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*Published jointly by
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Parish Newsletter



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
LOCAL CHURCH**

Vicar : **Revd Chris Lawrence**
01825 891090
(after hours 01825 890365)

Churchwardens : **Awaiting elections**

Secretary to PCC : **Mrs Diana Kentish-Barnes**

Treasurer : **Mr Ian Elliott**

**All communications for church matters should be directed to
the Church Office – 10.30 am – 5.00 pm (closed Wednesday)**

Email - rev.chris@btinternet.com

Post - Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane, Framfield TN22 5NH

Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090

From the Registers :



Marriages – those whom God has joined, let no one divide

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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair -

For the Church: Rev. Chris Lawrence

For the Council: Mr. Rob Newton

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Jan Riddle

Distribution: Derek Thorogood, Delia Gillies
and their teams of volunteers

Printers: "Print Matters"

*A bi-monthly Newsletter distributed free to all homes
within the Parish.*

We are needing volunteer distributors of this Newsletter for two areas which are within the boundaries of the Parish of St Thomas à Becket, although they now lie outside the civil parish of Framfield. The areas are the new Fernley Park estate, and the Harveys Lane/Knole Lane area.

There are seven deliveries to be made each year.

This is a piece of service which helps to keep the people of the parish in touch with each other, so if you could lend a hand, please contact Derek Thorogood on 01825 890487

The Uniqueness of Jesus - God's gift to Mankind

One of the great things about Christmas is the giving and receiving of gifts. Shopping for that perfect gift for a loved one can be a delight all of its own. There is the fervent expectation as the day approaches when the wrapping paper is finally removed to reveal the long awaited present. Usually there is the look of wonder and delight that brings equal pleasure to the giver and receiver that makes it all worthwhile. But what happens if the gift is not gratefully received or the gift just didn't match up to expectations?

I often wonder if this is how many of Jew's of Jesus' day viewed the long awaited Messiah. Jesus is God's gift to mankind but to many of his day he came in the wrong wrapping. Who would ever have thought that the Saviour of the World would be born as a baby - how ridiculous!

The Jews were certainly looking for a Saviour; someone who would rise up as a strong leader like King David and put an end to Roman oppression, but God in His wisdom had other ideas. And there lies the problem - God's wisdom is foolishness to man. You have to look at Jesus from God's perspective. A gift that needs to be appreciated and metaphorically speaking, unwrapped, appreciated and accepted in all His glory.

The uniqueness of Jesus would not begin to be appreciated until He reached 30 years of age. Jesus returns from being tempted for forty days and nights in the desert and then goes to His local synagogue.

As was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."^[e]

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 3:16-21).

This event was no less than history in the making. Jesus had declared God's mandate and mission for Him that day - the reason why He had come to earth. But it begs the question, did the hearers of His words identify with being, poor, prisoners, blind and oppressed? Probably not, but that is exactly what they were and so are we until God opens the eyes of our hearts and reveals our true condition.

Proverbs 23:7 says 'As a man thinks in his heart, so he is'. The problem with the people of Jesus' day and ours is that we are pitifully self-deceived. Jeremiah 17:9 states **The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?** Not only do we think we are ok we actually believe that there is nothing wrong with us - God begs us to look deeper within ourselves for when we do we will see our true condition and the need of God's saving grace found only through His Son Jesus Christ.

I often wonder why the church is not full on a Sunday. There are obviously many and varied reasons but I believe the chief ones are fear and pride. It takes courage to admit that we all need help; that our attempts to lead a fulfilling life are often little more than moving deck chairs on the Titanic. If that's you then join the club. The realisation that life is not a bed of roses and that you don't want continued chastisement for your shortcomings but would much rather have someone extend a gracious hand to you so that you could start over - then you are qualified.

One of my favourite books is *The Road Less Travelled* by M. Scott-Peck. I like it (in an awkward way) because it's brutally honest about the human condition. Scott Peck in his role as a psychiatrist would make progress with his clients up to a point where there was a confrontation with self, where upon there were two possible outcomes. Either the client would grasp the nettle and work through the issue and mature or they would cancel their next appointment! Human beings love to stick their heads in the sand when the going gets tough and personal.

