

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

# Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys  
and  
Palehouse Common**

**DECEMBER 2024 / JANUARY 2025**

## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

**All communications for church matters should be directed  
to the Priest in Charge:**

**Revd James Vine**  
**Email:**

**01825 840270**  
[jamesdavidvine@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdavidvine@gmail.com)

**Please note Revd James lives at East Hoathly Rectory and  
works from there.**

**Postal Address: The Rectory, Rectory Close, East Hoathly,  
Lewes BN8 6EG**

**Assistant Curate:**

**Revd Janice Bartholomew**  
**07955 754118**

**Churchwarden:**

**Mr Graham Seldon**  
**01825 508758**

**Secretary to the PCC  
and Church Admin:**  
**Email:**

**Mr Barry Richardson**  
[admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk)

**Treasurer:**

**Mrs Gaynor Robson**



## From the Church Registers:

<b>At Rest:</b>	<b>4.10.24:</b>	<b>John Michael Nicholls</b>
	<b>5.11.24:</b>	<b>Rosalind Hill</b>
	<b>8.11.24:</b>	<b>Eric Norman Panton</b>

As the nights get longer and the weather starts to chill off, Christmas preparations pick up speed, and the Advent season quietly begins its journey.

Often overshadowed by the rush to celebrate Christmas, Advent can seem like a month-long inconvenience before the big day; a string of days to tick off, a window to open on a Cadburys 'advent' calendar, and a frenzy of shopping for that perfect gift....

But Advent, if we let it, has its own profound beauty and purpose.

As a church community, we're invited to reclaim the season of Advent, rediscovering it as a time of sacred waiting, spiritual preparation, and deep hope.

The word 'Advent' of course, means 'coming' or 'arrival', and for centuries, Christians have observed these four weeks as a time of preparation and expectation; Preparing to celebrate not only the birth of Christ but also preparing ourselves as Christians for his second coming.

Advent's themes of anticipation and preparation ask us to slow down when everything around us speeds up.

We are invited to consider the nature of hope, peace, joy, and love; qualities that the Advent candles, traditionally lit each Sunday, help us focus on.

Through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness, we can keep ourselves focused on these virtues, rediscovering a

quietness in our souls that can become drowned out by the noise of a busy world.

The Old Testament prophets spoke of a Saviour, a Messiah, who would come into the world, to guide and redeem us; to be 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'.

God's people longed for freedom, peace, and restoration, just as we wait for healing, unity, and justice in our troubled world.

Advent reminds us that just as Christ came into the world to bring hope and transformation, His second coming promises a future of complete renewal, and Advent is the time to rekindle our hope in that promise.

Reclaiming Advent doesn't mean denying ourselves the joy and fun of the Christmas season, but it does mean creating intentional moments to appreciate the season's true richness.

Maybe this year, it's about attending our combined churches Advent Carol Service in Chiddingly Church on Advent Sunday evening, or lighting an Advent candle each Sunday with your family, reading a short daily reflection, or taking a few minutes in the morning or evening to simply pause and pray.

Even small practices can help draw us back to the heart of Advent.

Let us walk through these four weeks with a renewed sense of purpose. Let's reclaim Advent as a season of waiting and

preparation, a time of quieting our hearts and clearing space for God to dwell among us.

Fr. James. December 2024

## The View from the Churchyard – Peter Berry

It's me again. I notice in the Feb-March edition of the Parish Mag I proposed the first Saturday of the month as a good time to come and give us a hand. Maybe not my best suggestion because I think all but one in this summer have been at least damp if not downright wet. I am very grateful to all who have helped in any way. What appears to have evolved is the freedom for anyone to come whenever they can. Also perhaps 2-3 people getting together to keep an eye on an agreed smallish area. We can take care of the mowing, It's the keeping tidy and making it look a bit cared for. It helps us and we will support you. I must admit in 50 yrs + of farming I cannot remember a growing season like this summer. It has been a challenge but gradually we are getting a measure of control. Hopefully as it looks more cared for it will encourage others to join in. I know what we are trying to do is appreciated and in spite of a testing summer, there is great beauty and peace in this special place in our parish. If you can and would like to be involved in any way no matter how small, then please do give me a ring on 07815 459075

Many Thanks  
Peter.

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**Please note that the latest notices and information are always posted on the church website. - [www.framfieldchurch.org.uk](http://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk).**



	F	A	M	I	L	Y	
F	R	I	E	N	D	L	Y
S	E	R	V	I	C	E	

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

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

## Looking for a local venue ?

Then look no further!

