



Our Harvest Service held on October 10th in Church

Ashurst. St James Parish E Newsletter Autumn 2021

Father Mark writes:



Dear Friends

As a boy I wrote something for my English teacher about the pleasure I took in kicking my way through fallen autumn leaves, in breathing in the seasonal autumn smells and noticing, each year, that particular day when the scent of autumn is first in the air; not to mention, as the autumn went on, the unique smell of smoke and fireworks. It is a sign of my becoming an adult that nowadays fallen leaves stand for hard work, and fireworks cause me irritation as they disturb my peace and quiet.

But 'the Child is the Father of the man', as William Wordsworth puts it. I still love the autumn, even though it is not entirely a happy time, carrying as it does a sense of wistfulness for the summer gone, an awareness of the dark nights growing and therefore of time running away from us. So perhaps it's inevitable that, each autumn, the church's year reminds us of heaven; beginning in late September with the feast of St Michael and all Angels (accompanied by his

seasonal daisies); going on in early November to celebrate All Hallows and its eve, and praying in All Souls-tide for the repose of the faithful departed; and, in December, remembering that 'Advent' was never intended to be a count-down to Christmas but rather an anticipation for the end of all things – recalling how our Lord told us to prepare ourselves for his second coming, to judge the living and the dead.

Of course, he also told us that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven only we must live as little children; given that, I'm pleased this reflection has inspired me to look up Wordsworth's poem, to find that this is exactly what the great poet was writing about: how we are lost if we forget the sense of wonder at his creation of a world he wanted to share with us, to make us ready for the all the joys of heaven.

Yours in the love of Christ

FM Mark

You can contact Father Mark on 01903 879877 or
at rectorofashurst@gmail.com

My heart leaps up when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!
The Child is father of the Man;
I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)





No one has greater love than this,
To lay down one's life for one's friends. *John15:13*

Let us remember before God
and commend to his sure keeping
those who have died for their country in war:
those who we remember and
whose memory we treasure.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: age
shall not weary them nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.

WE will remember them.

Over the Top (Ypres 1917)

*'Over the top and into the fray,'
Said the sergeant-major at break of day:
So over we went in the pouring rain,
Quite certain the push would be in vain.
The mud was deep and we feared it more,
Than the bullet or the big guns roar;
'It's more like hell,' the corporal cried,
'Much worse than hell!' someone replied.
Within seconds we were under fire,
'Not that way boys, there's more barbed wire,'
I heard the captain's distant cry,
Then in the mud I saw him die.
A barrage followed, I looked around...
So many lay upon the ground;
Their bodies mangled and dismembered,
And not one as I remembered!
Machine-guns stuttered on and on,
Their deadly work was never done;
'Fall back, Fall back!' the C.O. said,
Though all but he and I were dead.
The push had been just as we thought –
More sacrifice that came to nought!
Now, none would see another dawn,
And those at home would weep and mourn.*

With thanks to the Chapel of St George in the Parish
Church of St Mary de Haura, Shoreham-by-Sea

Open the Book at Ashurst Primary School

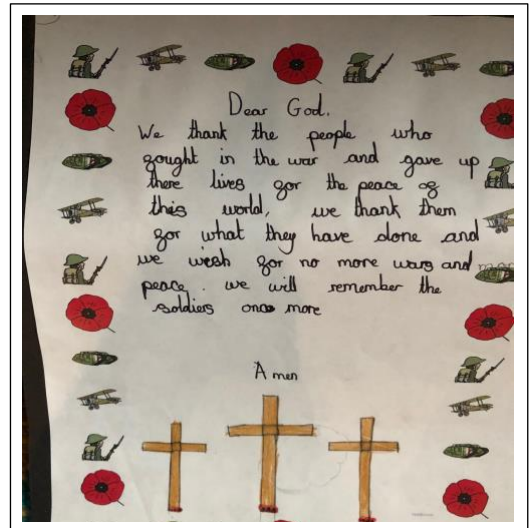
Ashurst St. James is delighted to be reinforcing the Christian faith in our lovely Village School with Open the Book. Designed to introduce children to some of the teachings in the Bible. Our first session was held in School and the story was 'A Special Promise'. Based on the story of Noah's Ark the tale unfolded with some wonderful props including a flying dove (it was actually a seagull but painted to look like a dove!) and some lovely piano music, the children joined in wholeheartedly. We will be holding another Open the Book towards the end of November with some of the schoolchildren also taking part.

