

THE WEST WIGHT BENEFICE BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2025

with details of services, events, who's who and what's what!

The FYT PARISHES

ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER ▪ ST AGNES, FRESHWATER BAY ▪ ST JAMES, YARMOUTH ▪
CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY and

The North and South RURAL PARISHES

ALL SAINTS, CALBOURNE ▪ ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, SHALFLEET
HOLY SPIRIT, NEWTOWN ▪ ST SWITHIN, THORLEY
ST MARY'S, BROOK ▪ ST PETER'S & ST PAUL'S, MOTTISTONE
ST MARY'S, BRIGHSTONE ▪ ST PETER'S, SHORWELL

**You can find further information on church websites, in church porches
and on the pages of 'A Church Near You' www.achurchnearyou.com**



"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you." Deuteronomy 32:7

CLERGY THOUGHTS

One of the tragedies of losing our memory is the loss identity that follows. Our story tells us who we are and connects us with those around us. When we forget these things, we become lost in sea of confusion and anxiety. This is as true, not only for individuals, but communities and nations as well.

November ushers in a season of remembering and re-telling our stories. The way we tell those stories shapes how we remember the past. As we recount the role we played, it reveals something of the people we aspire to be in the here and now. What parts of our national story inform and help us in our current challenges? What were the values that inspired the courage and sacrifices of two world wars and the conflicts that followed?

Many would say it was about freedom and democracy, justice, and peace, a stand against evil and hate, division, and an ideology of racial supremacy.

Are they still the values that our nation stands for? If so, what does that look like in 2025 and as we go into 2026? As Christians how is Christ speaking to us and the world we live in today? What are we remembering and more importantly, what might we be forgetting?

How might the Eucharist, our own act of remembering, be speaking to us as we meet Sunday by Sunday? At the table we remember how Christ gave himself for all humanity to defeat the power of sin and darkness and free us to live with and in him, sharing his new resurrection life. The life that embraces the alien and the stranger because we are all neighbours. A love that has no space for hate and division, but speaks truth and challenges injustice, wherever we find it. A life that lives in hope because we trust in God's goodness, rather than the desired outcome of our prayers.

Every retelling of Jesus story confronts us with both the depth of evil and height of God's power and love. God folded our sin into the person of the crucified Christ and then raised us with Christ to live his resurrection life. Jesus' story becomes our story as we are re-membered with him and brothers and sisters across the globe through the sharing of bread and wine.

'Blessed are those who share in the bread of the Kingdom of Heaven.' Luke 14:15

Blessed indeed. May our remembering shape our living and our living bear witness to the Kingdom we proclaim.

Rev'd Jackie

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER AND ST AGNES, FRESHWATER BAY

OUR REGULAR SERVICES ARE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICES LIST IN THIS BULLETIN

SAT 1st NOV – an ALL-SOULS SERVICE for Remembering loved ones. 3.00pm All Saints Freshwater with refreshments from 2.30pm

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE – Please note that our service for Remembrance on 9th November will start at 10.00am.

ST AGNES COMMUNION – For the winter months our Sunday evening **Holy Communion at St Agnes will start at 4.30pm**

SAT 22nd NOV – CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE and REFRESHMENTS 2pm—4.30pm.
Parish Hall, Victoria Road, Freshwater

MON 24th NOV - CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER – ST AGNES CHURCH – 6.00pm for around 45 mins. *“In contemplative prayer, we learn the art of finding ourselves in God in stillness and in silence. As St John of the Cross said, “Silence is God’s first language.”* ALL WELCOME.

MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER and SOUP LUNCH ALL SAINTS – First Thursday of each month at 11.30am at All Saints Church, Freshwater. All welcome. No need to book.

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY Meet **First Saturday** of each month. All welcome.

The **FLOWER TEAM** are happy to do special arrangements on a particular Sunday to commemorate special memories/events. Plenty of notice and a small donation would be all we need. If you would like to try your hand at arranging - contact Jan Evans at jan_evans@btopenworld.com.

THE CRAFT GROUP will meet in All Saints on **Mondays 10th and 24th November**. All welcome for craft, tea and chat. Bring a project or join in with the church craft ideas.

