

THE BOXGROVE BUGLE

THE MAGAZINE LINKING CHURCH AND PARISH

Boxgrove Priory, Church Lane,
Boxgrove, Chichester, PO18 0ED
www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2025



Remembrance Sunday 9th November

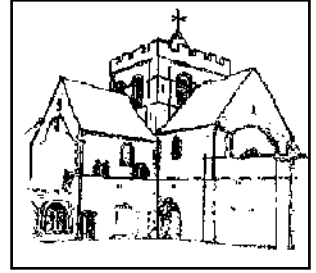
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Who's Who in Boxgrove

VICAR OF BOXGROVE—In Vacancy

For enquiries about baptism, weddings, funerals or pastoral care, please contact the Churchwardens.



HON.ASSISTANT PRIESTS

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Fr Lawson Nagel - 07539 655868

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CATHEDRAL LINK

Mr Mike Beaman - 01903 367039 - beaman_mw@yahoo.co.uk

PRIORY AND ST BLAISE CENTRE Bookings & Enquiries

Mr Mark Peters - 07729 773277 - bookings@boxgrovepriory.co.uk

WSSC MEMBER FOR CHICHESTER NORTH

Mr Jeremy Hunt - 0330 2224536

CDC MEMBER FOR BOXGROVE WARD & CHAIRMAN, BOXGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Henry Potter - 01243 527312

BOXGROVE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

01243 773309 - office@boxgrove.w-sussex.sch.uk

BOXGROVE VILLAGE HALL Bookings & Enquiries

Administrator: **Mrs Sally Beckers** - 01243 788332 - info@boxgrovevillagehall.co.uk

BOXGROVE VILLAGE STORES & CAFE

Open: **Mon-Fri** 7.30am-5.30pm; **Sat** 8.00am-5.00pm;
Sun 8.00am-2.00pm

Tel no: 01243 773201 - Boxgroveshop@gmail.com

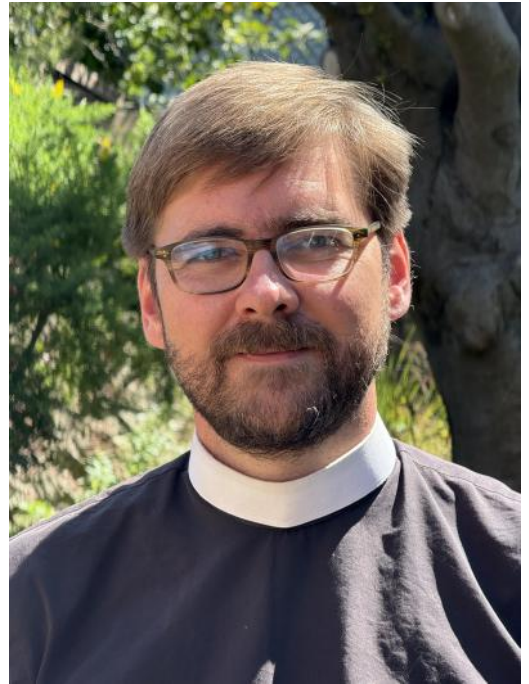


FOR OTHER USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS
see page 35

From Father Dominic.....

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I'm writing this first Bugle letter to you in our home in Brighton, surrounded by packing boxes and chaotic piles of stuff. Like all transitions it is unsettling – *Where is the potato masher? Why did you put the passports behind the microwave?* – but it is also exciting. I'm so looking forward to coming to Boxgrove, settling into a new home, praying with you in your splendid church, and getting to know you all. I do hope you'll be able to come to the licensing mass on Wednesday 19 November at 7.30pm, which will be celebrated by Bishop Martin, and when I will begin ministry as your parish priest.



I'm originally from Huntingdonshire, but had two childhood spells in beautiful, wildly different Botswana. After my parents separated I was brought up by my mother on a council estate in St Neots, near Bedford. I took myself to church and found there a loving community, and the richness of Christian thought and spirituality, which formed my path into adulthood. Somehow I managed to get a university place at Keble College, Oxford. My own sense of vocation grew alongside a love of academic work, and my discernment of God's call ran alongside my studies. My specialist subject is the early Church, and particularly the theology of St Augustine of Hippo, the great North African Bishop. While I was writing my doctorate I met Elliott, my partner and ever-tolerant companion for the last eighteen years.

I was ordained deacon in 2012 and served the first part of my title in Wantage, a market town in south Oxfordshire. In 2014 I returned to Oxford to be Chaplain of Brasenose College, and completed my curacy at St Mary Mag's, a church in the centre of the city. Although I enjoyed being back in Oxford and working as a chaplain, I missed the rhythms of life in a parish, and was delighted to be appointed as Vicar of St Nicholas' Brighton in 2017. Ministering in Brighton has been stimulating, challenging and full of joy; and it has been a privilege to serve a wonderful congregation and community in this fascinating city over nearly nine years. With thankfulness for what has been, I'm looking forward to beginning a new chapter with you, and exploring where the Holy Spirit might lead us as we live a shared life in Christ.

Elliott is CTO of a biomedical company near Uckfield, and writes complicated healthcare software which I (and most people) don't understand. In my spare time I

read, cook, and attempt gardening, which I suspect will require some upskilling in Boxgrove. Our favourite treat is travelling to European spa towns to be steamed/boiled/frozen, apparently for good health. Among the things I most love about being a parish priest are visiting, ministry in schools and with children, and praying together.

These are just a few words to give you a flavour of the person who is about to turn up, and I've already run over my word-limit. Please pray for us as we load the chaotic boxes into the van and make our way to you; and pray also for the people of St Nicholas', as they begin a period of interregnum. I'll certainly be praying for you, and look forward to talking face to face very soon.