Ashurst Primary School also came to a 'Start the New Year Service' held at the beginning of September in our beautiful Church to welcome new children and all the pupils to the School and to celebrate the start of a new School year. Shortly after that we held our Education Sunday Family Service.

The children from Ashurst Primary School have also been on a number of walks around Ashurst calling into our churchyard. We welcome so much their involvement with our Church and look forward to a very strong and continuing partnership with the staff and pupils of our very special Village School in the years to come.



Education Sunday



Let there be peace



Poppies and poems from the pupils of Ashurst Primary School



St James's PCC News

This year we have been fortunate enough to have held two lovely weddings at St James's. Our best wishes go to Chatty and Hugh and to Michelle and Phil in their new married lives together.

The Parochial Church Council would like to extend a warm welcome to Deborah Hanson who has recently joined us on the PCC.

We held our second Pet Service this July. All pets, and their owners too, were well behaved and seemed to enjoy the service, a significant part of which was held outside.



There was a good turn-out for our Harvest Service, with the altar being most tastefully decorated by the pupils of Ashurst Primary School. Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated food and produce.

Our annual Remembrance service was held on 14th November. There was a good turnout and a moving rendition of Jerusalem and the National Anthem.

In the coming months we hope to be obtaining permission to clean and repaint the names on the War Memorial in the church grounds.

Forthcoming Services include :

Our Family Advent service on Sunday 12th December at 10.30 a.m.

The Village Carol service on Sunday 19th December at 4pm, with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Our Christmas Day we have a Modern Eucharist Service at 10.30 a.m.

We do so hope you will be able to join us at all or some of these services.

Also if you would like to sing in the or to read one of the lessons Carol Service then please mail Susie on her e-mail at the of this Newsletter.

Pet Service - July 2021 >





Ashurst Parish Council Autumn 2021

A brief update on what we have been up to over the last few months.

Broadband in Ashurst

There are no real up-dates on the Broadband. We are waiting to hear back from Open Reach for the Partridge Green Exchange and with the Southern Exchange, while we believe work has started we have no dates for completion yet. For further information, please email Ashurst.broadband@outlook.com

Community Speedwatch

The Ashurst Village Council Speedwatch Group has been active in the heart of the village on the B2135 since June. The Group has 9 volunteers who freely give up their time to monitor and record speeds through the village in an effort to reduce excessive speeds and encourage drivers to adhere to the speed limits.

Each driver recorded at driving at an excessive speed is sent a formal letter from the Police and so far 86 letters have been sent from a total of 1283 recorded vehicles (6.7%) The fastest recorded speed has been 48mph in the 30mph zone.

In addition to the letters received, one driver had no valid MOT certificate, two vehicles were not taxed and one other driver was driving whilst the vehicle was SORN registered. The Police have taken further action with regard to those drivers.

Whilst the percentage of drivers driving at excessive speeds is relatively low, the continued presence of the Speedwatch Operators will ensure that this continues to be the case and the aim is to reduce that figure over time.



If anyone is interested in joining the Group, then please contact Les Nicholson at cllnicholson@gmail.com or telephone/message on 07597085095. There is no rota or commitment to regular sessions required. Sessions are entirely dependent on the availability and willingness of the volunteers to give up their time as they are able. Full training will be given.

Our Tree Warden

Our Tree Warden makes regular tree inspections in Ashurst and provides feedback on any issues of concern.