ALL SAINTS BELL RINGERS meet on **Wednesday evenings** from 6pm to 7pm – new ringers welcome.

MOTHERS’ UNION meet in the Parish Hall at 2.30pm on the **first Tuesday** of the month.

ALL SAINTS CHOIR practice **Friday evenings** at 6.30pm. New members welcome (No audition required).

CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY

OUR REGULAR SERVICES ARE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICES LIST IN THIS BULLETIN

NOVEMBER

SAT 1st NOV – All Souls service at All Saints Church – 2.30pm for 3.00pm service

SUN 2nd NOV – the return of the church breakfast. Breakfast at 10am, Morning Worship at 11am.

SUN 9th NOV - Remembrance Sunday - A choice of services:

The Royal British Legion Parade will be in Yarmouth followed by a service in St James Church.

At Christ Church, **we will have our own service starting at the earlier time of 10:45am** with live streaming of the ceremony at The Cenotaph.

SAT 15th NOV – West Wight Festival of Music at Christ Church. Further details to follow.

SAT 29th NOV – 10.30am Church Coffee Morning in aid of Mountbatten Isle of Wight

DECEMBER

FRI 5th DEC – 7pm - CONCERT - the Simon Langton Grammar School Chamber Choir

WED 10th DEC – 7pm – CONCERT – the West Wight Choir

SAT 20th DEC - Carols by Candlelight at 5pm followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

Christmas Eve – Midnight Communion. Start time tbc.

Christmas Day – 11am, a family-friendly service for Christmas.

TUESDAY AFTERNOONS 4pm – 5pm, Vision Prayer. Please join us to pray for the current and future ministry of Christ Church both as a church and as part of the wider communities of the West Wight Benefice of CofE Churches and Churches Together in West Wight.

ST JAMES, YARMOUTH TELL ▪ TEACH ▪ TEND ▪ TRANSFORM ▪ TREASURE.

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES ARE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICES LIST IN THIS BULLETIN

Please note – our service on **SUN 2nd NOV** - this will be a Communion Service at 11.00

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 9th NOV – The main West Wight Parade this year is in Yarmouth. Meet in the Square at 10.45 – there will be a service in church after the laying of wreaths.

ST MARY’S, BROOK and ST PETER & ST PAUL, MOTTISTONE

Between us at **St Mary’s, Brook** and **St Peter & St Paul, Mottistone** we have a service each week so why not ENJOY A CHANGE OF SCENE OR STYLE FOR YOUR WEEKLY WORSHIP BY VISITING us St Mary’s Brook or St Peter & St Paul Mottistone.

SUN 2nd NOV	BROOK	6.00pm	EVENSONG
SUN 9th NOV	MOTTISTONE	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION
SUN 16th NOV	MOTTISTONE	6.00pm	EVENSONG
SUN 23rd NOV	BROOK	9.30am	HOLY COMMUNION

ST MARY’S, BRIGHSTONE

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES ARE INCLUDED IN THE SERVICES LIST IN THIS BULLETIN

In addition to our regular Sunday services –

SAT 1st NOV – at 2.30pm - You are invited to a Dedication Ceremony of the newly restored Lychgate at New Road Cemetery, Brighstone. All welcome This event is in thanksgiving of the generous donations received towards the restoration of this historic Brighstone landmark. There are refreshments at the Lychgate after the short dedication (if raining the dedication will go ahead with umbrellas but refreshments in the church!)

You are invited to a **CELTIC ENCOUNTER –**

The Kingdom - Our Path and Our Destination

THUR 6th NOV at 3pm Olive Garden, St Mary’s Churchyard, Brighstone. In church if wet.

Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

Further information text or ring Alison on 07870 509153.

If wet the Celtic Encounter will be held in the church.



