No. 180 Autumn 2025

Village Newsletter



http://www.pyecombe.info

MID DOWNLAND
PARISH

From the Rectory

September and October are times of transition, marked by the changing of the seasons, but also in our daily lives. This month, children will have started attending nursery for the first time, requiring both them and their parents or carers to adjust to new routines. Others will have begun primary school, moved on to secondary school, or entered their GCSE or A-level years. Some will have gone on to higher education or recently taken their first steps into the world of work.

I hope and pray that in this season of change you will find comfort in the knowledge that God's love for us does not change. Whatever may be shifting in our families, our villages, or the wider world, we are held in his steadfast care. The psalmist reminds us that while our days are fleeting, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. That promise has been the foundation of faith for countless generations before us, and it is there for us too.

You are welcome to join us as we celebrate harvest in our October church services. Our churches are not just for

Sundays though; they are open every day as places for quiet reflection, and they continue to be at the heart of our communities — where the rhythm of life has been celebrated and mourned for centuries. In their stillness, we are reminded of God's eternal presence in the midst of our ever-changing lives.

If you feel overwhelmed by life's changes and would like me to pray with or for you, please do not hesitate to let me know. We can always bring both our joys and our struggles before the God who never fails us.

With every blessing,

Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267

Pew Patter

As we come to the end of a wonderful summer and look forward to Autumn, the church has had a lot of visitors. Next time you are in the church, look at the visitors' book, both in the kitchen and in the entrance. The comments are very appreciative and encourage us to keep the church open.

Dates for your diary:

- **Sunday 12th October, 6.00 pm** the Harvest Festival Service (Please bring dried goods in the church for collection for St Peter & St James hospice – see article below)
- **Sunday 9th November, 6.00 pm** Remembrance Service
- **Sunday 14th December, 6.00 pm** Carol Service with brass band

My thanks to Scott Marshall for locking the church from Mondays to Thursdays. He now has other commitments so has had to stop which means we are looking for someone (e.g. dog walkers?) to lock the church on these days at about 4.00 pm. Please phone me (Betty Edes) if you can help – 01273 842536.

We are a small band of helpers and would always welcome new volunteers to keep this lovely old church in service.

The Church Team

PS Don't forget the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 22nd November!

HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS TO ST PETER AND ST JAMES HOSPICE

For over forty years, Pyecombe Church has delivered the donations from the Harvest Festival to St Peter and St James hospice.

In the past, we used to take two carloads with boots and back seats filled with goods. However, over the years the quantities have decreased and last year it was down to one small boot full! **So PLEASE BE GENEROUS and reverse this sad decline.**

The hospice is unfailingly grateful for whatever we manage to donate and they always send us a Thank You card, so let's try and really surprise them this year!

Please note that NO FRESH PRODUCE can be accepted, but tins, packets and dried goods are most welcome. So, please bring whatever you can to the church **any time between NOW & 11TH OCTOBER.** There will be boxes at the back of the church.

Thank you for your support.

HARVEST FESTIVAL at PYECOMBE CHURCH

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2025, 6:00pm

Please join us for this lovely Service.

Sandra Milner

http://www.pyecombe.info

Mid-Downland Christmas Fayre

Adastra Hall, Hassocks, on:

Saturday 22nd November 2025 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Come and meet Father Christmas 

Stalls include:

Christmas gifts and crafts
Refreshments, including ploughman's lunches
Food & seasonal treats
Plants
Accessories

2:30pm – raffle and the cottage holiday in Northumberland will be drawn! Be sure to buy your tickets for both!

There are a few stalls still available so please contact Sally Brown 07850 300603 if you are interested

I look forward to seeing you there!

Sally

I am delighted to announce that the summer weekend and flower festival made £2,000! Congratulations and thanks, once again, to all involved!



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£20	£10
May - 25	Wendy Pelling	Liz & Marcus Saitch
June - 25	Jill Munday	Michael Sloman
July - 25	Fiona Downs	Geoffrey Strong
Aug - 25	Jill Munday	Allan Norburn

New players always welcome - we are only 11 short of a century! Please email pye100c@gmail.com for details.

http://www.pyecombe.info

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.

Alison Bennett MP

Councillors recently met with Alison Bennett MP to discuss a number of items relevant to the parish which included:

- EV charge points in rural areas.
- What benefits she foresees in the future unitary Authority set up.
- Highways issues comprising road surface problems, abandoned vehicles and living in some of them.

The meeting was very positive and we hope to continue with a regular discussion on these items.

Recycling News

Paint reuse available at all West Sussex Recycling Centres

Did you know West Sussex County Council have joined forces with Community RePaint, (sponsored by Dulux) to offer opportunities for donating and/or collecting unwanted paint? Residents can donate paint for reuse as long as it is in good condition (for example, it has not dried up) and the container at the centre has capacity to accept it. Residents are also allowed to take up to three tins of paint for free, from the reuse station. This limit is in place to ensure fair distribution to all residents, and needs to be declared on the document provided in the paint container.

All of the WSCC Recycling Centres offer paint reuse!

Batteries

Across the UK, 3,000 batteries are binned every minute. From electric toothbrushes to mobile phones, batteries are hidden inside so many electrical devices. It's easy to think something so small won't matter. But many of us may not realise the big impact that throwing away batteries can have.

