

# RUSPER



## Parish News

October 2020



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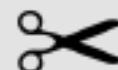
For

Ladies and Gentlemen

By

Bernadette

**Tel 079560 45458**





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**THE PARISH OF RUSPER**  
**SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S**  
**CHURCH RUSPER**

**SERVICES WILL BE BROADCAST FROM THE RECTORY  
LIVE ON FACEBOOK**

Holy Communion on Sundays at 8am and Wednesdays and other Holy Days during the week at 10.30am.

**Services in October**

8am Holy Communion every Sunday

4th 11am Blessing of Pets [Saint Francis' Day] No Communion

11th Harvest Thanksgiving

18th Saint Luke's Day

25th Trinity 20

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



The Christian spiritual tradition is rich in ways responding to changing circumstances such as those we all currently find ourselves in. For centuries nuns and monks, not least in our village, have practised social distancing for a positive outcome. They have found peace and purpose rooted in one place, in tune with the natural rhythm of creation and the pattern of the seasons.

I would not however want to paint such a life as some peaceful idyll removed from uncomfortable reality. Spiritual life has always had a tradition of struggle, perplexity, restlessness and anxiety, such as afflicts us all at this time. In response to these it has discovered and developed discipline, in other words openness to learning within our limitations. A Christian hermit in a cell is still part of a community of interdependent relationships.

There has been an increase worldwide during the last few months in people revisiting and exploring questions of faith. The Sodality of Mary to which I belong has quadrupled in membership since lockdown, with priests from the Antipodes and the USA adding to our numbers.

Every area of life has had to adapt and our village church is no exception. From the closure of the building to ensuring it was safe to reopen, to services online and so on, we are still learning. Our public services are the most visible aspect of the life of the Church and these have had to adjust in a variety of ways. Looking ahead our PCC has identified in particular a need to address forthcoming special occasions.



### **Pet Blessing October 4<sup>th</sup> 11am**

We are limited to 30 people in church but may be able to celebrate outside. Please let me know if you plan to come

### **Remembrance Sunday**

We cannot under present restrictions seat the usual number who attend inside church. We are considering holding a service at the memorial to which we would ask people to bring their own seating and if necessary, umbrellas and to maintain social distancing.

### **Christmas Morning**

At this stage we propose a series of consecutive morning services with tickets to ensure no more than 30 people attend each of them.

Please watch out for further details or changes in these proposals.



*Nick*

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

Presently church cleaning is on hold.

### **FRIENDS OF RUSPER CHURCHYARD**

We are starting a working party to meet regularly on the first Monday of each month from 10am onwards to keep going with the clear up of the Churchyard. The next date being Monday 5th October. Do come along and join in. Remember to bring tools, gloves, and a refuse bag.

If a priest is required at short notice and Nick is unavailable, please contact the Churchwardens.

Rector	Revd Nick Flint	01293 871251
Churchwarden	Mr Chris Pearce	01403 268047
Churchwarden	Mrs Maggie True	01293 871722
Treasurer	Mr Michael Ward	01306 631786

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

## PETS IN PEWS

The blessing of pets and animals is often celebrated in October at the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Rusper welcomes all creatures great and small to our 'Pet Blessing Service' - a service for all the family including your much-loved pet.

Bring your furry friend, but it doesn't have to be furry. Last year a stick insect was the star turn and we are hoping this year we might get some scaly ones like goldfish or slimy ones like frogs. We invite you to join us to bless your pets on: Sunday, October 4th at 11am

We do hope that you and your furry, feathered or scaly friends can join us, and if your pet can't come why not bring a photo or cuddly toy



# Rusper Help

## Covid-19 Pandemic

A Volunteer Group has been set up to help residents of Rusper Parish who are self-isolating due to the Corona virus (Covid-19) and do not have a family member to assist them.

Volunteer support is available to help with shopping, collecting and delivering prescriptions or just being there for a phone chat.

## Do you need assistance?

You can contact one of co-ordinators listed below between 08:30 and 17:30 and they will find a Volunteer who can help you or chat on the phone to you:

Michelle Cooke (Rusper Parish Council) 07973 118747

Roland Allen (Rusper Parish Council) 07710 371195

Vanessa Davies 07977 988199

You can also email for assistance at [assistance@rusper-pc.org.uk](mailto:assistance@rusper-pc.org.uk)

## Shopping

If you are self-isolating Rusper Stores can deliver a grocery order to you. You can call them on 01293 871366 or email them at [info@ruspervillagestores.co.uk](mailto:info@ruspervillagestores.co.uk)

## Prescriptions

Please call one of the Assistance numbers above and a volunteer will be allocated to collect your prescription and deliver it to you.

