023



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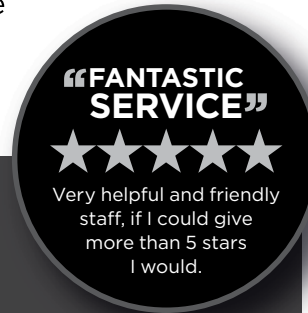
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## The Rector writes



Once a fortnight, I go into Maresfield and Nutley schools to lead worship/assembly. This term we are (surprise surprise) thinking about the Easter story.

This week (as I write) we are thinking about the different reactions to Jesus on the cross. In chapter 15 of Mark's gospel, we have several reactions recorded for us. Some of the children will be dressing up (if my Amazon order arrives) as the people who were there:

### A busy soldier

Roman soldiers put Jesus on the cross. They just saw him as another criminal. They mocked him as a king, yes, but in the end, they did their job and cast lots for his clothes, as they would anyone else. Jesus meant nothing to them.

### A religious leader

The religious leaders of the day saw Jesus as someone to be mocked. Jesus had claimed to be the Messiah and had healed others. "He saved others", they said, but he can't save himself." In that moment they felt vindicated in their decision to have him arrested. He was no messiah, just a man to be mocked.

### A member of the crowd

Several in the crowd mocked Jesus. One ran up, gave Jesus a drink of wine vinegar and then waited to see if a miracle would occur. He was there for the show – hoping for something miraculous, though showing no sign of faith.

### A Roman centurion

In stark contrast was the Roman centurion. He watched Jesus die and, weighing up everything he had seen, declared "surely this man was the Son of God." In that moment, he believed Jesus' claims about himself. In many ways, he was the last person you would expect to respond like this.

Indifference, mockery, there for the show and – finally – worship.

It's amazing that Mark records all these responses. It's thought Mark did this, not only to record details of what happened, but to get us thinking. Who do I say Jesus is? Have I thought about what all this means? There is no question more important.

I also love the fact it was the Roman Centurion who was able to see what he saw. It reminds us that there is no such thing as the 'right' type of person to be a Christian. Jesus calls all to follow him.

*Continued on page 7*

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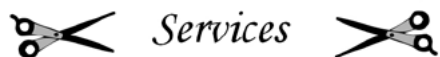
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### Contact

Sensei Cameron Ireland

Telephone: 07834 309 006

E: [cameronireland@btinternet.com](mailto:cameronireland@btinternet.com)

Continued from page 5

Why not join us at Easter this year? You would be very welcome. You can find the services advertised online and in this magazine.

And why not come and find out more? It's been great having our Alpha course this year, and after Easter we will be running **Hope Explored**, which is a three-week course exploring the hope Jesus claims to bring into our lives. Please see our website for details.

Either way, I hope you are well, and I wish you a Happy Easter.

God bless, *Ben*

## Prayerwaves

**Available from Maresfield and Nutley Churches: Prayerwaves**

A weekly email with Scripture readings, prayers and prayer requests for those in our villages or known to us personally who are in need.

If you would like to receive this email, please contact Ben at

[vicar.maresfieldandnutley.protonmail.com](mailto:vicar.maresfieldandnutley.protonmail.com)

## Uckfield Folk Club

Upstairs at The Station Pub, Uckfield

Every third Tuesday of the month, at 8pm

**Tuesday 18th April**

No Singaround this month, instead we are very pleased to  
welcome the very entertaining and talented

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**(John & Di Cullen – Pete & Brenda Storer)**











All singers and musicians welcome – floor spots available, to be arranged on the night, or just come and listen! Lots of space for social distancing.

Hat collection on guest nights – a contribution of £10 is suggested.

**Info: [uckfieldfolkclub@gmail.com](mailto:uckfieldfolkclub@gmail.com) or 07788 994266**

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## Maresfield Woodlands Trust

As springtime arrives to our woodland, we would like to encourage people to visit and enjoy being outdoors. The health benefits of being in woodlands have proven to reduce stress levels, improve your mood, reduce anxiety, and improve your physical health.

During April we always have a wonderful display of bluebells so please feel free to come and visit and enjoy!

If you are looking for something to do with your kids over the Easter holidays, why not come along and feed our ducks? We are fortunate to have three pairs of mallard ducks on the ponds at present. They are likely to be nesting soon so please be sensitive and offer them some food if you like.