Did you know that binning small electricals and batteries can:

Start fires - binned batteries and small electricals can get crushed or damaged in collection vehicles and at waste centres, which can spark fires. These fires can take days to put out and unnecessarily put a strain on the fire services resources. These fires also cause a risk to collection crews and staff at our recycling and waste plants.

Cost valuable resources - batteries and small electricals are full of some of the most valuable materials on the planet, that can be infinitely recycled. But if they are binned, these materials are lost forever.

Cause air pollution spikes - Material Focus's latest research in partnership with Imperial College London found that recent battery-related fires caused significant increases in air pollution. This is not only a serious environmental concern but a health concern too.

For all kinds of batteries, and small electrical devices, you should check for kerbside collections in your area, or book yourself a slot at your local Recycling Centre. And last but not least, as long as it's safe and easy to do so, please remove batteries from any toys and appliances before recycling them both!

Recycling Centre reuse shops

Thinking about picking up a new bike for yourself or your child this summer? Why not take a look at the WSCC reuse shops over at the Worthing and Billingshurst Recycling Centres? They regularly have

a great selection of bikes in excellent condition, all looking for a second life.

But it's not just bikes! The reuse shops have lots of treasures, including books, furniture, plant pots and more!

Save money and reduce waste, it's a win-win! No appointment necessary to browse the shops, but if you would like to donate, please remember to book a slot before you arrive.

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

http://www.pyecombe.info

THE WYSHE PLAY AREA
Grant Applications

As you are hopefully aware, **Mid Sussex District Council** is preparing a Veolia Grants funding application to improve the Wyshe play area in Pyecombe Village. We recognise that the development of Wyshe has been an ongoing conversation over several years, and we believe this grant presents a real opportunity to deliver a vibrant, restored space for local children and their families.

To strengthen our application, we're seeking your further support in engaging residents and local groups. Your close ties within the community are invaluable, and we believe that working together will give this application the best chance of success.

We would be grateful if the Parish Council could:

- Encourage residents to subscribe to our online engagement hub
- Promote the submission of letters or emails (to parksopenspaces@midsussex.gov.uk) of support from local people
- Assist MSDC by identifying any engaged local families who may be willing to feature in a video

expressing what the improved play area would mean to them.

We will support this by preparing household letters and digital content. The success of this application and our outreach will be strengthened by the relationships the Parish Council has built with residents, and we'd be pleased to collaborate with you.

Thank you for considering this request.

[sent to Pyecombe Parish Council from Mid Sussex District Council]



The choir had a great time in France back in June, singing once again at the stunning basilica of Pontmain on Whit Sunday before a congregation of around 300, and then returning to Chailland for the Georges Brassens Festival 2025. There were 18 of us this year, including Wendy Pelling who proved to be a fabulous stage manager and support, Anne Finney who cheered us on and took some great videos of us in performance, and 3 "choir husbands" – Richard Lewis, Andy Au and Paul Godfrey – who unexpectedly found themselves roped in to sing both at Pontmain and later at 2 of the performance venues! They did a fine job! David Finney wrote a song entitled "Chailland!" specially for the occasion and the French absolutely loved it. You can listen on YouTube following this link: https://youtu.be/QGNc83w4_80 or just search "Pyecombe Village Choir". It looks as if we'll be invited to give an encore at the 2026 Festival!

Back home we are already fully booked at Christmas, with performances in Brighton, Haywards Heath and Uckfield, and, of course, we look forward to leading the singing at Pyecombe Church for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and the Carol Service.

Jane Cullen

http://www.pyecombe.info

The choir in Chailland!





http://www.pyecombe.info

Stoolball Match Pyecombe v. Poynings

The Pyecombe stoolball team fulfilled its one fixture of the season against Poynings at the end of June. Sad to say it was another loss but it was a tight finish, so let's say we were runners-up! With some new recruits, the captain is hopeful of turning the tide next year.

Burgers and beers were enjoyed afterwards by all, thanks to the magnificent Poynings team and helpers.

David Bailey (Team Captain)



Can you tell the difference between crickets and grasshoppers?



The Speckled bush-cricket, photographed here by Vicki Clapperton, can be seen in our area throughout the summer (in fact, all the way from May to November). It prefers rough vegetation, scrub and hedgerows, and be seen perching on bushes, window ledges, flowers and leaves, particularly Bramble. Speckled Bush-crickets emerge as nymphs in May and moult into their adult form during later summer. At dusk and during the night, males call to attract females by rubbing their wings together, but their 'song' (a high-pitched 'chirp') is barely audible to human ears. Females lay their eggs in late summer in the bark of a tree or a plant stem; here, they overwinter, ready to emerge next spring.

There are a number of differences between crickets and grasshoppers: crickets have much longer legs than grasshoppers, but relatively shorter, fatter bodies; crickets have very long antennae, much longer than their body; although crickets can jump (and some can fly), they prefer to walk away from threats; crickets tend to be more nocturnal in nature than grasshoppers; and crickets tend to be brighter in colour than grasshoppers. More information can be found on the Wild Life Trust website: https://www.wildlifetrusts.org

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

*The next newsletter is due out in December. To be included in the next issue, send articles in anytime from now until 24th November. 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



View from Anne Finney's window!

http://www.pyecombe.info