With love and prayer,
Fr Dominic



The Bugle's better online -
it's in colour and has all the hyperlinks.
http://www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk/boxgrove_bugle.html



Our new Parish Priest

Fr Dominic Keech will be licensed by the Bishop of Chichester
as Priest-in-charge of Boxgrove
on Wednesday 19th November at 7.30 p.m.
The service to be followed by a reception

ALL ARE WELCOME



Boxgrove Junior Church

Come and join us at the St Blaise Centre in Boxgrove at 16:30 for 30 minutes of activities before the mass @ 5, every second Sunday of the month (excluding school holidays.)

We use craft activities, games, songs and stories to help us learn more about Christian teachings.

After Junior Church, we walk over to church together, to meet up with parents and carers and to enjoy Mass @5 .

We cannot wait to see you at the next Junior Church.

Vicky Willavise



From the Registers

Baptisms

Rafi & Eliza

.....

Interment of ashes

Roger Moore

THE BUGLE

The Boxgrove Bugle is funded, printed and published by Boxgrove Priory. It is published [online](#), as well as copies being made available in the Priory for visitors and non-residents of the parish; copies are also available at Boxgrove Village Hall and the Village Shop. The Bugle is not published in January or August.

Articles on any aspect of Boxgrove news - Village or Priory-based - are always most welcome. Material to be considered for publication should be sent by the **15th day of the month**, please, to editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com for publication on or around the last Sunday of the month.

DATES 2025

NB: There is no Bugle in January or August

Issue Month	Copy Deadline	Publication Date
December 2025	14th November	30th November

BUGLE ARTICLES AND CONTENT

Please email the editor at editor.boxgrovebugle@gmail.com

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CAVATINA AND CHRISTMAS CAKE



On Sunday 7 December at 2.15pm in the St Blaise Centre, the a cappella quartet, Cavatina, consisting of 3 Priory Choir members and talented Chichester musician David Russell, will present an afternoon of Christmas music. They'll be performing a cappella settings of both sacred and secular festive favourites including O Holy Night, Mary's Boy Child, Santa Baby, Jingle Bell Rock, and All I Want For Christmas, and there'll be opportunities for the audience to request favourite carols and Christmas hymns for all to join in.

And during an extended interval, teas, coffees and home-made Christmas cakes and bakes will be served.

This is where you all come in...

Following the huge success of the August cream teas, when a number of you contributed home-made cakes which were greatly enjoyed by our guests, we're asking you to don your bakers' aprons once more and make a festive cake or plate of festive bakes for the interval refreshments. Whether a traditional frosted Christmas cake, a chocolate Yule log or a plate of mince pies or Stollen slices – as long as it's home-made and Christmassy, the choice is yours.

Or if you prefer, might you be able to offer kitchen help in serving refreshments and clearing up afterwards? Essentials such as tea, coffee, milk and sugar will be provided – just bring yourselves.

If you're prepared to offer your services either as a baker or kitchen helper, please see or email David Bathurst, who is co-ordinating the event. David's email address is davidbathurst@btinternet.com

If you simply want to come along to enjoy the singing and refreshments, tickets are £10 payable on the door. Space in the St Blaise Centre is limited so arrive in good time to be sure of your seat! All the proceeds will be donated to much-needed Priory funds.



Please save the date – **SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER,
2.15PM, ST BLAISE CENTRE**



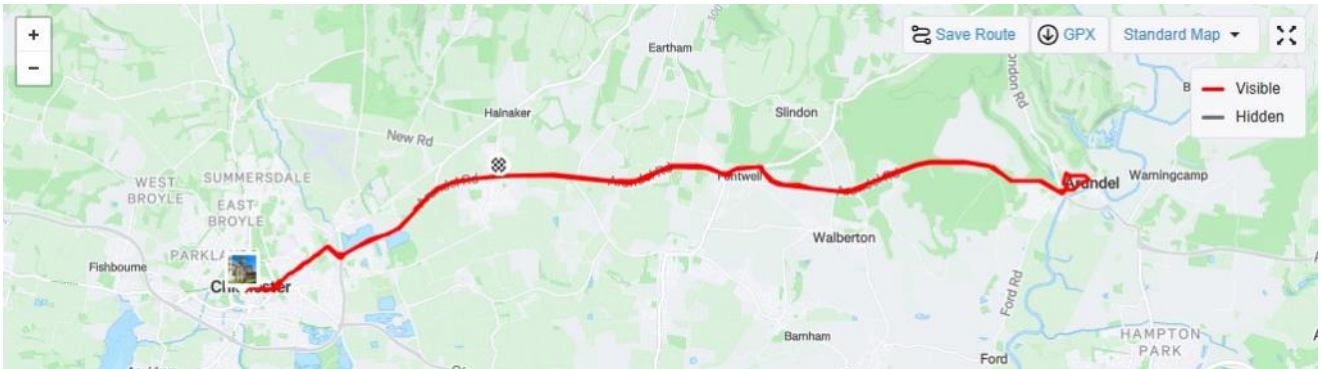
CALENDAR AND INTERCESSIONS

NOVEMBER

1	Sat	Of Our Lady	Our Walsingham Cell
2	SUN	ALL SAINTS (Transferred) (31st Week)	The Parish and People
3	Mon	Feria	Confidence in Christ
4	Tue	Saint Charles Borromeo	Education for all
5	Wed	Feria	The bereaved
6	Thu	ALL SOULS (Transferred)	The Departed
7	Fri	Saint Willibrord, Bishop	Missionaries
8	Sat	All Saints of England	Thanksgiving for the Saints
9	SUN	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (32nd Week)	Parish and people
10	Mon	Saint Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor	True faith in Christ
11	Tue	Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop <i>[Armistice Day]</i>	The War Dead
12	Wed	Saint Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr	Eastern Catholics
13	Thu	Feria	The grace to be merciful
14	Fri	Feria	The Bishop of Chichester
15	Sat	Saint Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor	The Suffragan Bishops
16	SUN	SECOND BEFORE ADVENT (33rd Week)	Parish and people
17	Mon	Saint Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop	The Assistant Bishops
18	Tue	Saint Hilda, Abbess	The Society
19	Wed	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious	Helpers of the poor
20	Thu	Saint Edmund of East Anglia, King & Martyr	Those in East Anglia
21	Fri	Presentation of the BVM	Shrines of Our Lady
22	Sat	Saint Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr	Musicians
23	SUN	CHRIST THE KING (34th Week)	Parish and people
24	Mon	Saint Andrew Dung Lac, Priest, & Companions, MM	Christians in Vietnam
25	Tue	Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr	Christian apologists
26	Wed	Feria	Funeral directors
27	Thu	Feria	Parishes in interregnum
28	Fri	Feria	The Guild of All Souls
29	Sat	Of Our Lady	Thanksgiving for her prayers
30	SUN	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Parish and people

