



# Coldean

## Community & Church Magazine

Winter 2024

Price £1



**War Memorial at Burwash with St Bartholomew Church behind**

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## **From the Vicarage - December 2024**

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### **Dear Parish Family,**

As we approach this joyous season, we are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas – a time for celebration, reflection, and gratitude. The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, brings hope and light into our lives, guiding us to love and serve one another.

This Christmas, let us take a moment to appreciate the blessings we have received and extend our hands to those in need. Whether it's through a kind word, a helping hand, or a heartfelt prayer, each act of love and compassion brings us closer to the spirit of Christmas.

We are incredibly blessed by the sense of community and fellowship that our parish embodies. Your unwavering support and dedication have made this year memorable, despite its challenges. Together, we

continue to grow in faith and service, embodying the teachings of Christ in our daily lives.

May this Christmas season fill your homes with joy, your hearts with love, and your souls with peace. Let us cherish the moments spent with loved ones and embrace the spirit of giving. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let His light shine brightly in our hearts and guide us into the new year with hope and renewed faith.

We hope to see you at one of our services or activities. Wishing you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Love,

*Revd. Betsy*

**St Mary Magdalen Church Activities December 2024**

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6 Dec 2024	St Mary Magdalen Christmas Market 6 p.m.
15 Dec 2024	Charity Lunch for Children’s Society 1 p.m.
20 Dec 2024	Messy Church & Children’s Christingle 4 p.m.
22 Dec 2024	Carols by Candlelight 4 p.m.
24 Dec 2024	Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.
25 Dec 2024	Christmas Morning 10 a.m.

**So Lucky**

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I am so lucky lord, you are in my heart, for every day, I have a fresh start.

I know you have always been with me, so thank you lord that you will for ever be.

The saving Grace for humanity, because O Lord it’s plain to see,  
without you lord where would we be. Paul Simmons

## Rome and Us

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It has been a long time since I have flown on a plane, just over 27 years until 27th October this year. My wife doesn't really like flying, but as the kids are now getting older, we decided it was time we all flew together before they decided they didn't want to come on a holiday with us anymore. Being October and in the school holidays, my youngest is fifteen now, we discussed going on a city break. It had to be a reasonable flight time around two hours, so we finally decided on Rome in Italy for a short break of three nights and four days. After hours and hours of trawling the internet, I finally found a good deal on EasyJet and booked the date. I managed to get an early flight out from Gatwick and a late flight back, which would give us plenty of time to explore while there. So, at exactly 7:30am the Airbus A31X sped up to around 180mph on the runway and off we took to the sky. My two youngest had never flown before and both were very excited and amazed at the view from the window seats we had booked. At roughly 30,000 feet the sights were totally amazing and with the very nice weather outside, the skies were clear with plenty to see, even at 30,000 feet. Flying over the Alps, with the mountain tops covered in snow, travelling at nearly 600mph was unbelievable, as was passing along the spectacular west coast of Italy.



Snow on the Alps

Two hours and fifteen minutes later we were back on solid ground and my wife could loosen her grip on her seat armrests and open her eyes. We mentioned how we were all very proud of her flying again and couldn't help reminding her, while waiting for the luggage, that the flight

back was slightly shorter at only two hours! 'Fantastic, I can't wait' was the reply.

After picking up our luggage and going through passport control, we found coach terminal thirteen for our transfer to Rome from Leonardo da Vinci Airport. The coach transfer was fascinating seeing Italy with all its different styles of buildings and trees along the way. The history of Rome was quite visible as we entered into this historic city, with very old looking bridges

and walls. After forty five minutes we were at Roma Termini Train Station, a very large attractive station with a huge shopping hall inside. We then had to find the metro which was clearly signed and just one stop on the smallest metro system in Europe to the station Barberini. Then twenty minutes walking to find our apartment which was only five minutes from the station.



The Trevi Fountain

I promise we didn't look like lost tourists pulling two large suitcases. After celebrating when we picked up the keys from the reception, we all had a quick freshen up and off we went to explore this incredible city. The famous Trevi fountain was just two hundred and fifty yards from where we were staying, so off we went to our first Roman tourist site.



