

THE Farncombe Villager

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH



OVER 15 YEARS OF MESSY CHURCH



It's a Saturday afternoon and St John's church is full of noise and activity. It's loud, it's joyous ... and it's messy. If you've ever passed by and wondered what's happening, this is Messy Church. A church for people of all ages to come together to do crafts, play games, tell stories from the Bible and

explore themes around faith and everyday life.

The Messy Church movement began in the Diocese of Portsmouth in 2004. The idea was to create a form of worship that would interest local families. One of the original team members was Lucy Moore, who went on to develop Messy Church with BRF (the Bible Reading Fellowship) and promote it worldwide as church based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

Our Messy Church at St John's started more than 15 years ago. Revd Margaret Blake, the then Rector, and Revd Margaret Dean,

Curate, introduced the new style of service and formed a team to plan, prepare and run the services.

Today, our Messy Church family continues to meet on the second

Saturday of alternate months. The team arrange a number of craft activities suitable for all ages, each connected in some way to our Bible story or theme. The crafts change each time, although we always include a bright collage

and a challenge where teams compete for the most points!

Following the crafts, James leads us in some prayers, a song and a short talk and then we all sit down for tea and cake.

You can read about our January service, on the theme of Creation, below. To find out more about Messy Church, visit www.messychurch.brf.org.uk

THE TEAM



MESSY CHURCH SAT 11th JAN



The beginning of a new year makes us think about doing new things and our topic, 'Creation' helped us to think about how God made the world and the universe as we looked at the first verses in the Bible. God said 'Let there be light' and then separated day and night. He then made the sky and the earth, sea and plants. This was illustrated by making small felt globes in different colours to show earth, sea and the plants that grew. Tea light holders are always popular and ours were decorated with the shapes of the sun and moon to illustrate light and dark. Our special challenge was inspired by the creation of animals and fish as we tried to propel a 'flapping fish' along the floor in a fixed time, using only the wind from a newspaper. Great fun and very popular.

We were very pleased to welcome a lot of children who brought their parents (and some grandparents too) to join in the fun and tea was a real hive of activity. Our next Messy Church is on 8th. **John**



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From the Rectory



Some readers may remember the Boulting Brothers film from 1951, *The Man In The White Suit*, in which Alec Guinness plays an inventor who manages to make a fabric that never gets dirty and never wears out. This seems like a marvellous boon to society until everyone (apart from the inventor) realises the implication: once everyone has bought their everlasting clothes, nobody will want any more and the whole textile industry will collapse. I thought of this the other day as my hedge trimmer stopped working in the middle of tackling the huge laurel bushes in the Rectory garden. The fault seems to lie with the battery: not only can you not get spares, but the manufacturer no longer seems to make the tool. It might be that I have to buy an entire new and different one, just because its battery doesn't work. This seems hugely wasteful, but it's the way a great deal of the economy functions, at least at the moment. The time will surely come when we will have to generate more economic activity through recovering reusable materials from what we make, rather than just junking them and making new stuff; but for the moment built-in obsolescence is the model we have.

What would the world be like if nothing broke or wore out – if you bought a consumer item once, and it lasted the rest of your life, and

only when it was improved would you have any motivation to buy a replacement? Things would be fundamentally and massively different: a great deal of economic activity would simply not happen.

Yet this is the kind of world we're invited to imagine when we think about the Kingdom of God – as it says in the Book of Revelation, a state of things like a city made of crystal where there isn't even any need for a sun or moon because the light of God illuminates it. How the hedges will be trimmed and the lawns maintained is a minor matter by comparison – and even to ask the question sounds absurd, because the whole situation is so utterly outside our experience that we can't envisage it in anything other than pictures and symbols.

The turning of the year brings with it the suggestion of renewal in perhaps small but potentially significant ways, through the resolutions and promises we might make. Here in this earthly realm everything needs continual renewal, and this is how we experience our spiritual lives as well as being one of the motors of our economic life. The time will come when it will be different in ways we can't conceive, but for now, notwithstanding the frustrations, it may be for the good that the everlasting fabric remains just a fantasy!

James, Rector

The Three Masses of Christmas

Ghost stories are traditional at Christmas and a little while ago I shared with a friend one of my favourites – more comic than spooky, this one comes from Provence and tells the tale of the 17th-century Fr Balaguere who is tempted by the Devil, disguised as an altar server, to rush through his three Christmas masses so he and the parish can get to their Christmas feast quicker. They are all then condemned to reappear every Christmas night until the skipped-through mass has been done properly three hundred times. I realised that although I knew about the tradition of saying three communion services at Christmas I wasn't clear where it came from, so I checked, although I'm not completely sure about the history of the observance even now. Some sources say the tradition of the three masses began with a night-time service at the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, followed by a dawn service at the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem and then the usual daytime liturgy. This then spread to Rome possibly in the 8th century when the church of St Mary Major acquired some pieces of sycamore wood that were supposed to be parts of the manger where Jesus had been placed. The Pope would celebrate mass there at midnight, and then at dawn would do the same at the church of St Anastasia, a martyr whose feast day is December 25th (rather a shame for her, that, a bit like having your birthday on Christmas Day) and whose name means 'resurrection'. Finally he would celebrate the main mass of the day at St Peter's. Gradually this pattern spread over Europe and each of the three services developed its own texts and themes. There are question marks over a number of elements in this explanation, but it seems to make most sense of what we know.