Report on Ride & Stride 2025

Following on from the 2 rather disastrous previous years for Ride & Stride, (2023 heat-stroke half-way round, 2024 a damaged elbow a week prior), I decided to take a new approach. A few months before the said weekend, (always clashing with Revival), I added a little note in this here Bugle, to see if anyone else wanted to join me for a conservative, local Family ride, possibly involving cake. Having been inundated with replies, NOT, I once again set out on my own, with a plan to try out an Individual TT race that had been in the back of my mind for a couple of years.

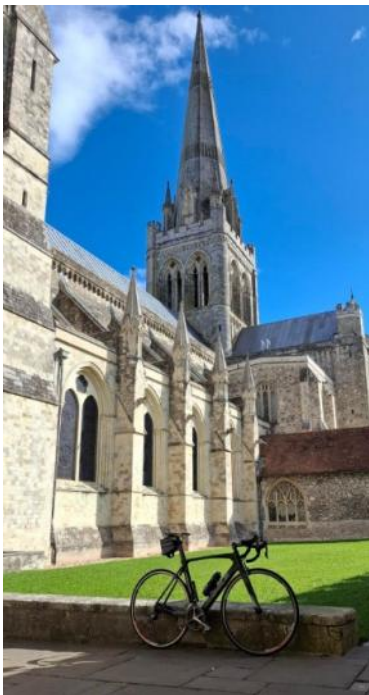


For those that don't know, TT stands for Time Trial and is basically a race against yourself and the clock. You are not allowed to team up with other riders for pace and definitely no drafting, (riding close behind others). The route I planned was to leave Boxgrove nice and early so the roads would be quiet, ride to Arundel along the A27, round Arundel Cathedral and back along the A27 to Chichester. Spin round Chichester Cathedral and then back to Boxgrove, Spire-to-Spire.

	Name	Time	Speed	Power
☆ 🏆	boxgrove to 901 ten finish 4.05 km 11 m 0.3%	8:08	29.9 km/h	147 W
☆ 🏆	BRCC 901/10 Crockerhill to Finish Line 2.37 km 10 m 0.3%	4:49	29.6 km/h	152 W
☆ 🏆	Slindon Roundabout to Arundel Roundabout 5.91 km 26 m -0.4%	11:41	30.4 km/h	130 W
☆	park farm to roundabout descent 0.83 km 33 m -4.0%	1:14	40.6 km/h	74 W
☆	Short n sharp! 0.30 km 20 m 6.5%	1:33	11.6 km/h	242 W
☆ 🏆	Tarrant Street 0.44 km 7 m -1.3%	1:03	25.3 km/h	79 W
☆	Fontwell to Chichester A27 7.15 km 19 m -0.2%	14:26	29.7 km/h	136 W
☆	A27 4.80 km 10 m -0.2%	9:18	31.0 km/h	148 W
☆ 🏆	Westhampnett Rd Sprint West. 0.39 km 2 m -0.6%	49s	29.0 km/h	103 W
☆ 🏆	Short Sprint 0.59 km 3 m -0.4%	1:11	30.1 km/h	113 W
☆ 🏆	St Pancras Sprint. 0.55 km 1 m -0.1%	1:01	32.6 km/h	150 W
☆ 🏆	Westhampnett Rd Sprint East. 0.38 km 2 m 0.6%	54s	25.3 km/h	109 W
☆ 🏆	A27 East 1.71 km 4 m 0.1%	3:21	30.7 km/h	138 W

Once going, I started counting the passing cats eyes to keep me at a good pace but this became quite hypnotic, (and dangerous!), so then resorted to thinking about music tracks with a good beat to keep me going. I also kept thinking back to my holiday in France, where the roads are much smoother, very few pot-holes and the drivers give you much more space! I also reflected on my

memories of childhood, riding from Arundel to Worthing on my bike to spend my pocket-money in the model shops. I didn't time myself back in the 80's but this year managed my 36km Spire-to-Spire in 1 Hour, 25 Minutes.



36.00 km 1:25:36 204 m
Distance Moving Time Elevation

126 w 645 kJ
Estimated Avg Power Energy Output

	Avg	Max
Speed	25.2 km/h	49.0 km/h
Elapsed Time	1:25:56	

Show More

Partly Cloudy Temperature Humidity		Feels like	8 °C
	11 °C	Wind Speed	15.1 km/h
	80%	Wind Direction	N

Not quite the pace of Tadej Pogacar or Remco Evenepoel but I finished with a big smile on my face and having raised £255 for The Sussex Historic Churches Trust.

Many thanks to those who Sponsored me, and any suggestions for an alternative format to get more people involved next year, please do let me know. Mark

Mark Peters

Thank you to young Alfie Scott.....whose school project to raise money for charity will result in bluebell and daffodil bulbs being planted in the Priory churchyard. We look forward to enjoying them in the Spring!



