



**Welcome to this week's
Keeping in Touch (KIT) for
St Mary's and St Wilfrid's
in the Parish of Chidham.**



11th August 2024

No: 215

OUR SUNDAY SERVICE

This Sunday we will be welcoming **Canon David Nason** to lead our **1000** service in **St Wilfrid's**.

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JAN WELLS



The funeral of Jan Wells will take place on **20th August** at **10.30** in **St Mary's**, followed by committal in the extension churchyard.

SUSSEX RIDE & STRIDE – SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Here is a message from John Hodges who will be organising our participation in this event:

*Ride & Stride Sponsored Event **Saturday 14 September** 2024.
Raise funds for St Mary's! The event is organised by the Sussex
Historic Churches Trust. Money raised is split 50/50 between the
Trust and St Mary's. We recently received funding from the Trust.*



You can either visit as many local churches as you wish on bike, foot or horse. We are also looking for volunteers to sit in St Mary's and record the visitors. Get yourself sponsored. Donations are also welcome.

*More details, sponsorship forms and lists of participating churches from John Hodges,
Tel: 07367 274620 Email: johnwhodges@msn.com*

Can you spare an hour to sit in St Mary's on that day to greet our visitors to sign their form and offer them a cooling drink? There is a sign up sheet in the porch so do please pop your name on it if you can help. Contact John for more info.

P.S. You could even take part by car and use the opportunity to visit some of the beautiful downland churches that will be open on that day.

HARVEST BARN DANCE

Back by popular demand!

We will be holding a Harvest Barn Dance on **Saturday 12th October** from **7.00pm**. It will take place in **Chidham Barn**, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Bentall.

Tickets will be **£15** and will include hot food, with dancing to a live ceilidh band and barn dance caller. Bar and raffle. Tickets and more information available from Mike 07909 333967, Willem 07960 305427 or Vivien 07463 605606.



BRIDGE AFTERNOON – COMING SOON!

Juliet Probert has organised another Bridge Afternoon for **Tuesday 29th October** 2.00 – 5.00pm in St Wilfrid's. If you know someone who plays Bridge and would be interested, do please tell them. Perhaps you play yourself? Juliet can answer any questions so do contact her 07787 523950 or email Julietprobert@gmail.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14 Sept	Ride & Stride
12 Oct	Harvest Service and Barn Dance
29 Oct	Bridge Afternoon
Nov tbc	Autumn Fair

MAYBUSH COPSE BAT WALK

Saturday August 31st - 8.00pm start. An informal bat walk round Maybush Copse. Children are welcome but must be accompanied. The event will last just over an hour. It's **free but you need to book** as numbers are limited. Contact Stephen Johnson pskjohson2000@gmail.com



LOCAL SUMMER EVENTS

There are still a number of summer events taking place locally for your delectation. Here are some we are aware of:

Date	Time	Event	Location
9 th – 25 th Aug		Chichester International Film Festival	Chichester Cinema at New Park
Sat 10th Aug	1400 - 1700	Singleton Village Fête with dog show	Singleton Cricket Pitch
Sun 11th Aug	All day	Knees up on the Park	Oaklands Park. Organised by Chichester Festival Theatre
Sun 25th Aug	1300 - 1800	Family Day Free Entry	Emsworth Sports & Social Club & Green
Mon 26th Aug	1030 - 1700	Emsworth Show	New Life Church grounds, Thorney Road
Sat 31st Aug	2000	Evening Bat Walk	Maybush Copse
Sat 14th Sept Sun 15th Sept	1000 – 1600 1100 - 1600	Celebration of Baptisms & Flower Festival 'Celebrating new life'	Parish of Warblington with Emsworth (St James church)

MEET THE ANCESTORS – IRON AGE TO GEORGIANS AT FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE

17th – 18th August 1100 - 1500

Raven Tor Living History will be descending upon Fishbourne Roman Palace on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th August, bringing the history of the site of the Palace to life. From the sword-wielding Iron Age, to Normans, Stewarts and a realistic glimpse of pirates, privateers, buccaneers and smugglers of the 18th century and beyond.