Framfield Church Hall is well placed in the village next to the Church. It is ideal for regular meetings, social & business events, special occasions, keep fit, exercise groups, birthday parties and other activities.

The hall can be used as an open space or with tables / seating for up to 60 persons. There is a fitted kitchen with catering equipment & crockery etc, a large AV screen, sound system, two loos (one with disabled facilities) and two disabled parking spaces directly outside the hall.

Currently it is used for Art classes, Pilates, Exercise groups, Drama, Singing, Karate Presentations, and children's birthday parties. Our rates are £12.00 per hour. For one off users (parties, wedding receptions etc), the hourly rate is £15.00.

For more details about the hall and its events please get in touch with Graham Seldon on 01825 508758, mobile 07973 685992, or email: [hoss.graham.s@gmail.com](mailto:hoss.graham.s@gmail.com)

## Diary of Church Services

**Note:** The latest church service information will always be on the Church website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

### **DECEMBER 2024**

- 01 First Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW) (Revd Janice)
- 08 Second Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist at Chiddingly (Revd James)
- 15 Third Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Family Service (Revd James)  
6.30 pm Lessons and Carols (Revd James)
- 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
10.00 am Morning Praise (with Peter Berry)
- 24 Christmas Eve**  
4.30 pm Crib Service (Revd Janice)
- 25 Christmas Day**  
10.00 am Christmas Eucharist (Revd Janice)
- 29 First Sunday of Christmas**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist at Chiddingly (Revd James)

### **JANUARY 2025**

- 05 Second Sunday of Christmas**  
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
- 12 First Sunday of Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)**  
10.00 am Combined Eucharist

- 19 Second Sunday of Epiphany**  
10.00 am Family Service
- 26 Third Sunday of Epiphany**  
10.00 am Morning Praise (Peter Berry)

*(Everyone is welcome at any of the church services)*

**Note:** The latest church service information is always on the Church Website: <https://www.framfieldchurch.org.uk>

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE  
BY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**TO**

**ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182**

**Please note new email address:**

[clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)

### **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](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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

**Parish Council website: [www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

**CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE  
EMAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

[admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk)

**This bi-monthly Newsletter is distributed free to all homes (around 1100)  
within the Parish.**



## Nature Notes

It is early November. As I look out from my study window, an oak tree in front of me is showing hues of brown and yellow among the disappearing green of its leaves. I have mentioned before that deciduous trees are the exception globally. Most planetary trees are evergreen and live in the tropics. The rest live in the boreal ecosystem between latitude 50 and 70. Between these latitudes temperatures often drop to minus 20°C and below. But hey, that is us is it not? Ah yes, but Britain is exceptionally mild for our latitude. We (e.g. London) are roughly on the latitude (55° N) shared by Saskatoon (52°N) in Canada, and Moscow (55°N) in Russia. Most (but not all) of the natural trees in the latter 2 locations are evergreen and conifers. However, most of our native trees are deciduous. We only have 3 native conifers, and 2 of them do not have cones (but berries) as we know them, these are Juniper and Yew. The third native conifer is Scots Pine. All other conifers are alien to Britain. Some conifers are also deciduous, such as the Florida Swamp Cypress and the Larches.

So why are we special? Well, firstly we have the Atlantic conveyor, also known as the Gulf Stream and North Atlantic drift/current. This is warm water brought to our shores in Britain that influences our climate, making us warmer than we should be at our Latitude. Our prevailing wind is also a south westerly, doing the same thing. However, if the wind direction changes to an easterly or northerly, we get correspondingly cooler. Even very cold down to about minus 16°C occasionally. That is when we lose our exotic plants if they are outside.

The flowers of our native plants tend to be rather small such as birds foot trefoil and vervain. If they are abundant such as bluebell and primrose, they make a fantastic show, but to make an impression in our gardens, we like to import large showy flowers like dahlias, tulips and hollyhocks. These may be the first to suffer when we get a sharp frost. However, there is a trend now to plant wildflower seeds in our gardens, and this is good, because many of our insects are best adapted to native plants. Plants did not have flowers until insects appeared. They act as visual attractants to insects. There is now a fantastic dependence by flowers on insects to pollinate them, to produce viable seeds, and also a dependence of insects upon the nectar and pollen that they collect from the plants. However, many insects have also discovered (like we have) that the leaves of many plants taste good and are also nutritious. The insects that eat the leaves also become nutritious and are essential to insectivorous birds such as swifts, swallows and blue tits. Who in turn are essential food for sparrowhawks, hobbies and merlins. All birds of prey eventually die, and are then consumed by microorganisms, insects such as sexton beetles or carnivores such as foxes. So the cycle of life goes on.

