

# RUSPER



## Parish News

December 2024

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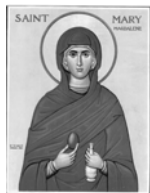
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**THE PARISH OF RUSPER  
SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S  
CHURCH RUSPER  
DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025  
SERVICES**



**Holy Communion every Sunday at 8am [said] and 11am [sung with hymns]. Monthly at Durrants Retirement Village.**

**Services in December 2024**

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>		11am Holy Communion
	Coffee & Cake after the service	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Durrants Village	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>NON-RESIDENTS WELCOME</b>		
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		No 11am Service
		4pm Carol Service
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve	4pm Village Carols
		9pm First Communion
	of the Nativity with Carols ends Bethlehem time Midnight	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day	11am Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>		No 8am Service
		11am Holy Communion (Said)

**Services in January 2025**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Coming of the Magi	11am Holy Communion
	Coffee & Cake after the service	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Durrants Village	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>NON-RESIDENTS WELCOME</b>		
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>		11am Holy Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>		11am Holy Communion

Information on services is updated monthly on: [www.rusperchurch.org.uk](http://www.rusperchurch.org.uk)

**Oh No it isn't!**

**Oh yes, it *IS*!**

Twice weekly rehearsals for the village Pantomime have been in full flow since September – **Oh yes they have** – and I'd like to begin with a big thank you to my fellow thespians [**oo-er, Missus**] for the amazing level of commitment they have shown to this fundraiser, not, of course forgetting Louise for bringing Rusperella to the stage and our devoted behind the scenes team as well.

In just one of her strokes of genius she has cast a financially challenged country parson as the impoverished Baron Hardup in his crumbling castle.

Like the best traditions of Panto, true Christianity is essentially subversive, even comical, as my dear friend and colleague, much missed, Roly the Clown, often pointed out. The knockabout coarse humour is down to earth, in the spirit of the coming of Jesus into a far from hygienic [to put it politely!] stable.

God in Jesus chooses poverty and insecurity, identifies with outsiders, challenges us to seek true riches, real values – love, joy and peace the essential ones. And along the way to unapologetically have FUN!



So before Nick finds out what's been going on and normal service is resumed - from the Reverend Hardup and Father Johnny Hellzapoppin' All the blessings of the Advent- Christmas - Epiphany seasons.

*Nick*



Why not visit the Rusper Church website and follow Nick on Facebook?  
If a priest is required at short notice and Nick is unavailable, please contact the Churchwardens.

Rector	Revd Nick Flint	01293 871251
Authorised Lay Minister	Mr Chris Pearce	01403 268047
Churchwarden	Mr Stephen Busby	01293 871219
Churchwarden	Mrs Maggie True	01293 871722
Treasurer	Mrs Lorna Reeves	01293 871012

*Nick is here to minister to all who have need in our parish. He is keen to be told if someone has moved in and to have an opportunity to visit newcomers. Holy Communion can be arranged for the housebound or those who are sick. Nick tries to take Friday as a rest day each week, so he kindly suggests that you only contact him on a Friday in matters of urgency*

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**Check Website and Church Facebook for news and updates. Email Nick if you would like to receive the weekly update. [rusperchurch.org.uk](http://rusperchurch.org.uk)**



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**Which Christmas carol do dogs like best?**  
Bark the Herald Angels Sing!

**What do you call a cat who works for Santa?**  
Santa Claws!

**How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?**  
Deep pan, crisp and even!

## RUSPER CHRONICLE

It's Panto Time!

Later this month RUSPERELLA will hit Rusper Village Hall, some 50 years since the drama productions of the 1970s. These ran from 1971 to 1976 and are still fondly remembered by those who took part. In general they received good reviews in spite of the hazards of a small stage – and the failure of the village hall lights one time half an hour before the curtain was due to go up! December 15th 1978 saw the first pantomime, “Folly with a Brolly”. Imagine Aladdin without his wonderful lamp using a gamp instead.

A new hall with stage in 1930 saw a series of plays including The Ghost Train written by Arnold Ridley of subsequent Dad's Army fame. Taking part were Antony Wickham, our wartime Mosquito pilot, sadly killed in a plane crash in 1944, and also his mother Mrs Wickham. The scenery was painted by Michael Wickham, later to become a well-known artist and photographer. Also in the cast were Miss M Higlett, resident cook at Averys and Bernard Ashmore, son of our local builder. Did romance blossom on the stage, as Miss Higlett later became Mrs Ashmore and cooked wonderful dinners at Rusper school during the war years.