Here is a handy guide for food that is good to offer:

**Sweetcorn** – tinned, frozen or fresh is fine, just make sure you defrost frozen corn.

**Lettuce** – all types of salad leaves are fine, as long as it hasn't gone slimy.

**Peas** – no need to cook them, but allow frozen peas to defrost before feeding them to ducks.

**Oats** – rolled oats and even instant porridge oats are fine to feed ducks. You could even feed them small pieces of flapjack, as long as there isn't too much added sugar.

**Seeds** – bird seed or supermarket-bought seeds for human consumption are fine. Seeds are very nutritious and will be snapped up.

**Rice** – both cooked and uncooked rice is fine.

The Canal and River Trust have a fun activity guide that you can print off to use.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-and-river-wildlife/keeping-our-ducks-healthy>

### ***Please help!***

We really do need new members and volunteers to support us in keeping this area open to the public.

**Please contact Janice Somner or Kay Wainwright for more information:**

**07796 515117 07800 603398**

**Maresfieldwoodlandstrust@gmail.com**





**Civic Centre Uckfield**

## Badness

**Saturday 15 April 2023**

**8pm - £23**

Madness Tribute band **Badness** formed in 1994 and have been a market leader in the tribute and Ska scene, with their energetic show and a frontman that never fails to whip the audience into shape, you know you're in for a good night if **Badness** are on the bill. Playing classic Madness, Bad Manners and The Specials, to name but a few.



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## Maresfield Conservation Group

By now, you will all be aware of the horrific prospect of a business park being built on our doorstep. We have worked alongside the Parish Council to ensure that local residents know about it. A small army of helpers delivered hundreds of fliers through residents' letterboxes advising them of the proposal and providing guidance as to how they can make their voices heard. Over 120 people attended the Maresfield Parish Council meeting in the Village Hall, where a large number of people made sure their feelings were known. The Parish Council have subsequently rejected this application in the strongest terms.

Aside from our involvement with important planning and development matters, we are reminded of the more pleasurable things we do. None more so than the recognition MCG received from the Queen's Green Canopy campaign. Many of you received trees and shrubs during this event, and we hope they all flourish over the coming years. The MCG are also keen to be involved in the Coronation celebrations on the village recreation ground on 7th May.

We enjoyed another quiz in the village hall last month. Attendance was the highest for many years and we netted in excess of £700 profit for the Uckfield Food Bank. We had a full house and sadly had to turn down some late entries as the village hall has a maximum capacity for insurance purposes. So, if you are interested next year in pitting your wits against others, remember to book your table early.

Just a brief reminder: 29th April is our Spring Village Clean Up. Please feel free to join us. It is also our AGM on 16th May. If you feel you would like to become more involved by joining the MCG committee, please do get in touch.

### Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Low temperatures, sleet and rain have once again curtailed the work of the footpath group. However, before the bad weather set in, we tidied up the paths running alongside Batts Bridge Road, and from The Chequers to Underhill, so you can now walk safely without slipping on wet leaves.

Being part of a community group like MCG, we like to see our village neat and tidy. Not only do we clear footpaths (as our name suggests) around the parish, we have also tidied up both the churchyard and cemetery on many occasions.

A community is made up of a group of people and its environment sharing a common interest, culture and – with Maresfield especially in mind – heritage. The local tavern is also part of the community, so we have even spent a small part of our free time in tidying the herb garden at The Chequers!



**Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG**

Tel: 07595 914701 or 01825 278332

Email: [maresfieldconservation@gmail.com](mailto:maresfieldconservation@gmail.com)

Website: [maresfieldconservationgroup.org](http://maresfieldconservationgroup.org)

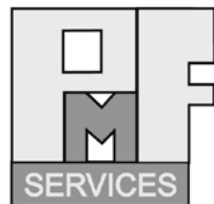
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## The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

**Crowborough Community Centre, Pine Grove, Crowborough TN6 1FE**

**Thursday 13 April at 2pm**

***The Dinosaur Sculptures  
of Crystal Palace Park***

**Lecturer: Aaron Hunter**



Hidden in a south London park you can find dinosaurs! Created in 1850s, these Grade I listed architectural structures represented the cutting edge of knowledge of dinosaurs and marine reptiles in the 19th century.

Palaeontologists had only just coined the name Dinosaur, and with limited fossil bones, they began their journey to discover how these extinct animals looked.

Aaron will tell us how the professors and fossil hunters such as Mary Anning and Gideon Mantell found fossils and created the reconstructions, even dining inside one of the massive models for a New Year's Eve party in 1853.

Our lecturer is a professional scientist and researcher with the University of Cambridge and a prize-winning London Blue Badge Guide and City of Bath Honorary Major's Guide. As a palaeontologist, he is an expert on fossils and prehistoric life from the first animals to appear on our planet to the evolution of early humans. His lectures look at the interface between the arts and sciences.