Until the end of the 19th century Anglican churches did on Christmas Day whatever they would do on a normal Sunday, but then some of the most Catholic-minded churches adopted the pattern of

the three services, beginning with the Midnight Mass, and followed by an early morning and a mid-morning service on Christmas Day. In fact, as time wore on, in many churches there would be considerably more than three Christmas services just to fit in all the people who might want to make their communion: numbers could run into several hundreds even at a relatively small church like Farncombe. Eventually the Church of England officially recognised the idea of the three services by providing three different sets of Bible readings to go with each.

The tendency recently has been for churches to drop one or more of the threefold Christmas services because of declining attendance and the difficulty of finding clergy to celebrate them or people to help with them. Even at Farncombe, where we do keep the traditional pattern, we've had to recognise that we won't be able to gather together a choir for the Midnight Mass or the main morning service on Christmas Day, and will have to choose which of those gets an organist rather than John Preston ably assisting the singing on the piano. But that does mean that each service acquires a slightly different character rather than all being the same. And there is plenty of time to avoid the sin of Fr Balaguere, and celebrate all the masses properly!



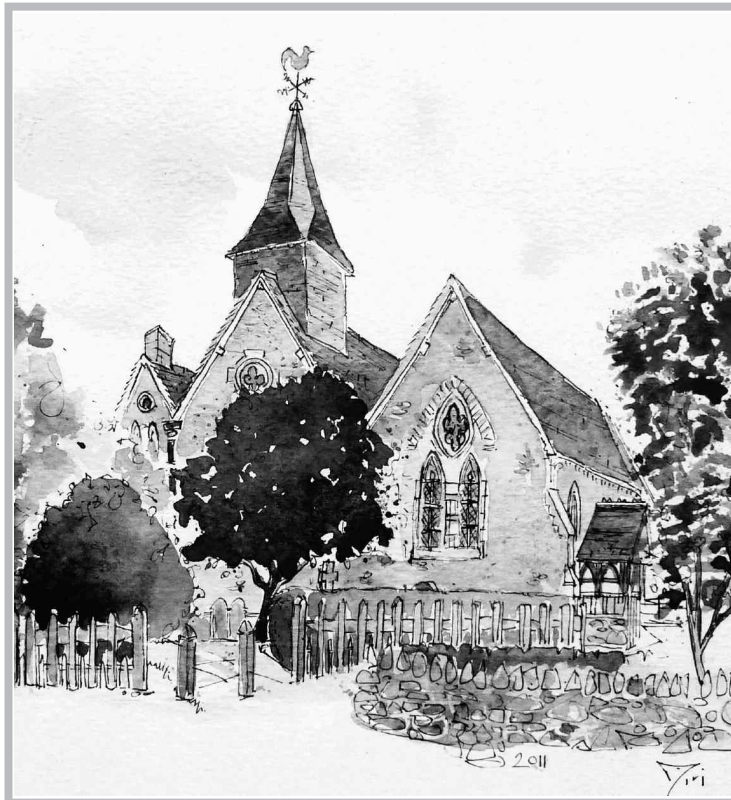
BIG GROUP SING SELL-OUT CHRISTMAS CONCERT



For the past 10 years The Big Group Sing, a choir produced by Joel Lufrio with amazing MD Peter Roberts, has performed their Christmas concerts at St John's and this year's programme did not disappoint. Titled 'A Christmas Gift' the event was a complete sell-out and the 40 strong singers gave an outstanding performance including traditional Christmas Carols with an eclectic mix of songs and carols, watched by family, friends and local supporters, and topped off with delicious mulled wine and mince pies served at the end.

The choir privately dedicated the event to David Haas, a long term member who trained with Peter and others at Guildford School of Acting over 20 years. David was a lovely man and a talented singer much loved and respected by everyone. He sadly died on New Year's Day and will be sorely missed. RIP David.

Thanks to Jesse Hoff of Lazy J. Amplifiers for providing speakers and audio equipment that helped the lovely singing to reach to the back of the church.
Sharon



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ROLL ON SPRING - JUST A FEW PICTURES FROM OUR 2024 SPRING FAIR



New Year Resolutions?

