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*Published jointly by
St Thomas à Becket Church
and Framfield Parish Council*

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

DECEMBER 2019 / JANUARY 2020

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

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

Churchwardens : **None at present**

Secretary to PCC : **Mr Barry Richardson**

Treasurer : **Mrs Gaynor Robson**

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

Email - revchris.framfield@gmail.com
Post - Vicarage Barn, Brookhouse Lane,
Framfield TN22 5NH
Telephone/ leave a message - 01825 891090



From the Registers:

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WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

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For the Council: Mr. Keith Brandon

Co-ordinator and Advertising: Ann Newton

Technical Editor: Barry Richardson

Treasurer: Marie Owen

**Distribution: Barbara Trickey, Delia Gillies,
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This magazine reaches over 1100 households in the parish.

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Christmas: It's all about the incarnation - Jesus the God man!

When you think about it, God's plan to save the world is quite bizarre. Why would Father God send His son Jesus to earth in such a covert way? A baby born into virtual poverty in the small town of Bethlehem to parents yet to be married!

Surely if God wanted everyone to know that He was God then perhaps we could have expected a more dramatic entrance. After all God did some amazing displays of his power in numerous accounts found in the Old Testament.

If this were not enough how about getting your head around the fact that Jesus was divine and human at the same time i.e. God becomes incarnate or literally being embodied in flesh or taking on flesh

Answering these two questions alone gives us a crucial insight into the wisdom of God and the crux of the Christmas story.

One of the stumbling blocks many people have with God or even being intrigued enough to find out more about God is that the natural human mind cannot initially understand the mind or the ways of God. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah God said *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.*⁹ *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9).*

The question of Jesus' incarnation has been problematic down the ages. However, to Jesus' mother Mary it was a case of simple acceptance and belief in what the angel Gabriel told her. Mary was Jesus' natural human mother but Jesus' father was God the Holy Spirit. Joseph adopted Jesus as his earthly son.

The announcement of this perplexing fact is recorded in Luke's Gospel chapter 1 ³⁰ *But the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God.* ³¹ *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus* (which means Saviour – my note). Mary naturally asks ³⁴ *How will this be, since I am a virgin?*

³⁵ *The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.....* ³⁷ *For nothing is impossible with God.* ³⁸ *I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said.*

I believe the reason that Jesus was born as a baby and to all intents and purposes grew up as a normal child, teenager and adult was so that he could connect with all areas of our lives. The pains and joys of earthly life were fully experienced by Jesus so that He is able to empathise with the whole range of human emotions that we experience.

When we pray (*speaking and listening to God*) we are not communing with a God who doesn't understand us, quite the contrary. God is concerned about our lives and wants the very best for us as you would expect of a true and loving Father. It would not be in keeping with His nature to think that God is distant and not really interested. In reality He is the One who 'stooped down' in humility and entered our broken world to save it.

Another interesting point is in the giving of His name. Unlike human parents, Mary and Joseph never get to choose his name. The angel Gabriel announces to Mary what his name will be and God appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him - "*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*" (Matthew 1:21).

Every name especially from a Hebrew perspective has meaning. A person was and is defined by their name. Jesus' name is very specific because it tells us that He is the Saviour. People get very hung up on the name Jesus and his mandate to save. However, the main reason why the world is still descending downhill is due to the problem of sin. The world may change but unless there is Godly intervention individual human beings don't have the inbuilt capacity to change for the better. The personal sin that we inherit or are literally 'born into' needs to be recognised and reconciled back to God. Man cannot save himself and re-establish the original relationship with God that would enable each one of us to love unconditionally in the way that God loves us. Sin separates and destroys and no amount of good works, however well-intentioned can make up the difference. Unfortunately, to think otherwise is self-deception. God alone is in the business of true and lasting transformation.

However, it is often when we run out of ourselves, when we come up against a problem that we cannot solve or we feel so broken inside that we start to look beyond ourselves. This is the place where God resides and it is at this point that the cry of the heart reaches the ears of God and He says "I am here for you". This is the point of transformation and it comes through the simple process of asking Jesus into your life. We have to ask as He never barges in, but when you do He alone turns your darkness to light, your stress into peace and your selfishness into true love, not just for now but for all eternity.

