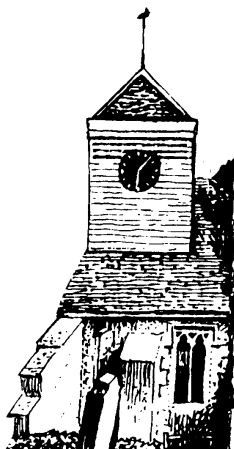


THE

PARISH



NEWS

News from
the Churches
the clubs, groups and
societies
of Ninfield & Hooe

February 2018

50p



St MARY's & St OSWALD's



NOTICE BOARD

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Date	St. Mary's	St. Oswald's
4 th Feb	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Family Service
11 th Feb	No service	11.00 Combined Service with St. Mary's
18 th Feb	9.30 Family Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist
25 th Feb	9.30 Parish Eucharist	11.00 Parish Eucharist

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

For St. Mary's

Monday - Thursday open at 9 am and locked 3 pm

Fridays and Saturdays closed

After the service on Sundays closed

Wednesday Service

10 a.m. Holy Communion

Any alterations or additions to these service times will be displayed on the church notice boards, the weekly sheet and can be found on the church website along with other church details ~ www.ninfield.org.uk

APPOINTMENTS All enquiries about Baptism, Marriages or reading of Banns and concerning any other Church matters should be made to The Church Wardens, details on the back page

PARISH NEWS Views expressed in the articles in this magazine are those of the writer and not of the Parish Churches or PCCs unless it so states. This publication is produced and distributed by Members of both Parish Churches.

From
Paul Frostick



Well I am writing this having just entered the New Year of 2018 and here I am thinking about February already. Someone told me that one of the supermarkets had Easter Eggs in it on Boxing Day. I often criticise the supermarkets but in a way, we in the church are just the same. I was thinking about the Easter services before we had even got to Christmas! We have just made our New Years resolutions (or not) when on 14th February we are already into Lent! Then we are thinking about giving things up for Lent (again maybe some of us!) Easter is very early this year, which is why Ash Wednesday is on the same day as Valentine's Day.

I received a very good email over Christmas that told me that New Year's resolutions are simply a to do list for the 1st week in January! In many cases that is possibly true. Our intentions are good; the trouble is our humanity gets in the way. That is also true of any good intentions we have for Lent. Its only 6 weeks and again I am sure we start with the best of intentions but quickly fall into our old ways. Perhaps with these resolutions we are maybe looking at the wrong thing, which is why we also fail! Perhaps we need to look at ourselves and the reasons why we fail!

Lent is really meant to be preparation for Easter, a spiritual and mental preparation so that we can again remember what God, through Jesus has done for us. It may well be good for us to cut out alcohol for a while or stop smoking, or giving up chocolate but that is not really what Lent is all about. Whatever our beliefs, it is good to stop the rat race of life for a while and take stock of who we are and the direction in which we are going. Remember the phrase 'Stop the world, I want to get off'. Well sometimes that's not a bad idea! At some point we will need to 'get back on the world' but our time out will help us to cope better and perhaps more fully understand who we are and where we should be going!

As for me, well a few pounds weight loss might be a very good idea!! Best wishes to you all. Paul Frostick

Prayer of the month

The Ten Commandments

This rhyming version of the Ten Commandments, published, it is thought, by Isaac Watts in 1709, was still going strong some years ago.

Thou shalt have no gods but Me.
Before no idol bow thy knee.
Take not the name of God in vain,
Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane.
Give both thy parents honour due,
Take heed that thou no murder do.
Abstain from words and deeds unclean,
Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean.
Nor make a wilful lie, nor love it,
What is thy neighbour's, do not covet.

At St Mary's Church

*from the
Parish Records*

Marriage

16th Dec. James Darren Ford and Poppy Audrey Katie Wood

Funeral and Burial

19th Dec. Elizabeth O'Reilly

Funeral and Interment of Ashes

4th Jan. Jean Tate

Closing date for items for the next issue of the Parish News is **Tuesday 13th February**, please also let us have future dates for the coming year so we can keep everyone informed and we can work out what space we need each month!!
ninfieldnews@btconnect.com

ST OSWALD'S CHURCH

St Oswald's Church invites you
to a Pancake Lunch
with soup

Tuesday February 13th

Hooe Village Hall
Between 12.00 and 2 pm.

No tickets required.....
..... just drop in.
Donations to St Oswald's Church please
All Welcome

ST MARY'S CHURCH

is holding a 'Winter Warmer Quiz'
on Saturday 3rd March, 7pm for 7.30pm
in the Reading Room, Church Lane.

Tables of 4 – no entry charge
but donations are invited towards church funds.

There will be a ploughman's supper
with home made soup
bring your own drinks.

Please book early, as places are limited,
by calling Mrs Owen on 225421 (after 4pm).

