

# **SERVICES AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S MARESFIELD**

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

**SUNDAY 5 MAR 11.15 am All Age Service**

**THURSDAY 9 MAR 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 12 MAR 11.15 am Morning Worship**

**SUNDAY 19 MAR 11.15 am Holy Communion**

**THURSDAY 23 MAR 10.00 am Midweek Communion**

**SUNDAY 26 MAR 11.00am Cafe Church**

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

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**Maresfield**

**PARISH MAGAZINE**  
**MARCH 2023**





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## Church and magazine contacts

|                 |                    |  |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Rector          | Ben Sear           | 01825 508352<br>vicar.maresfieldandnutley@protonmail.com |
| Churchwarden    | Richard Newman     | 01825 762343<br>richardnewman21@hotmail.com              |
| Secretary       | Angie Welton       | 07745 479 407<br>admin@maresfieldandnutleychurches.com   |
| Treasurer       | Simon Ashdown      | 07580 238 365<br>treasurer.maresfield@hotmail.com        |
| Associate Vicar | Rev Pauline Ingram | 07751 729 049<br>revpingram@gmail.com                    |
| Mag Editor      | Candy O'Donovan    | editor@maresfieldchurch.org                              |
| Mag Delivery    | Jessica Stopp      | 07805 978618<br>jsstopp@yahoo.com                        |

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## The Associate Vicar writes

**Maresfield  
and Nutley  
Churches**

Spring is springing; snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are brightening up our gardens. The changing of the seasons – the days getting longer, the sun warmer – is a comforting and reliable pattern for us in a world of such uncertainty. I think the yearly cycle of the seasons must be evidence of design – that the world has been created and is maintained, not a random collection of events and developments.

Christians believe God created the world and all that is in it; they believe he cares about us all and invites us all to take part in his great plan for his world.

For me, this belief makes sense of life. I find it very comforting to know that someone is in charge, someone who loves me and who has a plan. However, terrible world events and the actions of evil people often greatly challenge this way of thinking. Nevertheless, we find that following God's ways brings the comfort of his presence and his peace to our hearts. As we spend our lives loving our neighbour as God teaches, we do our bit to make the world a better place.

Corrie ten Boom is someone who is famous for trusting God with her life. She was one of the most godly, inspiring individuals that many of us have ever read words from. Her deep wisdom came with the cost of journeying through tremendous pain in this life, yet even today, she has left us with amazing nuggets of truth from her experiences. Evidence that God still uses all we walk through in this world for greater purposes and good, more than we could possibly ever imagine.

Corrie spent the first 50 years of her life living peacefully with her father and sister above their watch shop in Haarlem, Holland. But when World War II broke out, this Dutch Christian family knew they had to offer help to those being persecuted. They began providing hiding places in their home for Jewish people and Dutch resistance fighters, helping many to escape the Nazis. As a result, she and her sister spent time in a concentration camp, but God brought incredible beauty and healing through her experiences. Her words and stories continue to have great relevance and impact in our world today. Here is one of her many famous quotes:

*If you look at the world, you'll be distressed*

*If you look within, you'll be depressed*

*If you look at God, you'll be at rest*

I want to encourage you to connect with this God of love. Join us to hear about 'God's Big Picture' on Wednesdays after 11 am, starting 1st March for 5 weeks, in Nutley Church Hall. Drop in any week and find out about the God who loves you and wants you to get to know him.

Or join us for Nutley Coffee-Pop-In Wednesdays 10-11am for coffee, cake and chat. Or in the Community Café at St Bartholomew's, Maresfield, Wednesdays 9-11am. We look forward to meeting you.


Take care, **Pauline**

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If you're interested in taking part, have a look at  
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**MARESFIELD WI** 

**Our next and (possibly) final meeting**  
**Tuesday March 14th at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall**


**Our speaker will be Anna Astin on**  
**Bringing Up Baby - the Victorian Way**


Unless some new members join, we will regretfully have to close.  
 Our numbers have fallen and it has become untenable to continue as we are.

**The WI has had a presence in the village for 68 years.**

**If you would like to keep the WI going,**  
**contact Brenda Dearlove on 01825 765782.**

**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:**

|            |            |          |
|------------|------------|----------|
| March 18th | April 29th | May 20th |
| June 17th  | 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).



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Do join us – you will be very welcome.

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## Maresfield Lunch Club

The next Village Lunch will be in the Village Hall on

**Thursday 2nd March**

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 21st March**

**We are very pleased to welcome the very entertaining**  
**Sally Ironmonger & Brian Carter with**  
**'Capella' & 'Shake Me Up Sally'**

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**

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



**Civic Centre Uckfield**

## Mother's Day Celebration Afternoon Tea Saturday 18 March - 3pm

Join us in Luxfords Restaurant for a celebratory afternoon tea. Treat your mother or that special someone in your



life. Glass of Prosecco on arrival. Finger sandwiches; scones, jam and clotted cream; cakes all washed down with a selection of teas or filter coffee. Pre-booking essential.