More information is available at [rusperhelp.org.uk](http://rusperhelp.org.uk)

# RUSPER PARISH COUNCIL

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- Rusper Parish Council holds its **full meeting** on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm online
- **Planning** sub-committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month online
- Agendas for all meetings are posted on Parish noticeboards and the web site prior to meetings
- Public and press are welcome to attend both of the above meetings – please contact the Parish Clerk for details of how to join the meeting online.
- All correspondence for the Parish Council and requests for copies of the minutes of meetings should be sent by email to [clerk@rusper-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@rusper-pc.org.uk) or by post to: The Parish Clerk, Leanne Bannister, c/o Rusper Post Office, East Street, Rusper RH12 4PX.
- Full details of Parish Council meetings, proceedings and activities are available on the web site at [www.rusper-pc.org.uk](http://www.rusper-pc.org.uk) and the Rusper Parish Council Facebook page.

## **Summary of Rusper Parish Council meeting & Planning Committee meeting – July 2020**

*The full Minutes of these and all other meetings are available to view on the Rusper Parish Council web site [rusper-pc.org.uk/meetings](http://rusper-pc.org.uk/meetings). These Minutes are **draft and subject to change** until they have been confirmed at our next meeting. These meetings were held virtually due to the pandemic.*

## **Council – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Co-option of new Councillor:** Valerie Bender was co-opted and welcomed back to the Council.

**August meeting:** This will be cancelled unless an urgent matter emerges.



**Reports from other Authorities:** Cllr. Kitchen reported that the planning application for Stafford House has been recommended for refusal and will be decided at planning committee, there is a licence application for the Frog and Nightgown, a meeting has not yet taken place with Highways about the layby in Lambs Green.

**Licence application:** This was not sent to RPC for consultation, but Members wanted to ask for the licence to be put in place on a temporary basis so that impact to neighbours can be considered, and that the music on Sundays is restricted to an 8pm finish.

**Notice boards:** Two new notice boards will be bought at a cost of £3670 plus VAT from a local supplier.

**VE Day commemoration:** The local event for this was cancelled due to the pandemic and so it was proposed that budgeted money be put towards either a new gate for the playground, a WW1/WW2 information board, or commemoration bench. It was agreed to ask the History Group if they can find any relevant information.

**Playground:** It was agreed to reopen this subject to new terms and conditions and signage.

**Playground inspection:** This was done in February, and all items are showing as low risk. There are some minor works required.

**Neighbourhood Plan update:** The Independent Examiner has raised some questions, which have now been responded to. The Examiner should make a decision soon on whether or not to make any changes.

**Report from representatives:**

- Gatwick Airport has been actively undertaking a lot of activity relating to noise and pollution. The plans for the northern runway are moving ahead, but this are dependent on the restoration of air travel.
- RPC will write to the local MP to ask for the Local Plan timeline to be pushed back.

- The Rusper sign will be treated with Cuprinol.
- The Sports Pavilion is currently closed due to the pandemic.
- Volunteer deliveries for the shop have now stopped.

### **Clerk's report:**

- The websites have failed their accessibility audits, but there are only a few corrections to make.
- Various correspondence has been received from Communities Against Gatwick Noise and Emissions.
- Highways will allow RPC to replace the oak bollards on the High Street. The Clerk is getting quotes for this.
- The ground sockets for the Speed Indicator Device have now been ordered by Highways.
- An Estate Management Plan for Land North of Horsham is now available for comments.

Planning – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

### **Agreed responses to planning applications:**

DC/20/1078 Sports Horses International, Stud Farm: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application, but notes that this is an unsuitable location for residential development.

DC/20/1077 Sports Horses International, Stud Farm: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application, but notes that this is an unsuitable location for residential development.

DC/20/1058 Land adjacent to Stumbleholme Cottage: Rusper Parish Council has no objections to this application provided that a waste management scheme is accepted by environmental health, that there is no risk of runoff to the river and that there is a scheme in place to deal with disposal of waste.

DC/20/1110 Severn Cottage, Charlwood Road: Rusper Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

- The previous consent has lapsed so it should be treated as a new application.
- The height of the building is not suitable.

DC/20/1062 Ashfold Cottage, Horsham Road: Rusper Parish Council objects to this application as the height of building is out of keeping with area and goes above the hedge line.

DC/20/1173 Bonwycks Lodge Farm, Ifield Wood: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application provided that it remains ancillary accommodation to the main building.

DC/20/1179 The Old Coach House, Wimlands Lane: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application.

DC/20/1191 Land South of Star Cottages, Horsham Road: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application but requests that trees with a less invasive root system are replanted in order to protect the conservation area. Please be aware that this land is under the control of the brewery to The Star; this doesn't seem apparent in the application.

DC/20/1255 33 Wimlands Cottages, Wimland Road: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application but would like additional information about materials used and confirmation that they won't alter the appearance of the building.