Earlier this year, extensive work was carried out on all the Recreation Ground trees by way of taking away any deadwood. Additionally, following professional assessment, major surgery is due on the large Oak. This 'severe trim' is scheduled to take place after Christmas.

Our Tree warden has also provided an update on those trees planted on the Recreation Ground earlier this year. The salient point being that we may need some help in the near future! You will have noticed that the weeds and grass have grown rather well around all those small trees that Ashurst residents and the School helped to plant in March. So we will shortly need to carry out some ongoing maintenance! As our tree warden points out, weeding and clearing round the new plants is as integral part of successful planting as is watering in dry weather.

As regards the bigger donated saplings, these have exceeded all expectations as to growth and health. The hazel wand protection has lasted very well but it is likely that these will need to be replaced later on. With regard to the threat from deer, the most vulnerable time will be early spring – so let's hope a deer fence works.

Vigilance with respect to watering will be needed for at least the next 3 years.

In April, we had a serious blackfly attack on the bird cherry, but one spray in the tops of the tree tubes seemed to fix this.

Recreation Ground

Ashurst is so fortunate to have its own Recreation Ground, for us all to enjoy. This was particularly evident during Covid when we were pleased to see how much it was used - by dog walkers, joggers, individuals playing football and even someone honing their golf skills!

While the School is now back and making full use of its 'extended playground', the Cricket Club and the Football Club have been unable to use the Ground and the Buildings during Covid. For them, it will take some time to assess what future 'normal usage' might be.

The Trustees regularly inspect the Recreation Ground to check that everything is in order and to see what maintenance work needs to be done to both the Ground and the Buildings. The fate of both the Cricket Pavilion and the John Eaton Hut, will need to be considered in the not-too distant future, since both buildings are gradually deteriorating. Either these buildings will need to be repaired or eventually replaced. If replaced, the idea of amalgamating the two buildings into just one sports building seems like a good idea. We now need to assess what the long-term, post-Pandemic, demands of a sports building might be and our various options.

Meanwhile the Council is very keen to encourage sport to be played again on the Recreation Ground, so if anyone has any ideas, please let us know.

Neighbourhood Plan

The idea of putting together a Neighbourhood Plan for Ashurst, has been discussed once more. It is felt that we should be thinking about having one. We will discuss with Horsham about how best to proceed with this.

Rampion 2 - Current proposals for underground cabling through Ashurst

We have not yet had any feedback on the Rampion formal Consultation that took place earlier this Autumn. Our Member of Parliament, Andrew Griffith, wrote to Rampion, making various representations on behalf of the community affected by the proposed Rampion route. A copy of his letter can be found on the Parish Council website. To date, he has received no reply. The Rampion website remains: [www.Rampion2.com<https://rampion2.com/>](https://rampion2.com/)

Meetings and Contact details

Our Parish Council Meetings have now reverted to actual meetings held in the Village Hall.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd December at 7.30 pm. (The Recreation Ground Meeting AGM is held immediately beforehand, starting at 7pm.)

If you have any questions for the Council you are invited to send them to our Parish Clerk, Liz Leggo, ashurstclerk@outlook.com.

Further Parish Council Information can be found on the website at www.ashurstparishcouncil.org

Please remember that we are here to represent you so please don't hesitate to contact us if you think we can help in some way.

Ashurst CE Aided Primary School

Autumn Term 2021



We are all pleased to be back in school for the autumn term and, as part of our commitment to church and community, we have enjoyed taking part in different services at St James's, including a 'New Beginnings Service' (for the first time!), Family service and Harvest, and are looking forward to 'Open the Book' visiting us in the next few weeks.



We had some mixed weather for our sponsored walks around our locality this year, but thoroughly enjoyed them none the less! We have elected our new Young Ashurst Governors this term and they sought the views of their peers before choosing which charities would benefit from our fundraising. They are delighted to announce that 'The Brain Trauma Trust', 'The Wholesome Warehouse' and the 'RSPCA' will each be receiving just over £231 - thank you to everyone who supported us with this.