The Colosseum

We later found out that Sunday is also the day that the locals come out in Rome, and I can honestly say I have never been anywhere apart from the Glastonbury festival in the early Nineties, that was that busy. It was packed to the brim with people all around the Trevi fountain area as far as you could see. But it was still worth the visit and just one of the many times we visited the iconic fountain on our stay.

We soon realised during our time in Rome, that most of the major tourist attractions are within a twenty to thirty minutes walk of each other. Just walking around Rome's streets is like being in a museum, so walking was always a

pleasure. From the Trevi fountain to the Colosseum is around twenty to



twenty-five minutes walk, depending on how long it takes to cross a road. Another quick lesson you learn when visiting Rome is how to cross a road safely! Unlike good old Britain, where cars do actually stop at crossings, in Rome you have to make the cars stop if you want to cross - by forcing yourselves across the road. You also get used to cars using their horns, they are not shy by any means. It can be quite stressful at times, while also being quite amusing at the same time. And the mopeds, lots of mopeds, whizzing around everywhere, very fast. We began our visit at the Trevi fountain with a tasty slice of pizza from one of the many pizza slice shops dotted around, followed by a yummy, rather too big (no complaints though) gelato, making us almost Roman within the hour. One style of building that Rome has to match the number of visitors on the streets, is the sheer volume of restaurants and food eateries. Every street you walked down had somewhere you could find something to eat or drink a coffee, and Italians love a coffee. Espresso is number one with a little cannoli, a sweet Italian cake to go with it. I must say, worth a try!

Over the time we spent in Rome, the major tourist sites we visited were the Colosseum, one of the new seven



One of the Churches we visited

wonders of the world and I can see why, thankfully the killings had long stopped. The Roman Forum and Palatine hill, ancient sites next to the Colosseum, it was like going back in time. The, unbelievable Vatican Museum with the Sistine chapel and also the Pantheon. The Pantheon is the oldest intact Roman building built around two thousand years ago, which has been used as a Catholic church from the sixth century and still used as a church today with weekly services. I was given some good advice from a cousin of mine to make sure to prebook tickets for the places you want to visit and I was very grateful for the advice. The queue for each site we visited if you hadn't booked a time slot entrance ticket would range from around one, two or even three hours if not more, especially for the Vatican Museum. The queue for the Vatican museum was so long and uphill, luckily the weather was nice for the people we passed to get in and was not raining. So, if you ever visit, remember to book in advance and if you can book directly through the main sites, it's a lot cheaper.

There is so much to see and do in Rome, we hardly touched the surface, even though we managed to visit some of the major attractions. Not every place to visit requires an entrance ticket and Rome has over nine hundred churches, the most of any city in the world.

The churches alone are some of the most beautiful places I have ever seen and are everywhere. The decor in each church we visited was truly stunning and some were quite breath taking. But like all churches, they were also a haven to rest in from the busyness outside. Each church seemed to have its own saint and a connecting story. One of the churches we visited, had the skull of a saint displayed in a glass cabinet on the altar of a side chapel. We also visited Rome's cathedral, Basilica of St John Lateran, with the biggest brass doors you could ever imagine. We decided to travel to the cathedral by bus, on route 85 from the Colosseum packed in like sardines. We got the metro back. A most fascinating church and one of the four main Basilicas in Rome and considered the mother church of the Roman Catholic faithful. Another tip if visiting Rome, is that you do not need to buy a bottle of water, just carry a water bottle to fill. There are around 2500 'nasoni's' water fountains scattered all over the city, which were installed from the 1870's. They most common nasoni's are three feet tall, usually made of cast iron and weigh roughly 200lb.



Drinking from a Nasoni Fountain

Don't panic on a hot day if you are thirsty though and don't have a bottle to fill. All you have to do is just put your finger under the tap and the water will spout out of the hole, half way up the tap for you to drink. It might take a few goes before getting the water in your mouth the first time you try and take your glasses off first! My last tip for a trip to Rome is wear comfortable shoes. Many of the roads and pavements are very historic and are made of cobbles, some thousands of years old. Being 25 degrees the day we visited the Colosseum and the Forum, I decided I should wear my Crocs instead of the warmer walking shoes I had brought to

Rome. Twenty five thousand steps later, I would rather have had warmer feet than a large blister!