Handel's Messiah

Boxgrove Priory

The Shopwyke Singers

Sunday 23 November @ 7pm

Tickets £15 (Under 14s free)

01243 572322

BOXGROVE PARISH COUNCIL

From the Parish Council, October 2025



The Parish Council met on the 6th October, two apologies for absence were received. There were three Planning applications on the Agenda, two were for minor trimming of trees for householders and the third was for the erection of a storage barn for agricultural/ viticultural machinery on the Vineyard at Tinwood. This was what is known as a prior notice order, a PNO. which means merely that agricultural buildings below a certain size enjoy permitted development rights once the Notice is served. The tree works applied for were trivial and any decision should be left to the CDC Tree Officer. Attention was drawn to a presentation on the following evening the 7th, to consider Renewable Energy in the Countryside under the umbrella of Energise South Downs which is supported by the SDNPA. It was an interesting presentation focusing on any potential sites in the Parish. About 60% of the Parish lies within the SDNP so there is little scope there. Wind farms or solar farms would not “conserve nor enhance the natural beauty of the landscapes and wildlife of the NP”

The existing Planning application for the nine dwellings on land adjacent to ‘The Folly’ in Halnaker was briefly considered, and unsure of any recommendation by Planning Officers, an application has been made for the application to be decided by the Council Planning Committee.

There has been a certain amount of confusion regarding the grass cutting of the playing field. Fortunately it was just about short enough for the successful Annual Dog Show to go ahead. One operator of the new mower has injured his back and another committee member of the Cricket Club is unwell so reliance has been on an outside contractor to tend to it. As I write this, I understand the Chairman of the CC has arranged a rota to operate the mower so hopefully this has been resolved.. We have received from CDC a commemorative wreath to lay at the memorial in the Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday this year on the 9th of November. CDC are also once again offering a number of free tree saplings which we will apply for, they have this time around included fruit trees in the selection, so we welcome any ideas from you, the community, for suitable locations to plant them.

The PC vice chairman and I attended the CDC Meeting with the Parishes on Monday 13/10 and one item on the Agenda was a presentation on Parish Emergency Resilience Plans and I’m pleased to say that what Julian, Viv Mills and a few others have achieved towards our Plan to date, puts us well ahead of the game . Once we find some safe, accessible by the team, storage space we can take delivery of the kit promised by WSCC. There are some items we have deemed unnecessary but we’ll take what we feel we need. I wrote to the guy who made the presentation and

explained in fair detail what we have achieved and the preparations made and his reply was very complimentary, so well done all of you who have contributed. It has been a good effort.

In case you missed it, the Coffee Morning in support of the MacMillan Nurses Organisation was extremely well attended throughout the morning and I'm told over £800.00 was raised. So a big pat on the back for Sally and her daughter Faye and for all those generous folk who donated cake and biscuits for the occasion. Thank you all! The next meeting of the Council will be on November 3rd during which we shall be setting our budget and the Precept for the year '26/'27. All are welcome to attend, we've had a few lately but it would be nice to see even more. That's it for this month.

Henry Potter, Chairman to the Council

From the Boxgrove Belles

Our September craft group was a joint meeting with a number of other 'Belles' and we had a brilliant couple of hours with Michael who taught us how to create Corn Weaving items. Once the basic knot, the Clove Hitch, had been mastered, there was a lot of plaiting and some really beautiful hearts were created. Some of the group managed to move on to a second creation – a woven heart using 12 strands of corn. Michael explained about the special corn that is used and how it is prepared so that it is soft and flexible. It was a great afternoon and I think we all left with a huge sense of achievement as well as our corn decorations.

We were looking forward to a visit from a speaker who was going to give us an insight into Poisonous Plants – sadly, our speaker was unwell and unable to join us for the afternoon. In her place, Jill planned a quiz on Charles III which was well received and resulted in some hilarity. Thank you Jill for stepping in at the last minute. We wish our planned speaker a full and speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her to Boxgrove Belles in the future.

Book Group is currently reading 'Lessons in Chemistry' by Bonnie Garmus, recommended by one of our lady's friends. The beauty of belonging to the book group is that we are introduced to books that we would probably not have read; this book is one of those, and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading something very different.

New members are always welcome, and if you would care to come along to our monthly meeting, which is held on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the St Blaise Centre.

25th

Boxgrove Dog Show – Results 2025



The 25th Anniversary show was another successful day for Boxgrove village.

The weather was kind and once again we greeted 175 dogs from as far afield as Bedfordshire, Salisbury, Heathfield and Kent.

The tried and tested format of 3 Show Rings and 22 Classes, from the Finest Pedigree dogs to the scruffiest, but equally well-loved mixed breeds, with puppies from 6 months to vintage dogs of 16 years.

Plus, the 4 Obedience rings, which is I was told, is rated one of the best Obedience Shows in West Sussex and beyond, plus once again, the Have-a-Go Agility from Mad About Dogs for anyone to enter and try their paws at.

We also hosted 22 stalls, our usual high-quality raffle, pre-loved doggie bric-a-brac, dog related stalls as well as some Hoomum ones too. A splendid array of food and drink supplied by our own Boxgrove Village Store and the whole day from 8am was supported and manned by a team of volunteers from Boxgrove, Bognor, Lavant, Pagham and around.

Canine Partners were also celebrating, their 35th Anniversary, and they put on a fine display from a fully trained doggie partner, as well as a not yet fully trained, team of puppies.

Everybody appeared to have a good time, and we have received some lovely thank you's from those who came. There were lots of people who did lots of things to put this year's show together. Full details next month of the final totals of monies raised for the three charities.

THANK YOU EVERYONE

This show has gone from strength to strength over the years; the organisation of it starts in February and culminates in a fantastic September day. If it is going to continue then we are going to need 5 people to join the team to help in the months before the show.

Why not give it a try so that the 25th anniversary show wasn't the last one.

Contact Ali B boxgrovedogshow@btinternet.com for more details



Working together with our charities:

Boxgrove Priory
Reg Charity 1131214



Reg Charity in England & Wales 803680

Boxgrove Village Hall
Reg Charity 1167340

25th

Boxgrove Dog Show – Results 2025



Some notable 2025 prize winners:

BEST IN SHOW:

'Marsha' an 18-month-old Dobermann owned by Mandy Everly, from Chichester

RESERVE BEST IN SHOW:

'Winnie' a 21-month-old Bulldog owned by Juliet Harvey, from Warsash

BEST LOCAL DOG (within a 5 mile radius):

'Skipper' now 4 years old, retained his title. Well done Skipper.
Border Terrier owned by Robin & Ann Ramus, from Halnaker
(and the village shop so very local 😊!)