**Tickets £16**

[www.civiccentreuckfield.com](http://www.civiccentreuckfield.com)

**01825 762774**

## 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

The first snowdrops are showing themselves along some of the verges and in gardens in the village. Unfortunately, the spring bulbs are having to compete with rubbish alongside some of the roads, so this is a shameless plug for the Spring Village Clean Up Day on 29th April. If you are free, please come and join us in the Church Car Park from 10am onwards; we'd love to see you.

Another date for your diary is the MCG AGM on 16th May. We hope to have a guest speaker and are also keen to discuss our plans for the next year or so. If you'd like to contribute, please come along. At a recent committee meeting we discussed some of our objectives for the coming year, but if you have any ideas for projects or tasks we can take on please get in touch.

One project we are keen to undertake is to create a list of all the listed and heritage assets in the village. As has been seen in a number of recent planning decisions, heritage assets have played a significant part in avoiding potentially harmful and damaging developments being approved by Planning Inspectors. We look forward to working alongside the Maresfield Historical Society on this. If you live in a listed or historically significant building, or are lucky enough to have a garden with an ancient woodland adjoining your property, please let us know. We will do our best to try and preserve these for future generations.

Two planning applications that are about to be considered by Wealden District Council relate to the field on Straight Half Mile and the extension of the Ashdown Business Park. Concerning the latter, the Parish Council scheduled a public meeting for 23rd February. Written objections or comments can still be submitted to WDC at [planning@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:planning@wealden.gov.uk) using the reference: WD/2022/3319/MAO.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the early spring weather.

## Footpaths Group by Bruce Milton

Two weeks of snow and ice, followed by weeks and weeks of rain, have meant that the team haven't been out tidying the village up as often as we wanted to. However, we have managed to tidy up and unblock the flooded drain at the A22 underpass. We have also spent two mornings clearing the huge mass of leaves on the north end of Straight Half Mile.

All our strimmers, hedge-cutters and other equipment have been serviced ready for the new season. Our next task? That could depend on you – are there any areas that you know which require our help?



**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 9 March at 2pm**

***Pins and Poking Sticks: Decoding Dress in Shakespeare's Time***

**Lecturer: Jacqui Ansell**

A contemporary of Shakespeare's informs us that, 'A ship is sooner rigged by far, than a Gentlewoman made ready.' In *The Winter's Tale*, Autolycus peddles 'pins and poking sticks of steel, seductive smocks, perfumed gloves, bugle beads and other irresistible items'.

What were these objects, and what was their role in the 'art' of dress? Moral messages and secretive signals in emblematic jewellery and embroidery contributed to Elizabeth I's image as the 'Virgin Queen.'

Our Lecturer Jacqui Ansell, who is a senior lecturer at Christie's, will decode Elizabethan and Jacobean portraits whilst focusing on the life (and untimely death) of Prince Henry, and the sartorial splendour of his sister's wedding in 1613.

Join us for a riveting lecture and refreshments afterwards.

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

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



***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (interdenominational)***

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, HERONS GHYLL**

**Friday 3rd March 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

**Theme by the Christian women of Taiwan**

**'I HAVE HEARD ABOUT YOUR FAITH'**

Welcome to the 2023 World Day of Prayer Service. As we participate, we are part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends 36 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. We will be joining with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.

The Taiwan women first participated in the World Day of Prayer in 1935. Each year the service is translated into 13 languages including Mandarin-Chinese, Taiwanese and indigenous languages. Whilst diverse opinions remain among the different dominations in terms of politics and social issues, the Christian faith in Taiwan has gone beyond the chasm of ethnicity, historical wounds and disagreements.

***Refreshments will be served after the service.***

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## Stage & Screen Concert

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## Parish Council News

### Wealden Community Lottery

March sees the launch of the new Wealden Community Lottery. Local organisations and clubs can sign up to be beneficiaries of the fund created by the ticket sales, it would be great to see local organisations on the beneficiary list.

Any not-for-profit organisation that is interested can sign up to be a beneficiary at: [www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk](http://www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk)

When you purchase your lottery tickets, you have the option of nominating the cause of your choice to receive money from the fund. Players will have the chance to win cash prizes of up to £25,000, whilst supporting the good cause of their choice, with the first draw taking place on Saturday March 25th.

