

2025 / 2026
£2

ST ANDREWS
WEST TARRING



PARISH MAGAZINE

XAIPE

XAIPE

A MESSAGE FROM FR STEVEN

LOOK UP!

Welcome to the first Parish Magazine that the Parish of Tarring has produced in some years. For over a hundred years the parish produced a monthly magazine to keep parishioners up to date with everything that was going on and to chronicle the life of the parish. We have copies dating back many years in our archive. These days communication has changed completely and during the national lockdown of 2020 the monthly magazine stopped. I'm grateful to Leonie Wells, our Parish Intern for putting together this magazine for 2025/2026. I am hopeful that we can continue to produce an annual magazine celebrating the life of the parish. Thank you to our sponsors, hopefully we can find a few more for future editions.

I have made it well known from the pulpit that my mantra for 2026 is 'look up' an essential imperative for our spiritual lives. Throughout the Gospels, no matter what he was facing, Jesus never forgot to 'look up', he never lost sight of his heavenly Father. Our daily lives are full of so many things, positive and negative, exciting and mundane. If we stare down into the tasks that are in front of us we can become overwhelmed, afraid or even despairing. We must dare to 'look up' and allow God to show us a bigger perspective, to keep everything that we say, think and do held in the framework of his love. We have already begun exploring and unpicking this idea and reflecting on practical ways that we can 'look up' in our daily lives. Later in the year there will be a retreat day during which we will reflect on how we can be encouraged to 'look up' by the story of an encounter between Jesus and a woman at the well of Jacob.

I am really looking forward to the year ahead, we have lots of exciting plans for both the worship life and social life of our parish community. Some of them can be found listed on the back page but there is so much more to come!

If you haven't been to church recently (or ever!) then please know that you are warmly invited and very welcome. We are a community of all sorts of people who gather to seek and search for God and to support each other on our adventure of life and faith. I hope you would find the people of St Andrew's to be friendly, welcoming and non-judgemental.

I hope you enjoy this magazine, and I hope to see you soon
With assurance of my prayers

Fr Steven



CONTENTS PAGE

- 03 – TARRING CHEST
- 04 – SOPHIE AND THEO'S TIME
IN TARRING
- 05 – TARRING MARKET
- 06 – PALM SUNDAY
- 07 – PET BLESSING SERVICE
- 08 – NIGHT OF LIGHT
- 09 – ORDER OF ST RICHARDS
RECIPIENTS
- 10 – MU BAGS OF LOVE
- 11 – ST ANDREWS GARDENING
GROUP
- 12 – BELL RINGERS
- 13 – CONFIRMATIONS AND
FIRST COMMUNIONS
- 14 – ST ANDREWS CHOIR
- 15 – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
- 16 – CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
- 17 – IN MEMORIAM
- 18 – PRAYERS FOR TARRING



WEST TARRING CHURCHWARDENS CHEST

During the Church's Open Day in October, the old Churchwardens' Chest was to be seen in the Church, for the first time since 1960. Until that date, it was on display in the Church at the west end of the Nave.

This chest probably dates back to the 1500s, when King Henry VIII ordered through Parliament, that all Churches should have registers to record Births, Marriages and Deaths. Tarring's registers date back to 1540 and are held in the West Sussex Records Office in Chichester.

The chest measures 4 feet by 2 feet being 2 feet high, is made of oak and has iron bands which provide for four padlocks. It was the custom that keys for each of the locks were kept separately by the Vicar and Churchwardens of West Tarring, and the chapels of Heene and Durrington.



At least once a year, all had to meet together so that the registers could be updated, and the Churchwardens accounts and other business approved. It is likely, that these meetings were held at festivals when Church Ales were taking place in the nave of Tarring Church. Church Ales in those early days raised considerable sums for the maintenance of the Churches. In addition to the Registers and Accounts being kept within the chest, it would have provided a safe for the Church's silver and other valuables.

During the late Victorian period, West Tarring was popular with visitors, who came to enjoy tea at the various gardens. In the early 900s, the Rector (Revd. Charles Lee) observed that the chest was gradually disappearing, 'American ladies being the main culprits, by carrying portions of the chest, as souvenirs, across the Atlantic'. To ensure that this did not continue, a wire cage was made, so designed that visitors would be unable to put their hands through the mesh.

Many have suggested that the Chest should be conserved so that it does not deteriorate further. If you should be interested in raising funds for this purpose, please let me know (01903 - 504014). It would be sad if its condition deteriorated further, so that it is lost for ever.