BEST NOVELTY IN SHOW:

'Winnie' a 21-month-old Bulldog owned by Juliet Harvey, from Warsash

RESERVE BEST NOVELTY IN SHOW:

'Skipper' now 4 years old, was our reserve this year
Border Terrier owned by Robin & Ann Ramus, from Halnaker



Working together with our charities:

Boxgrove Priory
Reg Charity 1131214



Reg Charity in England & Wales 803680

Boxgrove Village Hall
Reg Charity 1167340



Hello from the Hall!

What a fantastic morning we had at our Macmillan Coffee Morning.

It was our third year joining in with the nation's largest coffee morning and it was certainly our best yet! A huge thank you goes out to everyone who came along and joined in the fun with us on the day! It was a wonderful morning, but it wouldn't have been possible without some very generous people/local businesses...



A massive thank you to Mark Antony Mobile Bars who sponsored the event for us, so we were able to make it happen in the first place. To the fantastic singer Lauren Hayes, who enjoyed returning to her very own wedding venue to perform; to the Chichester Community Choir for yet another fantastic performance and to Jiggy Wrighglers, Diddi Dance and Little Lemurs for running free sessions for all the local little ones to enjoy.

We raised an amazing £810 for Macmillan Cancer Support- so thank you all so much!

If you haven't got the date in your diary yet, our **Christmas Market and Family Day** is fast approaching... You can join us for children's activities, festive food and drink and the opportunity to shop locally with a fantastic selection of small businesses and crafters selling all your Christmas gifts and essentials on **Sunday 23rd November from 12pm-3pm**. We can't wait to start the most magical season of all with you!

Until next time...





Music for Voices and Viols, from Dowland to Purcell Cambridge Renaissance Voices with Fretwork

Sunday 16th November 7.30p.m. in the Priory

Cambridge Renaissance Voices return to the glorious acoustic of Boxgrove Priory for a special concert with **Fretwork**, acclaimed by the London Evening Standard as 'the finest viol consort on the planet'.

The seventeenth century was the golden age of English consort music, when voices and viols were used interchangeably or together. Viol consorts were central to domestic music-making, in part-songs or madrigals equally suited to string players or singers. A parallel tradition developed in church music, featuring vocally inspired instrumental polyphony and bringing voices and viols together in the verse anthem, whose greatest Jacobean exponents included Thomas Weelkes, and Orlando Gibbons whose 400th anniversary we celebrate this year. After the Restoration, the music of Henry Purcell represents in many ways the culmination of this rich tradition. While his anthems straddle the musical styles of the late Renaissance and a more dramatic idiom signalling the early Baroque, Purcell's viol Fantasias look back to an earlier age, bringing to an old instrumental form a dazzling complexity and musical beauty.

'...beautifully controlled... The singers showed understanding and passion in their performance' *Early Music Review*

Tickets £20 in advance online: [Music for Voices and Viols, from Dowland to Purcell at Boxgrove Priory event tickets from TicketSource](#)

or £25 on the door



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OPENING HOURS

Monday-Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday - closed

The Optimistic Gardener

More sticky stuff

What a season it has been for many fruits in the summer of 2025!

My mother would have every last piece of fruit converted into something to squirrel away in the larder. Our house was one in which we could have survived a siege of several months. The winter of 1963 held no fears for us. We were near enough to shops, but we could have been isolated out in the wilds and have managed with very little inconvenience. Mum had a pantry under the stairs lined floor to ceiling with shelves groaning with tins of food. Further back were packets of biscuits, (fig rolls were always a favourite), sugar of various hues, flours (especially her strong flour for bread making), dried pastas, rice, beans, lentils, pearl barley, packets of Corn Flakes, slabs of cooking chocolate (only if you were desperate for a sugar rush would you sneak into the larder for a piece of this).

Having run out of space in the pantry we spilled over into the garage where could be found a large chest freezer containing much of the produce my father had grown - runner beans, broad beans, peas, raspberries, currants (black and red). On shelves in there were trays of our own apples, pears and pumpkins as well as all the preserves and chutneys clearly labelled and sometimes dating back several years! The house was built on to a slope so underneath the kitchen floor, accessed through a trapdoor, was what we laughingly called the cellar, and it was here that we stored the homemade wines (elderberry, elderflower, sloe, dandelion, blackberry) and my father's homemade beers.



And now I am doing exactly the same.

This year we have had an abundance of strawberries, apricots, plums, peaches, apples, pears and quinces. And, having turned into my mother, I was determined to preserve as much of this harvest as possible. But there is limited space in the 2 freezers so, as in days of yore, I have turned to making preserves and chutneys as well as more modern delicacies.

Fruit leather doesn't sound as though it is going to be very appealing. I had seen it for sale in packets designed to be attractive to children with names such as *Frutina fruit snacks* and *Bear Fruit Splits*. I have to say I rather spurned these snacks, thinking they would be full of e-numbers and sugar (which they are not). But when our apricot tree produced more fruits than we could easily eat fresh, I decided to have a go at preserving them. Now I am not a jam eater myself, and Gerry prefers his jams on the sharp side, so apricot jam was not really an option.

Google to the rescue - "What to do with a glut of apricots?" Here's what AI said:

With a glut of apricots, you can make sweet preserves like jam, chutney, or fruit leather, or bake them into pies, tarts, cakes, and scones. You can also freeze fresh apricots for later use, or dehydrate them to make healthy snacks and versatile ingredients for other recipes. For savoury dishes, apricot can be used in chicken, lamb, or pork dishes, often with Middle Eastern-inspired flavours.

Well - since the freezer had enough space for one apricot scone, and I haven't got the taste for apricot jam or chutney - I decided to have a go at making apricot leather. My *Good Housekeeping*



Above: Apricot leather

Complete Book of Home Preserving dated 1981 says nothing about fruit leathers, so it was Google to the rescue once more. The initial process couldn't have been simpler.