This is traditionally a time for thinking about how last year went and how we can improve our experiences, both personally and as a community, in this new year. We used to think in terms of 'resolutions' but of course, that doesn't necessarily mean that we actually get round to doing anything! As we look around and talk to people in Farncombe, we realise that there are already a lot of community activities and groups trying to improve the area. We still have a selection of shops which cover many of our daily needs and there are charity shops and also the food bank, a fairly recent addition run by volunteers and supplied by contributions from residents and shops. There are also a number of groups at the church which help in specific ways, such as the hearing aid clinic, and the Day Centre provides various forms of care, entertainment and meals during the week which are available at advertised rates. There are many volunteer groups around who need more help to achieve their objectives and would be pleased to have more members.

We also have the Community Garden at Broadwater and the Farncombe Initiative, which provide a variety of activities and encourage us to work together with others for the benefit of the whole community. If you look along platform 2 at the station, you will see that the border by the fence has been upgraded and springtime should be very colourful. This is just part of their plans to improve the station and



other areas. Many residents find that the traffic in Farncombe is quite a problem, especially as we have 2 level crossings (and quite a lot of trains!) Walking into the village is a good way to avoid the parking problem although not possible for some people but it is a good idea to walk as much as possible – it is good exercise and it enables us to maintain contacts and friendships with others. Why not make a resolution to walk to the shops as much as possible, have a chat with a friend, perhaps even treat yourself to coffee, and try to help each other.

John

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LGBTQ+History Month Reflecting on Icons and Finding Support

Catalyst Support is a local charity supporting the mental health and wellbeing of adults living in Surrey. The charity offers a free LGBTQ+ listening service for those who wish to talk about their own or others' sexuality or gender identity. Known as Outline, this service is available for confidential conversations via call, text or email on

several relationships with women including Sophia Jex-Blake, one of the first female doctors. She is now buried with her partner of 30 years, Harriet Yorke, in Kent.

- Ivor Cummings (1913-1992) was a senior official in the welfare department of the Colonial Office and worked as an advocate for the rights of African and Caribbean settlers, before and throughout the initial Windrush scandal. Cummings was known to go above and beyond to support people in finding employment and housing. Cummings was born in England to an English mother and Sierra Leonean father. He was open about being gay, despite homosexuality being a crime at the time.

- Annie Kenney (1879-1953) was a leading suffragette of working-class background, campaigning for the rights of women to vote in Britain.

According to diaries kept by peers, it is accepted that Kenney had several romantic relationships with women, including Emmeline Pankhurst's daughter Christabel.

If you would like to talk about and receive support surrounding your sexuality or gender identity, or you wish to understand and support someone close to you, contact Outline via the following ways:

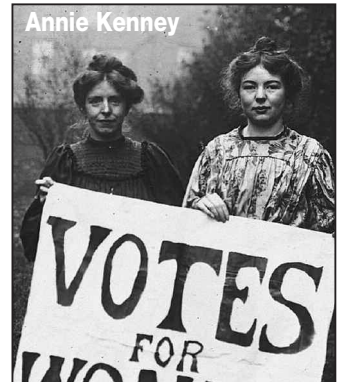
Call: 0800 06 12345

Text/ SMS: 07451289261

Email: outline-listening@catalystsupport.org.uk

Responding hours: 7pm to 9pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Catalyst Support Website: catalystsupport.org.uk



Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7pm and 9pm. February is LGBTQ+ History month, and Outline reflects on some significant historic figures from the LGBTQ+ community:

- Octavia Hill (1838-1912) was a campaigner for social reform and emphasised the importance of open space for all, coining the term 'green belt' and co-founding the National Trust. Surrey's Hydon's Ball and Heath were one of the National Trust's earliest acquisitions, and the area is now a memorial to Hill. It is understood that Hill had

Running to Support Your Community

Catalyst Support, Surrey's local charity dedicated to mental health and wellbeing, is recruiting runners for the Surrey Half Marathon on 16th March.

Funds raised will support vital services like the Women's Support Centre, Catalyst Counselling and the Cuckooing Specialist Outreach Team.

Participants can choose between the 13.1 mile half marathon or the 5k fun run, both starting at Woking Leisure Centre. To register for your free entry to Surrey Half Marathon contact: laura.simpson-pirie@catalystsupport.org.uk

To find out more about how Catalyst Support serves your community: Website: <https://catalystsupport.org.uk>

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catalyst.support/>

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REGULAR SERVICES at ST JOHN'S

SUNDAYS

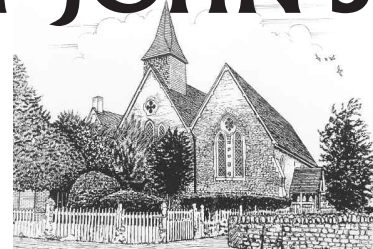
8am Holy Eucharist
 8.45am Roman Catholic Mass
 10am 1st Sunday in the month, Sunday Space
 Other Sundays, Parish Eucharist
 6.30pm 1st Sunday in the month, Sung Eucharist
 7.30pm 2nd Sunday in the month, Compline over Zoom