Rome is truly a wonderful city to visit and I hope one day I get the chance to visit again. 2025 is a Jubilee year, which was started 1300 years ago by Pope Boniface VIII. Originally organised to be every hundred years, it became so popular it soon became every twenty five years due to the number of pilgrims. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for next years jubilee is 'Pilgrims of hope', which the Pope calls on everyone, not just pilgrims, to embrace values like peace, solidarity and unity. A message the world really needs in these troubled time.

#### Interesting facts about Rome:

In 753BC Romulus founded Rome on the Palatine Hill.

Over 9 million visitors visit Rome every year.

Rome became the capital of Italy in 1871.

1.3 million euros are thrown into the Trevi fountain every year. The money is gathered every month and is donated to Caritas, a Catholic church charity helping the poor around the world.



Rome was the first city to have one million inhabitants by 133BC. By comparison Paris reached one million in 1850 and London in 1810.

In 110AD, Rome had the first shopping mall in the world, named 'Trajan's Market'.

St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City, is the biggest church in the world.

There are two football teams in Rome - AS Roma and SS Lazio.

Cats are protected by law in Rome and can live where ever they would like. There is an estimated 300,000 wild cats in Rome.

Only 10% of ancient Rome has been excavated. Most of ancient Rome has been built over and is underground, thus being too costly to excavate.



Ancient ruins in central Rome

Marc Boase

## Order of St Richard

Marjorie Phillips was awarded the order of St Richard for her quiet and persistent hard work for St Mary Magdalen Church in Coldean over many years.

She should have received the order at a presentation service in Chichester Cathedral on Saturday the 5th October. However, due to the fact that she had had a heart valve replacement three days before this date, she was unable to attend.

She was very surprised and delighted when she



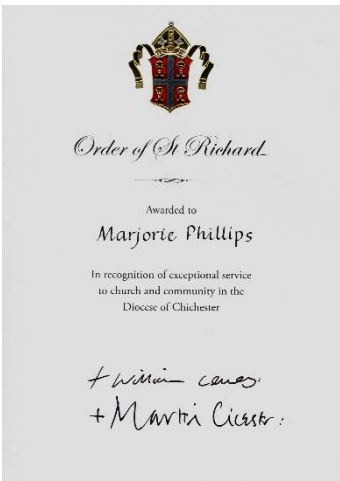
Bishop Martin giving Marjorie her certificate

heard that Bishop Martin would visit her at home to make the presentation, as he wanted to do it personally.

The Bishop arrived on his bicycle having ridden from church house in Hove. He was pleased to find that our daughter, son in law, two grandchildren and myself were with her for the presentation.

Marjorie was presented with her badge and certificate on Wednesday the 30th October.

The Bishop said that Marjorie's certificate was unique as it was signed by two Bishops.



Following the Presentation, he said the prayer of St Richard and gave Marjorie a blessing.

Bishop Martin then spoke to our grandchildren and asked them about their school and what they were doing during half term week. He congratulated Chloe on her Gold Standard award at school.

Dylan told him was hoping to get a new bicycle as his current one is too small. The Bishop told Dylan about the time when he had had to buy a new bicycle because his previous one had been stolen. Dylan also showed the Bishop an album for collecting cards of premiership football players and Bishop Martin talked about, anticipation when you got new cards and swapping repeats with friends.

Bishop Martin stayed for about 30 minutes before getting on his bicycle again to cycle down to St Peters Church to see the light show to celebrating St Peter's 100th Anniversary.

John Phillips

## Holy Nativity Processional Cross

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The processional cross at The Holy Nativity Church in Bevendean was carved from a piece of Welsh slate by John Skelton a sculptor who worked near Ditchling.

John Stephen Skelton MBE FRBS was born on the 8th July 1923 in Glasgow and died on 26th November 1999 at Streat near Ditchling where he had a studio. He was a British letter-cutter and sculptor.

The top of the processional cross at Bevendean on the right.





Skelton was a nephew of Eric Gill and was first apprenticed to his uncle, shortly before Gill's death. He continued his training under Joseph Cribb, the sculptor who carved the Rood Screen at St Mary Magdalen Church in Coldean.