I baked the surplus apricots in the oven and then liquidised them to a pulp. I stirred in a small amount of sugar and then spread the pulp on three baking sheets covered with baking parchment. This was popped in a cool oven (90°C) for a few hours. The site I used to learn about making this fruit leather must have been from the US where the author had been able to put the trays in the sunshine to evaporate. If I had done this, I would have ended up with a sprinkling of insect life which would stick to the leather like they might to a fly paper.

Since my first triumph, I have used a surplus of plums and peaches in the same way. They will keep for a few weeks in the fridge or, as I did, they can be frozen for the long fruitless days of winter.

Another fruit we have had in abundance this year is blackcurrants. Now on their own they are quite tart and create a burst of sparkle to fruit salad but not something you would want to eat a bowl of. However they make a fabulous jam. But you can find recipes for blackcurrant jam all over the place; one thing I like to do with my glut of blackcurrants is to make a cordial and then freeze it.

The recipe only requires 3 ingredients - sugar, lemons and blackcurrants. They are boiled together and then strained through a muslin-lined sieve and put into sterilised bottles. I use plastic pint milk bottles as these freeze well and even better, they stack beautifully in the freezer.

People who would normally turn up their noses at Ribena go mad for my artisan blackcurrant cordial. It all depends on the spin! I like it served with some fizzy water or tonic, but I suppose you could follow the example of the old queen mother and have it in place of Dubonnet in a gin cocktail!

My final glut of the year tends to be the quince harvest, and this year is no exception. I suppose I could also make a fruit leather from this, but my go-to preserve of quinces is Membrillo - a thick jelly-like paste made with quinces and sugar. It is a Spanish delicacy which goes well with cheese - especially Manchego.



Above: Membrillo & Manchego



Left: Branches of the quince tree—Vranja—groaning with fruit

So, mum - you have set a fine example for this Optimistic Gardener.

Petworth House & Park News for November & December

Petworth House and Park, Church Street, Petworth, GU28 0AE



Details at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth>

A Christmas Enchantment at Petworth House

29 November – 4 January

A midwinter journey through Petworth House, inspired by the Winter Solstice and the shifting rhythms of nature. The grand state rooms transform into a dreamlike world of overgrown wonder, with celestial skies, roaming woodland creatures, towering trees, and spaces to pause and reflect. Look out for a special appearance from the mice of Brambly Hedge!

Normal admission charges apply, no booking required.

Christmas Makers Market

29 November, 10am-6.30pm & 30 November, 10am-4pm

Find your Christmas presents and a treat for yourself at this festive makers market, featuring high quality artisan gifts. You'll find a range of beautiful handmade products including jewellery, homewares, textiles and art. Held in partnership with Petworth Pop Up.

Christmas Late Openings

Sat 29 Nov & Sat 20 Dec.

Experience the festive atmosphere of Petworth House after dark, with sparkling lights and a courtyard choir. A chance to enjoy the house's winter transformation in a new light. The House will be open until 6.30pm (last entry at 6pm), with a choir performing at 5.30pm. Normal admission applies, no booking required.

Christmas Workshops

Traditional Wreath Making: Tues 2, Sat 6 and Sun 7 December, 10.30am & 2pm

Festive Block Printing: Thurs 4 Dec, 10.30am & 2pm

Spaces are limited so booking is essential. Please visit our website or call 0344 249 1895.

Turner's Vision at Petworth exhibition

Ends 16 November

A specially curated selection of J.M.W Turner's artistic studies of the Petworth landscape, exhibited in the very place that inspired him.

£10 per adult, £5 per child, under 5s go free. No pre-booking required. Normal admission to Petworth House also applies.

Christmas Volunteers Wanted!

Become a volunteer Room Guide and help us bring Petworth House to life this Christmas.

This short-term, flexible role is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills in a friendly, festive environment.

For more details, please call 01798 342207 or email petworth@nationaltrust.org.uk

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Director: Peter Allwood



St Cecilia's Day

A Choral Celebration

Handel: Dixit Dominus

Britten: Hymn to St Cecilia

Vaughan Williams: 5 Mystical Songs

Purcell: Welcome all the Pleasures

Howells: A Hymn for St Cecilia

At St Mary's Church, Petworth
GU28 0AE

Saturday 22nd November
at 7:30pm

Tickets £16

For tickets and more information visit our website
www.chantryquire.org.uk

Homegrown joy in the South Downs

There is something deeply rewarding about growing your own food, whether it's herbs on a windowsill or a vegetable patch at the bottom of the garden. More than just a hobby, it's a way of life that influences how people think about property and home.



Here in the South Downs National Park, homes with established gardens, vegetable patches, or even small orchards are becoming increasingly sought after. As a house search agent, I have seen first hand how outdoor space is climbing the priority list for many buyers. Families in particular are drawn to properties that offer room to grow their own produce, keep chickens, or simply enjoy a more self sufficient lifestyle. It's not just the land itself that appeals, but the sense of connection it brings to nature, and to a slower, more rooted way of living. I have even had buyers ask about soil types, something that rarely came up a few years ago!

As a gardener myself, I completely understand the appeal. When my sons were young, our garden was full of life: potatoes, beans, courgettes, radishes, carrots, tomatoes, and lettuces, alongside apple and plum trees and a herb garden. For the boys, it was an adventure, from watching things grow to digging up the harvest. I still remember how quickly those freshly dug potatoes were washed, cooked and eaten.

That passion hasn't faded. Today, I still enjoy growing herbs and cooking with my own parsley, rosemary and mint and have fruit trees. There's something grounding and satisfying about using ingredients you have nurtured from the soil. It takes patience, but the rewards are worth it.

Beyond the kitchen, growing your own food offers physical and health benefits. With rising food and energy costs, it's a practical way to ease household expenses too.