DC/20/1241 Prestwood Paddock, Prestwood Lane: Rusper Parish Council objects to this application. It is felt that this application would have been refused due to the overall scale of building, if applied for correctly, as over-development in a rural setting and non-sustainable location with no public transport. Rusper PC also has serious concerns about adequate drainage being in place.

DC/20/1245 Benhams Barn, Friday Street: Rusper Parish Council does not object to this application.

### **Update on planning decisions:**

WSCC/081/19 Kilmarnock Farm – Refused

DC/20/0609 Benhams Barn, Friday Street - refused

DC/20/0745 Tamesa, Whitehall Drive – Permitted

DC/20/0480 Curtis Farm, Green Lane - permitted

### **Appeals received:**

DC/19/2216 Spinroute CCM Depot, Rusper Road: Rusper Parish Council believes the applicants cannot claim continuous use of the land as set out as their planning application DC/15/1159 was refused. Rusper Parish Council supports Horsham District Council's reasons for refusal on

Leanne Bannister

Clerk to Rusper Parish Council

c/o Rusper Village Stores, East Street, Rusper, RH12 4PX (07871 340986)

## **Rusper Village Stores (RVS) – Annual General Meeting and Update.**

It would be fair to say that even without the Coronavirus pandemic it has been an eventful year for the shop. Following Covid guidelines on public meetings, RVS has had to cancel its AGM, planned to be held in the Village Hall at the end of September. Instead information packs will be available for Shareholders, and interested parties to collect from the shop, similar to those circulated at the AGM.

In the summer we celebrated 20 years as a community owned village store and had a very well attended hog roast party to mark the occasion. Also after 18 years of dedicated service, David Manning left the shop for pastures new, and Kieran Widdows joined us to take over as the new shop manager.

Kieran was welcomed by an intensification of our computer problems, exacerbated by the efforts of Thames Water to make the shop much less accessible with on-going road closures from September almost through to March.

Despite these setbacks, and the need to control customer numbers in the shop to ensure social distancing, the business has recovered to thrive in the local community. The provision of a delivery service proved popular, provided by staff with some help from volunteers during the height of the pandemic, and this continues for the vulnerable in the parish.

In difficult trading conditions the shop achieved Sales of £459k, £20k or 4% down on the prior year. Gross Margins levels were sustained at over 27%, and despite increased costs, particularly in terms of bank charges - up nearly 40% to over £5k - a minor profit of just under £1k was achieved. The shop received some support in the form of a small business grant from local government, which was very



helpful, and latterly has managed to obtain some compensation for loss of profit from Thames Water.

Most importantly I should like to thank all our customers who have supported the shop throughout the year, and helped the business to succeed through a difficult period, and continue to flourish into this year, helping it to be a key focal point for the parish. Thank you for your patience with queuing systems and alterations to opening times necessitated by IT problems and social distancing measures. Kieran and his team have done a superb job with good humour, and continue to do so. We hope to expand the range of products and services provided by the shop in the coming months, so keep a look out for new developments... and new fridges and freezers....

Martin Wynn

Chairman RVSA and RVS Limited, On behalf of the Directors.

## **Rusper Chronicle local history group**

Due to Covid19 we have not been able to meet for the past few months, and now our plans to start well-distanced meetings again have been stopped by new government rules. However history research has been continuing, partly focussed on Rusper churchyard.

One interesting finding is that quite a few of those buried in the churchyard had strong Indian connections – through the Indian army, H.M. Civil Service or through railway building. What stands out is the high price often paid by wives and children, especially in the 1800's. One example of this is the story of Margaret Georgiana Seton-Karr.

In the churchyard there is a very large granite slab, lying flat, very close to the south wall of the church and close to the entry to the Broadwood vault. Now the writing is almost illegible, but we know what it says – we are very fortunate in Rusper that Jean Shelley recorded the graves in the church yard in 1980, and equally fortunate that in 1873 a clergyman, Ernest Ellman, also published a list of the graves in the Sussex Archaeological Collections.

This is what is on the stone: “Margaret Georgiana Seton-Karr daughter of Walter Scott Seton-Karr of H.M. Indian Civil Services and Eleanor Katherine his wife, born at Jessore, Bengal. February 3rd 1859, died October 7<sup>th</sup> 1868”. Also on the stone are commemorated a brother, born in 1857 who died at birth in India, and a sister Virginia Sophia, also born in India in 1866 who died aged 4 months.

