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THURSDAY 8 DEC 10.00 am Midweek Holy Communion

SUNDAY 11 DEC 11.15 am Morning Worship

4.00 pm Christmas Carol Service

SUNDAY 18 DEC 11.15 am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 22 DEC 10.00 am Midweek Holy Communion

SATURDAY 24 DEC Christmas Eve

11.00 pm Midnight Communion

SUNDAY 25 DEC Christmas Day

11.15 am Christmas Service

SUNDAY 1 JAN 11.15 am All-Age Service



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Maresfield

PARISH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2022





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The Rector writes

**Maresfield
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One of my favourite parts of the Christmas story is the star. It's often quite a quaint part of the story, as it's told, but it speaks to us profoundly of the hope of Jesus.

While probably a temporary astronomical event, a light in "the heavens" declared that heavenly hope had come to earth. Heavenly hope had literally been born into the world, with all its sights and sounds, joys and sadness, ups and downs.

Jesus came into the world to give us hope that transcends the world. In the letter to the Colossians, it speaks of hope being "stored in heaven", a hope that is very real and awaiting us, as we put our trust in Jesus.

The star in the night sky drew the wise men to worship Jesus as the king, and it continues to call us to worship today. To worship the one who promised that when we believe him and entrust ourselves to him, he will allocate us some of that hope stored in heaven. The hope that one day all will be made well.

We warmly invite you to worship and celebrate Christmas with us this year at St Bartholomew's Church in Maresfield at one of our Christmas services & events:

Christmas Lights – Saturday 3rd December

We'll be there at the switching on of the Christmas Lights. The Christmas Fair at the Chequers will be open from 4pm and at 5pm we will have a nativity and carols outside. Join us in the church afterwards for refreshments.

Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 11th December at 4pm

We'll be singing some classic carols, led by our brilliant musicians and choir. As always, we believe it's "from the heart" that matters, so come whether singing is your greatest strength, or not! Refreshments will be served after the service.

Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve at 11:15pm

Join us in seeing in Christmas Day, as we sing carols, reflect on the Christmas story and share communion.

Christmas Day at 10:30am

Do join us on Christmas Day for an all age service followed by communion for those who wish to stay. It would be great to celebrate Christmas Day with you.

If you every want to find out more about our church family, please don't hesitate to get in touch. If you would ever like to find out more about Jesus and what he means for you, stay tuned, because we will be running some courses in January that will give you an opportunity to discover and ask questions.

God bless – and Happy Christmas,

Ben



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DADS & TOTS





Join us once a month on a Saturday morning for **Dads and Tots**. This group is for Dads/Grandads and their children/grandchildren aged 0-4 years of age.

Dads and Tots is an opportunity to spend time with your children, get to know other dads and enjoy unlimited coffee/tea and some breakfast. There will be snacks for the children and bacon/sausage sandwiches for dads.

Sessions run from 9-10:30am on a Saturday morning in St Bartholomew's.

Forthcoming dates:

December 17th	April 29th
January 21st	May 20th
February 25th	June 17th
March 18th	July 15th

These dates may be subject to change, so it's worth keeping an eye on the website.

We ask for a donation of £2 per adult and 50p per child.
To find out more, please contact our Vicar, Ben (see page 3 for details).











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.

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vicar.maresfieldandnutley.protonmail.com

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Volunteers needed for Maresfield Village Hall Lunch Club

We are urgently seeking volunteer help with our Village Lunch, held monthly in Maresfield Village Hall.

Our particular need is in the kitchen for someone experienced in catering for large numbers, but we also need help setting up, serving, clearing and washing up.

If you feel you could help, please call

07876 718955 or email

maresfieldlunchclub@gmail.com for information.

St. Bart's Community Café

Christmas school holiday opening times

Come and enjoy our 'warm spot' in the lead-up to Christmas Day.