ST PETER’S, SHORWELL

SUNDAY SERVICES THIS MONTH

SUN 9th NOV	10.45	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE with HOLY COMMUNION
SUN 23rd NOV	11.00	MORNING WORSHIP

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SAT 1st NOV	10am to Midday	CHURCH GARDENING - last one of the year.
WED 19th NOV	10am to Midday	BACON BUTTIES at Shorwell Parish Hall.
THUR 20th NOV	10am to Midday	COFFEE MORNING for the Church Fabric Fund – with the Brighstone Barnacles and photography prints by Colin Bushell
TUES 25th NOV	2pm to 4pm	CRAFT AFTERNOON at St. Peter’s.

Friday 14th November 7pm to 9pm Romans, Saxons – and Jutes? The Archaeology of Southwest Wight Part 2 – talk by Alan Phillips at Shorwell Parish Hall. Please register your interest to attend in advance with David Lumley by email shorwellpccsec@gmail.com

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who decorated and helped with the Harvest service, especially to Karen Smith and John Knox who provided the potatoes and wheat. Thank you to Kenny Morris who helped with the gardening waste from the last two tidy-up sessions. Another big thank you to the Midsummer Fair for their donations.

Future Events: Wednesday 17th December, Carols in the pub, 6-7pm, The Crown Inn, Shorwell.

Get in touch: Barbara & Richard: shorwellchurchwardens@gmail.com

David: shorwellpccsec@gmail.com

ALL SAINTS, CALBOURNE

SUN 2nd NOV 16.00 PATRONAL SERVICE

SUN 9th NOV 18.00 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR THE CALBOURNE VILLAGE NEWS FOR DETAILS OF OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS.

ST MICHAEL'S, SHALFLEET

Our Sunday services this month are:

SUN 9th NOV 10.50 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUN 23rd NOV 11.00 HOLY COMMUNION

ST SWITHINS, THORLEY

Our regular 2nd Saturday coffee morning continues to be held from 10am – 11.30am All welcome.

Our services this month -

SUN 2nd NOV 11.00 HOLY COMMUNION

SUN 9th NOV 10.45 COMMUNITY ACT OF REMEMBRANCE in the Churchyard

SUN 16th NOV 09.30 MORNING WORSHIP

BOOKS & JIGSAWS FOR SALE/EXCHANGE – we have a permanent feature at the back of the church.

FOOD BANK BOX - back of the Church - Please remember to support this vital service.

HOLY SPIRIT, NEWTOWN (and Porchfield Village Hall)

Our Sunday services this month at Holy Spirit, Newtown -

SUN 2nd NOV 09:30 HOLY COMMUNION

SUN 9th NOV 15.00 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

SUN 16th NOV 15.00 EVENING PRAYER

You are invited to A **CELTIC ENCOUNTER - The Kingdom - *Our Path and Our Destination***

A short time of Celtic style Christian worship

Tuesday, 11th November at 3pm

at PORCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Refreshments afterwards. All welcome.

Further information text or ring Alison on 07870 509153.



ADVENT

Sometimes Advent passes us by. One minute it's Harvest and Remembrance then suddenly it's all about the big day in December. We're busy planning and shopping and organising and bustling about. We're thinking about Carol Services and Concerts and Christmas Trees Festivals. Then maybe there's an office party to go to, family get togethers to arrange and presents to get wrapped and cards to write. We don't always get a chance to pause and reflect and remember that Advent is a time for quiet anticipation – a time to pause and consider the true meaning of Christmas. /...

This year Mark is giving us the opportunity to stop, come together and then reflect on themes important at this time of year.

- **ADVENT PRAISE** First - November gives us a fifth Sunday so **the whole Benefice service on 30th November will be one of Advent Praise.** Please let Mark know if you would like to read or offer intercessions. Musicians – please arrive at Christ Church at 10.00am on the day.
- **ADVENT REFLECTIONS** Then - **there will be a chance to attend some short sessions of Reflection for Advent** - either at St Agnes Freshwater Bay (Tuesdays at 6.30pm on 2nd, 9th, 16th December) or St Mary's Brighthstone (Mondays at 1.00pm on 1st, 8th 15th December).

The **WEST WIGHT BENEFICE**
gathers to celebrate



in Music and Word
on **ADVENT SUNDAY**

11.00am,
November 30th
at
Christ Church, Totland Bay

... All Welcome!