So how about you and church in 2013? Come and see, sit at the back, come with a friend and see if your heart begins to change. It can be challenging but in the long run that's a good thing or as Jesus said: **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."** (Matt 7:13-14)

Many blessings to everyone in the parish this Christmas - Rev Chris Lawrence

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FRAMFIELD



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In aid of MacMillan Nurses

Stars for Framfield Christmas tree will be on sale from Monday 19 November 2012 at Framfield Pre-school, Framfield School and Hair by Us. Or you can contact me on the number below.

Stars are £3.00 each. Please use a permanent ink to write your message.

A service to start Christmas and light the tree will be on SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER at 5pm. Stars will be available at this time

Tea & coffee will be available afterwards in hall. Please come along and support MacMillan Nurses.

Thank you
Selina Allen
01825 891110

Diary of Church Services

DECEMBER 2012

02 First Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW) with Healing Prayer

09 Second Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW)

16 Third Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Lessons and Carols by candlelight

19 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Christmas Praise

24 Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Christingle / Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion (CW)

25 Christmas Day

10.00 am Family Festival Praise

28 Holy Innocents Day *

10.00am Special service for bereaved parents and children lost before or shortly after birth - (*see Vicars letter*)

30 First Sunday of Christmas

10.00 am Holy Communion (CW)

- 06 Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 13 Second Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Communion (CW) with Healing Prayer
- 20 Third Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 23** 11.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 27 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship 2001

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th JANUARY 2013
TO
ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182
framfield.pc@virgin.net
CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE SENT TO
CHRIS LAWRENCE AT THE CHURCH OFFICE –
01825 891090**

**HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR
PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine). Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours. All communications for Parish Council matters should be directed to Ann.

An exciting new fortnightly Club is to launch on Wednesday 13 February 2013 at Hadlow Down Village Hall – which will be open to anyone over 60 in the TN22 locality who would like to enjoy a nutritious home cooked meal with good company and conversation!

The TN22 Club is funded by Big Lottery Awards for All and managed by CESI, a local not-for-profit organisation, who with the help of local volunteers, shall provide a fortnightly lunch – with the opportunity of activities and social events. You choose whether to just enjoy the lunch or come along earlier and enjoy some extra fun!

We would love to hear from you if you would like to join us on February 13th for lunch or if you are keen to help in a voluntary capacity. We will be relying on lots of local support to make the TN22 Club a success, so please do be in touch if you think you could help us with cooking, driving, chatting, clearing up, serving. Please do spread the word in your village to those who may benefit from coming.

Volunteers will benefit from any training required and out of pocket expenses for driving. All volunteers will be required to undergo an enhanced CRB check to comply with current legislation. Two course lunch with refreshments is £4.50

Contact: Suzanne Hammond (01435 661054) on behalf of CESI, email: brendansuzanne@gmail.com

Returning to Blackboys was Mrs Jeanette Atkins, who now shares teaching responsibilities in Class 4. Miss Katie Wilmshurst and Miss Emma Cornwell have begun roles as Individual Needs Assistants, while Ms Nettie Butler and Miss Hollie Aspinall began roles as Teaching Assistants. All new staff have settled well and are making a positive impact in our school.

In September all classes were involved in a mini project called *Marvellous Magical Me*, which gives pupils and teachers an opportunity to understand expectations in their new classes. We took the opportunity to teach a series of lessons on Internet Safety, culminating in some excellent displays in the main corridor.

Another exciting event was the launch of our new website. Our talented ICT technician, Andrew Huggett, has redesigned our site making it far more user friendly and informative. To celebrate this, we held a balloon launch, with the child whose balloon travelled the furthest winning a web design session with Andrew. Balloons are still being found, with the furthest so far in Holland!

The pupils have benefited from many class trips and enrichment activities. Class 1 enjoyed a visit to Bodiam Castle as part of their topic of "A Knight's Tale". Class 2 have been busy designing and building different houses from around the world. One favourite so far is an excellent yurt! Class 3 are learning about the Aztecs, the original purveyors of fine chocolate, so therefore enjoyed a chocolate making master-class. Class 4 have dressed as evacuees for a visit to Newhaven Fort for their World War 2 study. They have also been exploring the school log book from the 1939-45 era.

With Christmas just around the corner, we anticipate exciting nativity plays and carol concerts and all the other events that make Christmas such a special time in primary schools.