God with outstretched arms offers His Son as a gift to each one of us, but as with every gift it has to be willingly received - the question is will you, and if not now, when?

May God's blessing be upon everyone in the Parish this Christmas.

- Revd Chris Lawrence

Christmas Services at St Thomas a Becket

15th Dec 6.30pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

20th Dec 8.15 pm Carol singing at the Hare & Hounds

**24th Dec 4.30 pm Crib and Christingle Service
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion**

25th Dec 10.00 am Family Festival Praise

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The little piece of woodland is also enjoyed by young children from Blackboys Pre-School and Blackboys Primary School when they head off for their Forest School. In particular the tinies are safe and escorted by several teachers who ensure they cannot run off and get into danger in the nearby streams and boggy bits.

Both woods are owned and maintained by The Woodland Trust. The Trust has announced that it plans to remove the fencing in the summer of 2020. It was erected initially to protect young saplings from deer predation, but Trust officials say that is no longer necessary.

A group of walkers would very much like the fencing to be retained as they have literally nowhere else to walk that is safe. The Trust however is adamant it cannot happen, although the walkers and others who enjoy Turnmill Wood have offered to pay for maintenance or even purchase the woodland. An alternative is for the Trust to charge users.

There are one or two other dog walking areas, all very small and some distance away, which charge in the region of £10 per hour per dog. Many current users would be quite happy to pay to walk their dogs here (although they feel £10 per hour is very high) and feel a small payment would be a useful revenue stream for the cash-strapped Trust which has seen incoming funding cut, like so many charitable organisations.

All the users are experienced and responsible dog walkers (the woodland is a little walk away from Blackboys itself so largely ignored by occasional visitors who might drop litter or not pick up after their pooches.)

Another loser will be the pub where walkers often congregate during the day or evening for a welcome pint, sandwich or coffee.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to know more or to petition the Trust on our behalf and/or help me set up a campaign, please contact - Ann Newton on aenewton1965@gmail.com – 01825 890103.

Diary of Church Services

DECEMBER 2019

- 01 Advent Sunday**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
- 08 Second Sunday in Advent**
10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW) with Prayer for Healing
- 15 Third Sunday in Advent**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)
6.30 pm Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
- 22 Fourth Sunday in Advent**
10.00 am Morning Praise
No evening service today
- 24 Christmas Eve**
4.30 pm Crib and Christingle Service
11.30 pm Midnight Holy Communion (CW)
- 25 Christmas Day**
10.00 am Family Festival Praise
- 29 First Sunday of Christmas**
10.00 am Morning Praise
No evening service today

JANUARY 2020

- 05 Second Sunday of Christmas (Epiphany)**
8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

12 First Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Family Service
6.30 pm Evening Service

19 Second Sunday of Epiphany

8.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.00 am Parish Holy Communion (CW)

26 Third Sunday of Epiphany

10.00 am Morning Praise
6.30 pm Evening Holy Communion (CW)

BCP: Book of Common Prayer. CW: Common Worship

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th JANUARY 2020**

TO

ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182

Please note new email address:

clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**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 –
FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

Mrs Ann Newton (Parish Clerk)

Telephone/fax: (01825) 890182.

Please note new Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**

Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

territories and produce larger families. They raised more revolutionaries who returned to England each winter. Now a small population of blackcaps make our gardens their winter home; exotic apparitions of summer amongst the robins and frost. They'll be gone again by the time 'our' British blackcaps return, exhausted and oblivious, in April.

Animal migration is amazing. Each year across Europe millions of perilous journeys are undertaken as birds, bats, butterflies and other wildlife flee hostile conditions. Each year we as our own species have been forced to make dangerous migrations to survive. The paths of refugees and migrating birds will cross as both are forced on journeys over the same treacherous mountains and seas. Let's hope they all find someplace safe this Christmas.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

TURNMILL WOOD, BLACKBOYS – PLEA FOR HELP

Many local residents (and those from further afield) enjoy walking their dogs in Turnmill Wood, Blackboys. This is a tract of woodland, completely and safely fenced, with stiles at either end for access.