*...to
Wait
in
Joyful
Hope...*

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Rushing around so busily in December? Too much Christmas before Christmas? Not enough time to dwell on the longing watchfulness, and breath-held expectations of the Advent season, of dwelling in the promise of the coming Messiah, of the coming light in the darkness?

... if so, then take a break out of the rush and join us for a 30 minute time of quiet reflection, and dwell with the deep themes of this important season in the Church's year—of light and darkness, of beginnings and ends, of judgement and hope...

At St Agnes, Freshwater Bay

Tuesdays 2nd, 9th. & 16th, December at 6.30pm

At St Mary's, Brighthstone

Monday 1st, 8th & 15th December at 1.00pm

WEST WIGHT BENEFICE

OTHER NEWS FROM IN AND AROUND THE WEST WIGHT BENEFICE

CURATES' CORNER –

As we quietly approach the holy season of Advent, we are invited to quietly make space in our hearts for the coming of Christ and I would like to share something from my recent experience at a silent retreat in a convent.

Intentional silence and fasting are sacred practices that help us to still the noise of the world within us, to listen out for the gentle voice of God. I discovered that silence was not merely the absence of my voice. It was a deeper quieting of the mind. Without radio, book reading and my usual goal-focused approach in crafting and cross-stitch, I learned to be still.

'Be still, and know that I am God' – Psalm 46:10

During a silent retreat, we are removed from social norms—such as making eye contact, acknowledging someone when opening a door, or engaging in conversation during a meal. These things are part of our natural desire for connection and belonging and are difficult to leave behind. Being on retreat is like being given permission to put aside this normal and natural behaviour, thus enabling people – enabling me - to experience a deeper level of silence.

In cross-stitching, which I did during the silent retreat, I found a gentle rhythm: the colours, the careful counting of squares, the image slowly taking form. For once, I was not thinking toward completion but resting in the moment. I came to understand that reading about God, (which I do several times a day) is not the same as being with Him. Through guided practices, I was invited to move from thinking *about* God to *being in* His presence—a quiet communion beyond words or achievement.

The monastic 'Greater Silence' is a sacred period, observed from the end of evening prayer (Compline) until after morning prayer (Lauds), a time set apart for deep interior stillness, prayer, and rest in God's presence. Withholding words, one creates space for listening with the heart, allowing the soul to settle after the day's labours. The Greater Silence also helps preserve the contemplative atmosphere of the community, reminding us that our first conversation is with God.

In the Bulletin you will have come across 'quiet days' – I'm thinking Carisbrooke Priory and more recently the 'quiet morning' at Porchfield. What is the difference between a 'silent retreat' and a 'quiet day'?

The main difference is the level of structure and communication involved. A silent retreat is an extended period of intentional silence, often in a group setting, where each person refrains from talking and other forms of communication. It includes activities like gentle movement, meditation, walks, meals, and rest, with some retreats having rules like "no eye contact, no reading, no writing." In contrast, a quiet day is a more flexible experience, allowing participants to reflect, read, or use journaling apps during designated hours, and may include refreshment breaks and opportunities to worship or share experiences with the group.

In the retreat I attended, I learned it is not merely about an absence of words. It is an opening of the heart—an invitation to listen. During the retreat, those small social courtesies like eye contact or a greeting were set aside, allowing me to enter more deeply into the sacred quiet. At first, it felt strange, even uncomfortable. For those know me, as an extrovert who delights in conversation, colour, and connection, I don't often seek silence—so this retreat was both a challenge and a gift. But soon I found myself resting in a peace that words could not hold, and now I am hungry for it - and arranging my next stay at the convent.

I mentioned earlier - the "Greater Silence" and this, I realise, is my favourite period. It is a sacred pause—a time to let my soul rest in God's presence after the day's labours. It reminds me that our first and most important conversation is always with God.



Sister Ruth Elizabeth taught me a simple trick—use a prayer stool or sit astride two hassocks stacked up—so you can pray comfortably without losing all feeling in the legs!

As Advent draws near, my hope is that you too can find moments of "greater silence" in your lives—pausing the constant motion, intentionally creating small spaces for stillness, contemplation and prayer.

May we enter this Advent season with an attentive heart, ready to receive the gift of *Emmanuel*, God with us.