TUESDAY

10.30am Holy Eucharist

FRIDAY

11.45am Last Friday in the month,
Toddler Praise



For all other information see our website: www.farncombe.org.uk

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

Joshua & Jasmine de Clifford-Ball
(pictured right)

Lyra Maclean
(centre picture)



COFFEE MORNINGS at ST JOHN'S

all are welcome in the Church Room

10am - 12noon 1st & 15th February 1st & 15th March



SUNDAY SPACE

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

10am - on the 1st Sunday of the month

We are looking at the expectations people had of Jesus (and those we have today), and how he met them or often didn't.

Sunday 4th January - 'Tales of the Unexpected' Sunday 2nd February - 'Tales of the Expected'

Sunday 2nd March - 'Tales of Expectation'

Open to God - Open to each other - Open to all



PRAYER FOR FARNCOMBE

A small group of pray-ers gather on the second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Lady Chapel to pray for Farncombe, its people, organisations, schools and businesses. Our next meetings are on 13th February, 13th March and 10th April.

New members to our group are welcome, and if you have a concern that you would like us to include in our prayers, please tell us by emailing prayers@farncombe.org.uk

Christmas at St.John's 2024

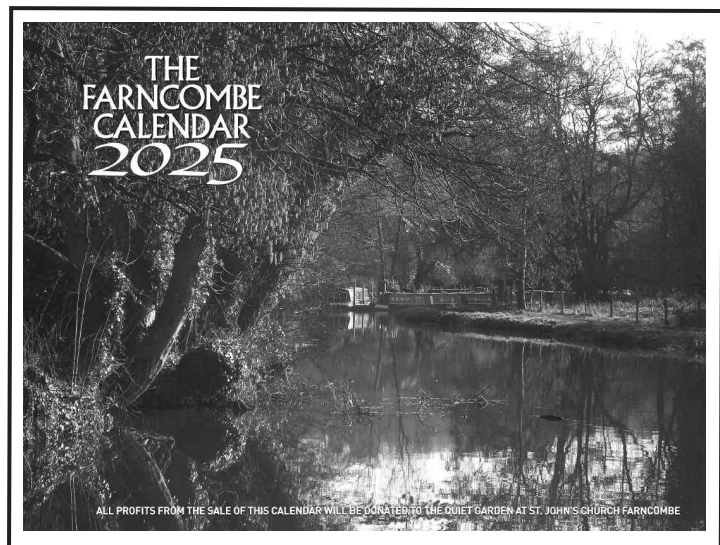
Because of the way Christmas fell in the calendar this year, we were able to spread our celebrations out to avoid exhaustion! Apart from the organisations who came to hold concerts with us, as in former years, we began with Carols by Candlelight on Friday 20th – Gabriel's wondrous piano pieces are now as much a part of the repertoire as Tom Hammond's clarinet and John Preston's monologues. For the service of Lessons & Carols on Sunday 22nd the choir was organised and conducted by Richard Stevens while Stasio Sliwka from King Edward's School accompanied on the organ.



Christmas Eve being a Tuesday, we went from the Advent purple of our usual midweek service in the morning to the gold of the Christmas services in the evening, beginning with a packed Crib Service, and followed by the Midnight Mass, 8am and 10am services

each with their own character. Attendances were up at all the services this year. We're aware that very many people make a special effort to come to worship at Christmas and so it was a great joy to see so many old friends as well as new faces in the congregations. **James**

There is a Roman Catholic Mass every Sunday morning at St John's starting at 8.45am *all are welcome*



The FARNCOMBE CALENDAR 2025

Many thanks to all who bought a copy (or several!) of the calendar, I hope you enjoy it throughout the year. Thanks as well to Boots and Simrans for stocking the Calendar, sales of which raise money for the Quiet Garden, which is much used and appreciated by local people and visitors alike.

Thank you to all those who help to keep the Quiet Garden tidy and pleasant for others by putting litter in the bins and a big thank you to the band of happy gardeners whose efforts on the last Saturday morning of each month (except December) keep the plants in good shape and growing well. If you would like to help with the garden maintenance just come along for 9.30 on the last Saturday of the month and you will be most welcome. We have a range of tools but stout shoes and gloves are advisable. **John**

GET PLANNING & PLANTING FOR THE FARNCOMBE VILLAGE SHOW
St JOHN'S CHURCH FARNCOMBE - LATE AUGUST 2025 at 2pm - JUDGING 11am PRIZE GIVING 3.30pm

THANK YOU EVERYONE

who has had Christmas lights on display over the holidays: they have really brightened-up the dark evenings



The Broadwater Sports Centre is situated at Broadwater School and is proud to service the local community, promoting health and wellbeing as well as fostering social connections complete with fitness suite and facilities for hire.