Barbara Strevett, 1931 – 2017.

Barbara was born in 1931 and went to Hooe primary school where she was a little rebellious. She went to Bexhill Grammar school aged 11, eventually starting work at Herstmonceux observatory in 1948, where she quickly learned bookkeeping skills, putting them to good use outside of work, with local organisations.

Barbara took an active role in the Hooe Sports Club in the late 1960's, as treasurer, playing stoolball, helping run the Horse Show and also raising funds by running the refreshment stall at Hooe Vintage Car Rally and providing the Judges' and Ploughmans' Lunches at the East Sussex Ploughing Match. When she finished playing stoolball, she continued by either being umpire or scorer and was formidable at both!

A keen gardener, she exhibited at flower shows around all the neighbouring villages for years winning many prizes, especially for her fuchsias. She also worked at the Red Lion shop and the Uplands Fuchsia Nursery.

Barbara followed in the footsteps of her father George in joining the Parish Council in May 1991, having been involved in running the village hall, as treasurer, since the late 1980's. She was able to comment thoughtfully on a wide range of topics and it was always wise to consider her views carefully. She was a forthright and valuable member of the Parish Council for over 26 years and her influence was exceptional.

Barbara was also a passionate and active member of the Hooe History Society, having given three fascinating talks about her life in Hooe, all with just picture slides for a prompt. She had so much information on the village and was always delighted to share it and recall people and events with complete accuracy, especially identifying photos.

Barbara was a well-loved and highly respected member of our community, as demonstrated by the congregation of over 200 that attended her funeral at Hooe Church. Her influence on the village has been immense and she will be fondly remembered for many years to come.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

'Tractors' is the title of our meeting on Monday, 19th February! This should be more entertaining than the title may suggest as the presenter is Kim Parks. He has also promised to include 'some other things' for people who don't love tractors!

We meet as usual at 7.30 in the Memorial Hall. Do come and enjoy the evening. New members and visitors always welcome. For further info, please contact Rose (892422 or email: rose.franks1@btinternet.com)

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP

Due to illness, the AGM which should have taken place on Monday 8th January had to be postponed. This will now be held at the beginning of the workshop entitled "Take five Flowers" in the Memorial Hall on Monday 5th February. Commencing at 7.30. Monday

March 5th in the Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30 we shall welcome Joyce Pannell with her demonstration entitled "Here comes the Springtime".

All floral arrangements demonstrated are raffled at the end of the evening. NON-MEMBERS are welcome at a small charge of £4.00 this includes refreshments.

Should you wish any further information regarding any of our events, please telephone Jennifer on 01424 892878 or email ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

First of all we'd like to wish all of you a slightly belated Happy New Year with hopes that 2018 will be good to all.

If you didn't see your Parish News distributor we'd like to remind you that your £5.00 is now due for the coming year's copies. Some of you may have found an envelope in your copy with the address of your distributor so you could drop it off or hand it over when the March issue arrives - and do you know anyone else who might like a copy? Just let your distributor know, phone me 893326 or email ninfieldnews@btconnect.com

Nicki and Carol



NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

At our next meeting on Thursday 15th February
Geoff Hutchinson will give a talk entitled
'Baird, The Pioneer of Television'.

All are welcome, at the Methodist Hall, Church Lane, 7.30 start.

I'VE BEEN THINKING AGAIN – BY MM

New Year's Resolutions. Broken them yet? They are often doomed to failure; our good intentions get swept away by the pressures of life. I don't make Resolutions now but prefer to sit and contemplate the past year, then think about what I need to change, cease or begin, in all areas of my life. For example, I know I need to alter my activities so there is less work and more time to meet friends. Friends are very precious and I am inclined to neglect them. It is so easy to get overwhelmed by all that there is to do. I could make a start by concreting over my garden!!

A f t e r Christmas, the next thing on the agenda is Spring Cleaning. I like to make a start in January by turning out cupboards and drawers and destroying old papers and bills. I also declare war on the garage and shed! It is quite an interesting exercise as it is surprising what I had forgotten about, especially with clothing. I usually end up wearing a few of my favourite items each day and the rest just hang there! Anything I don't want I offer to friends or take to Barby Keel's Animal Sanctuary in Freezeland's Lane. They are grateful for almost anything and will collect larger items. I believe in only keeping what I need or love. I rarely regret chucking anything but it does happen occasionally! It is such a help getting organised early in the year, whilst the garden is on its best behaviour, i.e. asleep!!

Every March I quickly remove the weeds that have dared to poke their noses up, and feel quite smug as I feel I am on top of them. Then May arrives and all their brothers and sisters make an appearance!

In March the majority of flower and vegetable seeds need to be sown. A lot of work but so worth the effort. From then onwards it is non-stop and before we are ready the lawns need their first mowing. Oh, bother!!

NINFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

NINFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

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O UR SCHOOL

2017 ended with the usual activity overload at School.

The Christmas season kicked off with the whole school attending a pantomime at the memorial Hall at the beginning of December. The pantomime was sponsored by the Friends of Ninfield School and enabled them to empty the school so that they could get in and prepare the building for the Christmas Fayre that afternoon. Both were a great success with the Fayre bringing in some much needed funds to enable us to provide those little extras that the budget will no longer run to. No, I don't mean toilet rolls – not yet anyway! Our thanks go to the Friends for all their efforts and to all the Parents, Grandparents and Carers who came along and spent their money.

The choir went on the road in December and sang at the De la Warr Pavillion in 'The Big Sing' with other local schools. They then entertained the good folk of Ninfield at the Memorial Hall and followed that up by singing at the Battle Masonic Hall. The children sang really well and received great feedback from their audiences, in fact they were so good this year that I've put a call in to Gareth Malone to see if he needs any help with his next show!

The Memorial Hall was once again the venue for the Key Stage 1 Nativity play. You may have noticed the crocodile of children winding their way up and down the path and risking life and limb crossing the main road. Luckily we have a very supportive set of Parents and Grandparents who turned out to help see the children safely between the school and the hall, so many thanks to them, without them we would not have been able to stage the show. After the pre-rehearsals, the rehearsals, then the dress rehearsal the show was ready to open, playing to packed houses on two consecutive days.

Considering some of the cast were as young as four, the performances were outstanding. The narrators spoke clear and loud, the singing was really good and everyone played their part in putting on an excellent Nativity. We had camels, sheep, cows and angels – no octopuses or lobsters to be seen anywhere! The performance ended with a number of the children doing a dance routine which brought a roar of approval from the audience. It's not often you see 5 and 6 years olds dancing with such attitude (you really had to be there!).

Finally Christmas wouldn't have been Christmas without the annual Christingle service. For those of you who have never been, this consists

of very small children parading around the church with lighted candles in oranges (the Christingles) getting ever closer to the person in front of them, Health and Safety would have a field day! But, as usual, it was all well managed and closely monitored so there was no need to break out the fire extinguishers. This is a really lovely service and always sets everyone up for Christmas. The church was packed out and the readings, prayers and singing were of a very high standard.

Finally the last day of term arrived and those staff and children who hadn't yet succumbed to the dreaded flu bug could look forward to a long period of rest and recuperation, well ok; 12 whole days.

Here's to a successful 2018. Ian Moffat

SAUSAGE & POTATO BAKE

Ingredients Serves: 4

- 900g potatoes, peeled and sliced
- 250g sausages
- 2 onions, peeled and sliced into rings
- 1 (400g) tin chopped tomatoes
- ground black pepper
- butter

Method Preheat oven to 180 C / Gas 4 and grease a casserole dish.

1. Line bottom and sides of dish with potatoes. Lay half the sausages (cut sausages in half lengthways if they're big) on top, then onions, then cover with half a tin of tomatoes. Season with pepper. Place another layer of potato slices, sausages and onion over this and add remaining tomatoes and season once again with pepper. Cover with a thin layer of potato slices, dot with butter and place in oven.

2. Bake in the preheated oven for 1 hour or until potato topping is well browned and rest have all but dissolved.

3. Serve topped with grated cheese. (I put the cheese on top before baking)

Tip This is a great base recipe to which you can add other seasonings to taste, such as salt, dried Italian herbs or red chilli flakes if you like it spicy!

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NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY

Having been quiet for a couple of months, Bonfire will kick off the New Year with a meeting on Wednesday 21st February when we'll start planning events for 2018, so if you'd like to be involved with any of our activities, Music Festival, Michaelmas or Bonfire Night, then come along to the Working Men's Club at 8.00pm where you'll get a warm welcome. www.ninfieldbonfire.co.uk

New Ideas for Ninfield

Community Activities and their Development in Ninfield.

A big thank you to everyone who gave their ideas for the above at the Ninfield Home Made Event. We were delighted at how many people stopped and contributed. We now have plenty to talk about, and hopefully take forward at,

**The coffee morning on
Saturday 17th February
in the Methodist Hall from 10 am to 12 noon.**

Just some of the ideas included: a regular coffee morning/ tea/coffee afternoon, perhaps a community café/shop.

More energetically there was a wish for a stoolball team again in the village, football for younger people and walking football in the hall, perhaps for those a little older!

A club in the reading room, perhaps monthly for those who are lonely was suggested, as was the need for transport to evening events, especially in winter.

There were other ideas, too numerous to mention as well as wishes for changes involving traffic, parking and housing!

As many of you know we had a name the bear game. This raised £51.50 for the Memorial Hall fund and the winning name was Ruben.

We do hope we will see you on 17th February for your free coffee and Danish! Jackie Langley, Ninfield Parish Council.