Revd Charlotte

MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

Following an announcement in the last Bulletin - a 'core group' has been established for the men's breakfast meetings which will be held on the last Saturday of each month with an early start and prompt finish. Anyone wishing to express their interest – please contact with Chris Jagger on chrisjagger42@gmail.com or text to 07818675528.

THE WEST WIGHT CHOIR, with guest accompanist James Longford,

will perform Fauré's Requiem and **A Christmas Mass by Ronald Corp, in Christ Church, Totland Bay at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10th December 2025**. Tickets £10 at the door, in aid of the Mountbatten Hospice. Refreshments will be available during the Interval in aid of the Church.

A review - CELTIC ENCOUNTER QUIET MORNING - PORCHFIELD

It really was a joy to attend the recent **Celtic Encounter Quiet Morning** at Porchfield Village Hall last month. The event was led by Ali Mascarenhas (recently commissioned as a Lay Pioneer), together with Gill Bradbury and Revd Jenny Manners and it was clear that a lot of thought had gone into the planning for the four hours we were together. Maybe four hours sounds like a bit of a long session, but it included a midday Celtic Holy Communion followed by a wonderful light lunch.



Taking the idea of each of us being on our own spiritual journey through the 'living landscapes' of our lives – this was a guided and task-based opportunity to help us to reflect on the things we carry with us on our journey – some of those things being practical and useful and some things being decidedly unhelpful.

This wasn't a 'think about and discuss' process but an opportunity for focussed individual, quiet reflection, helped by a rucksack, a shiny pebble, a pen & notebook and the chance to plant and take away three hyacinths.

Many of you will know Ali's name from the Bulletin and in the context of her 'Celtic Encounters' – short reflective services held at St Mary's, Brighstone and in Porchfield Village Hall - and the idea for the Quiet Morning has grown out of this ministry.

Some people may want to know more about the idea of Celtic Worship and what to expect at a Celtic Encounter and the team shared a helpful leaflet which included the following information:

"Celtic Christianity is an expression of Christianity from the 5th and 6th century, which has much wisdom and inspiration for us today. You may have heard of Saint Columba, St Patrick St Brigid and St Aidan who were missionaries of the Celtic church. Characteristics of Celtic Christianity include hospitality, a deep love and respect for the earth, honouring of women's ministry, community and creativity. The spirituality of everyday life is important Celtic Christianity and the sacredness of the ordinary as is a recognition of the need for times of silence and meditation and pilgrimage."

We hold Celtic encounters monthly and both in the Olive Garden at Saint Mary's Bryce stone and at Porchfield village hall. We meet for these short times of worship and prayer for about 30 minutes. Themes are often seasonal or reflect special times in the church calendar such as lent Easter and Christmas. We enjoy refreshments afterwards and all are welcome".

If you would like to know more about Celtic Encounters and Celtic Worship do contact Alison via alimascarenhas@aol.com . If you're in the FYT Parishes then watch this space as Ali is exploring the possibility of bringing Celtic Encounters to our most westerly parishes.

Julia (Editor)

SHARED BY MADELINE GOODMAN following the Celtic Encounter Quiet Morning

THE HIDDEN VOICE

I set out on my walk having filled my rucksack
Which is weighing so heavily on my back.
As I journey along a bumpy road
I hear a voice say 'Do you need all that load'?
I look to see who said this to me
But I'm all alone, how can that be?
However, it makes me start to think
As under the load I start to sink.

I walk on through the trees, so lovely to see
When the voice says 'Hand it all to me'.
'You need carry nothing, like each of these trees
When you hand your life totally to me.
Like the trees, stand firm in the ground deeply rooted,
You can stand firm in me, suitably booted'.

I see small seeds on the ground from which the trees grew
Could a seed within me flourish and grow?
In the dark, not watered by rain from the air
But purely and simply grown bigger in prayer?

Down to the seashore to dip in my toe
Watching closely the waves as they ebb and flow.
Washing away all the things of the past
Bringing new things to emerge that will last.
So trusting, and praying for courage to see
Where to step out and just move to where I'm led to be.