The reason it is so popular is that it is entirely enclosed with secure fencing. This means people with dogs that do not have good recall can let them off their leads safely to enjoy a little free running.

This particularly applies to many rescue dogs whose owners take them to the woodland, knowing they will be safe. Some 'rescues' have sad backstories; one owner has a now full-grown puppy left in the middle of a major road in Cyprus. She also has another Cypriot rescue, thrown out of a car in the mountains at the end of the hunting season. Others were being rounded up to be killed in Romania and Bulgaria. They are all excellently behaved but the 'grass is greener' outside the fencing they believe!

Blackcap by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust
Home for Christmas

Sussex is no place for a warbler in winter. As daylight, temperature and their insect food dwindle, blackcaps, whitethroats, chiffchaffs, reed, sedge and willow warblers all evacuate England. Each September their fragile, feathered bodies fly to Spain and sub-Saharan Africa on the promise of warmth, food and, ultimately, life. So finding a blackcap swinging on your birdfeeder in December will be as unlikely as seeing Santa at a midsummer barbeque. But at Christmas miracles can happen.

Blackcaps return to England in April. Cuckoos and chiffchaffs, also early migrants, broadcast their arrival with their monotonous two-note tune but the blackcap lets loose a rich, full-throated, joyous warble; a defiant announcement that he's cheated death for another winter.

This colourful song comes from a colourless bird, yet there's something stylish and continental about the blackcap's appearance. Their two-tone grey suit and black beret pulled over dark eyes make them look like some Parisian beatnik. You'd expect to catch one sat in a willow smoking Gauloises and muttering about Sartre. The female bird's beret is a rich chestnut brown; hardly qualifying her to use the name blackcap at all.

The laws of nature clearly state that all European blackcaps must migrate south for the winter. But in the sixties a small gang of nonconformist blackcaps in Germany started a revolution. They headed south-west instead of south, ending up in England. Mother Nature is not kind to those who disobey her rules and this suicide squad was surely sentenced to a frozen death in our frosty winter. But instead they found a new England. A land of mild winters, ornamental berry bushes and kind people who hung balls of fat in their gardens. They didn't freeze and starve. They survived.

Not only that; the following spring's short flight home to Germany meant they arrived ahead of their law-abiding neighbours, who were still struggling back from their long-haul holiday. The returning rebels were able to claim the best



Our Family Friendly Service is a lively short happy service, where the children are actively involved.

8th December 10.00 am
12th January 10.00 am

Volunteer needed to deliverer the Parish Magazine for Blackboys High Street, could be split between two. If you can help please call Delia Gillies on 01825 890825. Thank you.

Please respect your Churchyard

We have recently seen an increase in dog mess being left in the churchyard. This is very distressing for visitors in general, and especially for those with family buried in the churchyard. It is also unpleasant for those who volunteer to keep the churchyard maintained.

Please be prepared to clean up after your dog, and keep it on a lead, so you are aware of what it might be up to! Thank you.

Nature Notes

Leaf fall is well underway as I write in early November. This is triggered in deciduous plants by the reduction of daylight as the days get shorter. The process is called abscission which is an active and deliberate process. Abscission is caused by the cells of the stem, from which the leaf is growing, pushing the leaf stem (petiole) off when it is no longer needed. Nutrients from the breakdown of green chlorophyll will have already been reabsorbed by this time to feed the tree or other plant; this is why the leaves change colour before they are shed revealing the showering yellows and reds of autumn.