In the early 1940s a visiting drama group brought “Heil Cinderella” to Rusper to raise funds for comforts for the troops. A dance and cabaret were also held, with hundreds of tickets sold. Over 200 came along to the dance! No limits on numbers in those days.

Our earliest programme was for 1911, a “cheerful and musical” production with the Martin family, owners of Rusper Stores, in the leading roles. This included a scarf dance by Miss Doris Martin followed by a Spanish dance, and a song by Mr Martin.

It was wonderful to have many of the original programmes for these events and newspaper cuttings of reviews and photographs. Many thanks to Joan Frazer for all the research, Yvonne Lawrence for her folder of photos, Sue Matthewson for Diana de la Rue's records of the wartime events, the mystery owner of the 1930-1950 scrapbook and not forgetting Derek White's collection of original programmes. We spent a happy evening with a wealth of information on the drama productions of the past and anticipation of Rusperella to come.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER to avoid clashing with the Dress Rehearsal of Rusperella on Tuesday 10th. Weather permitting our January meeting will be on the second Tuesday as usual.

*Joan Fraser, Margaret White*

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## **RUSPER CHURCH 200 CLUB**

Thank you to all those people who continue responding to the request for new members. The Rusper Church 200 Club is one of the continuing forms of income to our lovely church during these challenging times. You can continue to help by joining the 200 Club or buying additional shares. All the details about the Rusper Church 200 Club including past winners, the Rules and an Application Form, are on the Church's web-site at [www.rusperchurch.org.uk](http://www.rusperchurch.org.uk) under "THE CHURCH IS YOU" tab. Just print off and complete the Application Form and then either e-mail it to me at [johnmjory@gmail.com](mailto:johnmjory@gmail.com) or send it to me at: Elsinoro, Horsham Road, Rusper, Horsham, RH12 4PR. Many thanks to all of you who have been regularly contributing to enable us to make a significant contribution towards the running costs of the Church over the past few years.

The result of the latest draw is:

	November 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - £200	192 Elaine F
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75	42 Janet F
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - £50	163 J & A T

*John Jory*

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**What's a parent's favourite Christmas carol?**

Silent night!

## **RUSPER ART GROUP**

**On the 2nd and 3rd of November Rusper Art Group held its 53rd annual Art Show, displaying the many different styles of work created by its members over the past year.**

Original artwork was available for sale as well as prints and cards. This year the show included a special display of felted pictures. These were made by one of our artists, Jean Wood, using small pieces of fleece taken from every shetland sheep she has raised since 2005.

Each piece bears the name of the sheep it is from. Shetland wool is one the finest produced in the UK, which makes it suitable for knitwear. Concertina sketchbooks, created at a workshop run by member Kelsang Samsang, drew a lot of interest, alongside a variety of watercolours, oil paintings, photographs, etchings and origami.

A percentage of the sales, together with proceeds from the ever popular tearoom and raffle raised over £1000 for Rusper Church and Village Hall. The Art Group would like to thank everyone who supported the event and look forward to welcoming everyone back next year.

*Members: Margaret White, Pam Waugh, Mandy Barnes, Jean Wood, Sue Matthewson, Angela Hill, Sue Hollywell, Kelsang Samsang, Carole Furmanski, Marylin Bew.*

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**Knock, knock! Who's there? Mary and Abbie! Mary and Abbie who?**  
Mary Christmas and a Abby New Year!

**Why did nobody bid for Donner and Blitzen on eBay?**  
They were two deer!

## **RUSPER VILLAGE STORES**

### **AGM update**

Thank you to all of those who managed to attend the village shop AGM last month. For those unable to make it, there follows a brief summary of the key issues discussed.

The shop results for the year to 31.3.2024 showed slightly increased revenue to £537k (+1.4%) which enabled the shop to break even after increased costs were incurred.

However, the main focus of the meeting was on the exceptional costs incurred in the 6 months after the year end. As most of the community is aware, the shop suffered 3 break- in attempts, (2 successful although all 3 resulted in substantial costs) and a series of fridge and freezer breakdowns resulting in stock losses and considerable repair and replacement costs.