What a journey we're on when we're open and free
And willing to move into the new things we will see.

No rucksack or burden at last do I need
I have it all in Him now me He has freed.

THE REAL JUNK FOOD PROJECT – ISLE OF WIGHT

We're delighted to share that Faith and her van will be returning to West Wight – now at a new location and time!

Totland Village Hall, The Broadway, Totland, PO39 0BU
Every Friday from 3rd October – 1.30pm weekly

Come along and be surprised by the different items available each week! Everything is offered on a 'Pay As You Feel' basis – funded by your donations.

The Real Junk Food Project helps reduce food waste by redistributing supermarket surplus – good food that would otherwise go to waste.

A huge thank you to Faith, who runs this entirely voluntarily. She drives around the Island every weekday, bringing this project to different communities. Every donation goes towards Faith's running costs, helping the scheme continue – and most importantly, ensuring less food ends up in landfill and more is used for its intended purpose.

Use it, don't lose it! Let's support this amazing initiative and make sure food produced is food used.

ALL SAINTS (Freshwater) CHURCHYARD – a thank you



The churchyard of All Saints is over 5 acres and is the largest on the Island. It is situated in a rural setting overlooking the River Yar and is maintained by a band of willing volunteers. They meet regularly on the first Saturday of the month, come rain or shine, we even met during covid, suitably distanced of course. They and others also spend time in the churchyard throughout the year.

The churchyard is in a designated area of special interest which means gaining permission from the local authority for major changes, specifically tree work.

Over the last few years, we have been lucky to receive financial donations from a church member who now lives in America. We have been very grateful because it meant that we could have some much needed work done on the trees!

This means that more light will reach the low growing wildflowers in our churchyard, they are especially prevalent in the spring.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST WIGHT

There are three church schools and two youth projects within the West Wight Mission Community.

- The Federation Church Schools of Shalfleet and Freshwater & Yarmouth.
- Brighstone Church of England Aided Primary School
- The **West Wight Churches Youth Project (WWCYP)** - www.wwcyp.com
- The **South Wight Area Youth (SWAY)** - www.southwightyouth.org for School Years 6 to 13

SWAY

SWAY Administrator - Office: 07880951243

4th to 7th DEC

BRIGHSTONE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

SUN 7th DEC 6.30pm

STARS OF WONDER CONCERT – ST MARY’S BRIGHSTONE

MON 15th DEC 6pm

CAROL SINGING, NITON

THUR 18th DEC

CAROLS ON THE GREEN in partnership with Chale Parish Council

FRI 19th DEC - 6.00pm

CAROL SINGING BRIGHSTONE



SCHOOL SNIPPETS - sharing snippets of news from our associated church schools.

THE FEDERATION CHURCH SCHOOLS OF SHALFLEET AND FRESHWATER & YARMOUTH

EXCITING TIMES FOR OUR FEDERATION PRESCHOOLS!

We have some wonderful developments to share about our two special preschools, Little Explorers at Shalfleet and Little Stars at Freshwater & Yarmouth. Under the umbrella of the Federation Vision statement and our Conscious Community, we are dedicated to providing a caring and enriching environment where all children can flourish.



Freshwater & Yarmouth
CE Primary School

Growing Together in Refurbished Spaces

Little Explorers at Shalfleet offers a nurturing space for our youngest children, catering to babies and children from 0 to 4 years old. Meanwhile, Little Stars at Freshwater & Yarmouth, which welcomes children from 2 to 4 years old, is about to undergo an exciting period of significant expansion! We are delighted to announce that Freshwater Early Years will become part of the school, allowing Little Stars to grow considerably and offer even more opportunities for our community.

To ensure the best possible learning environment, both preschools have recently been, or are about to be, refurbished to create bright, modern spaces for play and learning.

Seamless Transition and Shared Opportunities

Both preschools are committed to delivering fun and engaging experiences that focus on strong relationships, preparing children for their next steps, and ensuring excellent school readiness.

A key part of this readiness is ensuring the children feel completely familiar with the primary school environment. We actively provide opportunities for our preschool children to be a part of the wider school community. They regularly use shared school spaces, including the Library, the Hall, and fantastic Outside Spaces, which includes our Forest Schools area.