Chris Green

SOPHIE AND THEO – OUR TIME IN TARRING

We arrived in Worthing in July 2022, and after three months of walking past St Andrew's and its slightly wonky spire, we finally gave in to the urge to check it out. Though we did not know it at the time, that decision completely changed our lives. Despite being new to the Church and God's word, we were welcomed with open arms, and over the following years St Andrew's became a second home to us.

Before long, we found ourselves humping headfirst into social events, discussion groups, and many fruitful conversations. In this community, we made strong friendships and came to know a part of the love that is God. Our personal highlights include Sophie's (not quite) award-winning appearance as a nativity mouse, evenings spent sharing personal testimonies, and, of course, our wedding!

In September this year, under St Andrew's beautiful mosaics and surrounded by all those we hold dear, we celebrated the wedding of our dreams. In the months leading up to the big day, we learned so much about the sacrament of marriage. The day itself was better than we ever could have hoped; it was rich with St Andrew's special blend of sacred beauty and plenty of giggles!



As parents of a nursery-age boy living far away from the rest of our family, life could often be turbulent, uncertain, and worrisome. However, the steadfast community of faith we found in St Andrew's became a guiding light and windbreaker through life's many storms. Though a new chapter of our lives has begun in sunny Yorkshire, we will never forget the love, joy, and peace that we encountered at St Andrew's. We are deeply thankful to its beautiful community, and we hope to visit again soon.

With peace and love,

Sophie, Theo and Felix

TARRING MARKET

The traditional Tarring Market run by St Andrew's Church takes place on either the last Saturday in May or the first Saturday in June. A Royal charter for holding this event was granted in 1444. It evolved from a flourishing corn market to the fayre attractions we have today.

Stalls, including cakes, preserves, bric-a-brac, books, a bottle tombola, gifts, and a garden stall are very popular and there is usually a bar, hot dog stall, refreshments and activities for children. There are also stalls from the local community. You can sit and enjoy listening to music played throughout the event by Worthing Silver Band and other local music groups.

There is a Grand Draw with wonderful prizes, tickets for which are sold beforehand as well as during the Market. Proceeds from the Market go to maintaining the beautiful Parish Church with a proportion given to a local charity. Next years Tarring Market will be on Saturday 30th May 2026. 10am - 2pm.



ST RICHARDS WPCU



The week of Prayer for Christian Unity offers us a chance to pray for and with those who share our faith in Jesus Christ while practicing in a different way. In January ALL churches in the Worthing area are invited to St Richards, Maybridge to share in a biblical reflection and Taize chants. Borrowing this tradition from the Taize community on South of France allows a meditative form of worship which may be enjoyed by all. Following the service most stay to enjoy soup and fellowship together.

PALM SUNDAY



Back in the spring we were joined by over a hundred members of the congregation for a procession from the Old Palace to the Church, marking Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday, and inviting us into the spirit of Holy Week. Palm branches were waved, hymns sung and shouts of "Hosanna" as the crowd made its short journey towards St Andrews, led by Fr Steven and Frodo the pseudo donkey (whose generous contribution to the church would not be soon forgotten).

As always, Palm Sunday encouraged reflection on the final days of Jesus' ministry, his journey to the cross and his resurrection to new life. Through the week we travelled through the Easter story together, sharing in the service and love of Maundy Thursday through the washing of feet, mourning Jesus' death on Good Friday, and then celebrating his triumph over death with a lively Easter fire on Holy Saturday and the joy of Easter Sunday.

Holy Week stands as the most important time in the Church year. It reveals both our human fragility and the depth of God's enduring love for us. The dramatic shift of the crowd in Jerusalem, from rejoicing at Jesus' arrival to calling for his crucifixion just five days later, is summed up in the following verse from the hymn *My Song is Love Unknown*:

"Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King: Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry."

PET BLESSING SERVICE

Sunday 5th October brought a cheerful commotion to the church as our annual Pet Blessing Service welcomed creatures of all kinds – mostly canine, but joined by a couple of cats, a tortoise, and a guinea pig. It was lovely to see so many parishioners gathered side by side, joined by their animal companions, to give thanks for the gift of animal companionship.

All God's creatures, great and small, were warmly invited forward to receive a blessing from Fr Steven or Revd Nancy.

The service was one of gratitude for loyal pets, for the comfort they bring, and for the joy they add to our lives. There was a warm, affectionate atmosphere in the church as we celebrated primarily behaving pets, while a mix of human and canine congregants sang along with the animal themed hymns.

Across the diocese, many churches have been holding similar celebrations, giving thanks for the animals who share our homes and our hearts, while also raising awareness of the importance of animal welfare. These services are inspired by St. Francis of Assisi – the saint renowned for his love of animals and the natural world. The church is rediscovering his example in an age when care for the environment and all living things has becoming increasingly topical.