**Martyn Stenning**

## "WE PLANTED A TREE AND GREW A COMMUNITY"

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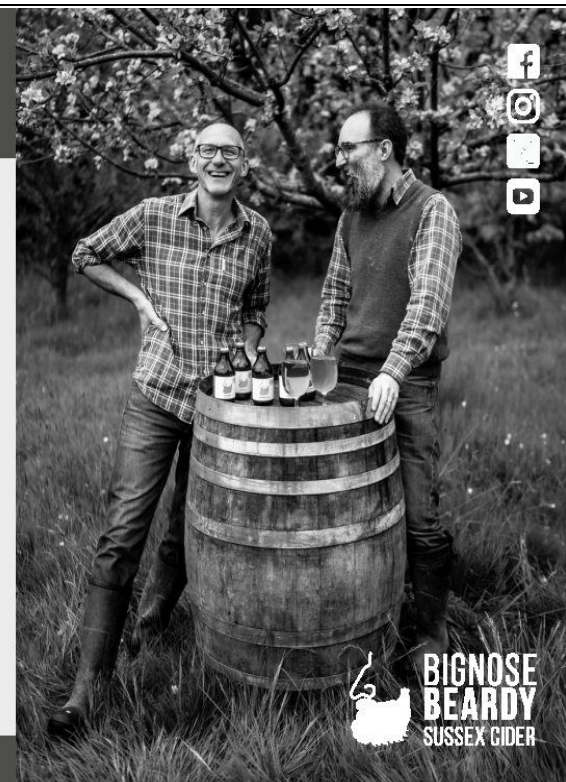
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07885 620973



### Volunteer needed:

We need a volunteer to deliver the Parish magazine on Blackboys High Street (around 40 properties).

*Please contact Delia on 01825 890825.*

I'm scrambling through the woodland undergrowth, anxious, sweating and clutching a 2kg pouch of white powder and a spoon. I may look like some Colombian cocaine smuggler, but I've got the perfect excuse for the police: "I'm researching my parish magazine article". I've been writing articles for Sussex parish magazines for many years and I've received some lovely comments from many people - thank you. It's nice to know they are being read and enjoyed.

When I was a kid, I would read loads of wildlife books with names like 'the amateur naturalist' (not to be confused with 'the amateur naturist', a mistake you only make once). Each book promised to make you a wildlife detective and was filled with tips on tracking mammals in the countryside. Most British mammals are nocturnal and, after centuries of persecution, all of them are understandably rather wary of humans. We hardly ever see them. Yet these invisible animals leave behind tantalising clues which let us know they really exist: droppings, nibbled nuts, pellets. But the biggest giveaway of all are their footprints.

Primitive mammals (such as Hedgehogs, Stoats, Badgers and you) are plantigrades. We stroll about on the soles of our feet and have five toes. When we run, we use our toes and the balls of our feet. For the mammals who spend a lot of time running and jumping this basic mammalian plantigrade foot has evolved and adapted over time. Some animals have lost a toe (Foxes, cats, dogs, Hares) while the real gymnasts, such as deer, leap around on two toes, and horses race on just one toe enclosed in a hoof. Like Sherlock Holmes with a foot fetish, you can examine each footprint's formula of toes, claws and pads to deduce just who has been sneaking around at night.

My books told me that, once you find a footprint, the best way to capture it is to make a cast – which explains why I'm crouched here in the undergrowth excitedly mixing up plaster of Paris powder and pouring it into a footprint in the muddy woodland floor. I've always wanted to do this since I was a kid but, well, I guess life got in the way. Now, sat proudly on my desk, I have my first

footprint cast: a Badger (with five toes, a wide pad and obvious claws). And somewhere out there is a Badger completely unaware that its footprint has created a deeper enjoyment of wildlife and inspired someone to preserve it. Which now I think about it, is all I have hoped for from these articles too. I hope I've made an impression. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

## About Sussex Wildlife Trust

**Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.**

**We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)**

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## Community Choir – Handel's Messiah

The East Sussex Community Choir end of year concert is on 21st December at 6 pm in Lewes Town Hall titled "A Christmas Cracker". They are performing Handel's Messiah with special guests and some audience participation for seasonal songs. Tickets are available from [tinyurl.com/cracker24](https://tinyurl.com/cracker24)

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## Delivering Parish Magazines:

We are very grateful to those volunteers who have recently come forward to fill vacancies for delivery of the Parish magazines. We would like to thank all those who help distribute this magazine.