Join us at the Crowborough Community Centre to hear about these amazing structures, remembered by many from childhood visits to Crystal Palace Park.

Members of the Society free, visitors £6 per lecture.

**[www.tasaf.org.uk](http://www.tasaf.org.uk)**



## ***Maresfield Lunch Club***

**The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on**

**Thursday 6th April**

**It would be very helpful if anyone interested in joining us would let us know in advance, to give us an idea of how many to cater for.**

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## Fletching Singers

### CONCERT: *The King Shall Rejoice*

On **Saturday 22nd April** at 7.30pm in Fletching Church, the Fletching Singers, under the guidance of music director Andy Boothroyd, together with cellist Sarah Stuart-Pennink and organist Andrew Wilson, will be performing a delightfully varied programme of music to celebrate both the coronation and the musical passions of King Charles.

Alongside Handel's glorious anthems *The King Shall Rejoice* and *Zadok the Priest*, there will be works by Parry, Finzi and Byrd and some of King Charles' favourite, lighter songs. If King Charles could attend, we are confident that he really would rejoice.

**Tickets at £12 are available in advance from a choir member, online from [www.fletchingsingers.co.uk](http://www.fletchingsingers.co.uk), by calling 07802 855113 or on the door on the night.**



## Isle of Thorns Bowls Club

The Club is located in Chelwood Gate in a pleasant spot on the Ashdown Forest just off the A25 (RH17 7DE). It has been at this location for around 90 years. It has four rinks and a fairly new pavilion with an outside decking area, as well as its own adjacent free car park.

We are a small, very friendly and welcoming Club. Our playing season runs from late April to September with friendly matches against other local clubs on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, as well as league and county matches and internal competitions. We have twice-weekly rollups for members and prospective members on Mondays at 2-4pm and Thursdays 6.30-8.30pm.

**We also have an OPEN DAY on Sunday 14th May 10am-4pm**

We welcome both new and experienced players. Come and have a go! Just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes.

For further details, please ring John on 01342 825382  
or email [iotbowlsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:iotbowlsmembership@gmail.com)

**[www.iotbowls.co.uk](http://www.iotbowls.co.uk)**



### Ashdown Business Park Expansion

Many parishioners are very concerned about and strongly opposed to the current planning application for the expansion of Maresfield Business Park. The Parish Council has tabled a detailed submission strongly objecting to the outline planning application which may be listed for consideration by Wealden's Planning Committee North on 30th March. As I write this about 500 members of the public have lodged their objections with Wealden as have neighbouring parishes and Uckfield Town Council. A vigorous Action Group (SABRE) has been formed to fight the application. A copy of the Parish Council submission is available on the PC website: <https://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

### Wealden Weekly

Don't miss out on hearing about local planning applications!

Wealden Weekly is your weekly email update from Wealden District Council providing details of your refuse and recycling collections, nearby planning applications and news and information about local events and Council services. Subscribing is free via this link: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/wealden-weekly/>

Local Elections – Thursday 4th May

Just a reminder that the new regulations require you to produce photographic evidence of your identity when you come to the Polling Station. These elections next month are to elect District and Parish Councillors. Should you be interested in standing for election to represent one of our three wards (Fairwarp, Maresfield or Nutley) on the Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk for further information. Nominations close on 4th April.

### Anyone for Bridge ?

At least two Nutley residents have mentioned to me that they would like to play Bridge without having to travel to Forest Row or further afield. If you would like to play Bridge in Nutley Village please contact the Parish Office (714555) and we will see what can be arranged.

### Useful links

<https://my.wealden.gov.uk/>

<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/>

<http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

<https://www.ashdownforest.org/>

And you can also follow the Parish Council on Twitter and Facebook.

**Martin Craddock**

Chairman, Maresfield Parish Council



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## Parish Council Meetings: April 2023

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

<b>Monday 3 April</b>	Planning Meeting (Fairwarp Village Hall)
<b>Tuesday 4 April</b>	F & A Committee (Parish Office)
<b>Tuesday 18 April</b>	Full Council Meeting (Maresfield Village Hall)
<b>Monday 24 April</b>	Planning Meeting (Fairwarp Village Hall)
<b>Thursday 27 April</b>	NDP Steering Group (Parish Office) - If necessary



## Local Government News

### PROTECT OUR VILLAGES

#### NO to a Planning Application for an expanded Ashdown Business Park

This application surfaced publicly in January. It seeks a new business park of 77 acres with 52 acres covered by 60,000 square metres of business units. The figures are difficult to envisage, but it is huge.