Some miscellaneous observations on life

I don't bother getting even. I just get odd.

Every day is a gift; that's why they call it the present.

Everyone else my age is old, whereas I am merely in disguise.

In the cookie of life, friends are the chocolate chips.

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

Inside some of us is a thin person struggling to get out, but they can usually be sedated with a few pieces of chocolate cake.

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HOOE HISTORY GROUP --

Thursday 15th February "Bodgers and Badgers" a talk by John Dowling. 7.30pm. John is well known locally, having spent many years at the Bexhill Observer. His talk tells how a campaign saved a much-loved but threatened local beauty spot for the enjoyment of the entire community, by the Highwoods Preservation Society, from his perspective as an active member Refreshments available. All welcome.

Calendar Competition open to all for our 2019 Calender. Details available on www.hooehistory.wordpress.com. Hooe village Hall.

Ian Everest spoke to us in November on "Sussex connections in World War 1". This was Ian's third visit to us this year and, once again, he did not disappoint, talking with great knowledge and enthusiasm on the significant Sussex contribution to the war effort.

December saw 29 of us gather at the Hope Farm Restaurant for our Christmas meal. This was a very enjoyable evening, the first time we have visited this venue. The full restaurant helped to create a pleasant jovial atmosphere.

Our talk on Thursday 18th January by Stewart Angell was on "Secret Sussex Resistance", about the Home Guard 'Auxiliary Units' of World War 11, made up of personnel drawn from local home guard units. Formed in 1940 they were to be the British Resistance, countering a German invasion by delivering guerrilla warfare tactics throughout their localised areas. Stewart started researching the Sussex Auxiliary Units in 1992 and, following extensive interviews with original patrol members and many hours in the field looking for the remains of their secret hideouts, his findings were published as "The Secret Sussex Resistance".

More miscellaneous observations on life

The real reason you can't take it with you is it goes before you do.
A luxury on which you can make the first payment becomes a necessity.

NINFIELD CARNIVAL ASSOC. UPDATES! January 2018

New Year new challenges.

At the first meeting of 2018 the Ninfield Carnival Committee had much to discuss.

We reviewed the Village Christmas Party that was held on December 8th. It was great to see many local societies represented as so much of what we all do overlaps.

‘Over 60’s Afternoon Tea’ - The lovely Harry and Meghan had stolen our preferred date so this will now be held on Saturday 12th May. Invites will be in the post for the over 60s. It will be a similar affair to the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and 90th Birthday tea and cabaret, which we know many of you enjoyed. Watch this space for more details.

Pram Race – It was decided not to hold an event this year however we may include some Scooter Races as part of Carnival as they did prove very popular.

So, to the main event - Ninfield Carnival 13th & 14th July 2018.

Please put that date in your diary now. The Carnival will have the usual family feel and coming together, with a mix of Traditional events and all the ‘up to date’ stuff!, but nothing is completely finalised. This is your village and, as we always say, we really would like to hear some of your ideas. The school building works will change the lay out on the Rec and as the date coincides with both Wimbledon and the World Cup, and also this year sees the Winter Olympics and Commonwealth Games, there will definitely be a ‘Sporting’ theme.

There may be a revival of Ninfield’s Got Talent on the Friday 13th evening, but the headlining act for Saturday has yet to be confirmed. We are currently discussing the exact layout and key events and would welcome people to come and help us shape The Ninfield Carnival, 2018.

Contact Sami Guard 07970650321 or Helen Rawlinson 07736660742 for more info. Email Carnival Secretary, Helen, at heleniumhc@hotmail.com if you have any ideas, questions or comments.

Or see you at the next meeting: Wednesday 7th February 8.30pm at the Tin Hut....(a week earlier than usual, to give ‘Romance’ it’s evening!)



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NAG February 2018 from the Chair

At the end of January 2018, Wealden District Council have no published plan for our village nor the district as a whole.

They “hope” to have a plan by March this year. A plan issued in Spring last year was stillborn.

We saw of a ghost of a plan at the start of 2017, but it did not have the necessary evidence to justify its housing numbers and was not put forward for approval by the full council, and we have been waiting since.

“We are forced to bear witness.

Since golden October declined into sombre November,

***And the apples were gathered and stored and the land became brown
sharp points of death in a waste of water and mud.***

The New year waits, breathes waits whispers in darkness,

***While the labourer kicks of a muddy boot and stretches his hand to
the fire,***

The new year waits, destiny waits for the coming” from TS Elliot
Murder in the Cathedral.

Well - we in Ninfield wait.

For the last two years planning applications were being judged – not on a local plan but on National Planning Guidelines. As interpreted by Wealden planning officers, these national guidelines “presume” consent for any significant development in almost any site.

The “ghost” plan, had a village boundary suggested for Ninfield, which did not extend south of Manchester road but included the Ingrams 55 houses. In that “plan” the 20 acre field is within the new boundary with potential for 80+ houses.