The fitness suite offers a newly refurbished space suitable for cardio and core training as well as total body strength training for gym members. Over the past year, the Sports Centre has teamed up with Active Surrey and More than Muscle to offer 'Women Only' sessions to women in the local community, giving them the opportunity to build strength, boost confidence and have fun in the gym. The Sports

Centre also benefits from state-of-the-art facilities including grass football pitches, sports hall, all-weather astroturf pitches as well as other sporting and non-sporting facilities and is utilised extensively by the local community with a diverse portfolio of clubs and activities running every evening and throughout the weekend. Interested in learning more about the Broadwater Sports Centre? Stop by and speak with one of the staff members; the gym is open nightly from 5-10pm on weekdays, 9-5pm on Saturday and 9-4pm on Sunday and facilities are available to hire via the School Hire website.



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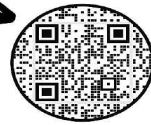

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BROADWATER PARKRUN

Did you know there is a friendly, free and fun 5k community event every Saturday morning at Broadwater park? Join us to run, walk or jog – or become part of our fantastic volunteer team!

Parkrun is a series of volunteer run, weekly, 5km timed runs around the world. In the UK they take place at 9am. Parkrun is open to everyone and it is safe and easy to take part. People of every ability are supported. Our Broadwater regulars range from babies in buggies to octogenarians; some complete the 5k in well under 20 mins, and some over an hour. All are welcome!



WINTER GARDENING

Happy New Year to all our gardeners, a new start always reminds us that we continue to learn more about growing and caring for plants, especially with the challenges of climate change and what seems to be more variation in the growth of plants from year to year. We need to keep a closer check on how our plants are growing – I was pruning some brambles in December after a very productive season and was astonished to find several tasty fruits ready for a crumble! The following suggestions are based on traditional timings but you may find that your particular conditions mean that some changes can give better results.

Vegetables Digging over the soil and putting on compost as a preparation for sowing seed is a good start (and also helps to work off any over-indulgence in the festive season!) Peas and broad beans can be sown for early crops but are best kept covered in case of frost damage to new shoots. An alternative is to sow the seed in pots or trays and wait until the seedlings are well developed before planting out. If you have a suitably sheltered site it is possible to grow early cabbage and chard too.

Fruit This is the time to plant new trees so make sure the site is well dug in with good compost. Check existing bushes such as currants and gooseberries and cut back overlapping shoots to allow a good circulation of air when the leaves have grown. Blackcurrant cuttings can be taken but make sure they are kept in a frost-free area to allow them to begin growth.

Flower beds It is useful to have a plan of what flowers you want to grow so that seeds can be sown and plants bought as required – it is very tempting to impulse buy in the garden centres but



although seedlings may look small then, check how big they can grow so that other plants are not adversely affected.

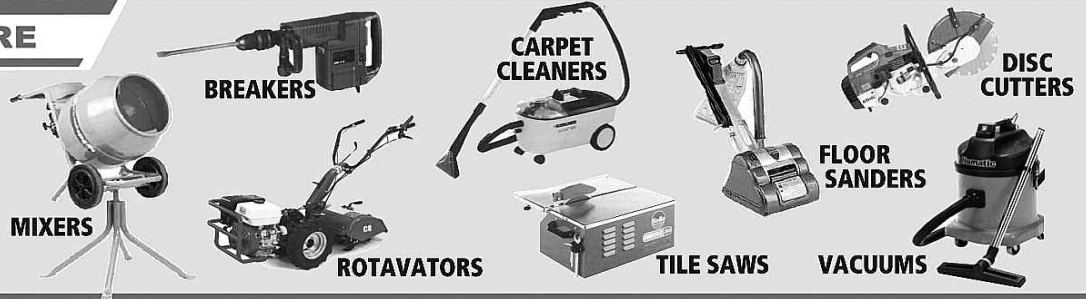
Preparation Whilst tools are not in regular use it is important to check over and clean your machinery and hand tools and sharpen cutting tools.

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable gardening year.
John

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Julian Lewry Music

A message from Julian....

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who attended my promotions in 2024 - a total of 14 shows, mainly in Haslemere and Guildford. For various family and personal reasons, the upcoming Genesis Visible Touch show in Haslemere on 2nd May will be my final solo concert promotion. After that I may selectively co-promote the occasional concert where any involvement will be mainly on the marketing side. So this is the last time a Julian Lewry Music page will appear in The Villager but you can continue to keep up to date with any news on my Julian Lewry Music page on Facebook. Thank you for all your support over the years and I hope to see some of you at upcoming concerts around the area.

