

Ashurst St James
Parish E-Newsletter
Spring 2024



Father Mark writes:

We're more used to celebrating Easter in April but this year is one of the relatively few times when it occurs in March. The exact date is subject to the cycles of the Moon, calculated to fall on the Sunday following the first full moon that happens to fall after the March equinox (21 March). Originally the church wanted to keep the date close to Passover, when Jesus and his disciples shared the last supper, but Hebrew and Roman calendars went their separate ways, which means that Easter nowadays sometimes happens close to Passover and sometimes doesn't (as this year, when it won't take place until 22 April).

Passover, as you may recall from Sunday School (or learn from Wikipedia!) commemorates the 'Exodus' of the Hebrew people from captivity in Egypt, the evening their families evaded the avenging Angel of death and began the fabled journey that took them safely through the Red Sea. The Hebrew word (*Pesah*) which we translate as Passover may refer both to the 'passing-over' of the avenging angel that killed the Egyptian children and to the lamb whose blood was used to mark the entrance door of every Jewish household and keep them safe (Exodus 12:7-8). St Paul draws these ideas together when he calls Jesus our Passover lamb and refers to Jesus as our Paschal Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7) sacrificed to save the world from sin and death.

Notwithstanding the discrepancy between calendars this year, Easter is the Christian Passover, as we sometimes sing in the ancient hymn:

Christ, the Lamb whose blood was shed,
Paschal Victim, Paschal Bread!

With sincerity and love, eat we manna from above.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us –
therefore let us keep the Feast!

Yours in the love of Christ

Most holy God and Father,

*hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.
Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror
and conflict, bring us all, in the end,
to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord AMEN*

JAZZ IN THE CHURCH

SATURDAY, 18th MAY 6.00pm
St James's Church, Ashurst
(In aid of Church Repairs)

Followed by a 2 course supper in
Ashurst Village Hall with jazz
entertainment!

Entrance to the Village Hall will be by ticket only
£20.00. To register interest please e-mail
susie.fischel@outlook.com

Recent events

The annual Christingle making took place in School on December 11th which the school children really enjoy, helped by Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Timms, and Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Gregg. The children are then able to take their Christingles home and light the candle - it is all a lovely start to Christmas for the adults and the children!

Christmas 2023 at St. James's

Our annual Nine Lessons and Carols took place in the church on the 17th December and this lovely Service was really well attended by lots of Ashurst folk who also enjoyed the singing from our small Choir, and sampling the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards! This Service really helps to get everyone into the Christmas spirit and is always held at 4.00pm on the last Sunday before Christmas.

On Christmas Day, Fr. Mark led a well-attended Eucharist Service at 10.30. It gave our congregation an opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ and to wish all their friends and family a Very Happy Christmas!

SERVICES AT STEYNING AND **ASHURST** DURING HOLY WEEK 2024

PALM SUNDAY, 24th March

9.30 a.m. Palm Procession & Sung Eucharist at Steyning

Ride on! Ride on in Majesty! The crowds welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

Monday 25th March, Tuesday 26th March and Wednesday 27th March

11:30 a.m. Holy Communion with Meditation *Simple contemplative services at Steyning*

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 28th March

7 p.m. Liturgy of the Day at Steyning

Jesus shares the last supper with his disciples. We keep watch in the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY, 29th March

Midday Liturgy of the Cross at Steyning

2 p.m. Stations of the Cross at Ashurst

7:30 p.m. Sacred Concert at Steyning: Rutter's Requiem

We worship at the foot of the cross.

Easter Eve, Saturday 30th March

8 p.m. Easter Vigil & Blessing the Easter Garden at Steyning

Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!

We light the Easter Candle & greet our risen Saviour.

EASTER DAY, Sunday 31st March

9.30 a.m. Choral Eucharist of Easter Morning, Steyning

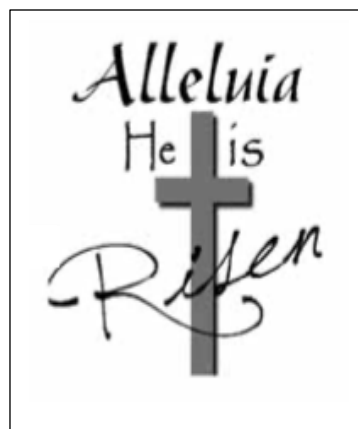
11 a.m. Parish Communion of Easter Morning, Ashurst

(Note the time change)

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children at both churches



THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Churchyard Notes

Spring 2024

Since the biggest job of the annual calendar, clearing away the longer grass at the end of Summer, the activities over Autumn and Winter have been relatively modest. It has been mostly leaf clearing, with a mini assault on brambles creeping in from the edges of the Churchyard.