So called “windfall” building i.e. not in any plan at any time but that just happen (hundreds each year in Wealden) are not counted in the total. Many other areas do count them as contributing to the needed total.

In Ninfield these “windfall” include 17 at Potmans lane, 3 at Moons Hill lane, and three other individual houses which are all outside the “perhaps boundary”. Brownfield sites i.e. those with previous non housing development on them, are not being properly identified by Wealden, and they would all be potential “windfall” housing.

For well over a year developers have held back from forcing Wealden to rule on their plans – soon the council will be pressured into making a decision, plan or no plan. We are still awaiting a decision on the Manchester road proposals. All of those would be outside the “boundary”. So that's 159 thought officially desirable and 80+ more “requested” by developers.

The Next NAG meeting: No meeting until we have decisions from Wealden. If there is a major planning decision, or if there is a Wealden plan for our village, then be prepared to meet at short notice. Stay alert, Keep watch!

Paul Coleshill

Ninfield Parish Council

The Parish Meeting will be on

Thursday 1st February

The Methodist Hall,

Ninfield residents are invited to attend

Hooe Parish Council

The next parish meeting will be on

Monday 19th March

Hooe Village Hall

Hooe residents are invited to attend.

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Phone

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Pam Doodes	892329
Peter Holland	893326
John Cheshire	892248
Jackie Langley	892422
Paul Coleshill	893138

Clerk Jackie Scarff

07725 843505

e-mail – ninfieldpc@btinternet.com

No meetings are held in January, the Councillors can have a well earned break, although the work of the Parish Clerk and The Chair continue with extra meetings required regarding the school extension. Notes about planning applications come in, Wealden send lots of information that has to be sorted and dealt with.

Invitations to tender for cleaning at Sparke Pavilion and do Ground Maintenance around the village have gone out, if you think you or someone you know might be interested contact the Clerk - details above.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 1st February at the Methodist Hall from 7.15 onwards. These meetings are open to all residents in the Village and at times many of you do attend. Some months it's just the few stalwarts who are always there, at others the room is quite packed. Why not go along and see for yourselves? You will be most welcome. Meetings are on the first Thursday of the month and details will always be found in the Parish News.

The meeting in May is always different. It is the Council AGM and the Annual Parish Meeting. This is always held on a Wednesday at the Memorial Hall. More details will follow, but all the groups and societies are invited to come along and say a few words about themselves, refreshments are usually available and it's quite a sociable evening. So make a note to come

1st Ninfield Scout Group 2017

We are a thriving village group, consisting of 120 young people, boys and girls. Between the ages of 6 and 18 years. We have 40 leaders and helpers (all voluntary) plus a committee who deal with (some) of the admin and fund raising. We benefit greatly from being one of the few groups to have a Group Scout Leader.

We have 6 sections, Explorers meet in Catsfield, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in Ninfield plus Cubs and Scouts in Crowhurst.

We are affiliated to The British Legion and proudly help with poppy selling at Bexhill and attend the Remembrance Day Parade – we would probably win the contest for how many jumpers can you get under a uniform!

Other Church Parades are Mothering Sunday at Catsfield, Harvest Festival with Ninfield Methodist Church, St. George's Day at Battle. Plus this year the District Carol Service was held at Crowhurst with The Peace Light which was brought from Bethlehem.

Scouting activities include bushcraft, map reading, hiking, lots of games all of which encourage personal skills, leadership, teamwork, practical ability and self-confidence. We do a lot of camping. Including a Group camp with youngsters from all 6 sections working together. And 2 survival camps for the hardy who camp in March and November.

The older group participate in all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. And this year we are very proud to have 2 explorers achieve The Queens Scout Award.

The Beavers ran a hugely popular "Big Breakfast" in aid of Scouting in Kenya and hopefully this may become a regular event.

Scouts organised a table sale for Village Hall funds.

Although the children had other commitments so we couldn't manage a float this year, the committee helped with the carnival Boot Fair and ran a stall on the field.

Bingo Night was another popular fund raising event.

The Beavers have done great things on the group's allotment this year, a big learning curve. Next year should be even better.

At Christmas the cubs filled shoe boxes with toys and gifts for children who would not otherwise have anything.

Crowhurst Cubs and Scouts support their village especially with the Summer Fete and Christmas Market.

For 2018 we are planning a trip to Flanders for the older children. Plus all our usual activities.

We are very lucky to be part of such supportive villages. Many thanks to all who help us, leaders, helpers, committee members and all the supporters.

Rosemary Cooper Chairman

Ninfield Scout Group Executive Committee

What? No central heating?