We're already looking forward to next year's gathering and hope to welcome even more furry, feathery, scaly, and shell-covered friends to join the fun.



ALL SOULS AND THE NIGHT OF LIGHT

Our community gathered together on Saturday 1st November, to remember loved ones who have gone before us in a moving afternoon of reflection and light.

The event began in the church at 3pm with the All Souls Service. People were invited to reflect in their own ways: lighting candles in memory, leaving written notes and prayers, burning incense, or touching the water from the font – a symbol of life, renewal, and continuing love.

Towards the end of the All Souls Service, more people from the wider community joined us as we filled the church and churchyard with lanterns, all in memory of those we love but see no longer.



Over two hundred candles could be seen flickering throughout the churchyard and in the church windows. The candles continued to burn for three days, with the low light still visible Tuesday morning, leaving a lasting reminder of all who are loved.

The inspiration for The Night of Light came from varying traditions around the world where light is used as a sign of remembrance, from candlelit vigils in Eastern Europe, to floating lanterns in Asia and Mexico's Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Throughout different cultures and faiths All Souls Day sees families gather to honour loved ones in light and celebration.

Both the All Souls Service and the Night of Light offered moments of healing and connection, a way for our community to come together, to share sorrow and gratitude, and express love which continues beyond life.



ORDER OF ST RICHARD



Two members of our parish, Frances Spencer and Karen Hill, were among 40 lay people from churches across Sussex recognised at Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 20th September, receiving the Order of St Richard for their exceptional Christian service.

Frances Spencer was honoured for her long and faithful contribution to parish life, including 45 years with the Sunday School and 21 years involved in youth work. Her steady commitment has supported both worship and the spiritual growth of our young people.

Karen Hill received the award for her service as Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union in Chichester, where she has provided leadership and support to branches across the diocese.

Those who received the award are those who, in the words of St Richard, know, love and follow Jesus, and as such they are an inspiration to all.

We congratulate Frances and Karen on this well-deserved recognition of their service to the Church and wider community.

CHILDREN SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS – CHRIS GREEN

A girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because, despite it being a large mammal, its' throat was very small. The girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. By now, irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The young girl said, "When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The girl replied, "Then you ask him."

A nursery teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk round the room to observe each child's work. As she got to one little girl working diligently, she asked what the drawing represented. The girl replied "I am drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like". Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

MOTHERS UNION

Babies have their own timetable and arrive as when they choose. It is not uncommon for a mum to arrive onto the maternity ward having gone into labour whilst out shopping. She will arrive distressed and without her packed hospital bag which is still by her front door. Her partner will then arrive, often straight from work, forgetting the packed bag that is still by the door.



The basics are needed, and for the last 35 years (including during Covid-19 lockdowns) members of the Mothers' Union in Tarring have been fundraising and putting together emergency wash bags for the delivery suite and memory bags for the premature babies unit.

In today's world, the NHS supplies nothing for either mother or child. Mum is often only in for the delivery and out straight away in just a matter of hours. Over the years working with staff we have adapted what goes into our bags. The bags are either handmade or clear plastic. We supply 12 wash bags and 6 memory bags a month to Worthing hospital.

Emergency wash bags have travel shower gel, flannel, comb, deodorant, tooth brush and toothpaste, sanitary towels, breast pads, 2 nappies, and a white baby grow.

The memory bags are smaller and have white premature baby grows in and 2 nappies. Mum will use this bag to store the milestones their baby achieves, such as the name band as baby grows and the small oxygen tubes when baby starts to breath more easily. These bags are visible proof that their baby is thriving. Sometimes a premature birth may leave mum seriously ill, and there may be no room for her child at the same hospital. So, baby may arrive with nothing and the nurses use the baby grow and nappies until a relative or friend arrives.

One mum wrote to us and said, "When no one could be with our precious child, you were. You were strangers but you gave our child the love we couldn't. You cared enough to give bags of love". Into all our bags we put a tag saying, "with love from the Mothers' Union".

That is what our simple hospital bags are.... bags of love.



Karen Hill - Branch Leader

ST ANDREWS GARDENING GROUP

'BAY WATCH'



It's been a busy year for a keen group of volunteers involved in gardening and tidying up in the Churchyard. We started in January, initially to trim back the yew hedge which was slowly taking over the path! Berries were dropping and making it slippery during Winter time. After trimming some of the lower branches, more space and light was created and now we have a clear path; also, the new flowers planted over the Summer have been able to thrive along the borders there.