It will generate a lot of extra traffic over the next 10 years and adversely affect the landscape and overall environment, including ancient woodland and the Shortbridge stream.

Most importantly it will destroy the village environment we all treasure so much. We must work together to resist it.

#### NO to 2000 houses at Owlsbury Farm

Only today (March 10th) have I been briefed by the sponsors of a planning application in its very early stages, but with an outline plan to build about 2,000 houses with a school and a sports park at Owlsbury Farm. This land stretches from Little Horsted to Buckham Hill.

If this comes forward it will ruin rural North Wealden for ever. It will be a carbuncle on the side of Uckfield. We must resist this too.

Applications of this size and impact should only be considered as part of a formal Local Plan on which there must by law be extensive consultation. We must say no to these developments concreting over our villages and fields.

**Roy Galley**

#### Your local Councillors:

**Roy Galley** [cllr.roy.galley@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.roy.galley@wealden.gov.uk) 01825 713018

**Ian Tysh** [cllr.ian.tysh@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ian.tysh@wealden.gov.uk) 01825 714639



## Grey Squirrel

I'm crouching behind my sofa, hiding from a squirrel. While I'm here, peering angrily out of the patio window, it has given me time to reflect on the emotional journey that led me to this place.

There was a time I was nuts about squirrels. As soon as I could walk, I was out shrieking through the autumn leaves, trying to grab a squirrel's bushy tail as it nimbly skedaddled up the nearest sycamore. Looking back now, I'm not sure what I planned to do with a squirrel, had I ever caught one. It's actually illegal to release a grey squirrel once caught because, despite their cute appearance, they can be extremely destructive.

The main problem is that they shouldn't really be in Britain. The grey squirrel is a North American species – and we can blame Herbrand Russell, 11th Duke of Bedford, for inviting them. Herbrand's hare-brained plan was to import grey squirrels to embellish his estate at the start of the last century. Distributing squirrels as gifts, he and his landowner chums assisted their spread across England. Our wildlife and landscape just weren't designed to accommodate this brash new American and the native red squirrel, already in decline, was hit particularly hard. Attempts have been made over the years to control Britain's grey squirrel population and protect the remaining reds, and the battle continues, but across most of England it seems the greys are here to stay.

In the last few weeks the battle has arrived in my back garden. I recently purchased a bird feeding station – an elaborate chandelier draped in peanut feeders, fat balls and coconut shells. Yet the nuthatches, tits and finches are being usurped by a grey squirrel. I'm paying pounds and getting peanuts and it's the squirrel who is packing his cheeks. It feels like I have laid on a buffet for my friends, only to find some American bloke (who I don't particularly like) has turned up to scoff the whole lot. For weeks, we have been locked in an ongoing arms race. I don't want to hurt him – I just

Image: Alan Price



Image: Dave Kilbey

want him off my new bird feeder. I've deployed Vaseline, peppers and counterbalances but each time I've been outwitted. He is agile, acrobatic and very clever. Today I cracked. I purchased a squirrel proof baffle: a large Perspex dome, 100% guaranteed to make my peanut feeder impregnable. I installed it as the squirrel watched curiously and, with a confident laugh, I returned to my front room... to find the squirrel was already back on the peanut feeder. I have no idea how he's doing it and he's too smart to climb there if he's being watched. So here I am, behind the sofa, trying to find out his secret. Whether trying to beat them nationally or just in our own back gardens, it really isn't reassuring to know we're being outsmarted by a rodent.

**Michael Blencowe**  
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[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### Join the Maresfield Great British Spring Clean SATURDAY 29 APRIL 10am to 4pm

Meet in the church car park.

Rubbish pickers and sacks provided. Bring your own gloves.

**Please contact Jo Lawrance for more info  
or to arrange an alternative day/time  
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## SERVICES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S MARESFIELD

Prayer takes place in St Bartholomew's  
every Monday at 9am (excluding bank holidays)

**SUNDAY 2 APRIL Palm Sunday**  
11.15 am All-Age Service

**SUNDAY 9 APRIL Easter Sunday**  
10.45 am Holy Communion

**THURSDAY 13 APRIL 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 16 APRIL 11.15 am Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY 23 APRIL 11.00 am Café Church**

**THURSDAY 27 APRIL 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 31 APRIL 10.30 am Joint All-Age Communion  
Service in Maresfield**

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**SUNDAY 7 MAY 11.15 am All-Age Worship**



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