Graham Sullivan - Head of School

News and Events From – Roving Reporter – Eve

Since my last jottings to you I have been roving again. My friend and I took our annual 'girl's only' holiday. This year we went over the water – not to foreign parts but across to the Isle of Wight. Twenty minutes from Portsmouth Harbour and we were in Ryde. The little train, which looked passed its Rail-by-Date (apparently they are old London Underground Trains) delivered us safely to Sandown where we soon found our hotel.

We had a lovely room overlooking the sea with a balcony. There were palm trees outside and a very short distance to the sea which whooshed gently as it ebbed and flowed. We had a very good week visiting as many places as we could – we were lucky in that we didn't have one wet day. The buses were very efficient and I was very grateful for my bus pass which made all my excursions free!

Autumn is well and truly upon us. Harvest Festival is over, hopefully all the crops are safely gathered in with not very abundant results due to the unseasonal weather during our spring and summer. The trees though will never fail to surprise and delight us with their wonderful colourings. Enjoy them while you can as they won't last long once the winds strengthen and the frosts harden.

We must start to think and prepare for Christmas soon; amid the frenzy of present buying and food; (everyone seems to buy enough for three months!)

Let's make time to reflect on one of the main events in the Christian Calendar and enjoy our families and friends during this special time. So may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and pray for Peace in 2013. God Bless.

Holy Innocents Day Service - 10am, 28th December 2012

The loss of a child particularly in the early stages of pregnancy or shortly after birth is often a traumatic event for the mother and/or father. Loss can be for a variety of reasons e.g. miscarriage, elected or unelected abortion, stillbirth, cot death or other medical or unknown reasons.

There will be a special service on the 28th December at Framfield to remember all children who died either before birth or shortly after and particularly those who were not committed into God's safekeeping.

Part of the service will be asking for and receiving God's forgiveness for those who may be living under the shadow of regret of guilt.

This will be a quiet, gentle service (no hymns) where I hope that all who come will experience the love and grace of God, forgiveness and healing for the broken heart.

N.B. If anyone would like to discuss anything before the service (in confidence) please contact the church office. Rev Chris Lawrence

Framfield Parish Council

MEETING SCHEDULE 2013

On each date detailed below, three meetings will be held as follows (although the Planning Committee may be cancelled if not essential):

- **Planning Committee - commencing at 6.30 pm**
- **Trust - commencing at 7 pm**
- **Parish Council - commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Tuesday, 29 January (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 26 February (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 26 March (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 30 April (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 28 May (BB Trust) (PC AGM) and Annual Assembly (8 pm)*	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 25 June (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 30 July (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
August	No meeting
Tuesday, 24 September (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
Tuesday, 29 October (BB Trust)	Blackboys Village Hall
Tuesday, 26 November (FF Trust)	Framfield Memorial Hall
December	No meeting

***The Annual Assembly (Annual Parish Meeting) will be held at 8 pm after the PC AGM on Tuesday, 28 May 2013.**

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825- 890182. Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net
Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and on the website – www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Framfield Church of England Primary School

We have had a very busy start to the new school year as we have welcomed 15 new reception children in to Peacocks class and 3 additional children have joined us. We are pleased to have 2 new teachers working with us Mrs Andrews in Puffins and Mr Diplock in Kingfishers. Mrs Gregory has also started as our school secretary.

As part of our whole school topic Pete the Pond has been again and worked with all the children. Eagles class have also worked with Lyn Merrick an expert in environmental education and the children have been fascinated by dissecting owl pellets!

We all enjoyed European Day of Languages during which several family members and our bursar talked to the children about different languages and customs. Great fun was had by all enjoying various foods from around the world including pizza, churros and croissants from the French café.

We had a very successful Book Week in which an excellent assembly was led by Simon Toyne, who gave the children an insight in to how a book gets published. Thanks to great support from family and friends, the book fair did well and we will be able to choose new books for the classrooms.

In our houses we are now preparing for our fundraising events for Children In Need Day and of course Christmas will soon be upon us with events such as the usual Christmas parties and lunches as well as our Nativity Play in the Memorial Hall (17th and 18th December) and our Big Sing in Eastbourne.

Jacqueline Davies - Head of School

Blackboys Church of England Primary School

It has been an exciting and busy start to the new academic year at Blackboys School.

We welcomed 6 new members of staff to Blackboys in September. Miss Jessica Stevens is a newly qualified teacher who is already making great strides as our class 1 teacher.