Our Christian value for this term is Respect and we have been thinking about how we respect God, each other, ourselves and our world. The children's ideas about sustainable harvests are evident in their Harvest Art work, which we proudly displayed at Harvest Festival in St James'. (See the frontispiece photograph.)

In our PSHE this half term we are learning about celebrating differences - which is all about respect! We recently welcomed a drama expert during Black History month who worked with KS2 to broaden our understanding of people's experiences of The Empire Windrush, whilst EYFS and KS1 explored traditional stories from Jamaica.

On our 'Mental Health Awareness' day, we all dressed in our favourite rainbow colours to celebrate our individuality and raise money for 'Heads On' - an NHS Foundation Trust which supports mental health.

As we write, we are very much looking forward to singing our new school hymn 'Ring the Bell' for the first time in public at the 'Southdowns Concert Band' concert on 13th November 6pm in St Andrews' church in Steyning. We are also hoping that we can share it with you at family services at St James's in the future.

Kindest regards

Mrs Smith and all at Ashurst CE Aided Primary School.



Ashurst Village Hall Autumn Update:

The major event associated with the hall since the last newsletter, was the Ashurst Country Fair and Dog Show. Held this year on 5 September, visitors enjoyed perfect weather and came along in large numbers. The amount raised for hall expenses exceeded all previous shows, being in the region of £6,400. Huge thanks are in order for all the hard work carried out by the organizing committee.

At the last meeting of the Hall Trustees it was agreed that the hall hire charges discount for Ashurst Residents should be increased from 25% to 50% in recognition of all the support for the Dog Show.

Regular bookings for the hall are slowly returning to their pre-pandemic levels, and the ever popular children's parties are making an appearance.

The car park was recently resurfaced following alterations to the surface water drainage and the surrounding edges have been planted with daffodils and wild flower seeds.

Graham, Chairman of Village Hall Trustees
07966 518207. 01403 710015
thetimmsare@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS: As we go to press most of the village is engaged in Pantomime rehearsals! Pantomime tickets are selling fast so be sure to book early, to avoid disappointment.

Village Hall: December - Thursday 9th at 6.30, Friday 10th and Saturday 11th at 7.30pm
Box Office: 01403 710015.

Note: Cash only Bar on the night.

Ashurst Flix in the Stix Autumn 2021



Hello Filmonauts

Our last presentation on 30th October was 'Coucou' - a poignant film about a new venture (a restaurant) by the Immigrant community of the port of Sète in Southern France. The filmgoers were split with 2/3 giving us approval.

Our next presentation will be on 4th December 2021 with a Christmas themed film still to be advised. As always it will not be "run-of-the-mill".

Tickets are £6 to include free tea or coffee and biscuits. There will be the usual well stocked bar for drinks at reasonable prices and a special end of year raffle. So, pencil in 4th December in your diaries - Our last presentation of the year is always special!

Bob Harari. bob@flixinthestix.com

Our Twitter is Flix in the Stix @ashurstfilmsoc

Our Facebook page is at Ashurst Flix in the Stix

Ashurst W I Autumn 2021

I am delighted to report that Ashurst W.I is up and running again, meeting in the Village Hall on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. We have welcomed several excellent speakers, and we have some interesting and informative speakers planned for next year. We also visit gardens and arrange outings which are always greatly enjoyed. Please come along to a couple of meetings to try us out - you will receive a very warm welcome!

For more information please contact Vanessa on 01403 710015 or 07812 127801 or at vanessatimms@btinternet.com

Ashurst Produce and Flower Show Autumn 2021

This year's flower show was BRILLIANT, especially as it was a sink or swim situation. Questions were asked, was it too short a period from deciding to stage the event, to actually putting it on? How would the online entry work, would the entry system at the hall work, would we have any exhibitors?

Our worries were unnecessary, everything worked to plan, and the actual event was very successful.