## St Thomas a Becket Church of England Federation

### Blackboys and Framfield Schools News

The Autumn Term and run up to Christmas is always a special time for primary schools and both schools in our parish Federation have had an exciting Autumn so far.

There have been many cooperative events between the two schools. Year 1 and 2 pupils came together for an excellent Great Fire of London immersive experience in the Framfield Memorial Hall. This 'part play/part History lesson' really brought the topic of the Great Fire alive and the children were enthralled, picking up lots of new knowledge in the process. Our youngest pupils visited Lewes Castle together, exploring the ramparts and enjoying hands on workshops together as part of their castles work. Only this last week, children from year 5 and 6 have taken part in a basketball workshop at Uckfield College and some representatives from year 6 celebrated England Maths Week with a workshop with renowned Math-Magician Andrew Jeffrey. We've clearly been living up to our vision statement of 'Living life in all its fullness.'

As December approaches, both schools are now filled with the sounds of Christmas, most notably the singing practice of carols and the rehearsals of nativity plays. It is a busy time for our Infant Teachers in particular and we always value the work of parents supporting their young children to learn nativity words and songs and creating amazing costumes too. Thank you.

Hopefully we will see members of the parish at our upcoming Christmas Fairs. Framfield have theirs on Friday 15th November 3-5pm while Blackboys have theirs on Saturday 7th December 12-2:30pm. You would be most welcome. You will also be able to see our pupils sing at the Uckfield Late Night Shopping event, where they will grace the Ashdown FM stage during the evening.

Thank you for your continued interest in our two schools.

*Claire Roberts, Interim Headteacher Framfield*

*Graham Sullivan, Headteacher Blackboys*

## FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

**2024**

**Memorial Hall, Framfield**

**The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.**

**21 December**

**2025**

**25 January**

**February – no market**

**29 March**

**26 April**

**31 May**

**28 June**

**26 July**

**August – no market**

**27 September**

**25 October**

**29 November**

**20 December**

**Please contact Ann Newton with any queries**  
**01825 890182 or email [clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)**

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### THE FRAMFIELD STAGERS

Next Pantomime production coming in

February 2025

ROBIN HOOD

By Tom Whalley

at Framfield Memorial Hall

21st & 22nd February 2025

Tickets available from January 2nd 2025

Proceeds in aid of Macmillan Nurses & MIND



## NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I thought I would include extracts from a recent Wealden District Council (WDC) press release on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

CIL funds – Wealden’s parish and town councils will receive their share of just over £1.2 million from the WDC CIL fund covering the period from 31 March 2024 and 30 September 2024.

CIL is a charge that local authorities in England and Wales impose on new developments to support infrastructure.

The parish and town councils in the Wealden District receive 15% (capped) of the CIL monies where a development takes place in their parish. However, CIL is not charged on affordable housing (for social rent) or self-build dwellings – all other developments, however, large or small incur the charge.

CIL monies passed to parishes can be used to support the development of the parish council’s area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.

*If anyone would like to meet up to discuss any District-related matters please do not hesitate to contact me. Wealden District Council covers many subjects – Council Tax, Housing, Benefits, Planning, Licencing, Environmental Health to name but a few. I don’t always have specific information to hand but can always find someone who would.*

Contact details – Ann Newton,  
‘Highlands’, Blackboys, TN22 5LR.  
Telephone - 01825 890103.  
Email – [anewton1965@gmail.com](mailto:anewton1965@gmail.com)

## Christmas Recycling and Rubbish Collection Dates

■ ■ Usual collection day:			■ ■ Revised collection day:		
Wednesday	25	Dec	→	<b>Friday</b>	<b>27 Dec</b>
Thursday	26	Dec	→	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>28 Dec</b>
Friday	27	Dec	→	<b>Monday</b>	<b>30 Dec</b>
Monday	30	Dec	→	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>31 Dec</b>
Tuesday	31	Dec	→	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2 Jan</b>
Wednesday	1	Jan	→	<b>Friday</b>	<b>3 Jan</b>
Thursday	2	Jan	→	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4 Jan</b>
Friday	3	Jan	→	<b>Monday</b>	<b>6 Jan</b>
Monday	6	Jan	→	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7 Jan</b>
Tuesday	7	Jan	→	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8 Jan</b>
Wednesday	8	Jan	→	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9 Jan</b>
Thursday	9	Jan	→	<b>Friday</b>	<b>10 Jan</b>
Friday	10	Jan	→	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11 Jan</b>



**Collections resume on your usual collection day, from Monday 13 January 2025**

**Garden Waste collections** are suspended from Wednesday 25 December 2024 and resume on your usual collection day, from Wednesday 8 January 2025.