Whether it's a few pots or a full kitchen garden, the joy of homegrown food is something everyone can enjoy. It connects us to nature and in the beautiful setting of the South Downs, there is no better place to dig in.

For help and advice on finding a property in West Sussex and the Surrey and Hampshire borders, please contact Jennie Hancock on jh@propertyacquisitions.co.uk or call 07776 452128.

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Latest News from St Wilfrid's Hospice November 2025

Moonlight Walk 2026

Join a walk that makes a difference!

St Wilfrid's Moonlight Walk returns on Saturday 13th June, inviting the local community to join together and raise vital funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice.

This event takes you across Chichester, exploring familiar areas which are decorated exclusively for one night only. It's an incredible night full of fun and it's all in support of a great local cause.

Early bird tickets are only available until December 1st, so get yours now!

www.stwh.co.uk/moonlight

St Wilfrid's Christmas Tree Recycling



From doorstep to hospice care: trees collected, lives supported.

St Wilfrid's are excited to be holding their TreeCycle service once again this New Year, offering a way for you to get your tree collected and recycled, without any hassle.

This is a great way to avoid the mess of moving the tree yourself, instead you can sit back and let St Wilfrid's tree-

mendous volunteers do the heavy lifting.

Book your collection here:

www.stwh.co.uk/tree-cycle

Woof for Wilf

Ever wanted to walk around Goodwood Motor Circuit?

On November 16th, St Wilfrid's are



inviting local dog owners to their Woof for Wilf event, where walkers and their dogs will get to walk along the iconic Goodwood Motor Circuit.

This is a great morning with lots of dog-themed stalls and other pawed pals.

Tickets are available now:

www.stwh.co.uk/woof-for-wilf

Gifts in Wills

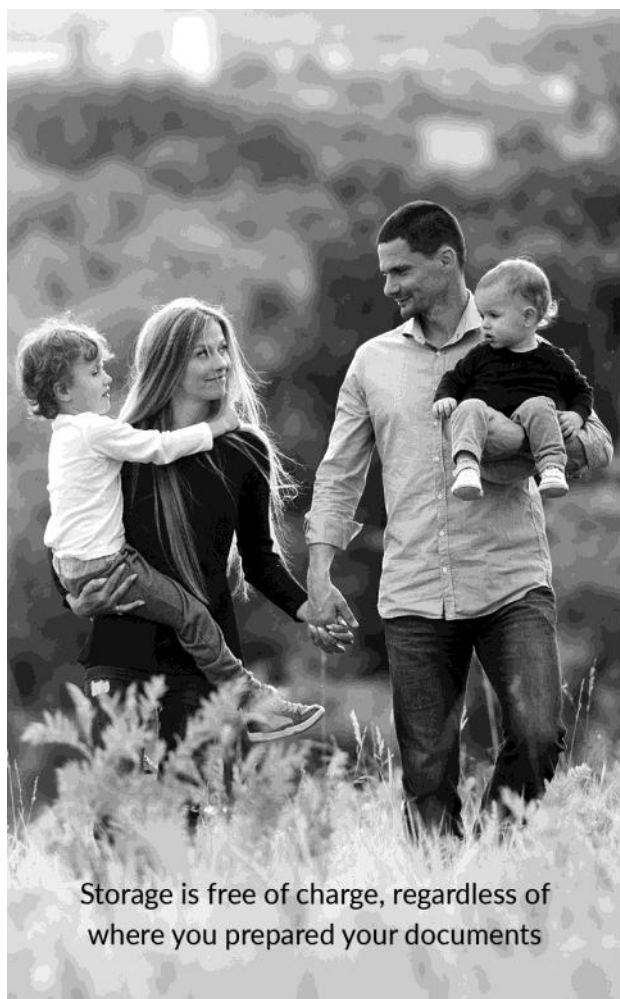
Your kindness could mean less tax and more hospice care.

A gift in your Will to St Wilfrid's Hospice could reduce the amount of tax you have to pay.

A gift left to any charity, such as St Wilfrid's Hospice, would be taken off the value of your estate before Inheritance Tax is calculated. Plus, if 10% or more is left to charity, your Inheritance Tax rate could also be reduced. Your gift could help protect the future of hospice care in your local community. It's simple to do and we are here to help you every step of the way.

You can find out more about the importance of gifts in Wills and how it can help local charities like St Wilfrid's here:

www.stwh.co.uk/gifts-in-wills



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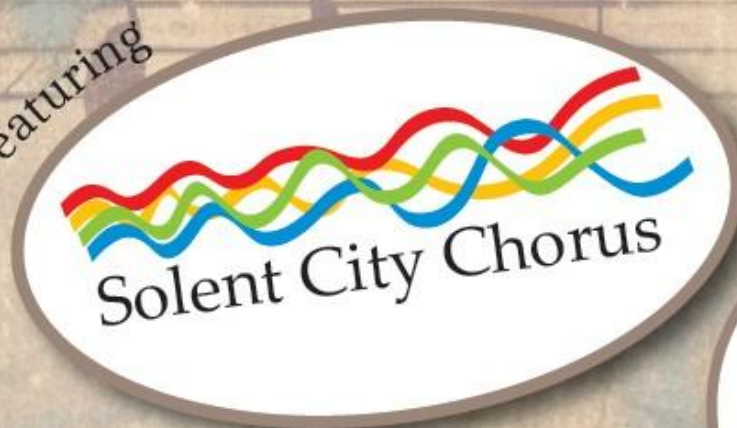
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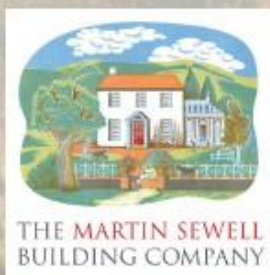


Come and experience "A Taste of A Cappella"
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Saturday **29th November**, St Mary's Church, Walberton,
Arundel, BN18 0UD

Doors open at 17.30, start at 18.00 Tickets £10 via QR code, or on the door

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Make a Difference With 4Sight Vision Support this Christmas

In the run up to the Festive Season, 4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is raising vital funds with events, cards and Christmas gifts to help its work supporting those of all ages living with sight loss across the county.