The Crucifix hanging behind the altar in Bevendean

In 1963 John Skelton executed a number of commissions for the Architect Reginald Melhuish for The Holy Nativity Church which replaced the Old Barn Church in Bevendean.

They included the processional cross seen here, a Hymn Board, the Crucifix which is still hanging on the wall behind the Altar in the church, two Altar Ornaments to hold candles, whose bases are carved from blocks of slate. He also

created a Font in Copper and Slate which was removed when the church was thought to have been closed in 2007.



The Copper Font on a slate base being used for a baptism in the 1980s on the right.

The processional cross leading the procession at the dedication of the Holy Nativity Church 30th May 1964, below. The man carrying the Cross is Paddy Seaman, a church warden. The boy nearest the camera is Chris Hawkes, the other boy is Dibby

Jones. The Vicar nearest the camera is Fr. Jack Money from St Andrews at Moulsecomb, the other Vicar is Fr. Kenneth Chapman the Vicar of Bevendean. Fr. Tony Pannett is just coming round the



Corner, behind the Bishop, the Right Reverend Roger Wilson, in front of him is the Archdeacon.





'Virgin and Child' Sculpture on the left was also carved by John Skelton.

This bronze sculpture in the Lady Chapel of Chichester Cathedral was given in 1988 by the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for their International Congress held in Chichester in 1986. The Society aims to show that in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Christians of many traditions may find a focus in their search for unity.

In 2009 the sculptor Philip Jackson was commissioned to add a flower-holder to the sculpture.

The Font in Chichester Cathedral was also made by John Skelton in 1983.

It was commissioned by the Dean and Chapter, Cornish stone was chosen to complement the colours of the Feibusch

Baptism and was selected from a quarry on Bodmin Moot. The shallow bowl set into the upper block is of beaten copper. The text around the bowl, "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism", (Ephesians 4:5).

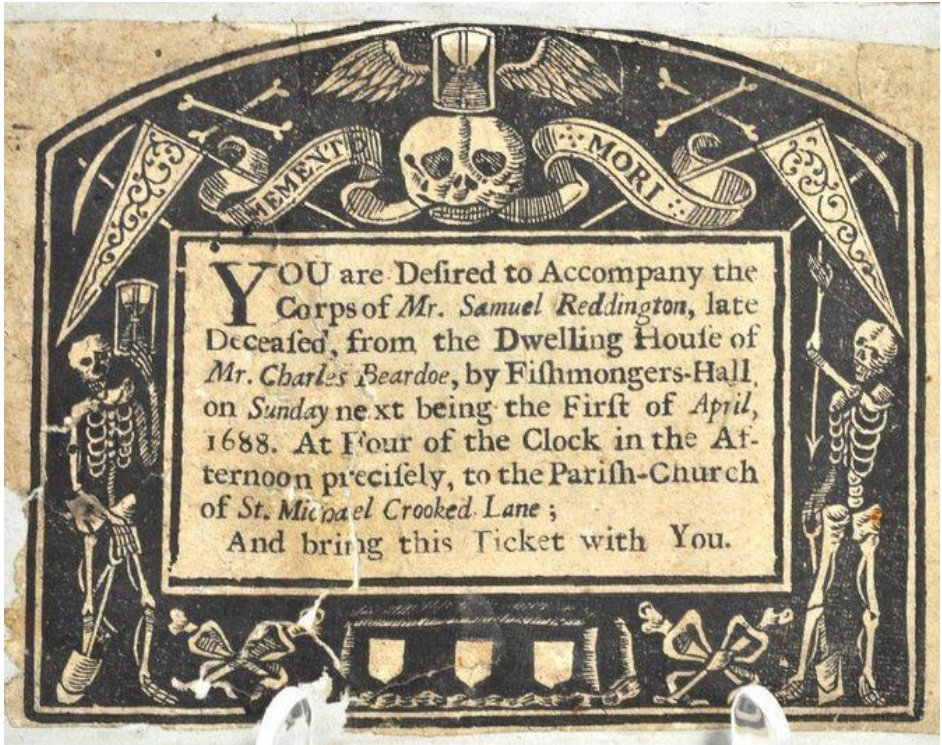
John Skelton's other public work includes the headstone to Edward James at West Dean, a sculpture of St Augustine above the church of that dedication in Bexhill-on-Sea.