To make the transition to Reception Class seamless, our children also enjoy shared play opportunities and trips with the Reception classes in both schools. This ensures they are familiar with school staff and spaces long before they join us in Reception Class.

An Experienced, Dedicated Team

Leading our dedicated team is Federation Preschool Manager, Sadie Gooding, who brings over 20 years of experience providing care and education to our youngest children in the West Wight. Sadie is ably supported by Pre School Deputy Manager, Lucy Millar, and a wider team of passionate practitioners who are all excited about these new developments.

We believe this expansion and our shared community approach will enable children to flourish both academically and emotionally, and we look forward to welcoming many new families into our preschool communities.

Lizzie Grainger (Head Teacher)



BRIGHSTONE CE AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL



As part of the Isle of Wight Literacy Festival Children's Programme, Honey Bee class (Y3/4) were lucky enough to receive a visit from children's author Philip Kavadias. The children were very excited to meet him, in particular our budding authors and illustrators as well as the fans of his books! Philip really ignited the children's imaginations as he talked them through his stories and asked for their opinions on everything from the best underwater transport for a villain, to the cutest futuristic pet - he promised to take on board the children's ideas as he writes his next story series. I am sure that Philip's books will be on several Christmas present lists!



There was a splash of golden sunshine with our Go Yellow Day, in aid of the Mountbatten Hospice. Altogether, along with preschool, we raised a total of £131! Well done and thank you! We recently celebrated our Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church. It was lovely to welcome family members as well. Each class presented a Harvest song, poem or facts about how climate change may see us harvesting different foods than we are used to in this country. It was great to see Makaton, pictures and objects being used to help with our inclusive ethos.

We were overwhelmed by your generous donations for the Foodbank. A huge thank you to you all.



Each class celebrated Black Artists as part of Black History Month. Flower Bee class looked at the quilts made by the women of Gee's Bend in Alabama. They are made from old clothes and every single piece of fabric is used. In Bumble Bee class, they looked at the art of Faith Ringgold. Faith Ringgold was famous for her story quilts. She would make a quilt and then paint on top of the fabric. She would add words and pictures and make a story in her artwork. Honey Bee class focused on the American artist William H. Johnson. They spent some time learning about his life and work and, using pencils, marker pens and crayons, they enjoyed trying to replicate the distinctive folk style typical of his later life.



Mrs Rebecca Lennon (Headteacher)

BRIGHSTONE PRAYER LIST FOR THIS MONTH:

***Staff and residents of Brighstone Grange Care Home, David Woodford,
Keith Cram, Pat Conn, Bob Castle, Vilna Lane, Alec.***

***And we pray for the families of all those recently
bereaved.***

(If anyone else leads a prayer chain or holds a prayer list in our parishes and wishes to share the names of people who would appreciate ongoing prayers, please let me know - JB/Editor)

SUNDAY READINGS FOR THE PRINCIPAL SERVICES (& COLOURS) (as per the Redemptorist reading sheets & Common Lectionary 2025)		
Sunday 2 nd Nov Green	Daniel 7:1-3. 15-18 Ephesians 1:11-end	Psalm 149 Luke 6:20-31
Sunday 9 th Nov Green	Job 19:23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5 13-end	Psalm 17:1-9 [or 1-8] Luke 20:27-38
Sunday 16 th Nov Green	Malachi 4:1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Psalm 98 Like 21:5-19
Sunday 23 rd Nov Green	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20	Psalm 46 Luke 23L:33-43
Sunday 30 th Nov	Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-end	Psalm 122 Matthew 24:36-44

WEST WIGHT BENEFICE ONLINE

TUESDAYS 08.30 – ONLINE MORNING PRAYER Cut and paste or click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89138461616?pwd=se2Ob0GQM2kIObpFWJ1Llmg8d0x7U.1>

Meeting ID: 891 3846 1616 Passcode: 517505

SUNDAY ONLINE WORSHIP ON THE FOURTH Sunday of the Month at 11am:

Use the following link just before the service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83892943909?pwd=VFIRRW5IL25EeDVwY29kYWQvcXFLQT09>

MORNING PRAYER IS SAID EACH THURSDAY AT 8AM AT ST MARY'S BRIGHSTONE in the Olive Garden or in the Porch if wet!