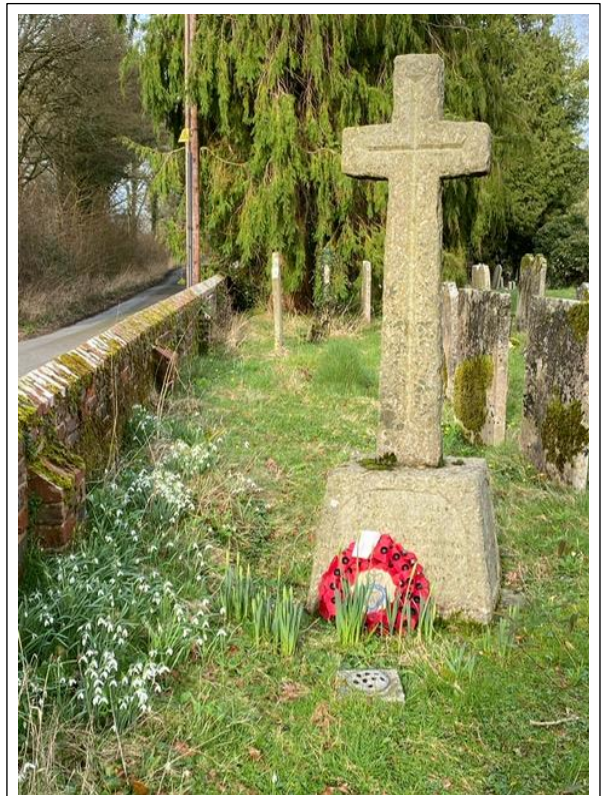
Some colours are now emerging with a good spread of snowdrops and the earliest primroses and daffodils coming into flower [see photo].

Tasks for early spring include a first mow of the paths, a makeover of the flowerbed and making space for this year's grass cuttings etc by shunting last year's pile back towards the fence.

We had a very pleasant and helpful meeting hosted by Katherine Heather with the Steyning churchyard team. Two very different churchyards, one in-town and one very rural, but many similar issues and a shared desire to make the respective churchyards a species-rich and valued community space ideal for peaceful reflection.

Inside the church is a folder about the churchyard which includes an extensive species - list recorded by a botanist a few years ago. This is a helpful reference point if you want to check any wild flower observations as you go for a wander in the churchyard.

David Fischel 21 Feb 2024
David.fischel@outlook.com 07710582843



The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ashurst Parish Council Spring 2024



Council meeting January 21 – Summary Update

There was the very sad news that HALC Chairman, Malcolm Eastwood, had passed away. A memorial on 16th February took place in Henfield.

Horsham District Council Plan

Since the last Newsletter, Horsham District Council (HDC) has produced its Local Plan. The Regulation 19 consultation which opened on 19th January ran until 1st March 2024, so is now closed. Of interest to Ashurst residents is the removal from the Plan of Buck Barn as a proposed new settlement. In addition, as a result of water neutrality, the annual required numbers have gone down from 1,100 to 826 per annum.

Setting the Budget for 2024/5

The Ashurst Precept has now been set at £14,100.

Ashurst Public Recreation Ground

The Councillors went to see the West Chiltington Cricket Pavilion. This was a useful exercise as it gave us an idea of what facilities we need, but we all agreed that Ashurst needed something much smaller with easy maintenance. We will be getting quotes on that basis.

Ashurst Village Clean-up day - Saturday 16th March - 10 am at the Village Hall.

Your councillors thought it was time we tried to give Ashurst a bit of a spring tidy up! As you will have noticed there's a lot of rubbish on the verges, particularly going North out of the village. So, we are asking for volunteers to give up an hour, an hour and a half of their time on Saturday 16th March, to help clear this up. If there are enough of us, we could also tackle the Recreation Ground, and go further afield - Spithandle, Peppers etc.?!

So please meet us at the Village Hall at 10 a.m. on Saturday 16th March, if you can, in as high visibility clothes as you can manage, gloves would also be useful. We'll give you collection bags. There will then be coffee/tea for you after your efforts (oh and maybe a photo!) at around 11.15/30. Hope to see you then.