The FAB Partnership! (Framfield and Blackboys Partnership Schools)

We are nearly at the end of our first full term as partners! It has been a busy, but eventful and exciting time for both schools.

Joint events for pupils have included a wonderful Harvest Festival celebration in the Church - many thanks to Rev Chris and the Church team for supporting this very first joint event. After the Harvest, the children from KS2 at Blackboys School visited their friends at Framfield for a snack before walking back to their own school; this was a return visit, as Framfield's year 5 and 6 pupils had walked over to Blackboys earlier in the term for a tea party. They are all got on very well and some firm friendships have been made.

Both schools attended an opera workshop together, with several pupils from each school performing in the chorus of the New Sussex Opera's performance of Puccini's opera *Edgar*.

Older pupils from both schools have attended some master classes at Ringmer Academy and on a sporting front, football has become a partnership event, with boys from both schools creating a team that played brilliantly in a tournament in Uckfield, losing only 1 game.

Staff have met up for a variety of events including several training sessions at the start of term while our Early Years Staff have exchanged visits and discussed planning and assessment together. All staff have planned joint projects for the January term and we are looking forward to sharing not only our experiences, but the good practise that is found in both schools.

It is wonderful to be working with two such super schools and to see them both flourish and develop even further. Many thanks need to go to the staff, pupils and governors of both schools for being so supportive to the partnership and the senior management teams of both schools. Perhaps even more important, a huge thank you to all the parents of both schools who have been supportive in so many ways, both to the individual schools, but also to me personally. The feedback from parents of both schools has been invaluable and will continue to support us all in taking the partnership forward positively in the future.

Jonquil King (Executive Headteacher Blackboys and Framfield Primary Schools)

**WE ARE
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The world's largest coffee morning for CMS held across the country was a huge success yet again. Our Uckfield committee were pleased to raise a total of £1262. Our next fundraising event will be a Christmas fair to be held on Wednesday 21st November, between 10 30am and 3pm at the Buxted Sports Pavilion. Do come along and enjoy a cookery demon-stration, our many stalls, homemade soup or a coffee and a mince pie!

The Acorn Project has been developed in Lymington to bring together children aged between 6 and 17 with hospice patients. The aim is to give both groups the space to talk about their experiences and encourage people in the community to talk about death and dying. One advantage of working with children is that Macmillan can reach an even wider community.

If you or anyone you know has worries about cancer, if they've just been diagnosed or even if their treatment has ended, the Cancerline, Benefits Helpline, Cancer information Nurse Helpline and Youthline have all been brought together under one phone number: 0808 808 0000 or the website can always be visited on www.macmillan.org.uk. Information can be had over the telephone, or you can request any number of relevant booklets.

Ann Press, Local Chairman 01825 890400



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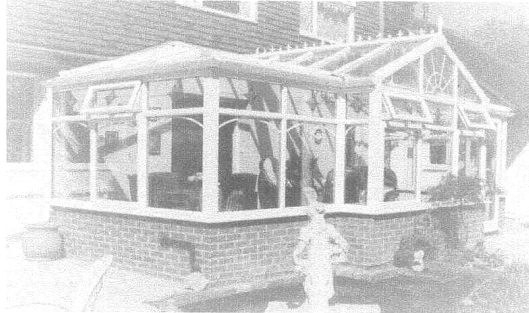
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FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

3rd December - Christmas Party and Entertainment by Children from Framfield CE School 2.30pm

21st January - AGM and New Programme and Collection of Subscriptions (£10 a year).2.30pm

Our Members of whom there are 44 (including our Helpers) - Would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Thank you to so many of you for Opening your House and Garden to us all, and to many others that have helped us in 2012.

For further info ring Sandy: 01825 840648

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE HALL MARKET



December 15th - 10.00am - 12.00 Noon

January 2013 - 26th 10.00am - 12.00 Noon

Variety of Market stalls - Tea Coffee and Bacon Rolls

May we wish you all A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR from all Stall Holders, and please continue to come to the Markets in 2013. THANK YOU.

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The children have been busy making firework pictures and building a pretend bonfire in the garden. We hope you all had a safe bonfire night. Thank you to the parents who helped raise money for children in need, the children enjoyed coming in dressed in spotty clothes and making smartie cakes for the cake stall.

This is a very busy term in the run up to Christmas, the children are looking forward to their Nativity play and party.

