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**SUNDAY 8 JAN 11.15 am Morning Worship**

**THURSDAY 12 JAN 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 15 JAN 11.15 am Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY 22 JAN 11.00am Cafe Church**

**THURSDAY 26 JAN 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 29 JAN 10.30 am Joint All-Age Communion  
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\*\*\*\*\*

**SUNDAY 5 FEB 10.30 am Joint Confirmation service  
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## **PARISH MAGAZINE**

### **JANUARY 2023**





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## The Rector writes



Happy New Year! I hope that you were able to enjoy Christmas with friends and family.

As a new year begins, many of us will be thinking about the future. Of course, as the last three years have shown, we often know very little about what will come!

In the church calendar, the New Year begins with a time called Epiphany. We don't use that word too often, but it means that something has been revealed, or realised. We say, "I've had an epiphany!" Christians celebrate that, in a world of unknowns, God has made amazing things known.

The epiphany the church remembers at New Year, is the good news that Jesus had not just come for a few, but for all people. He came for local shepherds and the magi/kings/wise men from far away.

The whole of Jesus' life was, in many ways, an epiphany to the world.

In those famous words from John's Gospel, chapter 1 verse 14:

"The Word (Jesus) became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

A lovely recent Christmas song, by a group called Sovereign Grace Music, is called "O Come, all You Unfaithful". It's a reminder that Jesus came for people who aren't always finding life easy. The final verse goes like this:

"So come, though you have nothing  
 Come, He is the offering  
 Come, see what your God has done"

If you've been wondering what Christmas is all about, why not join us at church this New Year? I know it's hard to sometimes brave coming to a new place, but you will receive a warm welcome. We're not a bunch of people who have everything sorted out. Church is a place for people who have responded to Jesus' message or are wanting to find out more. It's not a place for perfect people, or else the church would be empty.

We meet every Sunday at Maresfield Church (usually at 11:15am) and you can find out more about the various services we run from our website. You can always contact us by email/phone, or the contact page online.


God bless,  
**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:**

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

*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).

## The Fletching Singers

**We wish you a very happy new year.**

Our first meeting of 2023 will be in Fletching Parish Church at 7.30 for 7.45 start  
 on 10th January.











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](mailto:info@fletchingsingers.co.uk)**



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## Maresfield Lunch Club

The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on

**Thursday 5th January**

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.

Ring Pat on 01825 769644 or email [plangridge69@gmail.com](mailto:plangridge69@gmail.com) to book your place

We will naturally keep a register of everyone, and of course, anyone developing Covid symptoms shortly beforehand should not attend.

## Uckfield Folk Club

Upstairs at The Station Pub, Uckfield

Every third Tuesday of the month, at 8pm



**Tuesday 17th January**

We are delighted to welcome

☼ **Martyn Wyndham Read** ☼

☼ **Iris Bishop** ☼

Martyn brings traditional and contemporary English and Australian songs from one of the all-time masters. A warm-voiced singer and fine guitarist; a justifiably respected veteran!

Iris is widely recognised for her skill and originality on that uniquely English invention – the Duet Concertina.

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 at least £8 is suggested.

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

NB: There is a parking charge in the Station Car Park, but free parking is available within walking distance



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## Maresfield Conservation Group

Happy new year everyone! I can't believe that Christmas is over for another year and here we are in 2023 already.

Our beautiful Christmas tree comes down on twelfth night, having twinkled so magnificently all through the festive period. It was lovely to see so many of you out celebrating in the village on Saturday 3rd December. My thanks once again, on behalf of the MCG Committee, to the big team of volunteers who worked together to make it all happen.

Looking ahead to next month, our quiz night in aid of Uckfield Food Bank is taking place at the Village Hall on Saturday 28th February, 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. If you would like to reserve tickets or book a table of up to eight persons, please contact our ticket master, Ian Shaw: [ian@andrewmilton.co.uk](mailto:ian@andrewmilton.co.uk) or 07956 564795.

### Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Winter is certainly here! The first frosts and snow blanket the ground and nature starts to hibernate for the next few weeks. Everything is still, except for the leaves which continue to fall from the trees covering everything, including our footpaths.

As the leaves become wet, they become slippery underfoot and so the Group have, for the past two weeks, continued to clear footpaths including School Hill and at Straight Half Mile. No doubt there are mountains of leaves still to fall which will need clearing away, ensuring it's safe to walk in our village.