**Check your collection days online: [www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk)**

- ▶ Please ensure that the bins are put out **at the edge of your property by 7am** on the day of collection. Please take them in as soon as possible after collection.
- ▶ **Extra recycling** can be placed out in non-black plastic bags next to the recycling bin for collection (except for glass which should only be placed into the recycling bin).
- ▶ All your **wrapping paper and cards** (except foil/glitter) can be placed in the **recycling bin**.
- ▶ **Recycle your real tree** in your Garden Waste Bin or take it to your local Household Waste Recycling Site.



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District Council



# WEB DESIGN

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## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL – REPORT

I'd like to start by extending my sincere thanks to Alison Bowen for arranging and placing the large poppies around the parish, kindly donated by the Buxted Royal British Legion. These poppies serve as a powerful tribute to those who gave their lives for our country and are a fitting symbol of Remembrance for the parish.

Some of you may have noticed significant hedge cutting on the 50-house development in Blackboys. After the previous developer went into administration, the Parish Council reached out to the new company, Elivia Homes. In response to our inquiries about the hedging, they explained it was removed to create space for new access and services, including drainage and high-voltage cabling. Per the Section 278 Agreement, the visibility sight lines are set far back, and the existing planning approval included the hedge's removal. Security fencing has been installed, and as part of the approved plans, the hedge will be replanted further back along with native trees to gradually restore the area's appearance. The Wealden District Council's Planning Officers and Enforcement teams are aware of the concerns raised and will address any issues if needed.

We recognise the numerous emails from residents concerned about the hedge, and have passed on these concerns to the developer and the Local Authority. However, please note that the Parish Council has no direct authority over this matter. The proper procedure for reporting any building or development-related concerns within the parish is through Wealden Council's Enforcement Team, not individual councillors or council officers, for a more efficient and thorough response. Reports can be submitted at: [www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-enforcement/](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-enforcement/)

Regarding discussions on reducing the speed limit on the B2102, the new developer for the Blackboys site is still reviewing the planning consent obligations. They will communicate with the Parish Council once they are ready, but no commitments have been made yet. The Parish Council will explore further options if necessary, although it's important to note that the B2102 speed reduction proposals are not supported by



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ESCC's Community Match Fund (CMF). We will receive CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) payments in due course.

Recently, County Councillor Chris Dowling, the ESCC Highway Steward, and I conducted another parish visit to review various issues, some newly identified, others escalated, with some already resolved. Footpath overgrowth was a primary concern raised by residents, and we are working to ensure safe and accessible paths, though some of this responsibility lies with landowners for boundary maintenance. ESCC must follow specific enforcement procedures, and unfortunately, this is not a quick process. As we head through autumn, additional debris is expected in rural areas, and we will advocate for critical safety matters and path clearances. However, smaller issues may be delayed due to ESCC's projected £83.6 million deficit over the next three years, limiting available funding for certain repairs and projects. Nevertheless, ESCC Highways has confirmed plans for a team to conduct footpath clearance, and we are awaiting a start date.

Footpath work is scheduled to begin on January 6th along Gatehouse Lane and Sandy Lane. These paths are currently in poor condition, impacting pedestrian safety and accessibility for those using mobility aids. Additionally, the Community Match Funded Scheme to reduce the speed limit on the B2192 Lewes Road has completed consultation and is under final review, with works anticipated to start in early 2025. I'll provide more details as they become available.

We share residents' frustration with ESCC's communication, particularly regarding the road resurfacing and patching works near Framfield Grange, which were initially scheduled but did not occur. However, as of this writing, the work has begun and should be completed by the time you read this.

We still have one new double dog waste and rubbish bin to install at Blackboys Recreation Ground, and we hope to complete this soon.

