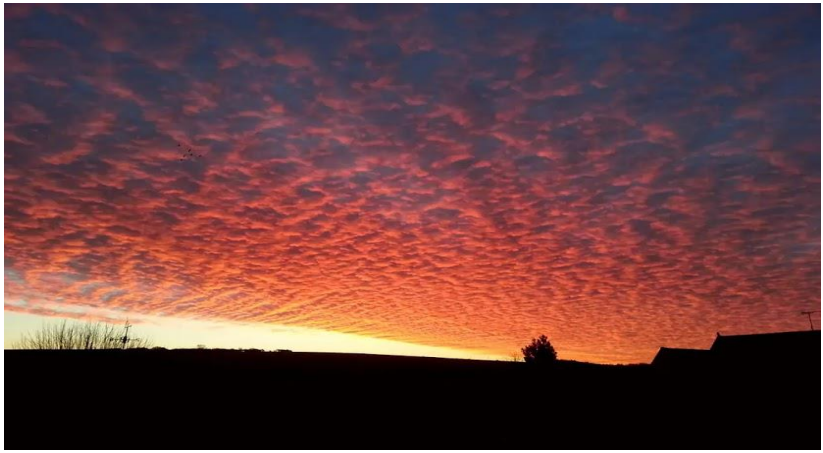
No. 177 Winter 2024

Village Newsletter



"The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more!"

http://www.pyecombe.info

MID DOWNLAND
PARISH

Rectory Ramblings

Even before November gave way to December, our high streets had turned our attention to Christmas. Streets are lit up with decorations, shop windows display festive wares, and adverts insist we need to buy more to "make Christmas perfect". The countdown to Christmas has become, for many, a race of lists, deadlines, and deliveries. Yet, in the church, we are invited to step into something different: Advent.

Advent is a season of anticipation, but not the frenzied kind that urges us to beat the rush or find the perfect deal. It is a time to pause and prepare—heart, mind, and soul—for the coming of Christ. Amid the noise and glitter, Advent whispers of hope, peace, joy, and love. It

invites us to journey inward, to remember a quiet story that changed the world.

Over two thousand years ago, in a small, unremarkable town, a child was born in the humblest of circumstances. Jesus, Emmanuel—God with us—entered the world not with fanfare or spectacle, but in stillness, vulnerability, and humility. The contrast is striking when placed alongside the expectations our modern world places on Christmas.

The season of Advent invites us to dwell in that stillness. To resist the pull of the commercial and embrace the sacred. Advent reminds us that the deepest anticipation is not for things, but for the presence of God in our lives. The birth we prepare to celebrate is not merely a historical event but a present reality—an invitation to let Christ be born anew in our hearts.

In this season of contrasts, don't lose sight of what matters most—not the gifts under the tree, but the gift of God's love, born in Bethlehem, and living among us still.

"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

May your Advent be a time of holy anticipation and your Christmas one of profound joy.

With your magazine, you will have received a Christmas card, in which are the details of all the Advent and Christmas services that will take place across the four churches of the Mid Downland Parish. You will be most welcome at any of these but might be especially interested in the carol service at Pyecombe Church at 6.00pm on Sunday 8th December, complete with brass band. Come early to enjoy a mulled wine and a mince pie before the service begins.

With every blessing,
Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267

Pew Patter

Our thanks to all who helped at the Village Weekend and Flower Festival at the end of August. We raised over £2000. Special thanks to Sally Brown and all her helpers, the Pyecombe Village Choir, and the other churches in the Benefice.

In October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival which was a great success. We were able to donate a carload of foodstuffs to St Peter & St James Hospice from whom we had this lovely thank you note, which is on the notice board in the church porch:

"To everyone at Pyecombe Church:

Thank you once again for the very kind donation from your Harvest Festival and for the donation of £10. We really appreciate your continued support and the food donation enables our chefs to produce home-cooked meals for our patients and their families."

By the time that you read this, our Christmas Fayre at Adastra Hall will be over. Our thanks go to Sally and the churches for all their help.

Congratulations to the Pyecombe Village Choir on their ten-year anniversary. The choir is a great asset to Pyecombe and we thank them for all their fantastic music.