As a community owned business, we are very grateful for all of the support shown in the village from all who shop local. In addition, this year we had spectacular responses to the crises we experienced, particularly the generosity of all who contributed to the GoFundMe collection kindly put together by Roseanna Savage, and the delicious village lunch organised by Sarah Blunden. In both of these it was so heartening to see the many villagers coming together and expressing their support and appreciation for the shop and its' staff.

The enforced closures mean that we were already 26% or £40k behind last year's Turnover in the first 4 months, and added to the increased operating costs this year we are unlikely to make up the shortfall in the remains of the financial year.

We do however, have a great team in the shop, and a large and expanding range of goods and services which we provide. We ensure as much as possible is locally sourced, including meats, cheeses, beers and wine, fruit and vegetables.



The new leaflet in the shop details the full extent of services we provide, including postal services, dry cleaning, and tailored fruit, vegetables, meat and bread bundles, as well as coffee shop and bakery provisions, and superb Kelly bronze Christmas turkeys. Alternatively check out the website or pop in and ask Kieran or any of the team.

We ask for your continued support to help the shop come through this difficult period, and continue to remain the focal point or beating heart of the village. Regular footfall is very important to the shop's success, so maybe come in and just buy a few extra things from us each week, or use an additional service. If there is something you particularly like but can't see, just ask....

*Martin Wynn. Chairman*

*On behalf of the Directors and the Team at Rusper Village Stores*

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## **RUSPER VILLAGE HALL**

If you wish to book Rusper Village Hall for any event, please visit the Village Hall website <https://ruspervillagehall.org.uk> which contains a booking form.

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**What do you do if you're scared of lifts?**

Take steps to avoid them!

**Why did the turkey join the band?**

Because it had the drumsticks!

**How does Darth Vader enjoy his Christmas turkey?**

On the dark side!

## THE CURIOUS CASE OF SLUGS IN THE BELFRY

As many of you know I was challenged to spend Halloween night in the church tower to raise funds for the North Aisle appeal. I was duly locked in at around 8.00 pm and armed with a suitably spooky book ("This House is Haunted" by John Boyne), I dressed as warmly as I could and made the best of the rather hard bench in the ringing room. After the clock had struck 10.00pm I was so cold I decided enough was enough and wrapped myself up in the duvet to try and get to sleep. I drifted off about an hour later (music on the iPhone) and woke up feeling quite refreshed at .....

Oh dear only 03.45! I thought I could make out a peculiar shape on the carpet so on went the torch and YUK!! Three big slugs were making their way across the carpet towards me. Apologies to all animal lovers out there, but I'm afraid I gathered them up in a tissue and tied them very firmly in a plastic bag for later disposal. Back to the ghost story for another hour and then I fell asleep again until 7.30. I ended up with rather a back ache but apart from that it was a very worthwhile enterprise. Donations promised (and now mostly paid) totalled £2007 for church funds!

I want to say a huge Thank You to everyone who has donated. Also especially to Lyn and Chris Hammond for coming up with the idea, and for meeting me the following morning with yummy bacon butties and coffee.

*Elaine Farrow - Captain of the Bellringers*

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**What do you call a vicar on a moped?**

Rev

## **RUSPER CHAT 2025**



*Season's Greetings Everyone*

*Here's hoping that 2025 is a Good One!*

**FRIDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2.30PM – JUDY  
SES SEVINES – 01293 845**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE MONTH'S HOST IF A LIFT  
TO ANY CHAT MEETING WOULD BE HELPFUL**

**ALL VERY WELCOME!**

## **BLOW AWAY THE JANUARY BLUES**

**come to a QUIZ ON BURNS NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 25th JANUARY 2025**

**7.30 - 10.30pm**

Venue : Rusper Village Hall

There will be light refreshments and drinks available.

Tables of 6 or less

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Dress: A touch of Tartan (not obligatory)

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## RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

### **Summary of Rusper Parish Council meetings – October 2024**

*These Minutes are **draft and subject to change** until they have been confirmed at our next meeting.*

**Planning Committee** – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 **Present:** Cllrs G. Sallows (Chairman), M. Cooke, S. White, F. Maitland-Smith, R. Gatt. G. Hussey, M. Fillmore, D. Matthews, Cllr M Fenton, Cllr G Fleming.