### Local Elections

Local District and Parish Council elections will be held on 4th May 2023. For the first time you will need to provide photo ID to enable you to cast your vote in person. To check out what forms are permissible and to find out what to do if you cannot provide the necessary ID, please access the following information page on the Wealden DC website or contact the parish office for help: [www.wealden.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/forthcoming-elections/](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/voting-and-elections/forthcoming-elections/)

If you have considered standing as a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Office to find out more about what is involved and how to go about it: [clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk) or 01825 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: March 2023

All meetings commence 7.30 pm.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday 7 March</b>   | F & A Committee (Parish Office)                   |
| <b>Monday 13 March</b>   | MRGC (Maresfield Pavilion)                        |
| <b>Tuesday 14 March</b>  | Environment Committee (Maresfield Pavilion)       |
| <b>Tuesday 21 March</b>  | Full Council Meeting (Fairwarp Village Hall)      |
| <b>Thursday 23 March</b> | NDP Steering Group (Parish Office) - If necessary |

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Number!!



New  
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## Local Government News

### Protect our villages

In recent years, our villages have been under threat from applications for extensive housing development; many of these have not yet been built out. We do, of course, need more homes, especially for young people who cannot afford a first home in our expensive area. However, the quantum is excessive.

For the last 14 years as a Councillor, I have fought for limited development in our villages. Nutley and Fairwarp have been largely protected because they are so near to Ashdown Forest, as have Chelwood Gate and Danehill. Fletching and Piltdown have not seen too much development because they are quite self-contained. Similarly Buxted, High Hurstwood and Isfield have not been too seriously affected. However, Maresfield has seen a lot of change, with more to come, and Five Ash Down is facing too much housing, despite the appeal on the Walled Garden site being dismissed.

We now have a new application, not for housing but for a massive extension to the Ashdown Business Park. This is a 75-acre site with 60,000 square metres of commercial buildings being proposed.

In my opinion it means a loss of agricultural land, harm to the landscape, flood risk, power generation problems and a huge increase in traffic on our inadequate roads.

For me, this looks like a turning point. It will be the catalyst for changing our rural environment for ever. We cannot let the Planning officers rush into approving this. Some, of course, will welcome new jobs, but there are better locations and a commercial development is already approved as part of the Ridgewood Development. I would welcome your views and your support in resisting further development, especially of the Ashdown Business Park extension.

### Council Tax

Regrettably our Council Tax will increase by about 5% next year. The County Council, which accounts for 70% of our tax, have agreed a 4.99% rise with 2% of that dedicated to Adult Social Care, despite a government grant of £30m. The Fire Authority have agreed a 5% rise. The Police and Crime Commissioner has put up her precept by over 6%. Wealden Council is likely to agree a 3% increase.

**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



## Common frog

My friend Alf passed away a few years back. He loved Sussex and he loved wildlife, but Alf's real passion was amphibians: newts, frogs and toads. Alf loved them so much his funeral service ended with that Paul McCartney *Frog Chorus* song. That's commitment for you. I spent the rest of the week with that annoying 'bom-bom-bom-aye-e-aye' tune rolling around my head. I'm sure Alf was laughing somewhere. While I was helping Alf's family clear his house I was honoured to be given one of his prized possessions: a clock that chimes each hour by playing a variety of frog croaks. Long ago Alf's wife Iris had made him take the batteries out because it was unbearable.

But there was no silencing Alf's pond in spring. Each year it would come alive with the sound of a real frog chorus. Alf was proud of his pond. Creating a garden pond, no matter what size, is one of the best things you can do to help wildlife in your garden. If you're lucky, in March it will turn into a hotbed of activity as common frogs return to mate and lay their eggs. After spending the winter hidden away in the garden, it's time to go a-courting.

Approach the pond quietly with a torch and you can observe the mating frogs. Look closely and you may be able to identify the male frog (darker with a bluish tinge to his throat) and the female (white granulations on her flanks). But if you

Image: Mark Hamblin



Image: Derek Middleton

can't notice these features then the males are on top and the females are on the bottom. The lustful male will hop on the female and grasp her as tight as he can. He even develops special extra-grip pads on his forearms and he'll use those powerful back legs to boot off any rival males who try to muscle in.

In theory, the males with the longest and loudest croaks are the most attractive, but females are sometimes outnumbered ten to one by males, so the pond party can get loud, chaotic and confusing. Amorous male frogs will grasp anything: a log, a fish, even another male (males have a special croaking signal which politely announces there has been a misunderstanding). Female common frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs, although 1,000-2,000 is more normal. These are fertilised by the male as they emerge and form into those familiar clouds of jelly spawn.

In tribute to Alf I decided to restore his croaking clock to working order. I reinstalled the batteries and nailed it proudly on my office wall. After two hours I turned it off. That croaking was unbearable! I'm still sure Alf was laughing somewhere.

**Michael Blencowe**

Learning & Engagement Officer,  
Sussex Wildlife Trust

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

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