Wealden District Council has teamed up with National Grid and Affordable Warmth Solutions to help install oil central heating in homes without any central heating. "We believe there are more than 400 homes in the District that still do not have it," said Councillor Graham

Wells, Cabinet member for Housing at Wealden District Council. "

This scheme is aimed at households in rural areas which receive some form of benefit. They are likely to be having to use expensive heaters and fires which will be failing to maintain a warm home."

Cold homes can aggravate existing health problems particularly if you are over 65.

Being too cold can increase the risk of trips and falls, as well as heart attacks and strokes.

Indoor temperatures should be kept to at least 18o c.

Through the Warm Homes Fund established by National Grid, Wealden is looking to install central heating in 40 rural homes. Half are likely to be owner-occupied and half the properties rented out privately.

Home owners will be fully funded; in rented properties, the landlord can expect grants for an oil fired boiler and other fittings which should cover around 70% of the overall cost. Contact

Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or email privatehousing@wealden.gov.uk to arrange an installation survey.

For further information please contact Justin Bailey, Home Efficiency Officer. Tel: 01323 443313 or email justin.bailey@wealden.gov.uk



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HOOE OPEN GROUP

held their Annual General Meeting at Hooe Village Hall. The Organiser, Edna Wallis opened the meeting with a review of the past year's activities and achievements.

As the Club embarks on its second decade, since it was formed out of the then defunct Hooe WI by a small number of members, wishing to maintain the bond of friendship, which had developed over many years.

Edna Wallis was the catalyst who brought about the formation of the Hooe Open Group, HOG's for short, with the idea of a ladies club, which was easily affordable and run for the benefit of its members, rather than a queasy political body like the WI. Its success has been proved by the growth in membership to over 40 and still growing month by month.

It is also important for members to feel that they are contributing to the welfare of the community, therefore at the beginning of each year members are asked to agree as to which three charities or local good causes they wish to support. To this end the Club sets aside £300 every year, which is shared equally between three worthy recipients. Last year the beneficiaries were Roof Repairs to St Oswald's Church, Bexhill Care in the Community and the Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice.

It is important that HOG's is seen to be part of the village community, ready to assist in whatever way possible, which will help the Club go from strength to strength.

If you would be interested in joining a lively group of ladies, who enjoy each other's company. Why not come along to Hooe Village Hall (Opposite the Red Lion Pub.) at 2.30 on the second Friday of any month (Accept August) You will be made very welcome.



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Oh dear the wind is blowing hard and the rain is beating against the windows. I nearly waited before setting off to do the looking this morning, thinking the weather would improve, but it's a good job I didn't delay as it got worse as the day progresses, but it was certainly a relief to turn back from the marshes and feel the wind and rain on my back, not on my face. The cattle looked very comfortable and peaceful in their sheds, twas the sheep I felt sorry for, but even they carried on placidly eating the grass.

February starts off with the Feast of the Purification of the Bless Virgin Mary, on the 2nd February, or as it is popularly known Candlemass. It used to be the day when country folk would put away their winter candles as the nights were getting lighter and of course snowdrops bloom around this time and they are called Purification Flowers or Fair Maids of February. My grandmother would not have a snowdrop in the house as she said it meant the death in the family. But others regard them as a symbol of hope and purity. For farmers, it is the halfway stage of winter; with a lot of winter to come so the saying goes "A good farmer has half his fodder left at Candlemass".

Of course a favourite day in February is St Valentines Day, the 14th day of the month when those mysterious cards arrive, telling of undying love. I admit to have kept the first one that Peter sent me in 1952, I knew it was him because I recognised the writing. How true the words in the card were to be! It is one of many different cards he sent me over the years. It is said that birds begin their courtship on St Valentines Day and find their partners and you can certainly hear them singing from then on.

Another Saints Day in February is on the 24th, St Matthews Day, when according to tradition plants begin to grow. There are two rhymes for this day. One says "if it freezes on St Matthews Day it will freeze for a month". Another says "On St Matthews Day, sow both leaf and grass", and there is widespread belief that among our plants, the sap starts to rise on St Matthews Day.

But to end we mustn't forget Shrove Tuesday, or popularly known as Pancake Day which this February falls on February 13th, so do enjoy those mouth-watering pancakes and look forward to the next day St Valentines Day. But it is of course Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent, when it is said that "Marry in Lent and live to repent"

Whatever, enjoy February.

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Dick Carey	Chairman	01424 892051
Revd Peter Doodes	Vice Chairman	01424 892329
Peter Hayward	892009	Peter Watson 892107
Pam Doodes	892329	Robert Pilbeam 844365

Parish Clerk Sally Durman 893007

Hooe Parish Council met on 27th November and was pleased to welcome 12 members of the community.

Councillor Rev Peter Doodes opened the meeting. He spoke about Cllr Barbara Strevett, who has sadly passed away. She was a long serving member of the Parish Council and a prominent member of the community who will be sorely missed. A minute was held in remembrance of her life and contribution she made to the community.