Monday 19th December 12noon–2pm

Soup & French bread with *The Snowman*

Tuesday 20th December 9am–11am

Coffee & cake with live music

Wednesday 21st December 9am–12 noon

Christmas crafts + Foodbank

Thursday 22nd December 12noon–2pm

Soup & French bread with *The Gruffalo*

Friday 23rd December 9am–11am

Christingle Oranges with carols



Civic Centre Uckfield

Festive Afternoon Teas Sat 10 Dec and Thurs 22 Dec 3pm - £16

Come and enjoy a scrumptious Festive tea with a glass of Prosecco to bring a bit of sparkle to Christmas. Finger sandwiches, scones, jam and clotted cream, festive cakes and sweetmeats all washed down with your choice of tea, fruit tea or coffee while listening to Christmas music favourites. The perfect festive treat! See full menu on our website



The Sleeping Beauty Pantomime

Friday 16 Dec 6pm
Saturday 17 Dec 1pm & 5pm

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Maresfield Conservation Group

Since the summer, MCG has taken an active interest in all future planning and development issues that might adversely impact our village. We submitted a detailed objection to the appeal by the landowner at Mill House Farm and went on to attend in person the appeal hearing in October. During the hearing, we raised a number of points and hope they contributed in some way to the appeal being rejected. Another piece of our rural heritage has been preserved, for now. Our work in this area will continue into next year.

Our wonderful village Christmas tree, kindly donated once again by Mr and Mrs Cox, will be going up on December 3rd. The lights will be turned on later that day and will be twinkling away over the holiday period and into early January. I'd like to say a very big 'thank you' to the brilliant team of volunteers who work together every year to help make this happen.

In readiness for the upcoming festive period, our 'Winter Newsletter' has been published and copies will be wending their way to you soon. We've added a list of important dates for your 2023 diary, including our MCG quiz night in February. More details to follow on that very soon.

Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Autumn is well and truly upon us, and with it comes the wind and rain – in fact, an awful lot of rain in recent weeks! One priority has been to keep the footpaths cleared. With all the falling leaves, the footpaths can become very slippery and hazardous for walking. We spent a successful morning clearing the path from the Straight Half Mile and will carry on with this work, including the path at School Hill, when the weather permits.

Over the years, the Group has placed wooden planters at all the entrances to the village. They don't last for ever and we have just replaced one at the Batts Bridge roundabout that had rotted away. Have you spotted it?

We are nearly at the end of 2022. Just enough space left to say to everyone, on behalf of the MCG Committee, have a very happy and healthy Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year. See you in 2023!



**MARESFIELD
CONSERVATION GROUP**

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Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG

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The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

Crowborough Community Centre
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Thursday 8 December at 2pm

Christmas with Grandma Giles & Family

Lecturer: Barry Venning



Our last lecture of 2022 features the cartoonist Carl Giles who was, for many, as much a part of the festive season as the Christmas tree, crackers and the Queen's Speech. So popular were the Giles annuals as Christmas presents that they helped to make him Britain's best loved, most successful and wealthiest cartoonist. The talk looks at Giles's life and work with a particular emphasis on his seasonal cartoons, particularly those featuring Grandma and the Giles family. They include some of his funniest cartoons but, as the art historian William Feaver pointed out, they also demonstrate that he had few equals when it came to representing Britain in winter.

Barry Venning is an art historian whose interests and teaching range from the art of late medieval Europe to global contemporary art. He has published books, articles and essays on Turner, Constable and European landscape painting, but also has an ongoing research interest in postcolonial art and British visual satire. He works as a consultant and associate lecturer for the Open University. His media work includes TV documentaries, radio appearances and recordings.

Refreshments follow the lecture. Members free, Guests and Visitors £6.

If you would like to join, please contact our Membership Secretary on 01892 861015. For any further information, contact our Secretary on 07884 428780.

The Fletching Singers

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year for 2023.

We will recommence in the New Year, in Fletching Parish church at 7.30 for 7.45 start on 10th January 2023.

We are a friendly choir with no auditions. So if you are new to choral singing or thinking of returning after a break, why not come along on a Tuesday evening to try us out?

During our spring term, we will be holding another introductory workshop to focus on how to enjoy singing, even if you don't read music.

For further information, please call Alannah on 01825 760709 / 07971 358665 or email info@fletchingsingers.co.uk

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Parish Council News

Make a difference to your community... become a Parish Councillor!