Following the setting up of our local giving page, we would like to thank everyone for their donations & their generosity in supporting the Pre-School, we have currently raised over £500, if you would still like to make a donation please go to the link below:

<http://localgiving.com/charity/framfieldpreschool>

We would like to welcome our new children and their families this term, Ethan & Oscar we hope you enjoy your time at Framfield Pre-School.

We are open 7.45 - 6pm daily, including a breakfast club 7.45-8.45 and after school club 3-6pm for 2-11yrs.

We still have some availability for morning and afternoon sessions, if you would like to arrange a visit or for more information please telephone Sarah Ridley on 01825 890943.

Thank you
 Teresa Howell
 Pre-School Manager

OFSTED Registration No. 415265
Charity Commission No. 1139563
PLA Member No. 29899



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Lunchtime, evenings & weekends

Nature Notes

November's cooling shortening days bring naked trees which exposes the evergreen holly with its stunning red berries and English racing green leaves. Ivy is also apparent like Christmas decorations in the brown and grey deciduous timber. First frosts have happened, and the non-hardy plants are done for the year. However, the birds are looking at their best, because they have moulted and grown their winter plumage. With the leaves coming off the trees there is no better time to go bird-watching, and any food you put out in the garden will attract beautiful, willing visitors. Do not worry if you have cats around, as it is better to feed the birds than not, as there will be more pairs of beady eyes looking out for predators and if one is spotted, the bird will give an instant warning call which will confound the cat.

I spotted two ravens this morning at Falmer where I work, this is a rare sight in Sussex. Ravens used to be common, but were persecuted to extinction in previous centuries. Now they are protected, and are coming back to Sussex. They are the biggest passerine or perching song bird. Many bird books record them as larger than a buzzard. Ravens are highly intelligent shy birds that tend to nest on remote cliffs away from people. Their 'kronk kronk' call/song is evocative of mountains and truly wild places. They generally feed on dead animals, and apparently pair for life which can be more than 20 years.

The berry crop is good again this year, some say that it is a harbinger of cold weather to come. I am not sure about that, but it will bring in the migrant winter visiting birds such as redwings, fieldfares, blackbirds and song thrushes. Yes many of our winter song thrushes and blackbirds are just visitors from a frozen Scandinavia. Because Britain is bathed in warm winds and sea water, it is warm for its latitude. On a par with Moscow and Saskatoon we should be getting winter temperatures of minus 25⁰ Celsius. However, we do not, and the birds know that, and flock to our shores in their thousands from the frozen lands of the north and east. Many waders winter on the mud-flats of the Thames estuary which abounds in worms, seaweeds and shellfish. Many politicians do not seem to realise this when they support the building of an airport there. A bird in a plane engine will die and cause the plane to crash. How will politicians keep the birds away?

Martyn Stenning

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HETAS OFTEC

Councillors must make an increase to the precept of approximately £6.50 per annum from 2013 which equates to less than 12.5p per week (based on a Band D household) but will mean the Parish Council will be able to continue to fund the assets it holds on behalf of the residents of the Parish.

If anyone spots any problems with the highways/pavements please contact ESCC Highways direct on 0345 6080193 or via their email address highways@eastsussex.gov.uk. I can also now arrange meetings with the ESCC Highways Steward for anything other than very minor issues.

If anyone is experiencing problems with street-lighting I should be contacted in the first instance.

The 2013 meeting dates are detailed elsewhere in the magazine. Planning Committee meetings are now held on the same day as full PC meetings. Details are available on the noticeboards.

The Council wishes everyone a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year.

If anyone requires a full hard copy of the minutes for any of the Council meetings please let me know. All meeting details are available on the noticeboards and our website – www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

ANN NEWTON/December 2012

Contact Details:

Maria Naylor– Chairman (890946)); Selina Allen (891110); Richard Brocklebank (0788 9336446); Myran Eade (890507); Peter Friend (01435 867126); Jeff Goggin – Vice Chairman (890691); Felicity Groves (840341); John Mordaunt (890443); Rob Newton – (890103); Ian Paisley (890904);

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182 (fax/answer machine).

Email: framfield.pc@virgin.net. Messages will be picked up during office hours.

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Postal address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys, TN22 5LR.