John Phillips



## Funeral Invitation Card from 1688

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This Funeral Invitation Card was taken to the TV program *Flog It* in 2014 to be sold. It was estimated that it would sell for between £80 and £120 but in fact it sold for £520.

This 17th century funeral invitation, inscribed "You are Desired to Accompany the Corps of Mr. Samuel Reddington, late deceased, from the Dwelling House of Mr. Charles Beardoe, by Fishmongers-Hall, on Sunday next being the First of April 1688. At Four of the clock in the afternoon precisely, to the Parish-Church of St. Michael Crooked Lane; And bring this Ticket with you"

## Sussex War Memorials

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Some information on Sussex War Memorials and the people that they commemorate.

Wherever you live in the UK, whether in Sussex or elsewhere, you are never very far from a war memorial. It is estimated there are about 70,000 memorials across the country. Approximately 700 are located in Sussex, commemorating some 31,000 servicemen and women.

Some of these, like the Chattri Indian War Memorial in Brighton, stand as very visible monuments that can be seen from miles away; others are much more modest in the form of simple stone tablets, often inside churches and chapels.



The Chattri War Memorial commemorates 53 men of the Indian Army who died and were cremated at Patcham Down during the First





World War. A visit to Brighton's Chattri Memorial, located on the Patcham Downs above the city, makes one aware that Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims all fought for Britain during the great war. Many of those who returned injured were treated at the Royal Pavilion, temporarily transformed into an infirmary, while those who didn't recover were cremated in accordance with their religious traditions at the Chattri site.

Most war memorials were built following the first and

second world wars, probably as a result of the extraordinary number of casualties sustained in those conflicts.

One of the most catastrophic losses of life in the First World War came on 30 June 1916. This is often referred to as 'The Day Sussex Died', the date marks an offensive in which some 2,000 South Downers went 'over the top' as part of an operation intended as a diversion to a larger attack the next day. This led to one of the First World War's most infamous episodes; the Battle of the Somme.

Of those 2,000, less than 900 lived to tell the tale. Many of those killed in action on that fateful morning are commemorated in understated fashion on a stone plaque located inside St Andrew's church in Steyning.

While most war memorials display the names of multiple fallen soldiers, some are dedicated to individuals, often commissioned by their families. One of the more famous instances can be found at St Bartholomew's in Burwash, bearing the name of Lieutenant John Kipling. If the name sounds familiar, that is because John was the only son of author and poet Rudyard Kipling. Enlisted as an officer with the help of his father, John served in the army for less than six months before he disappeared in battle. Eight days earlier, his final letter home requested a new identification disc, used to identify the bodies of soldiers in the event they were killed on the battlefield, after his original one had been lost.

Evidently the replacement never reached him. Rudyard Kipling's long and agonising search to find out what happened to his missing son is well documented, with the Nobel Prize winner spending the next four years gathering eyewitness reports and concluding that John had gone missing on September 27, 1915, during the Battle of Loos. In the midst of his search, Kipling became heavily involved with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and was eventually appointed as their literary advisor. Indeed, many war graves of unknown soldiers bear the Kipling-penned inscription 'A soldier of the Great War, known unto God.'

Sadly, Kipling passed away without ever finding out the full truth of what had happened to his son. However, in 1992 the CWGC amended the inscription on the grave of an unnamed soldier at Loos cemetery in France to bear John Kipling's name.



A board in the garden of Rudyard Kipling's home at Burwash commemorates the loss of nine men from the village.



The photograph on the front cover of this magazine is of the war memorial close to St Bartholomew's Church in Burwash.



The village sign in Chailey above was decorated with poppies for Remembrance Sunday in November 2024.

War memorials can both create and solve mysteries, and they also educate the public on some of the lesser-known aspects of these sprawling conflicts.

The monument itself was largely the result of efforts by Brighton Mayor Sir John Otter, who was determined that the contribution of Indian soldiers to the war effort should not be forgotten.