Little Margaret Katherine was nine years old. She had an unusual surname for Rusper. So why was she buried here? It was fairly easy to track down her father’s prestigious career in the Indian Civil Service. His unusual Christian names of Walter Scott were because the famous writer was his godfather. His brother was also out in India in the Civil Service. But what was the connection with Rusper? A guess was that they were in some way related to the Broadwood family at Lyne, partly from the position of the grave near the Broadwood vault, and also that the stone next to it is to Kathleen Eleanor Longfield, a niece from Ireland, who was staying at Lyne when she died aged 26 in 1870. The Seton-Karrs were certainly in the Broadwood social circle – at the “wedding of the year” between Henry the second son of Henry Fowler Broadwood and Miss Ada Randolph Heath at Anstie Grange, Holmwood, their gift of a cabinet was listed in the local paper. Whether they were actually related we don’t know, though there is a mention of a Harry Cust – this was Margaret’s mother’s maiden name – in Lucy Broadwood’s diaries, so perhaps there was a relationship through Margaret’s mother?

Imagine how shocked we were to find that Margaret Georgiana, aged nine, had died at Earlswood Asylum (as it was called then), near Redhill. In the 1861 Census she is aged two, living with her maternal grandparents in London – her grandfather is listed as a clergyman, Canon at Windsor – who died that same year. We don’t know where she was living for the next seven years, till she was admitted to Earlswood four months before her death. Earlswood was a newly built asylum to care for those with mental disabilities who would previously have been kept in the workhouse and was opened in 1855 by Prince Albert. The

medical superintendent was John Langdon Down, who identified Downs Syndrome and gave it its name. Did little Margaret have Downs Syndrome? We know her father was back in India the month she died. Was her mother also back there? Two other brothers were born in India, Robert in 1861, and Walter in 1865, who survived and were at their father's funeral in 1910. To lose three children out of five, all born in India, is a very great loss, and it is sad to think of Margaret too buried alone here in Rusper far from her family. There are happier stories! Janet Wise, for example, who died only recently, has "born in Simla" on her gravestone – she must have felt her Indian connection was important to her. There are so many more stories to tell of people who were born, lived or worked in India but ended their lives in Rusper. We hope to tell some of them. Meanwhile let us remember little Margaret Georgiana.  
Margaret White

## **RUSPER GOOD NEIGHBOUR LINK**

Please do not hesitate to ask if you need transport to a doctor or dentist, chemist, hospital or any other emergency visit. The names listed below are the contacts who will take your call and probably drive you. However, if busy, they will ask someone else from our list of volunteer drivers. Please contact:

Angie Hill	871274
Carrie Johnson	871553
Naomi Vance-Webb	871575

## RUSPER CHURCH 200 CLUB

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

The result of the recent September 2020 draw is:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - £200	199	June R
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - £75	226	Liz K
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - £50	39	Coral G

*John Jory*



**RUSPER CHAT 2020**  
**Watch This Space. We will meet again!**



*ALL WELCOME!*



When so much is uncertain, life can feel overwhelming.

Previously we would gather at our coffee mornings at The Star and at Rusper Chat, which were always such jolly occasions with banter flying around the room and quieter chats filled with empathy and kindness.

During this period of change, we can still show kindness whether stuck in doors or not. Research shows that helping others can be beneficial to our own mental health. A smile or a wave from someone can make you feel better. That acknowledgement of recognition or of friendliness contributes to the positives in our day. As a species, connections are what we need.

What can we do to remain feeling connected while supporting others? A story recently on social media featured a homeowner whose CCTV camera kept pinging an alarm early in the morning. When he checked the video, he saw the culprit was a young child riding his bike on the drive way. At first the man was cross but then, aided by a suggestion from his wife, he went out with a piece of chalk and drew a track on the driveway. The next day the camera caught the child's excitement as he came across the track and proceeded to pedal around it. The man loved seeing the boy's pleasure and over the following weeks drew different tracks to surprise the child. Heartwarming is it not? Random Acts of Kindness can do that. I know of a Rusper resident who during lockdown found a box of chocolates on her doorstep. It was a complete mystery as to who had left it there but the thought was so cheering, adding so many positives to balance the challenges she was facing. It made her week!

Random Acts of Kindness could be?

1. ringing a friend you haven't spoken to in a while
2. sending someone flowers or leaving a treat on their doorstep
3. write a letter to a friend or neighbour
4. offer to pick up some groceries
5. pop round to a neighbour for a chat

Just suggestions made by The Mental Health Foundation to promote wellbeing and better mental health for everyone. Carrying out a Random Act of Kindness may take a little more imagination than usual but we are not short of that are we?

Remember Age UK WSB&H are here for you. Contact Horsham on 01403 260560.  
With best wishes, **Gaby Aldrich**

## RUSPER PARISH NEWS

### DONATIONS

This month we have received 4 donations. Thank you. Just £5 per household per year is fine and if you are not sure when you last gave I can tell you.

For direct Bank payments: Account No 00007348 Sort Code 30 94 41 Name PCC RUSPER MAGAZINE.

Thank you Valerie 871 412 [Valeriebowles39@btinternet.com](mailto:Valeriebowles39@btinternet.com)

### EDITORS

Remember to submit all items for the Nov. edition to the editor underlined by 14 October

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