Rampion

In February, Ashurst Parish Council submitted a representation to the Rampion 2 application for its development consent order highlighting that land owners and farmers in Ashurst, who owned or farmed land along the cable corridor route, felt aggrieved that their views have not been properly taken into account by RWE in planning the route.

Land owners and farmers in the village believe that RWE have made insufficient effort to listen to sensible and well thought out suggestions for alternative routes for the corridor.

Also, the proposed route does not fully take into account the full environmental impact of the proposed engineering works.

The plans for the cable corridor do not allow farmers to have full access for livestock movements, milk collection, the transporting of feed and forage, veterinary emergencies and staff access. The restriction on movement may have a detrimental effect on their businesses and finances. They also need reassurance that farm tracks damaged by the project construction will be fully repaired on completion.

Overall, it seems that RWE has not listened sufficiently to the concerns of property owners and farmers in the village and made steps to incorporate them into their plan for the route of the cable corridor.

Rampion 2 is currently going through its examination period which runs from 6th February to 6th August 24. Further information regarding the examination timetable can be found at:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117/examination-timetable>

Next Council Meeting

Our next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 7.30. It will be held in the Village Hall. Do come and join us if you can.

Contact details

Contact details of our clerk, Emily Simpson, are: ashurstclerk@outlook.com

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

There are currently two vacancies on the Council, so if anyone is interested then please do get in touch with Emily.

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 Public Recreation Ground

Ashurst Cricket Club

After successfully playing three matches last year, we hope to play at least as many this year - usually 2 pm starts on a Sunday finishing about 7pm with tea in the middle, between innings. Exact dates for the games should be available shortly.

We hope to capitalise on last year's enthusiasm and new players are always welcome - please contact either me, David Fischel, on 07710582843, or Rowley Gregg on 07850051850.

David Fischel Chairman Ashurst Cricket Club

Ashurst Football Club

A tough 2024! The year started so well with a 5-1 win over Southwater, but we've found ourselves in a bit of a sticky run of form since.

Ashurst suffered a 4-0 loss to a strong Slinfold side. Things didn't get any better when we played Brockham away. With availability low, we managed to field a side but unfortunately couldn't prevent a 4-1 loss. Needing a win to stay in the promotion race we faced Newidgate. This was a very tough affair in difficult conditions, but the boys fought hard to get a deserved 3 points in a 3 - 2 win.

Last weekend was Tony Kopp Quarter Day, and sometimes football just isn't kind.

We were by far the better team, but unfortunately, we just couldn't find the winning goal, and Henfield scored in the last minute to take us to penalties where we lost 2-1.

With 5 league games left, it's still all to play for, and the dream of promotion isn't dead just yet. The boys will continue to fight till the end, and who knows what could happen with a little bit of Ashurst luck!



The Friends of Ashurst Primary School Spring 2024

The Friends of Ashurst Primary School (FAPS) are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-ashurst-primary-school>

Thank you for your ongoing support,

The FAPS Team



Ashurst W I

Ashurst W.I. has a full programme of talks and visits this year. At our next meeting we have a speaker from Search Dogs Sussex. In April we are holding an Open Meeting which means everyone is welcome to hear from the Steyning and Upper Beeding Greening Group about how to improve our environment. The following month we will be welcoming a speaker from East Clayton Farm in Storrington to tell us about the work of the Lorica Trust. On 8th July we will be visiting the Pitfield Barn Cut Flower Farm and Studio.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30, and you are welcome to come along for a couple of visits before committing to join!

If you would like more information please contact Vanessa:

vanessatimms@btinternet.com 07812 127801 or 01403 710015
Vanessa Timms, President of Ashurst WI

Ashurst Flower Show

Spring 2024

We met on 24 January to discuss the schedule, and set a date for the Flower show. The date for the show will be 21 July, a Sunday, naturally the venue will be the Village Hall.

The schedule will be available on line. Last year's show was quite the success it always has been.

A question of revising the Sausage Soiree was mooted, more info to follow shortly.

The show is all about the village and the way it is supported by all. In the time the show has existed new village people have supported the show with exhibits, raffle prizes, and more importantly their time.

We need a good period of decent weather this year to help us all.

There will be more information as the year moves on.

Good luck with the garden.