Below are just a few of the things you could be involved in.

Your Parish Council has a say on all planning applications in the Parish.

What would you be saying during discussions?



The Parish Council makes decisions regarding Parish amenities, such as playgrounds.

What equipment should we include in the next playground refurbishment?

We are continuously trying to make our roads safer and quieter.

How can you help? What ideas do you have?



Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01825 714555 or clerk@maresfieldparish.org for information on how to become a Parish Councillor.

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.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of our Parish Councillors, our Clerk and her Assistant, to wish all our residents a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year.

Martin Craddock

Chairman, Maresfield Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings: December 2022

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 6 December F&A Committee (Parish Office)

Tuesday 13 December Environment Committee (Parish Office)

Monday 19 December Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)

Tuesday 20 December Full Council (Fairwarp Village Hall)



Local Government News

Electric Vehicle Charging Points.

Electric Vehicle charging points are due to be installed in Wealden District Council car parks in the coming months.

Feasibility work has been underway at a number of car parks across the Wealden district by the council's chosen provider, Connected Kerb, an electric vehicle charging contractor.

As part of phase one, Connected Kerb is currently reviewing 10 council owned and operated car parks for charging feasibility with the potential to expand to an additional 22 sites throughout Wealden in subsequent phases.

The first phase of locations includes Lower Road, Forest Row; The Willows, Alfriston; Croft Road, Crowborough; Mill Road, Heathfield; Luxford Road, Uckfield; North Road, Pevensey Bay; Greyhound, Wadhurst; and Horse Fields, East Dean.

Also included in this first phase are bays in the Vicarage Lane and the South Road car parks in Hailsham.

The installations are part of the council's ongoing efforts to support the transition to low carbon transport and to improve local air quality. The aspiration is that all residents who drive electric vehicles (EVs), or are considering making the switch, have convenient access to EV charging.

Within Wealden there are currently 23 EV charge points distributed throughout the district and the council recognises the need to provide additional public charge points for residents – particularly as 24% of households with a vehicle park on the street overnight.

At the heart of Wealden District Council's climate emergency declaration sits the requirement to transform its transport systems to low and zero emission alternatives, with the intention of working toward net-zero CO2 by 2050 or earlier for both the council and the Wealden district area.

In 2020, transport emissions account for 44.9% of total Wealden district emissions – 16.5% higher than the national average.

Town and parish councils will be invited to a webinar in the near future to ask questions and develop understanding around electric vehicle charging.

New Highways Contractor for East Sussex

Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd has been awarded the County Council's new contract for highways and infrastructure services. The contract is valued at £297 million and will run for an initial seven years from May 1, 2023. There will be an option to extend this period to a maximum of 14 years, worth up to £730 million.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for maintaining the county's highway network and infrastructure, as well as providing winter gritting and

delivering highway improvement schemes. During the extensive procurement process, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the County Council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure quality of work, provide value for money and improve social wellbeing.

South East Business Initiative Programme

Since launching in July 2020, The South East Business Boost "Big Ambitions" programme has helped 85 businesses within East Sussex. The project has helped businesses in a variety of sectors, including personal grooming and food and drink.

From those enrolled in the programme, 55 businesses reported an increase in total turnover of £5.5 million, as well as the creation of 48 new jobs. The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and East Sussex County Council. It is delivered by Digital Islands and provides advice from subject experts.

Roy Galley

Your local Councillors:

Roy Galley

cllr.roy.galley@eastsussex.gov.uk

cllr.roy.galley@wealden.gov.uk

01825 713018

Toby Illingworth

cllr.toby.illingworth@wealden.gov.uk 07772 864683

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Cloud storage

It is a sobering experience to gather your digital devices into one place. A phone, a tablet, far too many computers... our lives contain a lot of digital debris when piled together. While each device is great in its way, getting them to work together can be an interesting game. This is where cloud storage systems are handy.

Cloud storage is just space for your files, photos and other data that is stored on someone else's server. That someone could be Microsoft, Apple, Google or one of a hundred different providers. The key problem solved by cloud storage is how to synchronise your data between your devices. Using iCloud, for example, changes that you make to your wedding invitations list on your laptop can be available on your phone or elsewhere.