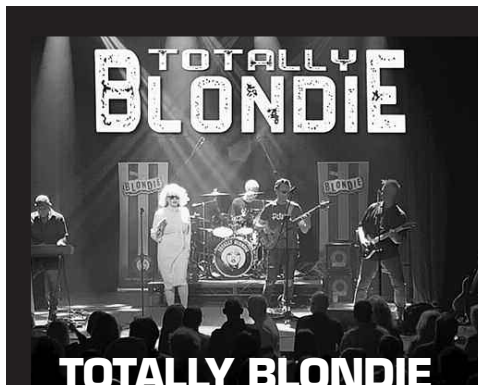


NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL
Friday 7th February
@ HASLEMERE HALL

This 5-piece band perform Billy Joel's hits and classic album tracks from his breakthrough in the 70's, the huge global chart success of the 80's, through to the 90's by which time Joel's status was firmly established as a true American icon. The set includes Just The Way You Are, My Life, It's Still Rock And Rock To Me, Uptown Girl, Tell Her About It, An Innocent Man, We Didn't Start The Fire, The River of Dreams and, of course, Piano Man.

Tickets: £23 inc. booking fee. Show starts @ 8.00pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm)



TOTALLY BLONDIE
Friday 24th February
@ HASLEMERE HALL

Blondie were one of the most iconic bands of the 70's & 80's, with posters of Debbie Harry adorning most teenagers' walls, and they've continued turning out hits and great music. People of all ages, not just hardcore fans, know and love songs like Hanging On The Telephone, One Way Or Another, Call Me, Atomic, Heart Of Glass, Sunday Girl, Denis, Maria and all the other famous chart-toppers. And Totally Blondie make sure these fantastic tunes sound as fresh and exciting today as they did back then. With a stunning lookalike and soundalike singer, an exceptional live band, their full-on, passionate performances are winning over audiences up and down the country.

Tickets: £23 inc. booking fee. Show starts @ 8.00pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm)



GENESIS
VISIBLE TOUCH
- Celebrating the Legacy of Genesis -
featuring Gary O'Toole
(formerly of the Steve Hackett Band)

GENESIS VISLBLE TOUCH
Friday 2nd May
@ HASLEMERE HALL

Genesis Visible Touch make a much requested return to Haslemere Hall in 2025 as part of their LONGS AND SHORTS 2024/2025 tour. Appealing to fans of 80s pop, rock and classic prog, you will hear all the hits (shorts) such as: Invisible Touch/I Can't Dance/Land of Confusion. You will hear the classics (longs) such as: Dance on a Volcano/Home by the Sea/Domino. Everything which propelled Genesis to superstardom from 'The Ultimate Collins-Era Genesis Show'!

Tickets: £23 inc. booking fee. Show starts @ 8.00pm (doors and bar open from 7.00pm)

UPCOMING SHOWS INCLUDE THESE EXCITING ACTS

Saturday 15th February - Los Endos (Genesis tribute) @ Dorking Halls
Saturday 22nd February - Simply Dan (Steely Dan tribute) @ Dorking Halls
Friday 11th April - The Alter Eagles (Eagles tribute) @ Electric Theatre, Guildford

Tickets for Haslemere shows are available from www.haslemerehall.co.uk or the box office on 01428 642161. Tickets for other venues from the respective box offices

To keep up to date with news and info on upcoming shows, please see Facebook page Julian Lewry Music and website www.julianlewrymusic.com



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Slimming World News



What a year my Super Slimmers have had! I've been looking back over the last year and between my Farncombe and Cranleigh groups we have lost an incredible 11,561lbs. Now that figure is staggering alone, but I just Love to number crunch! This is 825 stone and 11lbs, or in new money 5244kg!! That weight is so hard to visualize, so I let Google do the talking and it's over 5 tons! That is the weight of an African bush elephant. The other item I found that weighs around 5 tons is an ambulance, and this one really resonated with me. Currently 64% of the population are overweight, with 28% in the obese category. Scarily, this number is rising each year. Your weight can have such a huge impact on your health. Many people are unaware that just by losing 10% of your current weight, it can help with your joints, diabetes, and medication. It's been worked out that if every overweight person lost 10% of their starting weight it could save the NHS a staggering £32 million.

This is just one of the reasons we have teamed up with OneYou to offer 12 weeks free on Slimming world. Just visit <https://oneyousurrey.org.uk/programmes/lose-weight/slimming-world/> to find out more.

So, what are you waiting for? Come along to one of my groups and you'll be met with understanding, empathy and bags of enthusiasm! Here's to a happier, healthier 2025.



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QUIZ TIME

1. What is the name of the Roman fort halfway along Hadrian's Wall?
2. Musically, how many quavers are there in a minim?
3. What is the geographical name for a long bend in a river?
4. What are the 3-letter words used to describe male and female pigs?
5. Which singer topped the pop charts with the song "Puppet on a string"?
6. What is the name of Postman Pat's black and white cat?
7. What is the name of the ancient counting frame which uses balls sliding on wires?
8. Which industry was commonly known as the 'Rag Trade'?
9. What is the area of a circle with a diameter of 14cm?
10. What was the name of the garage and petrol station in Farncombe Street directly opposite Nightingale Road?