Exhibits were good, culinary art, and the children's art were to a very high standard. Several helpers unfortunately missed mainly the entry team, but next year we hope to improve the system.

We have an Xmas dinner at the Fountain very shortly, generally having a drink and a nice meal. No doubt there will be a word about the show, and reminders of the next meeting when we plan for next year. Amended schedule and confirmation of event dates.

At this point we, the committee, would like to thank the village for its support not only of this year's show, but of all the previous shows. SO THANK YOU!

A merry Christmas to all, and keep SAFE !!

Geoff Cobby Hon Sec

Don't forget, we ALSO HAVE A WEB PAGE FOR THE FLOWERSHOW.

www.aashurstflowershow.co.uk

Autumn 2021 Nature Notes



Autumn Leaves



Geese on the move



A stunning Dahlia

As world leaders gathered in Glasgow for COP26, it has certainly felt as if climate change is firmly upon us. Autumn has been dry and warm with the leaves, oak in particular, seemingly only changing colour and falling to the ground with the greatest reluctance.

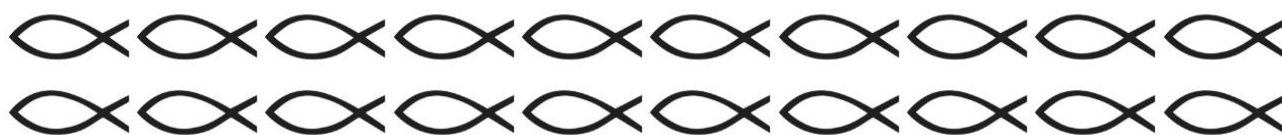
Autumn is a great time for birdwatching as the migration season gets underway in all directions; from swallows gathering on telegraph wires preparing to fly to Africa to geese arriving from arctic breeding grounds. Visits to RSPB Pulborough Brooks and WWT Arundel are thoroughly recommended while in Ashurst we have our own stretches of the Adur to catch sight of many waterfowl.

It's also been a noisy time for birds of prey as the youngsters leave the nest and try to establish their own territory. Barn owls, tawny owls, little owls, kestrels, sparrowhawks, buzzards and red kites can all regularly be seen or heard in the Ashurst area.

Time now to get the birdfeeders going to cheer up winter days by watching the fascinating spectacle of song birds and other hungry visitors to the tasty and ready meal on offer.

Deadline for the Spring 2022 Newsletter

Please note that the deadline for the next Parish Newsletter is **Friday 25th February 2022**. Please send items for inclusion either as an e-mail or as a Word attachment to susie.fischel@outlook.com. All contributions including photos would be most welcome.



Forthcoming Village Dates

Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting	Village Hall	Thursday 2 nd December	7.00 pm
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	Thursday 2 nd December	7.30 pm
Flix in the Stix - Film Night	Village Hall	Saturday 4 th December	7.30 pm
Pantomime (Dress Rehearsal) Box Office 710015 .	Village Hall	Thursday 9 th December	6.30 pm
Pantomime Box Office 710015 .	Village Hall	Friday 10 th December	7.30 pm
Pantomime Box Office 710015 .	Village Hall	Saturday 11 th December	7.30 pm
Family Service - Advent	Church	Sunday 12th December	10.30 am
Village Carol Service	Church	Sunday 19th December	4.00 pm
Carols	The Fountain	Friday 24 th December Christmas Eve	9.00 pm
Christmas Day Service	Church	Saturday 25th December	10.30 am
Family Service - Epiphany	Church	Sunday 9th January 22	10.30 am
Family Service - St Valentine's	Church	Sunday 13th February 22	10.30 am
Family Service - Mothering	Church	Sunday 13th March 22	10.30 am

Services at Ashurst St James are all held at 10.30 a.m. as follows:

2nd Sunday of the month: Family Service

4th Sunday of the month: Book of Common Prayer Eucharist

[NB 1st Sunday of the month: Zoom matins - Please contact the Rector if you would like to attend.]