A common question is: does cloud storage give you more space on your computer or phone? The short answer is 'no'... at least, not always. Your files are still stored on your device and this takes up space. Buying more cloud storage just gives you a larger bucket, but does nothing to ease your computer's stomach ache. Some services have clever ways of trying to maximise your storage space that are really handy on phones and tablets. By contrast, running low on storage in your computer is only rarely caused by having too many files or photos.

Cloud storage is a kind of backup. Should a devastating smash happen to your computer or phone, then you can easily restore your data. Many providers even offer protection against unwanted changes or deletion – you simply restore a previous version of your files. This can be a wonderful gift after file corruption, or even a malware attack.

The prices of storage from Google, Apple, Microsoft and Dropbox are fairly similar: under £10 per month for 1TB. If you use entirely Apple devices then their solution is the obvious choice, coming with not only file storage but contacts, passwords, photographs and a wide variety of other data synchronising features. Microsoft's system naturally works well with Windows using their OneDrive, which has improved considerably and no longer guzzles the occasional file without trace. It can also come bundled with Office software, or there's the free WPS suite.

An enduring curiosity to me is why using Google's Drive on an Apple computer has some surprising limitations – try creating a folder, for example. As a result, this combination is impossible to recommend.

There are nice features to each of the cloud storage services. A number of them include email, calendar and contact synchronising and more. And if you want to share a file with someone else, you can send them a link to it which avoids have endless versions of the file – you and your colleagues see the same version. This enables such possibilities as collaborating on a document or having a shared drive space for your favourite group. Ah, the joy of synchronising.

Roger Lyon - rlcomputer.co.uk

Fox

Christmas is almost here, folks, and it'll soon be time for that fella in the red coat to come sneaking around. Yep, your neighbourhood fox is on the prowl and shortly after Santa has finished pulling presents out of his sack, your local fox will be busy trying to pull half a turkey out of your bin bag.

Foxes have lived among us for centuries and, just like Christmas, they're celebrated in folklore and myths all around the world. Whether the story belongs to the Greeks, Japanese, Celts, Native Americans, Disney or Roald Dahl, it is always the same – the Fox is portrayed as cunning, slippery and devious. I prefer intelligent, adaptable and resourceful – and it's these traits that have helped the fox to survive in the modern world.

It was the modern world that transformed the fox's wild woods into endless agricultural fields, towns, cities, tower blocks and cul-de-sacs. Traditionally, in the face of development Britain's wildlife has silently been displaced and died. But where others fled destruction the fox, like any shrewd opportunist, saw a brave new world of golden opportunities where the dustbins overfloweth and where the streets are paved with cast-away kebabs and finger-lickin' chicken.

And for me this is the chapter in the fox's story that does indeed seem mythical:



Images: Elliott Neep

that in urban Britain there are wild dogs living among us. I can look out my bedroom window and see a relative of the wolf, dingo, jackal and coyote casually sauntering across my lawn. It's a touch of the Serengeti in suburban Sussex. Studies undertaken by the University of Brighton have estimated that there are 20 foxes per square kilometre in the city.

Of course, tradition dictates that some people do not like foxes. As a child I always viewed the Boxing Day hunt as the antithesis to Christmas; a reminder that amidst this season of goodwill there are still people who are proud to dress up in costumes in a public celebration of their cruelty.

It's in the bleak midwinter that foxes are at their most vocal. The blood-curdling, human-like scream

of the vixen sounds like something from a Hammer Horror film. This foxy lady is only fertile for a few days and her scream advertises her availability and sparks bow-wows, barks and bickering from amorous dog foxes. Her cubs will be born about 52 days after mating and emerge from their earths in April.

So this Christmas, if you've had it with the plastic snowmen, the fake tree and the fake sentiments, take a short walk away from it all and out into the darkness. Listen for the sound of wild dogs howling at the moon, the sound of survival. Let it stir something wild in your heart. Merry Christmas everybody and best wishes for 2023.



Michael Blencowe

Learning & Engagement Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join.

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