Sussex's newest war memorial is located on the clifftop at Beachy Head. The RAF Bomber Command Memorial, unveiled in 2012, is the result of the efforts of Joe Williams, a Bomber Command veteran, who spent many years raising funds for a monument dedicated to the 125,000 bomber pilots, navigators and gunners who lost their lives in WWII.



Many war graves of unknown soldiers bear the Kipling-penned inscription 'A soldier of the Great War, known unto God'.

John Phillips

## **Chichester Cathedral Service for Christ the King**

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On Sunday morning the 24th of November, John and I attended the Sung Eucharist at Chichester Cathedral. The celebrant was The Revd Canon Dr Jack Dunn, Chancellor and the Preacher was The Dean, The Very Revd Dr Edward Dowler.

The Dean talked about the history behind the service for Christ the King. He started by pointing out that we celebrate the feast of Christ the King on the last day of the church year.

This particular feast day is relatively new and the origins of this day feel very relevant this year when we have just commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice; the event which ended the first World War on the eleventh of November 1918.

On 23rd December 1922, the new Pope, Pius the 11th, wrote in his first encyclical: 'One thing is certain today. Since the close of the Great War individuals, the different classes of society, the nations of the earth have not as yet found true peace. They do not enjoy, therefore, that active and fruitful tranquillity which is the aspiration and the need of mankind.' He continued 'true peace can only be found under the Kingship of Christ as "Prince of Peace'. Three years later in 1925 the Pope instituted the Feast of Christ the King.

Christ as King is an image that sits at the heart of the Christian tradition.

Pius wrote: In the decade after the first world war 'the nations of the earth have not as yet found true peace, true peace can only be found under the Kingship of Christ the Prince of Peace'.

In some ways it feels that not much has changed over the intervening years. There are wars and rumours of wars. Many people do not enjoy, active and fruitful tranquillity which all sounds a bit depressing and then I remember that the Gospel is good news.

We have the Good News, because we are all here.

Marjorie Phillips

## The "Snail in The Bottle" Case

On 26 August 1928, Mrs Donoghue met a friend at the Wellmeadow Café in Renfrewshire. Her friend bought her a bottle of ginger beer. As she enjoyed her drink, part of a decomposing snail fell out of the bottle. It is recorded that Mrs Donoghue suffered shock and a severe stomach upset as a result. As she had not bought the drink, Mrs Donoghue had no legal contract with the cafe owner. The case made on Mrs Donoghue's behalf therefore focused on whether the manufacturer and bottler of the drink, David Stevenson should be held responsible. Previously the law had declared there was no legal connection between consumer and manufacturer.

The case itself never came to trial and was finally settled out of court. Before that there was much legal debate over whether there was a case to hear. In May 1932 the House of Lords ruled there was. Lord Atkin looked to the Bible story of the Good Samaritan and the principle of loving your neighbour to help him decide. He found that just as neighbours should care for each other so should manufacturers care about the consumers of their products.



The Donoghue v Stevenson case established the precedent of negligence based on the 'neighbour principle' and has been followed internationally by courts since.

A plaque and statue have been erected on the site of the former Wellmeadow Cafe, the scene of an event that was the basis of a landmark legal case. To this day it remains famous around the world.

John Phillips



## True Faith

Faith in God is not something to be seen nor something you can hold or show or even hold.

But found within your being, when in life you learn of a hidden power stronger than being dependable on self or man.

It can set you free and guide when you feel lost or alone, for having Faith and Trust in the 3 in 1 makes all things possible through Jesus, God's one and only Son.

Faith can be as small as a mustard seed yet far greater than you alone can achieve.

If Only You Believe. Amen

Reg Neville

To hire the church hall please use the link: -

<https://hallbookingonline.com/stmarymagdalen>

Or contact: Revd. Betsy Gray-Hammond

Phone: 07842 608 911

e-mail: revbetsy@btinternet.com

The hourly rate is £21.00

(Regrettably 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Parties are excluded)

Commercial Organisation rates are £25.00 per hour.



# Christopher Stringer

## Funeral Directors

Christopher has been in the funeral profession for over 30 years, serving the local community of Rottingdean and beyond across Brighton & Hove.

He is a committed Christian and a Church organist. He has a special understanding to the needs of fellow Christians.

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If you'd like to discuss any requirements that you may have,  
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