**Declaration of Interests** – None.

**Climate Crisis** - The Council **acknowledged** that there is currently a climate crisis, and to ensure that all decisions made within meeting have consideration to this.

**Active Planning Applications - DC/24/1422** Near Champion Horse Boxes Rusper Road Rusper Horsham West Sussex RH12 4QS – no objection

**DC/24/0874 The Lamb Inn - to review** the changes to the application and agree a response to Kate Turner at HDC. It was **RESOLVED** that no change to the previous comments due to the lack of details of the proposal.

**PC/009 - DC/24/0699 Millfields Farm Horsham Road Rusper West Sussex RH12 4PR** - It was proposed to write to HDC to express similar views and to ask what material consideration was made. It was proposed to write to Nexus to find out the source of their figures quoted, why was this not included within the local plan? It was agreed that the Chairman of Planning will write a letter to HDC.

**PC011-24/25 WSCC Highways Stakeholder Consultation** - The consultation document was sent in advance of the meeting. It was **proposed** that Councillors will put forward their thoughts for final approval at the full Council meeting.

**PC012-24/25 To receive any update on Local Plan Regulation 19** - It was **agreed** that Cllr George Sallows would represent the Council at each hearing.

**Next Planning Committee meeting is 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm.**  
**Parish Council meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Present:** Cllrs M Cooke (Chair), G Hussey (Vice Chair), G Sallows, F Maitland-Smith, S White, M Fenton, D Matthews, R Gatt, M Fillmore and County Councillor Katie Nagle.

**Declaration of Interests** – none.

**Open Forum** - SWOI AGM is on 7<sup>th</sup> November at Ifield Community Centre – Peter Lamb MP will be present.

MOP said that villagers were touched by the condolences for Chas Forrest. Noted that the playground was installed by Mr Forrest when he was a Parish Councillor. Bus Shelters were organised 12 years ago and cost about £12,000. Bus stops and playground Chat Room need repairs. The greatest asset is the village shop and it is under sustained attack MOP asked Council to consider putting a camera up outside the shop or perhaps some money towards their defences. Noted that the Gatwick community trust information was passed to the owners of the shop for them to claim some grant money.

Cllr Sally Pavey – Chairman Warnham Parish Council, a copy of a power point presentation was presented to the Council regarding the consultation of the modernisation of airspace, ACOG for mapping and the emphasis was for the new tracking to include alternative routes as part of the consultation. Parish Councils are making a combined effort to ensure that all options are offered as part of the consultation.

### **Planning**

DC/24/0874 - The Lamb Inn Lambs Green Rusper West Sussex (AMENDED DESCRIPTION) - It was RESOLVED to object to the application.

MO/2024/1535 - Pinewood Park, Capel Road, Rusper, Horsham, Surrey, RH12 4PZ - It was RESOLVED object to the application.

**Reports from the District and County Councillors** - County Councillor Katie Nagle – noted the issue with collection of school children has been resolved by the resident and the school transport service.

Report via Clerk from District Councillor Tony Hogben – noted that the Sunday parking prices are going up by 294% in town centre which made national news. Capital is costing more than the 10.5 million allocated so most likely to be scaled back.

**Rusper Sports Ground** - Draft sub lease to Rusper Sports Club Management. A draft underlease was distributed to the Council in



advance of the meeting. It was **proposed** a sub lease should be written. Carried.

**Gatwick** – detailed reports can be found on the Parish Council website. It was **proposed** that a joint response with Slinfold and Warnham Parish Council to support the powerpoint presentation given should be written. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr M Fillmore will write a response.

**Playground** - Cllr Hussey noted that the rope section of the slide had been repaired. The chat room sides were repaired and the roof now needs maintenance.

**Fingerposts** - It was noted the survey of the posts and the work required before budgeting the maintenance of the posts. Carried.

**Bus Shelter** - It was noted that the survey received from Cllr Fenton. Carried.

**20 mph speed reduction** - Cllr White met with WSCC George Fort on the day of the meeting. Carried.

**Village Sign outside Bohunt School staff entrance** - Cllr R Gatt reported that the new Rusper sign licence has been processed.

**Remembrance Sunday** - It was **RESOLVED** To **agree** the purchase of a poppy wreath from The Poppy Shop up to the value of £50.