Experience millennia of craft, costume, and demonstrations in weapons and armour to costumes and crafts, as well as ending the day with a battle royal with each time period going neck and neck. [Fishbourne Roman Palace & Gardens - Sussex Past](#)

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISMS & FLOWER FESTIVAL

Warblington with Emsworth Parish are holding this event
Sat 14th Sept 1000–1600 & Sun 15th Sept 1100-1600

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of St Thomas à Becket, and St James joining to form one parish, Warblington with Emsworth. A number of members of their congregation came along to our Flower Festival, so it would be good if we can support them in turn.



Did you have a family baptism in either St James or St Thomas à Becket? They want to hear your story for their celebration of baptism, contact clarevjury@btinternet.com.

IT'S ALL GOING SWIMMINGLY!

Inspired by the amazing swimming skills displayed by GB at the Olympics, here is possibly the root of it all (sorry if it's a bit long!).

Captain Matthew Webb was the first person to swim across the English Channel for sport without the use of artificial aids. When he arrived on the sands of the beach at Calais at 10.41 on the morning of 25th August he was suffering with delirium and had been in the water for 22 hours. His profession was a mariner, so how did he come to carry out this amazing feat?



Webb was born in Dawley, Shropshire in January 1848, one of 8 sons of the 14 children of a surgeon father. A later family home was close to the River Severn. Webb's first memory involved the water as every day after school he would go with a group of friends to play in the Severn, and by the time he was 7, he could already swim. This was rare for the time, as swimming was not generally considered a pleasurable activity, but rather an activity prescribed by doctors as a treatment for a wide range of ailments. When Matthew was 8 he and his brother saved their younger brother from drowning in the river because of their strong swimming skill.

When he was 12 he signed for the merchant service. He excelled in swimming, rescuing a fellow crew member from overboard, and impressing with his ability to stay in the water for very long periods of time. It was during this time in the merchant service that Webb first experienced swimming in the sea, in Bombay. He swam between the boats in the harbour, eating dinner at his destination and then swimming back again. He found that he liked the extra buoyancy that the saltwater provided, and the roughness of the waves.



At the end of his 3 year apprenticeship he signed for a company running ships to Japan, Brazil and Egypt. During this time, Webb gained a reputation for being fearless and was admired by his comrades, climbing the ranks. Webb was very confident in his physical abilities, especially when it came to swimming. He was known for leaping off the yardarm into the sea and earned an extra £1 for anchoring the boat near a wreck, and then swimming back to shore (a job which many other sailors were too afraid to do). Webb's strength in sea swimming increased from these tasks. He even competed with a dog from

Newfoundland for who could swim the longest in the rough sea.

After an hour, Webb was still swimming but the dog was exhausted and was rescued from the water. Another of Webb's stunts took place in the Suez Canal, where the propeller of their ship had become fouled with a rope. Webb dived down for hours, slowly cutting the rope dive by dive, until the propeller was freed. He wasn't thanked by his employers for this and decided to leave. He began looking for a passage home and joined the Cunard line as a lowly Ordinary Seaman on the *Russia*. Whilst sailing from New York to Liverpool in April 1873, Webb tried to rescue a crewmate who fell overboard by diving into the sea in the mid-Atlantic. Webb jumped into the cold water while the boat was travelling at a speed of 14 and a half knots, in pursuit of what he thought was the man's head, but it was actually just his hat. After 37 minutes, Webb was finally rescued, by which point he had almost drowned. The sailor was never found, but the passengers of the *Russia* banded together to give Webb a purse of gold, and upon returning home, he learned that his daring attempted rescue had won him an award of £100 and the first Stanhope Gold Medal, which made him a hero of