Have you noticed how the different species of tree lose their leaves at different rates? Currently, the black poplar trees in Hempstead Meadows Nature Reserve have lost almost 100% of their leaves. Similarly, ash trees have lost about 70% of theirs, but some of this may be due to ash die-back disease, which is spreading rapidly through the trees of Sussex. There will be individuals that are resistant to the disease and survive to repopulate in due course. This is called natural selection. However, the oaks have only defoliated about 8% of their leaves. Indeed, some species of oak are actually (semi-) evergreen, such as the holm oak, which is not native to Britain, but lives naturally in Southern Europe. Holm oaks only renew about 30% of their leaves each year.

Mean-while, back to the current state of the deciduous trees in Uckfield, sycamore trees have lost about 50% of their leaves, horse chestnut about 30%, beech about 20%, the limes of Lime Tree Avenue about 30%, birch about 40%, but this tree is very variable. Finally, the sweet chestnut trees of Hempstead Lane have only lost about 30% of their leaves.

Another thing I have noticed about the trees is that they shed their seeds before they let their leaves go. This is probably a deliberate strategy to maximise the generation of nutrients from the leaves to bulk out the seeds, which can be quite large, such as the horse and sweet chestnuts, acorns and beech nuts. Other seeds such as the tiny birch seeds are light and more plentiful and can be carried long distances by the wind.

Martyn Stenning

Framfield Parish Council

MEETING SCHEDULE 2020

On each date detailed below, generally two meetings will be held plus an informal Trust update.

(Planning Committee may be cancelled if not essential):

- Planning Committee – commencement time will vary (6/6.30 pm)
- Trust update - commencing at 7 pm
- Parish Council - commencing at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 28 January (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Tuesday, 31 March (PC meeting and Annual Parish meeting [8 pm]) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

Tuesday, 26 May (Annual Parish Council meeting, and PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

Tuesday, 28 July (AGM of the Trusts and PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

29 September (PC meeting) – Village Hall, Blackboys

24 November (PC meeting) – Memorial Hall, Framfield

Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on 01825- 890182 / clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website - framfieldcouncil.org.uk



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www.millbrookglass.co.uk



.....the place to meet

We are excited that we now have a logo for our new Community Hub. Our thanks and appreciation go to Blackboys resident Charlie who designed the logo for us.

The purpose of the Hub is to provide a place where residents can meet and socialise in a relaxed setting. It is also hoped that the Hub will help to combat loneliness and isolation that can come from living in a rural community. A venue where

individuals or groups can rest, feel safe and be instilled with a sense of wellbeing. An opportunity to join in with other people when desired.

We have only been running for two months but we have already been encouraged by the people who are coming along to take part in the groups. We now have four activities taking place:

Monday	Get Crafty , 10am Bring along your knitting, crochet, small sewing or craft project and natter while you work.
Tuesday	Elevesens with Company , 11am If you don't often get to meet other people, this is an opportunity to get together with people who live in your community and make new friends.
Wednesday	Book Group , 10am every 1st Wednesday of the month. Pick up this month's book, discuss last month's book and anything else you have read. Creative Writing , 2pm to 3pm, every other Wednesday during Term Time. An opportunity to discuss your ideas and then spend some time writing them up. Dates for next meetings: 4th and 18th December, 8th and 22nd January, 5th and 26th February, 11th and 25th March.

Unless stated activities are free to attend but we ask that refreshments are purchased to thank The Grove for their hospitality.

We have also established a Community Library. Please feel free to come along and take a book. If you have any used fiction or non-fiction books, in good condition, that you think others might find interesting, we would be happy to receive them.

We are also looking for help from someone who could produce a regular newsletter that can be sent electronically and be printed.

If you are able to help in anyway or if you have any ideas for events you would like to see happening at the Community Hub you can let Sharon have your ideas by emailing her at hub@thegroveblackboys.co.uk, see her at Elevesens or leave your idea and contact details with staff at The Grove.

The Community Hub at The Grove, Brownings Farm Workshops, Lewes Road, Blackboys TN22 5HG



Framfield & Blackboys WI

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

from

Framfield & Blackboys WI

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so generously over the past year

In future all our meetings will be held at Framfield Memorial Hall on the second Tuesday of each month.