Geoff Cobby Hon Sec

Ashurst Flix in the Stix

Spring 2024



Hello Fellow Filmonauts!

Our January presentation of 'Les Choristes' a French 2004 film proved to be what our biggest ever audience, since we started in November 2015, wanted to see. 66 people turned up and over 95% gave it 5 stars. Many, many thanks for that.

On 16th March 2024, your film will be 'The Miracle Club' at the Ashurst Village Hall @ 7:30pm.

Starring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates, Laura Linney, this warm & mostly gentle film tells a lovely story about a friendship, past mistakes, love and forgiveness.

Four ladies from Ballygar, Ireland join a group going to Lourdes hoping for personal miracles to happen.

The story moves briskly with some very funny moments mixed with many poignant ones.

Don't forget, when you introduce a new Filmonaut to a showing, you both get reduced entry tickets.

Bob Harari - Ashurst Flix in the Stix.

Bob Harari (bob@flixinthestix.com)

Ashurst Village Hall

Spring 2024

Following on from hosting the very successful panto, the main hall walls including the stage end have had their bi-ennial repaint. Thanks are due to Chas Hammond, Chris and Paul Jesse.



Over the years the hall has lost a number of summer bookings because hirers are looking for a secure outside area which is safe for children. Rob Russell researched this issue and found a temporary fencing system that can be put in place as required. See photo.

Over the past 2 or 3 months booking enquiries have increased and in the Spring the hall is hosting its first wedding since before Covid.

Unfortunately running costs have also increased and so the Trustees would be very grateful if Ashurst folk could tell their friends and spread the word that our wonderful hall is a great venue for various events.

The village Harvest Supper will be held in the hall on Saturday 5th October, please save the date.

Graham Timms. Chairman of Trustees.

07966 518207 01403 710015

thetimmsare@btinternet.com

Ashurst Pantomime December 23 Goldilocks and the Seven Bears

December 2023 heralded the eagerly anticipated Ashurst Pantomime, expertly written and directed by Nick Dutton and heroically produced by Sarah Powel (despite an injured shoulder). With a narrative as intricate as a finely woven tapestry and a plot thicker than gravy on a Sunday roast, this year's production told the story of Goldilocks (played so elegantly by our Hannah Powel) and rather a lot of bears who got into all sorts of trouble.

Lord and Lady Ashurst, parents of Goldilocks, disappear off to Spain for a mini break, leaving Goldilocks to navigate her approaching birthday party with the help of the hapless Palace Guards. Enter the wicked duo, Creepy Crawley and Farty Partridge, whose dastardly machinations threaten to disrupt the celebrations, with their daughters Clip and Clop at their side.

But lo, who comes here? Rodney the Ridiculous roars his Way up the aisle and down a very large series of rabbit holes. Amidst the chaos, a vast cast of characters weave their way Into the plot. The Spice Girls spiced up our lives as they grooved their way through a porridge making triumph. The Royal Beekeeper, with an array of different accents for different performances fiercely instructed the audience, 'Do not open the box!'

Nobody opened the box, thank goodness, or that would have been a whole can of worms...

Cinderella popped by! Looking marvellous in a sparkly frock and gorgeous hairdo, Cinders delighted the audience and got chatted up by the rather natty News Reader before she meandered off to her other pantomime over in Partridge Green. There entered a series of bears, namely Pooh, Yogi and Paddington, with the Don't Care Bears delivering a powerful punch. Even Bear Grylls made a surprise visit! Snow-White valiantly kept stock of all the bears, including our youngest cast member, Brodie Bear, aged 2!

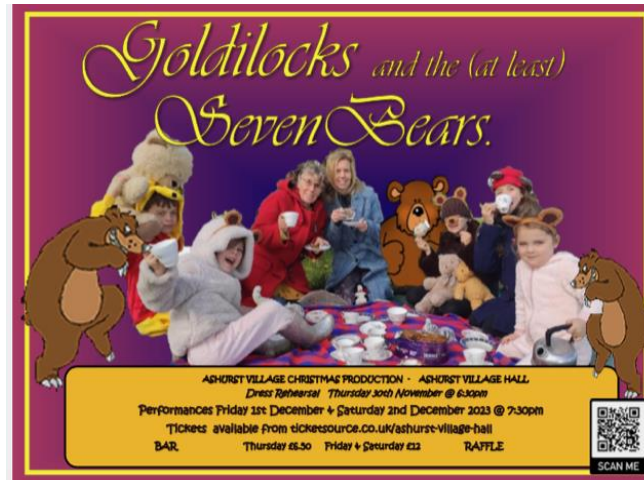
Red Riding Hood showed her true colours as she sorted out the wolf once and for all. The Wicked Witch was wonderfully wicked but also branched out as a tree which rather stumped us.