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Our Carol Service is on 8th December at 6.00 pm. Please come early as we will be serving mulled wine and mince pies at 5.00 pm. The Mid Sussex Brass Band and the Pyecombe Village Choir will be in support!

During the months of January, February and March the 6pm Evening Service will be brought forward to 3.00 pm. Please look on the website for more details.

Future Dates for your diaries:

May 10th 2025 – The Flower Festival

November 22nd 2025 – The Christmas Fayre

My thanks to all who have helped in the church over the last year, especially Scott, David, Ken, Alison, Sandra and Sally.

We wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

The Church Team

Christmas Fayre 2024 Update

We can already tell you that we raised £2614.00 at this year's fayre and still have the card machines to come – a fantastic result!

As always, a huge THANK YOU to all the helpers, stall holders, and raffle prize sponsors - Asm Accountancy, Keymer, and Bake Out!



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£20	£10
Sept -24	Geoffrey Strong	David Wilson
Oct -24	Jane Cullen	Marion Jamison

New players always welcome! Please email pye100c@gmail.com for details.

A personal "thank you" for the Flower Festival

I know Betty has written in the Church section, but l would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for helping us make the Flower Festival such a success. I want to thank the parishioners from Edburton for doing the church porch so beautifully, Karen Lewis for putting all the decorations together and working so hard throughout the day assisted by so many other people, to Anne, Sarah, Margaret, Jane, Jane & Tim, Jackie, Sue & Michael, David, Sandra and Betty, and Scott and his team who helped put up the tables and the tent. Finally, huge thanks to all those who did the most beautiful flower arrangements, helped clear up, and our fabulous choir who sang for us at the service.

Thank you, Nicky, for supplying the tables and chairs and for always being there to support us.

We had an amazing selection of Danish pastries and breads on our refreshment stall all supplied and given to us by Linda from Bake Out in Hassocks. This was incredibly generous and much appreciated

We raised a little short of £800.

Next year we have decided to bring the flower festival back to May which means we can sell bedding plants for your gardens ready for the summer.

Your support is invaluable, and we thank you for everything you do.

Sally Brown

THE FLOWER FESTIVAL & PYECOMBE VILLAGE WEEKEND















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SCARECROWS GALORE!!!

















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…and then there was the DOG SHOW!







Parish Council Jottings

Community Projects

The parish council are keen to hear from local residents who have ideas for community projects that will enhance the village.

If you have any suggestions, please email these to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

Village Tidy-up

Council are investing in equipment to assist with keeping the village tidy and are looking for volunteers to assist with this on either an ad-hoc or regular basis. If you are able to spare a couple of hours at any time please drop me an email.

Children's Play Area

The children's play area located at The Wyshe continues to be a priority for Council members. Mid Sussex District Council have set up an online consultation however Council are not supportive of the design which lacks any form of equipment for older children. Council have previously submitted a design which includes a table tennis table and basketball hoop. Further details on the public consultation will be circulated in the near future. However, in order for the design to be suitable for all age groups we really need residents to respond highlighting the additional needs.

Vaccinations update

Anyone eligible for flu and Covid-19 vaccinations can now book via the NHS website, by downloading the NHS App, or by calling 119 for free if they can't get online. Find out if you're eligible for Covid-19 vaccination and flu vaccination.

For the first time, the NHS is also offering vaccines for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), a common cause of coughs and colds which can be dangerous to older people and young children. The jab is available to those aged 75 to 79, and is being offered to pregnant women from 28 weeks, to protect their child.

For those adults eligible for both flu and Covid-19 vaccines, the NHS will make them available at the same time, giving the option to get protection from both viruses in one visit.

However, it is more effective for people to have the RSV vaccination on a different day from any flu or Covid-19 vaccinations.

Get your skates on for the festive season!

Get your skates on for **FREE** this festive season at the Martlets Marquee in Burgess Hill.

The synthetic ice rink will open on selected dates from 23 November until 8 December 2024 for one-hour sessions that will need to be booked in advance. Ice skates for all sizes will be provided.



The ice rink is being co-funded by Mid Sussex District Council and New River to mark their commitment to a new partnership being progressed to redevelop The Martlets in Burgess Hill town centre.