Here's a taste of our programme for the first four months of 2020

January 14th	Members Lunch Hare & Hounds
February 11th	Members Evening Time to Catch-up
March 10th	Detection Dogs Demo With Paul Green
April 14th	Herstmonceux Castle Speaker: Melinda Stone

If you would like to join us, please contact Mary on 01825 890854
Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI



www.blackboyspreschool.org.uk

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FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS MONDAY CLUB

2nd December CHRISTMAS PARTY - 2.30 pm
Framfield CE Primary School Children
Singing to us - Also a Puppet Show
By " Saints Alive " Telling the
" Christmas Story " By
Derek and Anthea Miller & Company
At Framfield Memorial Hall

Again we would like to Thank Framfield and Blackboys Horticultural Soc,
Community Fund Project 2019/2020 for awarding us £200 towards the
Above Party. We do Thank them very much.

May we wish ALL Parish Magazine Readers A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
From our Members and Helpers.

Also a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2020

20th January AGM - New 2020 Programme
Subscriptions (£15) - 2.30 pm
Talk by Peter Griffiths
Framfield Memorial Hall

Any queries, please contact Sandy Rogers (Chairperson)
Tel - 01825 840648 | Mobile - 0759 284 1275 | sandyrogers77@gmail.com

Waldon Country Market

Waldron Country Market is held at Holy Cross Priory, TN21 0DZ (Possingworth) (on the B2102 between Cross in Hand and Blackboys, near the Tunbridge Wells turn).
Next markets Thursday 12th December, and Thursday 9th January.

For more information contact Graeme Mackenzie 01435 866419. There is also a
Facebook link - @WaldronCountryMarket.



FRAMFIELD AND BLACKBOYS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

As I write this, at last, we have a break from the rain but despite the sunshine it is too wet to get into the garden so I thought I might take you into Spring and Summer with a taste of what the Society has to offer next year.

The year starts with a 'Society favourite' - our Quiz Night which will be held on Tuesday 10th March at Blackboys Village Hall when we can expect an entertaining and fun-filled evening to test our horticultural knowledge (loosely) and our lateral thinking (definitely). Teams are of six so get together to form your own team or just come along and slot in. Bring your own refreshments and the Society will provide tea, coffee and nibbles.

Garden and Nursery visits are always popular and we have four this year: on 6th May to Starborough Nursery (rare and unusual shrubs), and on 30th September to Laurence Hobbs Orchid Nursery. Local gardens being opened for the Society are at Possingworth Manor on 14th June and Warren Cottage on July 26th. Do come along; it is always interesting and enjoyable to see other local gardens and other people's ideas, not to mention having tea and cake in tranquil settings!

The importance of wildlife for our gardens and the decline in native species over the years is a very important and topical subject and the Society has two talks dealing with this issue. On Tuesday 7th April, (Framfield Memorial Hall) we have Prof. Dave Goulson from the University of Sussex talking about 'Declining insect numbers; how to help!' and on 14th October (Blackboys Village Hall) Maureen Rainey will give a talk entitled 'Hospitable Horticulture for Hedgehogs'.

Talks on gardening 'know how' are always popular and on 7th July we welcome back Neil Miller to tell us about 'The Roses of Hever Castle' (Blackboys Village Hall). Then, at the Society's AGM on 17th November at Framfield Memorial Hall

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Wealden Local Plan – Planning in general. I intend holding a meeting at some point to brief residents on the implications of the WDC Local Plan for the Parish and answer questions on any general planning matters. I had been hoping to do this once we had heard from the Inspector on the results of the first stage of the EIP (Examination in Public) of the Plan, expected in late August but now delayed. I now expect to do this in the New Year.

Horsted Green Park was officially opened a few months ago. The Park offers 74 acres of rolling countryside on the western edge of Uckfield – an excellent place for ramblers, dog walkers and nature lovers. There are three different marked pathways and a range of different natural features to experience including wild flower meadows, orchards, ponds and woodland. There is also a car park for visitors in Horsted Pond Lane, post TN22 5TH. Walkers can also get there by using the footpath running underneath the Uckfield bypass from the Ridgewood estate. Gravel pathways provide all-year walking routes and are accessible for wheelchair users.