On a positive note, the Parish Council has expedited the street lighting contract with our new provider, and most streetlights (with a couple of exceptions) are now working again after previous delays with ESCC and Balfour Beatty. Moving forward, we will focus on long-term maintenance,

as some lampposts near the end of their lifespan may require replacement. It's possible we may switch to standard street lights instead of the 'swan neck' style (where fitted) due to the high cost and obsolescence of these parts.

Looking ahead, a survey will soon be released to gather community feedback on potential new projects for our recreation grounds and playgrounds. The survey will be anonymous and available both online and in hard copy. Your input is valuable, as these projects require considerable time and resources, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts.

October saw our busiest Framfield Market yet, and it was wonderful to see so many people attend. November's market is on the 30th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Recently, there has been an increase in templated email requests sent and copied to the parish council. While it's encouraging to see such active community engagement, I'd like to clarify a few points:

**Facts Matter:** Some information in these emails is inaccurate or misleading. Please double-check any points before sending.

**Time and Resources:** Each email must be addressed, which diverts our small council team's resources from pressing issues. We are now evaluating staffing needs, potentially increasing hours, which could affect the Precept and, ultimately, your council tax.

**Informed Engagement:** Open, fact-checked discussions are always best. Our community relies on cooperation, not confusion, and we aim to provide full transparency in all operations.

Lastly, there have been some concern that online updates may disadvantage residents without internet access. Please be assured that all key information is included in the parish magazine, and we're always available to answer any specific questions via phone, post, or email.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping make our parish a wonderful place to live! The Parish Council wish you a Merry Christmas over the festive period.

Kind Regards,  
Cllr Keith Brandon – Chairman, Framfield Parish Council

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## **Christmas at Framfield 2024**

### **Friday, 20th December**

**8.00 pm - Carols at The Hare & Hounds**  
All Welcome

### **Christmas Eve**

**4.30 pm - Crib Family Service**  
**Revd Janice Bartholomew**  
**AT FRAMFIELD CHURCH**

**11.00 pm - Midnight Mass**  
**AT CHIDDINGLY CHURCH**  
**Revd James Vine**

### **Christmas Day**

**10.00 am - Parish Eucharist**  
**Revd Janice Bartholomew**  
**AT FRAMFIELD CHURCH**



**Framfield & Blackboys WI**

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***Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year  
From***

***Framfield & Blackboys WI***

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

### **COMING UP SOON**

10th January	Members Lunch - Hare & Hounds
14th February	Members Afternoon - Bring & Buy Plus Quizzes
14th March	Meeting with Speaker: Mike McKenzie, Retired High Court Judge
11th April	Meeting with Speaker: Brian Gee, Retired Police Forensics Officer Meetings start at 2 p.m.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, 8th March

Quiz Night - Memorial Hall, Framfield

If you would like to find out more about our WI, why not come along to one of our meetings as a visitor. Please contact  
Delia Gillies on 01825 890825 or Jackie Samways on 07950 954827.  
Follow us on Facebook or Google Framfield & Blackboys WI

*Philomena Whittle*



## Celebrating the Magic of Christmas

As we step into the festive season keep an eye on our website to share in the joy that our Christmas activities bring. From carol singing on the streets of Lewes to the thrill of picking out Christmas trees. Our residents will have the chance to explore twinkling Christmas markets, take part in immersive and interactive festive activities right here at home as well as witnessing the magical lights of Glow Wild. Outings to local pantomimes and holiday concerts will add a special sparkle, making this season a cracker!

Join in spreading festive cheer and support us by purchasing raffle tickets for a chance to win a magnificent festive **Christmas Hamper**, filled with delicious treats, generously donated by our Bevern View parents. Tickets are on sale until 23rd December from our website or by visiting Bevern View.

Have you thought about sending **eCards** instead of traditional paper cards for Christmas this year? Visit our website to find how to save money, time and paper, whilst raising funds for the Bevern Trust at the same time!



**And finally, we warmly invite everyone to join us for an afternoon of Carol Singing, accompanied by a fantastic brass band!**

**We'll be outside the Royal Oak pub in Barcombe on Friday 20th December at 4pm, followed by a celebratory drink inside. We look forward to seeing you there!**

Bevern View is a purpose-built residential home in Barcombe providing life-long care for 11 young adults with profound disabilities.