the British press. The idea of swimming the channel had already interested Webb after he read about the failed attempt of J.B. Johnson and Lord Byron's crossing. Fuelled by his notoriety, by 1874 he announced his intention to swim the Channel, training for several hours at a time off Dover and in baths at Lambeth. After a first failed attempt he tried again in August 1875. Coated in porpoise grease, he dived off Admiralty pier in Dover just before 1pm. The *Illustrated London News* covered the story, sending its artist on one of the boats accompanying Webb! It was a long swim, fuelled by beef tea, beer and brandy. By dawn Cap Gris Nez was in his sights, but the flood-tide set in and drifted him towards Calais. He finally made land at 10.41. He was suffering from delirium and was taken to an hotel and given hot wine and blankets. His temperature was 101°F and he had a fever. He slept for about 24 hours, and upon waking had stiff legs and two long swellings on the back of his neck from holding his neck up for so long but this didn't stop him meeting the crowds that had gathered at the hotel. He returned home to a hero's welcome and was catapulted to greater fame. He gave lectures and took part in several endurance swimming events over the next few years, including spending 60 hours in a glass tank at the Royal Westminster aquarium! He became a professional swimmer and took part in many swimming related stunts, but nothing would beat swimming the channel. Gradually the public began to lose interest in his swimming escapades and he eventually moved to the United States. In 1883 he announced he would attempt another first, to swim the whirlpool rapids at Niagara Falls. This was against his doctor's advice as he was now 42 pounds lighter than when he had swum the channel and had tuberculosis. However, such was his financial situation he ignored this advice and went ahead on 24th July. Everything went smoothly for the first part of the swim, but suddenly he was lifted by a large wave, he raised his arm before being pulled underwater by the currents for a distance of about 40 meters. He reappeared briefly but was sucked into the whirlpool and was never seen alive again, his body being recovered 4 days later.



Captain Webb's legacy was (and is) huge but is now mostly forgotten. His channel swim remained unique for over 30 years, despite other attempts and inspired the whole country to start swimming, with baths in London overflowing with people. Many others swam in open water and a number of new books teaching swimming were published during the following 25 years. The number of swimming clubs grew and many new swimming pools were opened with the Baths and Washhouses Act allowing local authorities to build them. A memorial was built from public subscription in his home town of Dawley, which took only 17 weeks to fund and another was raised in Dover. He is remembered in the International Swimming Hall of Fame and John Betjeman's 1940 poem, *A Shropshire Lad*, commemorates the death of Webb, portraying his ghost swimming back along the canal to Dawley. There have been books, films and documentaries and Webb's picture on boxes of Bryant and May matches is said to have inspired the physical appearance of the Inspector Clouseau character portrayed in the Pink Panther films by Peter Sellers! If that's not enough, 117 years after his Great Uncle crossed the Channel, his Great Nephew, Edward Webb, became the first man to solo para-glide across the English Channel on 12 September 1992. Edward was just 20 years old at the time but the feat helped to raise £2.5 million pounds in fundraising for the Christian Rescue Services Young Children in Need charity.

Does any of this make you want to dust off the water wings?

OPEN GARDENS IN THE AREA

Sunday 18th August 1100 - 1600

4 Hillside Cottages, West Stoke PO18 9BL

In a rural setting this stunning garden is densely planted with mixed borders and shrubs. Large collection of roses, clematis, fuchsias and dahlias, a profusion of colour and scent in a well maintained garden. Admission £5, Children free.

Home-made teas.

Sunday 25th August 1400 - 1630

The Folly, Charlton PO18 0HU

Colourful cottage garden surrounding a C16 period house (not open), set in the pretty downland village of Charlton, close to Levin Down Nature Reserve. Herbaceous borders well-stocked with a wide range of plants. Variety of perennials, grasses, annuals and shrubs to provide long season of colour and interest. Old well. Busy bees. Admission £5, Children free. Home-made teas.



WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

If you feel able to help on a regular basis you can do this by joining our confidential **Planned Giving scheme**. If you are interested in helping in this way you can use the QR code to find out more or do speak to Carole Holmes our Gift Aid secretary. Alternatively you may prefer to set up a

Standing Order with your bank. Information is available in St Mary's. If you are able to **Gift Aid** your donations, if you have not already done so, please complete the gift aid declaration form which can be found in St Mary's, or speak to Carole Holmes. You can also make a donation through

online banking, please use the reference 'donation': Acct name: PCC of Chidham Acct Number: 96179236 Sort Code: 60-05-24

Do contact one of our churchwardens or our treasurer vivien519@btinternet.com if you have any questions.



Here is a reminder of the contact details for our churchwardens:

Mike Carroll – 01243 572646

Willem Van Niekerk - 07960 305427