I was privileged to lay the Royal British Legion wreath at the Remembrance Service on 10 November at the Church. I can also advise that the remains of the memorial plaques commemorating the soldiers who fell in World War I have now been mounted and are on the wall inside the Memorial. It is hoped to put a booklet together on those soldiers.

I was also given a model of the Parish by a lovely now unfortunately ex-resident of Framfield, but who had lived here for a long time and done so much in the Parish. This has also been mounted and is again in the Memorial Hall. It covers the civic and ecclesiastical parishes and is excellently done and very interesting. Thanks to Parish Councillor, Bob Bather, for making the frames.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and healthy 2020.

Contact details – Ann Newton, 'Highlands', Blackboys, TN22 5LR.
Telephone - 01825 890103.
Email – aenewton1965@gmail.com

However, as previously suggested, Christmas looms large in a Primary School's calendar. Even in November, both schools are reverberating with the sound of Christmas Carols and Infant Nativity Plays. As Church Schools, we enjoy focusing on the true meaning of Christmas and are fortunate enough to be supported by Rev Chris Lawrence and the St Thomas a Becket community. As well as church carol concerts and nativities, both schools will be looking forward to PTA Christmas Fairs. At Blackboys this will be on Saturday 7th December from 12-2pm, while at Framfield it will be on 29th November between 5 and 8pm. We would love to see members of the community come and join in these happy events.

On behalf of all the staff and children, we would like to wish all parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Lisa Pestell, Headteacher of Framfield and Mr Graham Sullivan, Headteacher of Blackboys.

Framfield and Blackboys Wives Group

This year's jumble sale made £330 which was a good sum to donate to our charity for this year, the Salvation Army.

Thank you to everyone who gave things and money to this very worthy cause.

We are busy arranging our next year's programme so if anyone would like to join us please ring me.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Ann Dawe,
01825 890506

we look forward to the return of Ben Pope with the intriguingly entitled talk 'Gardening to Save Time'.

Perhaps the highlight of the year is the Summer Show which will take place on Saturday 8th August on Framfield Recreation Ground and in the Memorial Hall and whilst there will be much more publicity about this in the months to come, especially with the publication of the Show Schedule it really is not too early to be thinking about your entries!

So all of the above is what members can look forward to in the year ahead, but if you are not a member and think it sounds like an interesting and varied programme why not join the Society now – at £6 (individual member) or £10 (family membership)- it really is a bargain. However if you prefer to come to an individual event you will be very welcome; the charge for non-members is £3, but come to two and you would cover your annual membership so why not contact Emma Page at fabhs.membership@gmail.com and join the Society! For details of all events and to book places where necessary please contact Sarah Hince at fabhs.events@gmail.com or telephone her on 01435 863364. For other enquiries please get in touch with Trevor Hince (01435 863364; trevor.hince@gmail.com).

Uckfield Singers – Christmas Concert

"The Uckfield Singers community choir will be performing a Christmas Concert on Saturday 7th December, at 7:30 pm in the Uckfield Civic Centre. The programme will include seasonal music and carols, with guest performances by local musicians.

Tickets are £8 each, available from Gale & Woolgar Jewellers, High St, Uckfield,

or on-line, please visit our website Home page at www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk

Proceeds from the raffle will be supporting St. Wilfred's Hospice in Eastbourne.

For more information about the choir, please visit our website at www.uckfieldsingers.co.uk"



Building through Blessing in
Blackboys and Beyond

INTRODUCING CLIVE:

Dear readers,

I'm pleased to be writing in the parish magazine for the first time. My name is Clive, and I'm the new leader of New Life Church, which meets in Blackboys Village Hall. Normally it would be Rev. Guy Partridge writing this, who led New Life Church for five years. I've been the new leader since the summer, and it's therefore my pleasure now to keep you updated about the church.

Guy invited me to lead the church into its next season, earlier this year. I'd previously covered a sabbatical month for him in 2017, and I quickly came to admire and appreciate this church family in Blackboys.