Cllr Pam Doodes has been working hard to support the mobile library service in the villages. She has been involved with meetings and publicity and stressed the importance of completing a questionnaire to support the Mobile Library Service. The consultation closed mid-December. Hopefully there will be a positive result.

Two committees have now been formed to support the new Village Hall Project. Plans for a hall are being developed and the first Fundraising event planned for Saturday 9th December – A Christmas Market with various craft stalls, raffle, cakes, mulled wine, mince pies and sausage rolls and also entertainment from the Hooe Silver Band and the Ukulele group. A report will follow.

Litter continues to be a problem in the village. We would encourage people to report any sightings of fly tipping to Wealden District Council.

Hooe Parish Council wish all residents a happy and healthy New Year.
Hooe Parish Council

NINFIELD METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Patricia M. Williams BA (Hons)
15 Holmesdale Road, Bexhill TN39 3QE.. *Tel: 01424 733137;*
email: revpmwilliams@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday Services for February 2018:

4th 10.30 am Family Café Worship, with breakfast.

11th 10.30 am Worship & Praise with Christine Thacker

18th 10.30 am Worship & Communion with Rev. R. Dengate

25th 10.30 am Worship & Praise with Rev. M. Peach

4th Mar 10.30 am Family Café Worship, with breakfast.

Events for February 2018:

14th 2.30pm Christian Womens Fellowship

14th 5.00 – 7.00pm Messy Active Teens

23rd 2.30 - 4.30pm 'Pop-up' Cafe

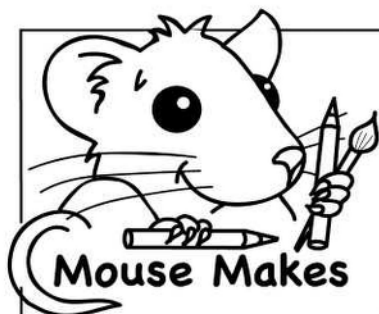
28th 3.30 – 5.30pm Messy Church – 'True Family...'

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas & New Year services, & events, so special. On Christmas Eve it was lovely to receive the World Peace Light into the Christingle service - thanks to Dick and the scouts. It was also good to welcome the St. Mary's congregation to our Church for our Covenant service in January.

We now look forward to 2018 & lots more memorable times when we can worship & give thanks to God for all that we receive & share.

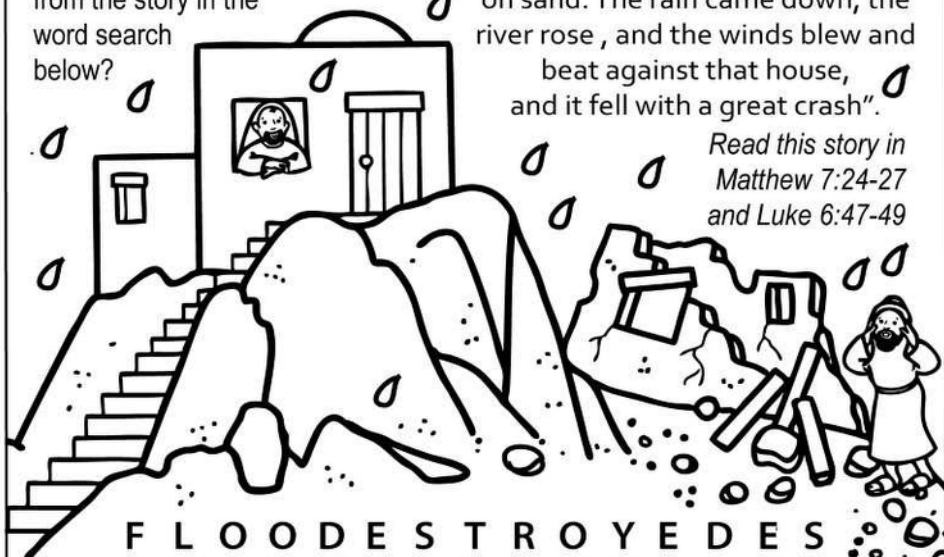
Please note that the Methodist Circuit publishes a local magazine 'Spotlight' with news from all the churches. [/www.hbrmethodists.org.uk/](http://www.hbrmethodists.org.uk/) The Christchurch / Bexhill, & Ninfield Churches issue a monthly Newsletter (available on request). [/www.christchurchmethodist.org.uk/](http://www.christchurchmethodist.org.uk/)

Church Hall Bookings: David Swales 892248



Mouse Makes

Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?