The winter months can be a quiet time for the Group but it does give us an opportunity to service our equipment and assess what tools and safety clothing we need for the coming year. It also gives me a chance to assess what other work needs to be done around Maresfield. You are welcome to give me ideas and please let me know if there are any footpaths in your area needing our attention.



Registered Charity No: 1104136

**Jo Lawrance - Chairman, MCG**

Tel: 07595 914701 or 01825 278332

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

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

## Desktop, mobile – or both?

Tiny portable computers that fit in your pocket are now available. Remarkably forgiving of daily abuse, you can use them in the rain or drop them on concrete. With just a little protective foresight and a suitable model, these mini wonders carry on working and barely crash. They are, of course, mobile phones.

As mobiles become increasingly powerful, the distinction with desktop computers' capabilities is becoming less pronounced for browsing, writing, watching and listening. Is it time to wish your chunky PC or Mac goodbye? Let's take a look.

Getting started is easy. A number of mobile manufacturers offer desktop facilities. In Samsung's phones this is 'Dex'. Turn on this desktop mode, attach a screen, keyboard and mouse, and you find yourself looking at something surprisingly like Windows. Email, web browser, word processor, music and photos are all there.

Does it really work? Well, I am writing this using a full-size keyboard and a TV-size screen attached to a phone. The phone is playing music while the occasional email flutters in. It looks and feels like a normal computer.

Software for phones has improved - and there is plenty of it. As well as your preferred choice of browser or email program, there are stacks of options, from Ordnance Survey maps through to watching the starry sky. On a more prosaic note, WPS is a free and comprehensive word-processor, spreadsheet and presentation program for mobiles. It can do complex tasks such as turning a document into a PDF and passing it to email. It works well with Microsoft files and offers the usual facilities, with more fonts than I will ever use.

One of the challenges of using several different devices is synchronising data. Contacts, files, browsing history and so forth from your laptop may not appear on your mobile or vice versa. However, your phone goes everywhere with you from the office to parties on the beach. Everything you want is, or could be, on your phone. Rather than synchronise, why not simplify your life to work with just one device? You could use this on the move with a portable touchscreen and keyboard – and it might even be fun.

However, phone-computing will not suit everyone. If you have specialist needs such as 3D-CAD for designing engines, or you model complex thermodynamics, then you will want something else. But if your computer use comprises online accounting, spreadsheets, Word documents, email, browsing and a few games then this may be for you. The cost is also rather competitive.

Two final thoughts: backup and security. Backup is easy, automatic and likely free. Setting up a replacement phone could automatically restore all your files; rather nice to have this prepared in advance of some desperate need. Turning to security, there are a number of hatches to close which a good security package will sort and some caution will help to maintain.

**Roger Lyon – [rlcomputer.co.uk](http://rlcomputer.co.uk)**

## The Arts Society Ashdown Forest

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

**Thursday 12 January at 2pm**

***Hogarth: a Harlot, a Rake and a Marriage***

**Lecturer: Hilary Williams**

Formerly Print Room Superintendent at the British Museum and now Art History Education Officer, Hilary lectures for the British Museum, London Borough of Bexley and the Wallace Collection.



William Hogarth (1697-1764) aimed to be the first, native-born leader of the British School of painting. As a Londoner, he was in a city which claimed to be 'the capital of the world' during his lifetime.



Alongside great wealth, there was great social deprivation. Hogarth used his art, especially his remarkable prints, to spread a social message, often laced with satire. Through drawings, prints and oil paintings, and packed with great stories, this lecture discusses Hogarth's series of compositions for his *Harlot's Progress* (1732), *The Rake's Progress* (1732-5) and *Marriage A-la-Mode* (1743-5) and what they mean.

Come and hear more about Hogarth and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

Members of the Society free, visitors and guests £6 per lecture. More information from Christine: 07773 787422.

### **PLAY BRIDGE IN MARESFIELD**

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state primary school – or who are being home-schooled – and who will be joining Year 4 in September 2023.

Cumnor's Foundation Scholarship programme is unique, in aiming to cover the entire cost of a child's education at independent school for ten years, from the age 8 to 18, including activities such as sport, music, art and DT, as well as school uniform and school trips.

To be eligible to apply, your child should be performing towards the top of their class, and places will be offered to children from families who could never afford to pay for an independent school education, either through their single or joint incomes or the release of assets.

Successful Foundation Scholars join Cumnor House Sussex from state school at the age of 8 on a 100% scholarship. They remain with us until the age of 13, when we facilitate their move to one of our local



Sussex and national independent Senior School partners, subject to their meeting the entry criteria of each school. They join that senior school's own 100% fee assistance programme, and there they complete their school education to the age of 18.