Having received positive comments and suggestions, we thought we could put together a plan to create a well balanced natural environment that both people and wildlife can enjoy. This means increasing native trees and plants, controlling the invasive ones and looking after our ornamental planting: the cherry trees along the path are a lovely feature and some had been particularly swamped. Having trimmed back one of the bay trees, we can now see how best to prune the cherries to promote healthy growth. Two cherries had unfortunately died following the drought this year, but we have planted a new one, kindly donated by a parishioner, in memory of her husband.



During the Summer months, when birds are nesting, we stopped any work on the larger trees and shrubs and turned our attention to weeding, including reducing the many "Stinking Irises" and removing ivy on the flint walls: although the ivy is excellent for wildlife, it will eventually destroy this kind of wall. Fortunately, there are a number of healthy mature trees with good ivy growth, so this habitat can be monitored and maintained.



We are lucky to have some experienced gardeners and wildlife enthusiasts in our group and are working with Council's Parks Team, using their expertise, too. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us; we meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2pm - 4pm, this can be weather dependent! To find out more please contact: Tarringintern@gmail.com



BELL RINGERS




Our late Tower Captain, Brenda Cox, entered into glory 19th January this year. May she rest in peace.

Greetings from your bell tower. Our practice night is Monday at 7:30. We meet to ring the bells and to have a good natter. Ringing Church bells is all about teamwork and we have a lively, friendly and supportive team of ringers, from our core Sunday morning ringers to our friends from other Worthing towers that join us on Mondays. If you'd like to join our happy band, we are always looking for new ringers. Tracy, Jess, Niki and Kate have all joined us recently. Tracy is now ringing independently, and the others are well on their way and doing well. Some comments from our newest ringers...


- o 'It's not as easy as the regular bell ringers make it look. It's a challenge but well worth it!'
- o 'Such a lovely friendly bunch of people, so supportive and encouraging'
- o 'I'm looking forward to learning even more. I've got a bit of a hunger for it! We'd love you to come and join us. We've a wide range of abilities and ages. Our youngest member is 13 and our most mature is 80. It's great that we all get on so well. We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. We'll be sounding out those Christmas bells for all to hear.

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From **The Bellfry**

CONFIRMATIONS AND FIRST COMMUNIONS

This year's Deanery Confirmation Service was held at St Andrew's Church, Ferring, on Monday 22nd September. The service was led by Bishop Will and was a lovely occasion marking an important milestone in the faith journeys of many across the Deanery, including three from our own parish - David, Chelsea and Emily.

A few weeks later, on Sunday 23rd November, we welcomed Bishop Ruth to our church for a First Communion Service. Noah, Olivia, Arthur and Emily received



Communion for the first time, a special moment for them and their families.

Both occasions were deeply meaningful and filled with gratitude. We give thanks for all who took part, and continue to hold David, Chelsea, Emily, Noah, Olivia, Arthur and Emily in our prayers as they continue their journeys of faith.

CONGRATULATIONS PAUL AND ROS

Following the 10am service on Sunday 26th October, we had a big event to celebrate. Ros and Paul (our Churchwarden) marked their Golden wedding anniversary with a blessing of their marriage by Rev'd Nancy, followed by bubbly and cake.

The previous week they had celebrated with the whole family with a big pub lunch. We pray for Ros and Paul, giving thanks for their fifty golden years together. May God bless them with continued happiness, good health, and many more years filled with love and joy.





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ST ANDREWS CHOIR

The long-standing choir at St Andrew's, West Tarring, continues to be one of the cornerstones of our church life and worship. Over the past few years, the choir has experienced a number of changes – from rotating conductors and evolving seating arrangements to fresh faces joining the ranks. Yet through all these transitions, one thing remains constant, the joy and life they bring to our Sunday morning service. The uplifting spirit their music brings to services reminds us how blessed we are to still have one of the few thriving parish choirs in the local area.

The choir is always delighted to welcome new members, recently we have been pleased to embrace four new choristers – Roy, Lucy, Martin, and Jackie. Their enthusiasm and commitment have been a wonderful addition to the group, helping to carry the choir forward.

Rehearsals take place every Friday evening at 7pm, with a brief run-through before Sunday services. Whether you are an experienced singer or simply someone who enjoys music and fellowship, you would be warmly welcomed to come along and have a go.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Remembrance Sunday saw all members of our community gather together for a beautiful service, to honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who gave their lives in wars past and present, and to pray for peace.

The choir sang a rendition of the Contakion of the Dead set to a traditional melody from Kiev, a moving chant that expresses the sorrow of grief but reminds us of the Christian hope of everlasting life.