In June Guy accepted the leadership of Sidley Baptist Church, Bexhill, but not before building warm community life across the church. We all wish him and Luci every blessing as he settles into his new role.

I've been associated for some 30 years with the Newfrontiers family of churches, a thriving association of churches reaching across the world. My work background was education, where I taught languages, before moving into education management. I gave up teaching to 'plant' a church in the north of England. From 2005 onwards, I established an international church in the Middle East, but am now back in this lovely part of the world.

Our meeting times are the same: Sundays at Blackboys Village Hall, starting with coffee/tea and cake at 10.30am. There are groups meeting weekly in homes and many opportunities to pray together, celebrate, eat together, care for one another.

We're updating our website, so please do visit newlifechurchblackboys.co.uk to check when the new version will be online. Better still, pay us a visit. It will be great to see you.

Meanwhile, if you drop into the Grove café in Blackboys, you can always leave a message for me to get in contact with you.

Our Carol Service will be held at the Crockstead Farm Hotel from 5pm on Sunday 15th December, followed by mulled wine and refreshments. You are warmly invited to this and to our Sunday meetings.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a New Year ahead, full of hope and blessings for you, your friends and families, *Clive Cernik.*

St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation. Blackboys and Framfield Schools News

Following the half term break in October, both of our parish schools are back, refreshed and raring to go. Obviously much of the term is focused on Christmas, but before things get too festive, there are some valuable, collaborative learning experiences.

Class 3 and Puffins class will, by the time this article is read, have visited Fishbourne Roman Palace near Chichester. This is a traditional visit and really lets the children see for real what they have been learning about in class. The collection of mosaics is a real "awe and wonder" moment for the pupils and the Education Team at Sussex Past really get the pupils "hands on" with this fascinating topic. For Class 4 and Eagles Class, our 9-11 year olds, a visit to their topic of the Mayan Civilisation is a little out of reach! That said, there would be plenty of staff volunteers for a trip to Mexico. However instead they have a day visit booked with prominent Mayan Historian Dr Diane Davies. Dr Davies brings with her a tremendous collection of Mayan artefacts, many of which she has collected on her own archaeological digs. Both Blackboys and Framfield School hold such visits or visitors in high regard and firmly believe in first hand, hands on learning. Thank you to the teachers for organising such inspiring sessions.

Pupils in both schools are really taking their reading seriously at the moment. With so many quality books available for young people, it is so refreshing to see children of all age groups getting their noses stuck in really good books. In both schools, a strong emphasis for reading begins the moment they enter in Reception and a love of reading is developed from that point. We insist that children are read to frequently in class and skills are practised at home as well as in school. We are grateful for the help of volunteers that hear readers, and if you would like to become involved, please contact the school offices (Blackboys 01825 890423 Framfield 01825 890258)

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The next Framfield Stagers date for your diary!



Join us in February half-term for another family pantomime:

'SLEEPING BEAUTY'

at Framfield Memorial Hall

on Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd February 2020 @ 7.30pm

with a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm.

Tickets will be on sale from 1st December.



See our website: www.framfieldstagers.homestead.com

or connect with us on social media:

 [facebook.com/FramfieldStagers](https://www.facebook.com/FramfieldStagers)

 twitter.com/FramStagers

Parish Magazine. Anyone interested in placing an advertisement should contact me. It gets more and more difficult to find new advertisers due, I think to the use of online advertising, but many residents still find the magazine a useful directory when looking for professional help.

Framfield Village Market (usually the last Saturday in the month) – please do come along and have a look at local craft wares and produce, and have a cup of coffee. All proceeds go towards the Memorial Hall. Doors open at 10 am. There are two dates left this year – 30 November and 14 December. Dates for next year are as follows: 25 January, 29 February, 28 March, 25 April, 30 May, 27 June, 25 July, August – no market, 26 September, 31 October, 28 November and 19 December 2020.