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The Farncombe Initiative

- Four main areas of activity:
- **Advocacy** - connecting with local councils to seek the best for Farncombe
 - **Public Art and Heritage** - enhancing and celebrating our village
 - **Railway Station** - taking action for its upkeep and improvement
 - **Gardening** - including tree planting and litter picking



TODAY WE FOCUS ON RAY BROWN THE BARBER OF FARNCOMBE

The Farncombe Initiative generally looks forward to seeing how our daily lives and surroundings can be improved, whether by the installation of street benches or by pushing authorities to fill in those wretched potholes.

Occasionally, however, it is good to pause and look back on those who have contributed to making Farncombe what it is today.

One of the longest standing of these is Ray Brown.

Ray is R I Brown, barbers, of 28A St John's Street. Ray is not just the proprietor of the business; he is the business. The address, 28A is a giveaway; this old school-barber's shop is annexed to the next-door building.

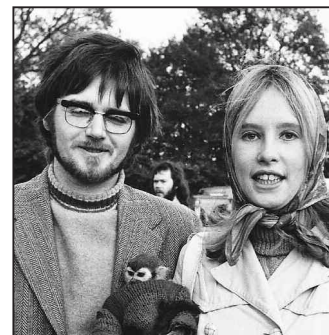
Ray has been here cutting the hair of the men (and boys) of Farncombe for over 50 years and this is his story as told to us by his wife, Jenny.



Ray and Jenny were both born and brought up on Farncombe. He was born in October 1948 and lived with his parents in 24 Tottenham Road, backing on to the railway line. He first attended Miss Hussey's school at 1 Lower Manor Road with his friend Keith Wilde, then Farncombe Church of England Primary School (now the Farncombe Day Centre) and finally Meadow County Secondary School, which today is the site of Godalming Junior School.

Ray left school in 1960 and would have liked to have gone to work on the railway. However, one day his father was at the St John's Street barbers next to A. L. Patrick the news agents and Jim Stafford the barber mentioned that he was looking for an apprentice. That was it! In those days if your father found you a job, you took it. It was a busy little business and Ray worked for Jim until 1982, when he retired, and Ray took over the shop. It was a very traditional men's barber's and there was certainly no hairdressing

for women. On a Saturday, the busiest day of the week, even schoolboys were not allowed. Although other hairdressing salons opened in the area, Ray retained his loyal customers, many of whom would bring him railway books and magazines and have sent him cards during his recent period of ill-health, which has been much appreciated.



In the meantime, Ray met Jenny who lived with her family in Broadwater Lane. Jenny worked as a Saturday girl in the newsagents from where men could walk straight through into the barber's after buying their paper and cigarettes. They got married in St John's Church, close to his work, and where their children were christened. Ray is very much a family man and he and Jenny have three children, (Claire, Chris and Richard) seven grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Their home is full of photos of their family.

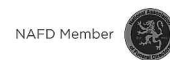
Throughout his life Ray has maintained his interest in all things railways, perhaps dating back to living in Tottenham Road, when steam drawn trains ran behind his house. He is an avid collector of railway books and also of model trains, with an enviable model railway set up. Holidays were usually the occasion for railway photography and he has a vast collection of photos taken by him, including many of steam locos passing through Farncombe.

His other great interest is wildlife. His and Jenny's back garden in the appropriately named Squirrel's Close is a haven for hedgehogs, all sorts of birdlife and, of course, squirrels. He wrote regularly for the local bird society and carried out bird counts at Broadwater Lake for the British Ornithological Society.

Ray has been obliged by ill-health to hang up his clippers finally after over half a century of cutting the hair of the men of Farncombe. After a spell in hospital his family is waiting to welcome Ray back home.



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New Church for Binscombe in 2025

In 1957 a lady named Irene May started a Bible study in her bungalow on Binscombe Lane. The group soon grew, and a vibrant youth group was started. By 1962 Irene's small home was regularly packed with up to 60 people. In 1964 land designated for public

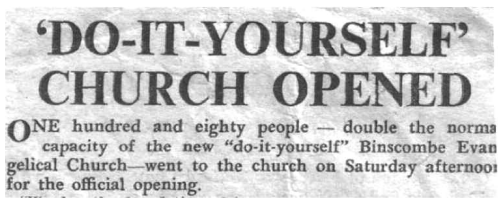


Work starting - May 1964

worship on the junction of Barnes and Loseley Roads was leased to the group. The initial church building was opened on 6th March 1965. With much of the work being completed by church members, it

was hailed in the local papers as the 'Do-it-yourself' church.