Applications are now open until **Sunday 19th March 2023.**

We encourage parents of children who will start Year 4 in September 2023 to contact Olivia Henley; email: [ohenley@cumnor.co.uk](mailto:ohenley@cumnor.co.uk) or call: 01825 790347.

To find out more about the opportunity, visit:  
[cumnor.co.uk/admissions/foundation-scholarships](http://cumnor.co.uk/admissions/foundation-scholarships)



# Parish Council News

A very happy, peaceful and safe New Year to everyone in the Parish !

## Finance and the Parish Precept

In November's newsletter I wrote about the Parish Precept setting process. (The Parish Precept is a constituent part of your annual Council Tax.) At the December meeting the Parish Council was expected to approved its Budget and Precept level for 2023/24. The recommendation at the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 6th December was for a modest increase, well below the prevailing inflation rate, whilst maintaining a satisfactory level of reserves.

## What is the Parish Council? What does it do?

Perhaps it is timely to remind you what the Parish Council is and what it does. Civil parish councils were formed in England under the reforming Local Government Act of 1894 to take over local oversight of civic duties in rural towns and villages. Each parish council's area of responsibility is a geographical area known as a civil parish; it has no connection with the Church (or the Parochial Church Council). Maresfield Parish includes the villages of Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley and surrounding countryside. Parish Councillors are elected every four years, the next election being in May 2023. However, casual vacancies can be filled by co-option or a by-election.

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees on Planning Applications), supporting local crime and road safety initiatives and local highway matters such as street lighting and maintenance of roadside verges. They have the power to do a large variety of things, including providing allotments, bus shelters and cemeteries and are often involved in the provision of community transport schemes, sport and recreation facilities and tourism. Parish councils can also provide a focus for representing local issues and identity.

Maresfield Parish Council has a quota of fourteen Councillors; currently we have thirteen. It is a worthwhile and satisfying role, so if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact our Clerk, Nancy O'Hanlon, on 714555.

## 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

# Parish Council Meetings: January 2023

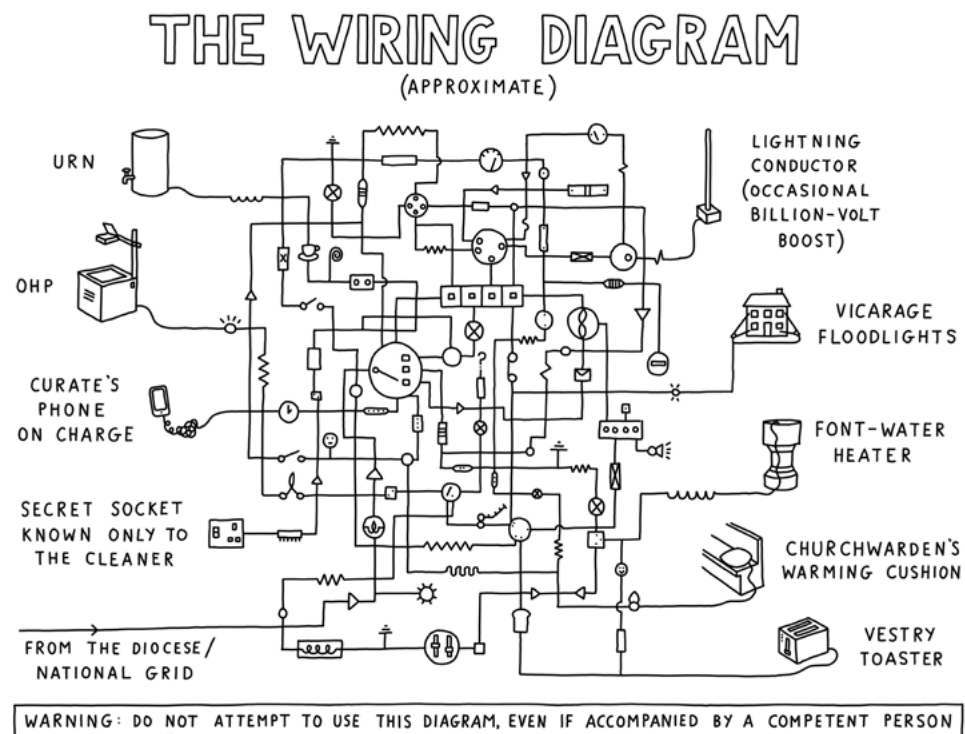
All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