The highlight of 4SVS's Festive season is its wonderful Christmas Concert with Seaford College Chapel Choir, held on Monday 8th December at 6.30pm at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham. 4SVS advises reserving a place well in advance, with payment then taken (cash or card) on the door at just £5pp including festive refreshments.



The big Christmas Prize Draw has a number of fabulous prizes, with the main prize worth £250. 4Sight Vision Support is encouraging everyone to share the news of the Draw with family and friends. Tickets cost £1 individually, or in books of 10.

Christmas cards are on sale with a variety of seasonal designs, which can be viewed on 4SVS's website News page. They cost £4.50 (plus P&P) for packs of 10, the deadline for ordering by post is 12th December. A selection will also be on sale in Cards for Good Causes at The Council House, North Street, Chichester. There are also gift ideas for those living with sight loss, including

large print playing cards, large print Scrabble, large print calendars and diaries, as well as equipment such as talking kitchen scales. A book of 35 'Short Rambles in the Sussex Countryside and Days Out' by volunteer Jane Aston features walks designed to be suitable for everyone including those with living with sight loss.

Christmas Prize Draw tickets, cards and gifts can be purchased by debit card from 4Sight Vision Support by calling 01243 828555, or bought in person from its Head Office in Bognor Regis or its Shoreham office. For further information, please call, or email fundraising@4sight.org.uk



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Time: 18.30 - 19.30 (please arrive by 18.20)

Cost: £15.00 (£10.00 Concession)

Please contact Sheena to reserve your place as these are limited due to hall space.

email: sniz1412@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: 07717 131484 (Text/WhatsApp)

Dates for East Dean Village Hall PO18 0JG.
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Dates for St Blaise Centre - Boxgrove
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<https://stonepillow.org.uk/>

Please continue to leave any non-perishable food you can spare in our bin just inside the inner doors of the church. We welcome gifts, including furniture and electrical goods, at the Restore Shop in Terminus Road (Stonepillow Restore, Unit 3, Plot 27, Terminus Road, Chichester PO19 8UE; Tel: 01243 698547; restore@stonepillow.org.uk). We can collect larger items if needed.

We are also looking for volunteers who don't mind getting stuck in and sorting our donations; this will enable us to make the best use of them. So many people have so much experience which would be very welcome ...!



Please remember - if you have any unwanted sewing machines, carpentry, garden or engineering tools, Tim Pullan and Malcolm Knight collect such items for 'Tools with a Mission' and 'Tools for Self-Reliance' respectively to be despatched to Africa to help families and individuals to start or expand their business.

Tim Pullan 01243 532065

Malcolm Knight 07722 115212

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Please continue to support the Chichester District Foodbank.

Urgently needed items include tinned carrots, peas and green beans, sponge puddings, tinned fruit, tinned meat, rice, tinned potatoes/instant mash, tinned rice pudding/custard.

Website link for details of food donation points, opening hours, etc: <https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>; **tel:** 01243 773687

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Please see the cathedral website for details of the many events being held there: www.chichestercathedral.org.uk The popular

lunchtime concerts held at 1.10pm on Tuesdays continue in term time. There is no charge for admission but a minimum donation of £3 per person is invited (Gift Aided as appropriate).

4th November— Yasmin Rowe & Daniel Grimwood—piano duet
11th November—Mayflower Ensemble (clarinet & string quartet)
18th November—William Fox, organ

FORTHCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE PRIORY

Thursday 6th November	Allsoulstide Solemn Requiem, 7.30pm
Sunday 9th November (Remembrance Sunday)	Solemn Mass 10.30 a.m. with 2 minute silence at 11 a.m.
Sunday 16th November	Music for Voices & Viols—7.30pm in the Priory Cambridge Renaissance Voices with Fretwork <i>See p16 for more details</i>

Wednesday 19th November	Licensing of Fr Dominic by the Bishop of Chichester, 7.30pm Service followed by a reception ALL WELCOME
--------------------------------	--

Sunday 23rd November	Handel's Messiah—Shopwyke Singers—7p.m. in the Priory. Tickets £15 (Under 14s free) Tel: 01243 572322
Sunday 30th November	First Sunday of Advent—Westbourne House School service of Advent lessons & carols 6.30 p.m. All welcome

NEXT MONTH :	7th Dec "Cavatina and Christmas cake" concert 2.15pm at St Blaise Centre <i>See p 7 for details</i>
---------------------	--



Useful contact details

Local Police

Emergencies 999 or 112 ~ Other matters 0845 60 70 999 or 101

Citizens Advice

Consumer helpline 0345 4040506

Action on Elder Abuse

Confidential helpline 080 8808 8141

Action Fraud

National fraud reporting centre 0300 123 2040

PRIORY SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

Sundays at 8.30am and 10.30am [Solemn]

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 10am

(Coffee after Mass on Tuesday)

Wednesday and Friday at noon

On, usually, the first Sunday of the month at the 10.30am Mass the setting of the Ordinary (Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei) will normally be congregational, with anthems and motets sung by the choir.

Please see page 5 for Boxgrove Junior Church arrangements.

Readers are advised to check service times on the Priory website (<http://www.boxgrovepriory.co.uk/worship.html>), as it is necessary from time to time to amend them.

You are encouraged to attend the services in person; however, if you prefer you can still 'join in' the Mass from the Priory, 'live' or at a time which may be more convenient for you, via the Parish [Facebook](#) page.

Youngsters: Come and join in at Boxgrove Junior Church (2nd Sunday) and our new Mass@5 (Usually 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Our new Parish Priest

Fr Dominic Keech will be licensed by the Bishop of Chichester
as Priest-in-charge of Boxgrove
on Wednesday 19th November at 7.30 p.m.
The service to be followed by a reception

ALL ARE WELCOME



*The Church is open daily
and all are welcome!*