Recreation grounds, play areas etc - If anyone believes they have discovered a fault or problem with play equipment at one of the play areas, could they please contact me immediately. Although the areas are inspected on a weekly basis by one of our contractors, any additional notification is important to the Council.

All agendas are put on the village noticeboards and website. The full minutes of all meetings are also on the website. Please do not rely on the contents of this magazine for meeting dates etc as the website and noticeboards are more up to date, particularly if you have any queries regarding potential or live planning applications.

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

Ann Newton (Parish Clerk): 01825 890182.

Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk.

Postal Address: 'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

LIVING WITH FUR AND FEATHER

UNUSUAL HOUSE GUEST

In my last article I talked about the problem of fireworks and my letter to my Member of Parliament suggesting they should be restricted. I did have a reply that was not helpful, so if you have pets that are adversely affected by fireworks, I suggest you also write to your Member of Parliament.

I am writing this on a gloomy wet day near the end of October but already there are signs of Christmas coming. I have just been thumbing through the Christmas cards in the Blue Cross catalogue and my eye was caught by one of a merry robin sitting on a snowy branch. This reminded me of the article I wrote last spring about our friendly robin. This summer while it was warm and sunny we left the doors open. I was very surprised to look up one day and see the robin in the utility room. It must have climbed over Chloe who was lying across the doorway. It obviously had no fear of my huge black Newfoundland dog. I mentioned in another article I wrote that the robin, curious to see what I was doing, had come into the office/bedroom and perched on the chair to watch me on the computer!

I gradually realised the attraction of the utility room was Chloe's bed where she eats her bed time dog biscuits. I watched as the robin pecked around looking for tasty crumbs. Robin, as I decided to call him, became a regular visitor and gradually became bolder, either coming in through the back door or the French doors if they were open. He then decided to explore the kitchen, searching for crumbs under the table as we sat and chatted. Needing to check the narrow area behind the Aga where the sink and dishwasher are, he found his way blocked by Chloe lying there. This time he decided a short flight was needed to get past the obstruction.

Robin, having explored the utility room, office and kitchen decided to have a look round the dining room and sitting room. I think he decided it was disappointing as he didn't find anything edible. Around this time we had a visitor who was very surprised to see Robin hopping about the place. The only thing he did not like were sudden movements which startled him. I came in quickly one day with some shopping not knowing he was there so he flew up

to the top of the dresser with ruffled feathers. After suspiciously eyeing the shopping bags he decided they were not a treat and came down again. Another time something frightened him so he flew up and perched on the kitchen table. He was remarkably well house trained and only twice forgot himself when he was frightened.

Sadly he has not been around lately and I really miss his company both in and outside the house and really hope he returns next spring. However I shall order some merry robin Christmas cards to remind me of our unusual house guest.

Hazel Carter 01825830477

info@hazel-carter.co.uk

www.hazel-carter.co.uk

FUNDING AVAILABLE in 2020 FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Framfield and Blackboys Summer Show went ahead, despite the terrible weather, and thanks to your wonderful support made a profit. So we are all very pleased that, as last year, a portion of this will be available to the 'Community Fund' to support projects which benefit the local community.

With money from last year's show we were able to help the 'Monday Club' and the 'Framfield Stagers' and who benefits this year is, again, up to you. There is £300 available from the 2019 Show but how it will be spent depends on which project(s) is chosen from the proposals that you put forward. Application can be made via a simple form available from the people listed below. The form also sets out the rules of the scheme, for instance the 'local community' means the residents of Blackboys, Framfield and Palehouse Common. Applications need to be submitted by 30th April 2020 and if awarded funding can start from November. There is no specific remit for the fund other than to help provide 'benefit' to the community. If you are not sure whether your particular 'cause' is eligible and would like to talk about it, please contact Trevor Hince (details below).

You know what is needed and which projects deserve help so please put in an application. Forms are available from:

Fiona Fidler – fhbsmail@gmail.com or tel. 01825 890719

Trevor Hince - trevor.hince at gmail.com or tel. 01435 863364

Ann Newton – clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk or tel. 01825 890182

Terry Everitt – terry.everitt@outlook.com