The film, as ever, raised the bar for silliness and fun, with the dulcet tones of Al Henderson giving the commentary like no other. The bears had a picnic, as bears always do in woods. The Palace Guards, Red Hiding Hood, Creepy Crawley, Rodney, the Spice Girls, and Farty Partridge all added to the madness. Happily, Goldilocks escaped Creepy's creepy clutches and ended up in the village hall, having been severely reprimanded by the Speed Awareness team.

As the plot unfolded with all the twists and turns that is the Ashurst Panto, it was Rodney who emerged as the unlikely hero, thwarting any villainous plans with a stroke of genius. Capodimonte! And in the end, Jack's tender love for Goldilocks was rewarded by Red Riding Hood grabbing him for her own, as it turned out that Goldilocks preferred Dick to Jack.

Throughout it all, we may have occasionally lost our 'bearings' but were always kept on track by Nick on the side-lines, handing out our lines like sweeties as fast as we forgot them and encouraging us on as we romped our way through Panto 2023.

And finally, thank you to our wonderfully named 'back stage helpers' - the lighting, sound, scenery, costumes, stage management, bar, tickets, and programme crews, for all their hard work. What stars you are. So ...until the next time!



Ashurst goes to Crufts – with Anna!

Spring 2024

We had a great Crufts week, which started with bathing three very hairy Standard Poodles on Monday. We went to Essex on Tuesday for some finishing touches on their coat trimming and then there was more bathing on Wednesday. A quick load of the car and we headed up to Solihull Wednesday evening to settle into our hotel. Three of the dogs came with us, Henry, Rosa and Hunter (one of my June 2023



Pucker up Anna Fisher with her standard poodle Henry VIII on the first day of Crufts at Birmingham NEC yesterday. More than 24,000 dogs are taking part. Page 13

puppies, born and bred in Ashurst).

They were all superstars – Hunter was 2nd in his puppy class, Rosa was 5th in Junior and although Henry wasn't placed he walked away with the biggest win - as a front page cover star in The Times. We arrived home on Friday evening absolutely knackered! Saturday was bath day again, washing out all of the topknot hairspray ready to do it all again next weekend at a show in Kent. So proud of the dogs, they went brilliantly and were so well behaved.

Ashurst Nature Notes

Spring 2024

We are fortunate to have a good range of habitats in and around Ashurst. Notably, the Western Adur runs under Bines Bridge before meeting the Eastern Adur in the flood plain between Ashurst and Henfield and then, as the River Adur, heading to sea at Shoreham.

In winter, the flood meadows east of Bines Green are host to significant numbers of waterfowl and waders. Most winter mornings and evenings in Ashurst are cheered up by the sound of geese, mostly Canada Geese, sometimes greylags, and duck, mostly mallard, moving through the village from their overnight stay to daytime feeding grounds and vice versa. More exotic species can often be spotted - Egyptian and barnacle geese, wigeon, teal and even mandarin duck.

Other waterbirds regularly visible include swans, herons, cormorants and snipe in marshy ground. If you are really lucky down by the river, you will catch the flashing colours of the kingfisher.

Cold snaps are a good time to get a glimpse of occasional visitors such as woodcock in the Spithandle woods, redwings and fieldfares.

Recently, a pair of bullfinches were spotted in and around the Recreation Ground. Not long now before the arrival of summer migrants from cuckoos to warblers and the next few months are an excellent time for bird spotting before the leaf canopy makes the birds much harder to see.

In the woods, primroses are now flowering everywhere and spring favourites such as bluebells, celandine, dog's mercury, Lords-and-Ladies are rapidly emerging in preparation for the great Spring show.



Ashurst CE Aided Primary School Spring Term 2024



It might be a little too late to wish you all a happy New Year, so we will wish you a happy spring instead! We are all pleased to be seeing the daffodils and blossom around the village, even if we are constantly sheltering from the rain.