<b>Monday 9 January</b>	Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)
<b>Tuesday 10 January</b>	F&A Committee (Parish Office) if necessary
<b>Tuesday 17 January</b>	Full Council (Nutley Memorial Hall)
<b>Thursday 26 January</b>	NDP Steering Group (Parish Office) if necessary
<b>Monday 30 January</b>	Planning Committee (Fairwarp Village Hall)



**Dave Walker**

For more of Dave's cartoons, see [www.cartoonchurch.com](http://www.cartoonchurch.com)



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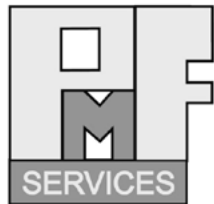
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## St. Barts Community Family Breakfast Club and Café

In January our Community Cafe will return to its usual Wednesday slot - do join us!

We have a Kids Zone with plenty of toys and arts & crafts.

Our kitchen is well stocked with fresh croissants, bread, fruit, cereals, yogurts, juices, preserves, cakes etc. and manned by our very friendly and helpful volunteers.

St.Bartholomew's is also an agency for Uckfield Foodbank and we are able to issue vouchers every Wednesday morning. Please ask Angie or one of the agency helpers on duty if you need a voucher.



**Café open 8am - 12noon every Wednesday  
Come and join us!**



**RAYSTEDE**  
GIVING ANIMALS A BETTER LIFE

Numbers of people giving up their pets are continuing to soar because of owners experiencing cost-of-living pressures as well as changes in their circumstances and not being able to cope with their lockdown pets.

Both national and local animal rescue centres are seeing an increase in animals coming into their care, with many centres already full and others close to capacity, as rehoming slows down and more people are looking to give up their pets.

We understand that people are naturally worried about the cost of living and our Rehoming Team always advises people to make sure they can fully commit to rehoming an animal, financially as well as practically and emotionally. However, there must be people out there who can help Raystede find a desperately-needed loving home for these pets.

**If you think you might be able to help, visit [raystede.org](http://raystede.org) to find out more about rehoming a pet, or call 01825 840252.**



# Great Spotted Woodpecker

My New Year's resolution is to try and be more positive about the future – but I already feel like banging my head repeatedly against a tree. Standing out in the street this morning, I heard a noise that reassured me that I'm not alone.

The drumming of the great spotted woodpecker is a familiar sound throughout February, surely earning this striking black and white bird the reputation as one of Britain's most famous drummers, along with Ringo Starr and Phil Collins. The bird's drumming serves an important function, because the great spotted woodpecker realises it can't sing and doesn't attempt to. Sadly, the same can't be said for Ringo and Phil. Instead, its drumroll is a percussive proclamation that hammers home the message to other male woodpeckers to stay away from its territory in the treetops. It also serves to drum up support from female woodpeckers in the vicinity who may be looking for a pied partner.

This 'song' may not be as sweet as the melodies sung by the robin or blackbird, but it still gets its message across. Indeed, the drumming can carry the bird's message across half a mile of countryside, with a male broadcasting up to 600 drumrolls

a day. Each drumroll consists of up to 10-16 beats, typically in a one-second burst. Of course, if I did attempt to take my frustrations out on a tree in a similar way, I'd suffer some form of concussion – but woodpeckers are specially designed to avoid this by having shock-absorbent tissue between the base of their bill and their strengthened skulls to cushion the impact.

Their incredible beak is more than just a drumstick, it's also a pickaxe which allows them to chip away at trunks to excavate their own nest hole; and a chisel with which the woodpecker prises open tree bark to find food. That mighty beak is a formidable weapon too, which sends other birds on the peanut feeder scarpering pretty sharpish.



The great spotted woodpecker is becoming more greatly spotted, as it is a British bird which is actually increasing in numbers. The pecker's population leapt in the seventies and nineties, with some estimates stating they have increased by 300% over the past five decades. The availability of dead wood, thanks to Dutch Elm Disease, and the availability of peanuts, thanks to British bird lovers, are among of the reasons for this increase.

See, I ended the article on a positive note, maybe I won't break my New Year's resolution after all. Well done to me, I'm feeling upbeat about the future. Now to put the kettle on, put my feet up, and turn on the news...

## Michael Blencowe

Learning & Engagement Officer,  
Sussex Wildlife Trust

[www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://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](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join).



Image:  
Barry Cook

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