The service culminated with the Act of Remembrance held in the Churchyard, during which wreaths were laid by representatives from: Dr Beccy Cooper, MP for Worthing West; East Worthing and Shoreham Labour Party; LibDem Party Representative; West Worthing Conservative Association; 1st Worthing Guides; 8th Worthing Sea Scouts; Worthing 4 Refugees; Worthing Veterans Association; Adur Ukraine Support Association; St Andrew's Church; and St Andrew's Mothers Union.

Flags were lowered, and the Last Post was sounded from the top of the church tower while those present observed the two minutes silence together.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2025

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

In 2025 we themed our Christmas Tree Festival to be “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe”, by C.S. Lewis, marking 75 years since the publication of this magical story. We put out the theme and many people from the community as well as the Church family took up the vision of building Narnia and became involved, “Men in Sheds”, brilliant artists, florists and many more, making this year’s Festival a community event.

We invited local businesses, community organisations, clubs, charities and schools to provide and decorate a Christmas tree in the church for display during the festival. We encouraged them to decorate their Christmas Tree to reflect a favourite Children’s story. Creativity was encouraged, and nobody let us down; with Christmas Tree's inspired by stories from A very hungry Caterpillar to a classic like Alice in Wonderland. Our windows were also decorated as different stories, for children to guess the story. Didn’t stop some adults joining in!

From Friday 12th to Sunday 14th of December hundreds of families and residents of Tarring came to the Church and stepped through the wardrobe into Narnia! They also enjoyed a range of fabulous stalls, a memory tree, live music and a pop-up nativity!

Father Christmas dropped in to the Narnia grotto, every child who met him was given a copy of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe suitable for their age, and chocolate.

St Andrew’s Church is at the centre of the village of Tarring and very much at the heart too, we have families who need to use Chestnut Tree House Hospice for children, it seemed only right to support this charity too. Our raffle raised over £1,000 and we sent £800 to Chestnut Tree House.

In conclusion many joined us, made memories, and stepped away from the madness of the Christmas rush; and like Lucy for a short time, stepped through the wardrobe and felt the magic.





IN MEMORIAM

Leonard Webb

7th October 1932
5th November 2023

Jane Wells

10th October 1957
31st December 2023

Anne Mocatta

12th September 1925
1st June 2024

Eve Tovell

2nd April 1934
10th September 2024

Brian Attwood

1st April 1933
8th February 2025

Betty Garwood

2nd July 1928
21st February 2025

Brian Ball

10th January 1944
28th February 2025

Sheila Kelly

8th December 1937
17th April 2025

William Wilcox

14th March 1945
10th May 2025

Pamala Attwood

6th February 1937
10th September 2025

Holly Matthews

31st January 1980
7th October 2025

Sue Wilson

6th January 1941
20th November 2025

John Hubbard

27th June 1934
3rd December 2025

David Smart

12th September 1942
15th December 2025

Brenda Cox

17th August 1945
19th January 2026



PRAYERS FOR TARRING

Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of a new year
and for your faithful love that leads us forward.

As we enter 2026, we place all that lies ahead into your hands.
Guide our steps, protect our lives, and bless our work,
that we may walk in your ways with trust and hope.

Bless your Church in this place.
Strengthen us in faith, unite us in love,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Help us to serve our community with compassion
and to share the good news of Christ with joy.

We pray for families and all who live in our neighbourhood.
Bless our homes with peace.
Protect the young, support the weary,
heal the sick, and comfort those in need.

We lift before you local businesses, charities, and all who
volunteer their time.
Bless their efforts with success and generosity,
that our community may flourish in care and provision.

Lord of grace and peace,
keep us in your care throughout this year,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2026

February

18th Ash Wednesday
Lent courses every Monday
14:30

March

29th Palm Sunday
Lent courses every Monday
14:30

April

2nd Maundy Thursday
3rd Good Friday
4th Holy Saturday
5th Easter Sunday

May

10th APCM
30th Tarring Market

June

13th St Richard's Festival
14th St Richards Celebration
Service (with Bishop Ruth)

July

18th Old Palace Barn Dance
25th Parish Storrington Retreat

August

4th Teddy Bear Picnic
3rd - 7th Walsingham Youth
Pilgrimage
14th - 17th Walsingham Parish
Pilgrimage

September

6th Back to School Service
12th Ride and Stride

October

4th Harvest Festival

November

1st All Souls and Night of Light
8th Remembrance Sunday
29th Darkness to Light
30th St Andrews Day

December

4th - 5th High Street Pantomime
11th - 13th Christmas Tree Festival
20th Carol Concert
24th Crib Service
24th Midnight Mass
25th Christmas Day