Over the years many people have benefitted from this initial vision and investment, from across all age ranges and from every walk of life. With our church family growing, and community activities flourishing, in recent years we have outgrown our building. Planning permission was given in 2015 to create a new Church Centre that will bring the Christian message in word and action to the community and beyond, for today and for future generations.



With a lot of prayer, and the incredibly generous giving of so many people and of several Christian Trusts, work started on site in August 2024. The new church centre is due to open in September 2025.

One local resident writes: The church provides a very important and well used hub to the Binscombe community for people of all ages, with a multitude of events in a friendly, informal and welcoming church that has (wonderfully) outgrown its current premises.

Now more than ever, this type of church community, multi-generational centre, is invaluable to the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of so many. With few



community spaces in the centre of Binscombe, our vision is to be a place where people find both friendship and find God. Everyone is welcome.

At the heart of our vision as a church family, and represented in the brick design of the new Church Centre, are two historic events that turned the world

upside down, and that are transforming lives the world over today with peace and hope.

Jesus' death, is represented by a cross on the front of the building, and Jesus' resurrection, represented by radiating lines on the top of the building.



For more information on Binscombe's new Church Centre and its progress, or for information on our church life and current programme of events visit www.binscombechurch.org We look forward to welcoming you.

Pete Hitchcock (Pastor of Binscombe Church)

GODALMING CHORAL SOCIETY

ELIJAH

MENDELSSOHN

Sunday 30 March 2025 at 6:30PM

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- Community Helpline 0300 200 1008 Farncombe and Binscombe Good Neighbours (for transport to essential appointments) 07531 888398 (phone between 10am and 12noon Monday to Friday)
- The Samaritans 0808 1640123



Kettle's On
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St John's Church Room
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2pm until 4pm
every 3rd Wednesday in the month
Carers with friends and loved ones especially welcome

We are open to those of all Faiths and those who have None.
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DATES FOR 2025

Jan 15th Feb 19th Mar 19th April 16th May 21st June 18th
July 16th Aug-Outing Sept 17th Oct 15th Nov 19th Dec 10th - Party.

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The 2nd Wednesday in the month

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- Beginners welcome
- Inspire others • Ask for help

- Make a community project
- Learn more about your sewing machine
- Bring your ideas

The next dates in the Church Room are
Feb 12th Mar 12th April 9th May 14th 2pm - 4pm



The Villager is printed by Royal British Legion Industries who support disability and veterans' employment in Surrey
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The Mystery Photo is: The Farncombe Day Centre

THE SPRING EDITION 2025 OF THE VILLAGER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE 7th MARCH 2025
COPY DEADLINE 24th FEBRUARY 2025

For articles and editorial please email: davidholtstudios@btconnect.com

If you would like details about advertising in The Villager please email David Preston at: djpreston@bcs.org.uk

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Protect Yourself from Scams

As more people continue to work from home and rely heavily on the Internet, there has been a noticeable rise in Internet-related scams. Cybercriminals are taking advantage of our dependence on technology and the frustrations many experience with their Internet connections.

A particularly common scam involves individuals posing as representatives from BT Openreach or similar Internet providers. This scam often begins with a phone call claiming that the caller has detected problems with your Internet connection or that your connection speed is slower than what you're paying for. For those who have recently reported issues to their Internet provider, this can appear genuine.

Unfortunately, it is nothing more than a sophisticated scam. The goal of these scammers is to gain remote access to your computer or mobile device. They might ask you to:

Provide personal information. Visit a specific webpage or download software that allows them to control your device remotely. Share your credit card or bank details to "resolve" the issue.

How to Stay Safe

- Do Not Share Personal Information: Never provide sensitive details over the phone, especially if the call is unsolicited.

- Avoid Remote Access Requests: Do not download any software or allow someone to guide you to a specific webpage unless you have verified their legitimacy.

- Never Share Financial Information: Legitimate service providers will not ask for your credit card or banking details during troubleshooting.

- Hang Up: If you receive a suspicious call, simply put the phone down. Legitimate companies rarely resolve issues through unsolicited calls.

- If you do fall victim to such a scam, act quickly:

- Contact Your Bank: Notify your bank immediately to secure your accounts.

- Seek IT Support: Take your computer or device to a trusted local IT support company to check for malicious software or unauthorized access.

- Staying vigilant is the key to avoiding these scams. Remember, no genuine Internet provider will ask for remote access to your device or financial details over an unsolicited phone call. Be cautious and stay safe.

Igor Dalavourak (MSc) - Primo Computers 01483 860 777

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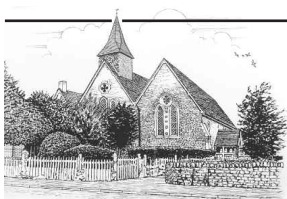
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