New Life Church Blackboys

(Previously Welcome Baptist Church Blackboys)

The Induction service of Rev Guy Partridge will be held on Sunday 2 December at 3pm. This will be held at Pilgrim Hall, Easons Green. We are greatly looking forward to Guy joining us as our pastor along with his wife Luci and children Matty and Saskia.

Our weekly services in the Village Hall, will now be held at 10.30am each Sunday, beginning with coffee and cake. As of January 2013 the Family Services will be held on the last Sunday of each month followed by lunch. Please let us know if you would like to come.

All the weekly activities remain the same. Life2the max Wednesday evenings. Crusaders at Blackboys school, after school on Thursdays, Little Stars Friday mornings in the Village Hall.

We have all been enjoying and have been blessed by the Alpha course we have been holding in the Village Hall every Monday evening. The teaching on exploring the Christian faith and the wonderful meals provided by Andrew Doherty have been very much appreciated.

The Crusader Donkey Walk around the village will be on Thursday 13th December.

This year we will be Carol singing around Blackboys on the afternoon of Sunday December 16. We trust this will be a blessing for those taking part and those listening.

Our prayer for the church is Building through Blessing in Blackboys and Beyond. May you know the blessing of the presence of Jesus in your homes this Christmas.

Any further information regarding the church - visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NewLifeChurchBlackboys or Tel: Barbara Solly 01825 765178. Email: robin.solly@tesco.net

CHRISTMAS TIPS

Christmas can often be a stressful time for pets. Festive excitement, change of routine and guests can cause various problems. The following advice should help.

Keep to your pet's normal routine, feeding, walking and bed times. This will help to keep them relaxed and contented during the excitement of the festivities.

Feed their normal diet. It is tempting to give lots of rich goodies so they can enjoy Christmas, but you may not enjoy Boxing Day cleaning up the results of upset tummies! Just add a few tiny tasty morsels to the food.

Stick to your usual house rules. If your dog does not normally sleep on the bed or sofa, do not allow him to do it for a special treat for Christmas. He could be very confused by this and not want to revert to the normal routine afterwards. Conversely if your dog always has the entire sofa to lounge on, he will be a bit fed up if he has to share it with houseguests. The same rule applies to feeding titbits at the table, if your family do not do it, tactfully tell the guests that it is not allowed.

Do not forget regular toilet trips, especially for the young or old dog.

Provide a quiet retreat where your cat or dog can rest in peace.

With lots of people coming and going do be extra careful that doors and gates are not left open for the dog to run off or even worse be run over by a guest coming up your drive.

Even a well-trained dog might seize the opportunity to steal the turkey if it is left out on the kitchen unit while everybody is partying at the other end of the house. So check everything is put away.

The Parish Council meetings held in September and October discussed a variety of issues and in particular the cost of repairing many of the features around the Parish.

Talks are underway with ESCC over the repair and ultimate responsibility of the guideposts. The sign at the Village Hall, Blackboys, is undergoing major repairs and the three village signs are all in need of some 'TLC'. Quotes are to be obtained from local craftsmen.

As detailed in the last magazine the grounds maintenance contracts for the three recreation grounds and allotments has gone out to tender. The decision on the preferred contractor will be made early in the New Year.

The Parish Council acting as Trustees have agreed an increase in the hall hire rates and have tried to bring in some consistency of pricing across the two establishments. The Village Hall in Blackboys has recently been redecorated – huge thanks must go to Jeff and Gill Goggin for all the time they have spent painting on behalf of the Parish. Although, we are endeavouring to work towards the eventual refurbishment of the Memorial Hall, in the meanwhile, we are looking at the possibility of giving the Hall a coat of paint to brighten it up in the meanwhile.

Several residents have commented on the condition of the three play areas – something which the Councillors are aware of but there are just no funds at present to start refurbishments. A basic replacement play area would cost approximately £50k. Grants are being looked at, but there is generally very little money to go round.

ESCC have drawn up plans to switch the remaining street lights over to part night timers. This will be at a cost to the Council of £30.00 per light. There are 45 lights involved. The total outlay would be £1,350 although subsequently creating an annual saving of £277.00, thus taking nearly five years to break even. This is a decision the Council has yet to make.