Mid Sussex District Council Cabinet Member for Communities and Communications, Cllr Anne-Marie Cooke, said: *"Ice skating really captures the magical spirit of Christmas so it's fantastic that we're able to provide this experience free of charge. Whatever your skating ability, this is a great opportunity to get together with family and friends at this special time of year."*

The Opening hours are:

Saturday 30 November 2024	12 pm – 6 pm
Sunday 1 December 2024	10 am -4 pm
Thursday 5 December 2024	3 pm – 6 pm
Friday 6 December 2024	3 pm-6 pm
Saturday 7 December 2024	12 pm – 6 pm
Sunday 8 December 2024	10 am – 4 pm

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Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding assorted items throughout the village these updates are very much appreciated, and I will always follow up on any items raised. I do now have quite a few residents who have signed up to receive email updates on assorted items happening both throughout the parish and locally. If you would like to be added to the circulation list, please email me at parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Parish Clerk & RFO

Dawn Langston – parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Telephone contact – 07909 332605

USEFUL INFORMATION

Pyecombe Village Website - **Pyecombe.info** (this site is in addition to pyecombevillage.co.uk which is the parish council site).
Information is added to the village site but the Facebook page & WhatsApp message board is more frequently used for updates. If you want to add anything to the website, you will need to send the complete article electronically to keith.a.gough@btinternet.com
Facebook Page is **Pyecombe Village Newsgroup** WhatsApp - **Pyecombe Neighbours Group**

The administrator for these two groups is Keith Gough. Message him on 07966 292601

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The choir is practising hard for another busy Christmas period! We have concerts at Hurst Place and Maycroft Manor, carol singing at Brighton Station for the Clock Tower Sanctuary (6pm on Thursday 12th December – if you happen to be in the vicinity!), and carol singing at Rushfields Garden Centre, Poynings, in aid of FSW (Family Support Workers) on Sunday 15th Dec. at 12.30pm. We will, of course, be singing at the village Carol Service on Sunday 8th December at 6pm too, with mulled wine and mince pies from 5pm to get everyone in festive mood! Come and join us to raise your glasses and your voices to herald in Christmas 2024!

Jane Cullen

07736 806851

http://www.pyecombe.info

Veteran Trees

Walking around the woods on Wolstonbury lately seeing them in their Autumn colours has been gorgeous. Not just the visuals but also the smell and sound of the woods are different in the different seasons. We have such variety of trees here. The big old beech trees, some of which have fallen in the 30 years I've been living here, are so impressive. As a tree ages it begins to wear the story of its life. A veteran tree is a tree that is old enough for us to be able to see its story. The broken branches and bits of decay, the cut limbs or damaged bark, each is a scar and part of this narrative. The magic is that each piece also becomes a potential food source or home for another creature. Trees have wet holes and dry holes that will offer drinks and breeding ground for creatures or shelter. Wood that is dead within the tree is a great source of food. If we listen, we will often hear woodpeckers doing their daily forage. Dead wood also allows fungal growth, the fruits of which are a food source for many, but the process of wood being broken down by fungi or beetles is what returns the wood to the soil and replenishes the nutrients - along with the leaves breaking down, that ensures the remaining plant life gets what is needed to flourish.



A tree is a living being and sustains itself well. Trees have the ability to heal themselves where damage has occurred and if large parts of a tree are affected, they will grow their wood in different forms to take more strain or be more flexible where it's needed. There is an ever-growing amount of information now about how trees communicate with each other to divert nutrients or to warn of impending threat from infestation.

There are multiple petitions around where people in villages and towns are fighting to protect the veteran trees in their areas. We are so lucky to have such a wealth right on our doorstep.

Vicky Clapperton

*The next newsletter is due out in March. In order to be included in the next issue, send articles in anytime from now until 26th February. You can email them to timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk or post a written piece either in the letter box at no.14 The Wyshe or at no.15 Pyecombe Street - marked "**Newsletter".***

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes). Editors: Tim & Jane Cullen

The View from my Window!

Winter scenes from John Porter, Jane Cullen and Karen Lewis, & Maxine Sloman (front cover)







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Phone or text **07736 806851** to place your orders asap:

£10 each *or* **3 for £28**

Proceeds to Pyecombe Church roof appeal!

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