**Streetlights** - A model contract from Streetlights Ltd was distributed in advance of the meeting. Clerk to request a quotation for a maintenance contract from Streetlights Ltd. Carried to next meeting.

**WSCC Highways Consultation** - It was **agreed** that the response from the Chair would be submitted with the additions to comments that as HDC Planning seem to want to build, local communities as a priority is useless for Rusper.

**Water Neutrality Question** - A document detailing questions to send to HDC Planning regarding Water Neutrality was issued in advance of the meeting this was in response to the HDC planning training. It was proposed to send the questions to HDC. It was **RESOLVED** to issue the letter to Barbara Childs of HDC. Carried.

**WSCC Highways Winterisation** - To note the new contact For Rusper Parish Council is George Fort of WSCC.

**Rusper Parish Council Plan 2024** - The Clerk issued a draft plan to outline the projects the council will undertake. This will become an agenda item going forward.

**Finances** - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the finances.

## SAVE WEST OF IFIELD CAMPAIGN

We're working hard preparing for the Inspector's Examination hearings for Horsham Council's draft Local Plan, scheduled for 10 – 19<sup>th</sup> December, and 14 – 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This involves sending written statements, as well as preparing to appear in person at the hearings and organising and funding experts to appear on our behalf.

Note that anyone can attend the hearings as an observer – they're taking place at HDC Offices, Parkside, Horsham. The key hearing for SWOI is on 16<sup>th</sup> January when the Inspector is asking a number of questions to help him decide "Is Strategic Policy HA2: Land West of Ifield sound?". Please see more information, and links to HDC's website, in our September-October newsletter here: <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/newsletters>

Thank you to everyone who came to our AGM / Public meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November in Ifield Drive Community Centre. We were delighted with the turnout of 60 people, and the £1,000 raised at the event – vital contributions towards the experts representing us at the Examination hearings.

We were pleased that Peter Lamb MP (Crawley) addressed the meeting and answered questions for nearly an hour, covering the reasons why he felt that the West of Ifield site was unacceptable for development. He explained that HDC is incorrect to insist that Crawley needs the WOI development – it won't provide the type of housing people really need. He's also concerned at the lack of sewage processing capacity, and the issues around power supply from the National Grid, neither of which are being acknowledged by HDC and Homes England. Mr Lamb stressed that he is trying to secure a meeting with the Housing Minister.

Please see our website for the AGM reports from the SWOI Chair and Treasurer: <https://www.savewestofifield.co.uk/>

Thank you for your ongoing support, and if you are able please consider making a donation to the campaign – see website for details.

*Fenella Maitland-Smith* [savewestofifield@gmail.com](mailto:savewestofifield@gmail.com)

## CHURCH CLEANING

New Church cleaners required. Very urgent. At least 2 new people are needed. Only 3 times a year, so long as we get a couple more names!

*Please contact Sue Matthewson 01293 871 266*

### Church Cleaning Rota for December 2024/January 2025

December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Carrie & Chris Johnson	01293 871553
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Pam Turner	07512 565316
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Davies	07710 601081
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Pat Newman	01293 871354
January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fiona Lear	01293 871509
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Gill Fleming	01293 871371
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ros Maiden	01403 257088
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Carrie & Chris Johnson	01293 871553
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Easter	01403 251979

*Sue Matthewson 01293 8712665*

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## EDITORS

Please remember to let the editor underlined below have all items for the February 2025 edition by 14 January 2025.

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*Treasurer* – John Jory. For donations towards the cost of publishing the Rusper Parish News. These can be made by bank transfer to - Sort Code: 30 94 41 Account Number: 00007348 Account Name: PCC RUSPER – MAGAZINE.

*Advertising and Editorial Manager* - Sue Matthewson (871266) ([sue.matthewson@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.matthewson@btinternet.com))

*General Enquiries* - Judy Butler (871845) ([raybenbutler@gmail.com](mailto:raybenbutler@gmail.com))

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## CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Please remember there is a Churchyard Working Party on the first Monday of the month which will be 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 10 - 12 noon.

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### **What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?**

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### **What do ducks do before Christmas dinner?**

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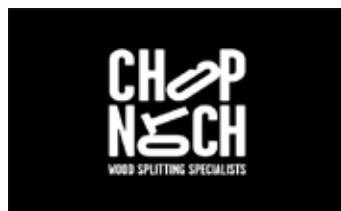
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