In our last newsletter we were looking forward to celebrating our Sesquicentennial anniversary. We had a wonderful Victorian Day, in the morning we welcomed our local MP, Andrew Griffith, who planted a commemorative tree in our woodland learning area.



During the day we followed an appropriate curriculum for the era and as you can see from the photographs, we had a great deal of fun in our role play as pupils and staff from the Victorian times.





In the afternoon we welcomed local clergy including Bishop Ruth, Fr Mark, Revd Caroline, Diocesan and local authority partners Trevor Cristin, Ruth Cummings and Helen Gabrielides, along with governors and previous headteacher Janet Williams, to a service of Thanksgiving and to formally open 'Kings Grove'.

We sang our school hymn, 'Ring the Bell' and Bishop Ruth blessed the area before cutting the special green Ashurst ribbon. Needless to say, we all enjoyed a celebratory piece of cake afterwards!



In the evening the school celebrated with music and dancing and crepes at the village hall and then suddenly it was Saturday and our Open Day!

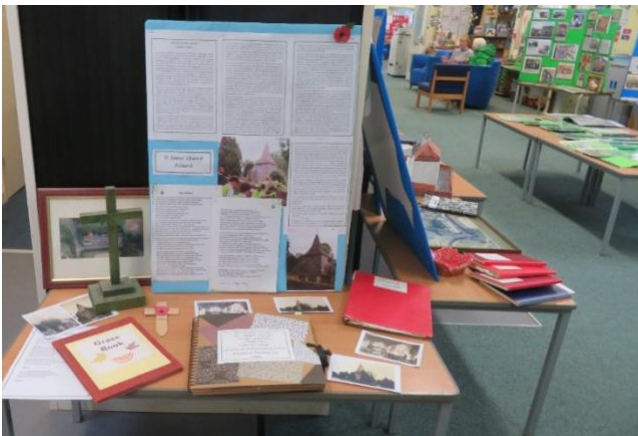
We were delighted to welcome so many local people, past pupils and families, past staff and governors as well as several generations of some families!





Exhibits included a showing of the BBC film clip from when the school celebrated 100 years in 1973, photographs of building projects, local history, a time line of Ashurst School, a

sound bite of Noel Dumbrell's memories of Ashurst, extracts from the school log books going back over 100 years, children's art work and sports day cups and photographs and many memories of past coronations and jubilees.



Visitors had the opportunity to write in a special book and to add some sewing onto our 1973-2023 commemorative banner. We had such a wonderful day, and made so many more memories.



As we are still in our anniversary year, we are continuing with our **150** theme. Our next venture is to collect 150 'Jars and Jams' to deliver to the Wholesome Warehouse, one of our chosen charities, before Easter. If you are able to contribute a 'jar' or a 'jam', please contact the school.

We look forward to seeing you in the very near future.
Kindest regards

Mrs Smith and all at Ashurst CE Aided Primary School.

Achieving together with Love, Hope and Joy."

Church Cleaning

Spring and Summer 2024

We have a small band of volunteers doing the church cleaning, however, we would really appreciate having a few more willing helpers to swell the numbers. So will anyone who is prepared to give up a couple of hours every 6 months or so to help keep our wonderful old church looking well loved and cared for, please contact susie.fischel@outlook.com



Forthcoming Village Dates

Village Clean-up day	Village Hall	Saturday 16 th March	10.00 am
Flix in the Stix - Film Night	Village Hall	Saturday 16 th March	7.30 pm
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	Thursday 21 st March	7.30 pm
Easter Service Followed by an Easter Egg hunt	Church	Sunday 31st March	11.00 am (Note time)
Family Service for Eastertide	Church	Sunday 14th April	10.30 am
Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	Thursday 9 th May	7.30 pm
Family Service – Ascension, followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Church	Sunday 12th May	10.30 am/ 11.30 am
Jazz in the Church (and in the Village Hall)	Church/ Village Hall	Saturday 18th May	6.00 pm/ 7.30 pm
Family Service – God’s Acre	Church	Sunday 9th June	10.30 am
Family Service	Church	Sunday 14th July	10.30 am
Flower and Produce Show	Village Hall	Sunday 21st July	Public from 2.00pm
Patronal Sung Evensong	Church	Sunday 28th July	4.00 pm



Deadline for the Summer 2024 Newsletter

Please note that the deadline for the next Parish Newsletter is **Friday 21st June 2024**.

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.

Many thanks to all contributors to this Newsletter – they are much appreciated.