All of this takes money and since there has not been an increase in the precept (the part of your Council Tax bill that goes to the Parish Council) for several years, we also now have only a quarter of our reserve funds as we have been 'dipping in' to help finance increasing costs. This will mean your



Blackboys Pre-School
Blackboys Village Hall,
Gun Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex, TN22 5JL
Tel: 01825 891113

www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

email: enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

A huge welcome to Eran, Matthew, Owen, Ella, Evie, Eleanor, Astrid and Isabella and their families who have recently joined Blackboys Pre-School!

What an action packed term it has been. Our annual fancy dress Halloween party went with a bang. The autumnal weather hasn't deterred us from spending as much time as possible outside, both on the allotment and in our newly-refurbished outdoor area.

This coming term we will be doing lots more cooking including making stained glass window biscuits and getting all creative with our own Christmas decorations. On the Christmas theme, we will be learning some Nativity songs. We also have lots of Forest School activities to look forward to including making our own Forest Crowns.

Our friends from the Mohair Centre in Chiddingly will be visiting us to teach us how to spin wool. We'd love to hear from any members of the community who would be interested in sharing their knitting skills with us. Give Jenny a ring on 01825 891113 to arrange to come over.

You can keep tabs on all of our activities by checking out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/blackboyspreschool. Our website has lots of information about our activities including a link to register with easy fundraising to raise money for Blackboys Pre-School at no extra cost to you every time you shop online with retailers including Amazon, eBay, John Lewis and hundreds of others.

We will have another of our recycling collections in the run up to Christmas so if you have any unwanted clothes or textiles, please drop them off to us at Blackboys Village Hall at any time during school hours and we can earn up to £600 for every tonne we collect. Call us if you'd like to arrange a collection.

[A little bit about us](#)

Established almost 30 years ago, Blackboys Pre School is open Monday to Friday during school term times from 8.45am to 3.30pm and provides a wonderful, nurturing environment for children aged between 2 and 5 in a fabulous rural setting. The Pre-School applies Montessori principles and practice to some of its activities as well as offering Forest School activities. To book your child in for a no-obligation free trial or to arrange a visit, call Jenny on 01825 891113 or email enquiries@blackboyspreschool.org.uk

Rubbish bins. Watch they are not overflowing with rubbish with the lid not fully closed, especially if it has turkey bones in it. One, the bones are dangerous, and two, when a dog has had the reward of raiding the rubbish bin just once, he will go on doing it.

The Christmas tree. Another target for the inquisitive pet. Lots of presents to rip open and investigate. Chocolates for humans are dangerous for dogs, do not let them eat it. Only give them dog chocs. It is now known that dried fruit and grapes can be lethal for dogs so do not be tempted to give them any Christmas cake.

Jealousy between two dogs can escalate with the excitement of having presents, or even watching their humans opening presents. This can result in a fight. Separate the dogs while they open their presents if you think it might happen.

A little thought and planning beforehand should mean that both the pets and owners all have a super Christmas.

BEST WISHES AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

HAZEL CARTER

01825830477

info@hazel-carter.co.uk

www.hazel-carter.co.uk

"Babybeats" is a new singing group for mums with their babies and toddlers, this term runs from Wed 7 Nov to Wed Dec 12.

Come to the Framfield Church Hall for a 9.15 start.

Enjoy an uplifting 45 minutes of singing nursery rhymes,
followed by informal tea/coffee.

Drop in: costs £4 – contact Anne for more info on 07768 770911



Framfield & Blackboys WI
Wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
Programme for 2013

January 8th New Year Dinner

February 12th at Framfield Memorial Hall: 'John Whitfield the Smuggler' *Speaker Dr. John Kay*

March 12th at Framfield Memorial Hall: 'Gardening for the young at heart' *Speaker Mrs Lesley Chamberlain*

April 9th at Blackboys Village Hall 'The Romans in Sussex' *Speaker Mr Brian Braby*

May 14th at Blackboys Village Hall – Resolution meeting with Ploughman Supper

June 11th at Blackboys Village Hall: 'Fred Stone, the Missing Part' *Speaker Mr Stuart Woodbridge*

July 9th Summer Outing

August 13th Afternoon Tea in the Garden

September 10th at Blackboys Village Hall 'Bob Newhart Rides Again' *Speaker Mr Joe Mendell*

October 8th at Framfield Memorial Hall: 'The Gunpowder Plot' *Speaker Mr Peter Pyemont*

November 12th at Framfield Memorial Hall: A.G.M. and Anniversary Supper

December 10th at Framfield Memorial Hall: Christmas Party

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