Jesus taught his disciples...
 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

Read this story in
 Matthew 7:24-27
 and Luke 6:47-49

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FEBRUARY DATES FOR OUR TWO VILLAGES

1 st Ninfield Parish Council	P20
5 th Flower Group	P 7
7 th Carnival	P16
9 th HOGS	P24
13 th Closing date for March Parish News	P 4
13 th Pancake Lunch	P 5
14 th Christian Women's Fellowship	P28
15 th Ninfield History Group	P 8
15 ^h Hooe History Group	P15
17 th Ninfield Village Market	P 9
17 th New Ideas Coffee Morning	P13
19 th Horticultural Society	P 7
21 st Ninfield Bonfire	P12

March

1 st Ninfield Parish Council	P20
3 rd Winter Warmer Quiz	P 5
5 th Flower Group	P 7

Anyone have any more dates for this page?

12th May Over 60's Afternoon Tea
 30th June St Oswald's Garden Party
 13th/14th July Ninfield Carnival
 27th/28th July Ninfield Proms & Gig

Directory of Groups & Clubs

NINFIELD ACTION GROUP Paul Coleshill 893138

NINFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY Secretary Carol Holland 893326

NINFIELD BOWLS CLUB:

Hon Secretary: Mrs Val Smith, 300 Turkey Road, Bexhill 843436

NINFIELD CARNIVAL & SPORTS ASSOCIATION:

Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

NINFIELD AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY:

Secretary Jennie Harmer 892357 jennieharmer@aol.co.uk

NINFIELD FLOWER GROUP Jennifer Collett 892878 ninfieldflowers@gmail.com

NINFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:

Show Organiser: Rose Franks, Little Gates, Potmans Lane, 892422

NINFIELD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Membership Sec. Corinne Gibbons 892612 corinnemgibbons@gmail.com

NINFIELD PLAYGROUP & TODDLERS

Preschool: Liz Walker, 7 Thorne Crescent, Bexhill, TN39 5JH

Toddlers: Stacey Boarer, 07967436479

NINFIELD VILLAGE ALLOTMENTS: Phil Ringrose 892792

NINFIELD VILLAGE SOCIETY: Hon. Sec. Lynn Denton 892347

1st NINFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Group Scout Leader: Martin Gausden martin.gausdengslninfield@hotmail.co.uk

Explorer Scout Leader: John Hornby 07783471115

Scout Leader: Glen Harrison 07936552785 ninfieldscouts@gmail.com

Cub Scout leader: Tracey Harrison 07970 359724 ninfieldcubs@gmail.com

Beaver Scout Leader Sandra Creasey 07908 558721 ninfieldkaa@googlemail.com

Group Chairman: Rosemary Cooper

NINFIELD WORKING MEN'S CLUB: Julia Hurrell 07508 080608

DANCE & DRAMA CLUB: Samantha Guard, 893699 or 07970 650321

HOOE BELL RINGERS : Simon Pattisson 845087

HOOE HISTORY GROUP: Chairman Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE LINE DANCE GROUP: Heather Sinden 893422

HOOE OPEN GROUP: Edna Wallis 842591

HOOE SPORTS CLUB Chairman: Tim Bryant, 2 Saddlers Cottage, Hooe

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP Pam Doodes, Catslide, Hooe 892329

SENLAC BELLS Conductor Alan Collings 893313

STOOLBALL: Fixture Sec. Linda Smith, Holmes Farm, Whydown 845163

PARISH WHO'S WHO

PRIEST IN CHARGE OF NINFIELD AND HOOE Rev Paul Frostick,
18 The Ridings, Bexhill on Sea. East Sussex. TN39 5HU. 01424 218126.

PARISH CHURCH of St. MARY the VIRGIN, NINFIELD

Churchwardens: Mr Phil Ringrose ☎ 892792
Mrs Catriona Mary Owen ☎ 225421
Secretary: Mrs Ann Ringrose
Treasurer: Mr Phil Ringrose

PARISH CHURCH of St. OSWALD, HOOE

Churchwardens: Mr Jack Rist ☎ 892576
Mr Simon Pattisson ☎ 845087
Secretary: Mr John Fairclough
Treasurer: Mrs Cynthia Fairclough

USEFUL CONTACTS IN THE VILLAGES

THE PARISH NEWS

Email ninfieldnews@btconnect.com ☎ 893326

NINFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Jackie Scarff ☎ 07725843505 email ninfieldpc@btinternet.com

HOOE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council Sally Durman ☎ 893007 email hooepc2@btinternet.com

READING ROOM

Booking Enquiries: Ann Martyr ☎ 892593 email harebeating3@gmail.com

MEMORIAL HALL

To book phone Jane Dommersen ☎ 07393 494502 ja.dommersen@outlook.com

HOOE VILLAGE HALL

Booking Secretary: Mrs Sally Durman, 1 Elizabethan Cottages, Hooe ☎ 893007

METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Booking Secretary: Mr David Swales ☎ 892248

C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mr. Chris Brown, Church Lane, Ninfield ☎ 892486

DOCTORS The Surgery, High Street, Ninfield ☎ 892569

NINFIELD STORES, Lower Street, Ninfield ☎ 892281