SAT 1st NOVEMBER

ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER – An 'All Souls' Service - 3.00pm

Remembering loved ones. (Refreshments from 2.30pm)

BRIGHSTONE Lychgate – Dedication ceremony for the newly restored Lychgate at 2.30pm

Refreshments. All welcome. With umbrellas if wet.

NOVEMBER 2025 SERVICES - THE WEST WIGHT BENEFICE (correct at circulation).

SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER – Fourth Sunday before Advent

09.30	ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER	HOLY COMMUNION & Patronal service
09.30	HOLY SPIRIT, NEWTOWN	HOLY COMMUNION
11.00	CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY	MORNING WORSHIP
11.00	ST MARY'S, BRIGHSTONE	MORNING WORSHIP
11.00	ST JAMES, YARMOUTH	HOLY COMMUNION
11.00	ST SWITHIN, THORLEY	HOLY COMMUNION
16.00	ALL SAINTS, CALBOURNE	A SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS
18.00	ST MARY'S, BROOK	EVENSONG

THURSDAY 6th NOVEMBER

11.30	ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER	MORNING PRAYER (Soup lunch to follow)
15.00	OLIVE GDN, BRIGHSTONE	CELTIC ENCOUNTER (Inside of wet)

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER – Third Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

08.30	ST AGNES, FRESHWATER BAY	MORNING PRAYER
09.30	ST PETER & ST PAUL, MOTTISTONE	HOLY COMMUNION
10.00	ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE
10.45	ST JAMES, YARMOUTH	REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 11.00 after Town Parade 10.45
10.45	CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE
10.45	ST PETER'S, SHORWELL	HOLY COMMUNION & Remembrance service
10.45	ST SWITHIN, THORLEY	COMMUNITY ACT OF REMEMBRANCE
10.50	ST MICHAEL'S, SHALFLEET	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE
11.00	ST MARY'S, BRIGHSTONE	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE
15.00	HOLY SPIRIT, NEWTOWN	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE
18.00	ALL SAINTS, CALBOURNE	SERVICE FOR REMEMBRANCE

TUESDAY 11th NOVEMBER

15.00	PORCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL	CELTIC ENCOUNTER
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SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER – Second Sunday before Advent

08.30	ST AGNES, FRESHWATER BAY	MORNING PRAYER
09.30	ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER	MORNING WORSHIP
09.30	ST SWITHIN, THORLEY	MORNING WORSHIP
11.00	CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY	HOLY COMMUNION
11.00	ST MARY'S, BRIGHSTONE	HOLY COMMUNION
15.00	HOLY SPIRIT, NEWTOWN	EVENING PRAYER
16.30	ST JAMES, YARMOUTH	EVENING WORSHIP (refreshments from 16.00)
18.00	ST PETER & ST PAUL, MOTTISTONE	EVENSONG

SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER – Sunday next before Advent/Christ the King

08.00	ST JAMES, YARMOUTH	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
09.30	ALL SAINTS, FRESHWATER	MORNING WORSHIP
09.30	ST MARY'S, BROOK	HOLY COMMUNION
11.00	CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY	MORNING WORSHIP
11.00	HOME ZOOM	ZOOM
11.00	ST PETER'S, SHORWELL	MORNING WORSHIP
11.00	ST MICHAEL'S, SHALFLEET	HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)
16.30	ST AGNES, FRESHWATER BAY	HOLY COMMUNION – note revised winter time.

MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER

18.00	ST AGNES, FRESHWATER BAY	CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
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SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER – First Sunday of Advent

11.00	CHRIST CHURCH, TOTLAND BAY	WHOLE BENEFICE SERVICE FOR ADVENT
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KEY WEST WIGHT BENEFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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To go onto the mailing list for the Bulletin PLEASE EMAIL: JULIA - fytparishes@gmail.com
 Items for the December BULLETIN to JULIA BY 19th November 2025 fytparishes@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER BULLETIN!