**Thank you for your support!**

**Donate:** [www.beverntrust.org](http://www.beverntrust.org)  
**Email:** [info@beverntrust.org](mailto:info@beverntrust.org)  
**Follow us on social media:**  
    [@thebeverntrust](https://www.instagram.com/thebeverntrust)

## A Thank You from your Parish Church

### *Where do your donations go?...*

We are so grateful to our congregation and the wider community for the generous donations made for the upkeep of our beautiful church and surrounding churchyard. It is because of your generosity that we can provide excellent sound quality during our services, enabling us to hear our preachers and worship group in full voice!

We have also been able to undertake some essential repairs to the kitchen in the church hall. A new water heater under the sink means that we can ensure our cups and saucers are squeaky clean following some socialising with refreshments after a church service.

With a rather wet summer and autumn, the grass in the churchyard is growing at quite a pace and creates a huge amount of work for Peter Berry and his merry band of gardeners. Despite every effort to keep the mower in working order, the rather poor state of it meant that maintaining the grass was an extremely onerous task. Thanks to the donations made to the churchyard account, we have been able to purchase a new mower, which will make this difficult job, much easier.

These are just a few examples of how we use the money that you are kind enough to share with us. Without your generosity, our church would not be able to survive and we thank you for your continued support.

**Framfield Church Treasurer and PCC.**





# NEWLIFE

## NEW LIFE CHURCH BLACKBOYS

### We wunt be druv

One of the many blessings in my life has been where I was brought up - in Blackboys and Framfield. So many of you out there have made me who I am today. One of the unique things about the Sussex boys is the famous saying 'we wunt be druv.' I believe it originates from peasants' revolts back in the day. This obviously can be a quality but also in latter days, it can lead to narrow mindedness. If I talk to people about faith, as I am now, I can almost picture the response. As one of you, I do get it, because at the end of the day I am a Sussex boy too - I still say Sea-ford and not Sea-fud!

When faith is discussed - it saddens me that many refuse to even consider that there is a God. My prayer for you this Christmas and New Year is that you look at the Gospel in a new way and take out any preconceived ideas you may already have. A follower of Jesus is someone who knows he or she is not good enough - that is the beginning of faith.

I pray that 'we wunt be druv' will be a strength and not a weakness. I look forward to hearing lots of the Sussex dialect in Heaven!

*J C Ryle - I would not have you judge of the Lord Jesus Christ by his people , the best of servants can give you but a faint idea of that glorious Master.*

***Come and celebrate the joy of the Christmas season with us at our CAROLS & CAKE on Sunday 15 December - Blackboys School 5pm!***

Do drop in and see us any Sunday to find out more about faith and find a friendly group of all ages from the surrounding villages wanting to live life in all its fullness!

Email : [newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com](mailto:newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com)

Call: Suzanne Hammond on 07794 869384 or 01435 661054

Website: [newlifeblackboys.com](http://newlifeblackboys.com)

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### Hello from Framfield School.

I am the interim headteacher and I am working with the school this year as governors look at future leadership. I did some work with the school a couple of years ago so already knew some of the families. I have been made to feel very welcome and am enjoying getting to know all of the families and the community. Reading is the absolute cornerstone of every school curriculum. To this end we have been focussing on developing our reading curriculum. We are starting to shape an Amazon wishlist:

<https://amzn.eu/4v5Ab8N>

If anyone can help us with our books, we would be very grateful.

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.”***

**Dr. Seuss**

Are you a local business that may be keen to sponsor an event / resources in exchange for a regular advert in our newsletter.

Please do get in touch with the School Office:

[office@framfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@framfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk) if so.

*Claire Roberts, Interim Headteacher Framfield*

# S. Walker

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**Phone:**

**01825 890182**

## FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2025

At the time of issuing this notice, all meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, at 5 pm due to a regular booking in the Memorial Hall.

If there are planning applications which require the convening of a Planning Committee meeting these times may vary.

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28 January

25 March

27 May

(Annual Parish Council meeting [5 pm]

and Annual Parish Assembly [6 pm] only)

29 July

30 September

25 November

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Public welcome. For further details, please telephone the Parish Clerk, Ann Newton, on

01825- [890182/clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:890182/clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)  
'Highlands', Blackboys TN22 5LR.

Agendas will be published on all noticeboards and the website -  
[framfieldcouncil.org.uk](http://framfieldcouncil.org.uk)

## WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

Joint Chair:

For the Church: Revd James Vine

For the Council: Mr Keith Brandon

Co-ordinator  
and Advertising: Ann Newton  
Technical Editor: Barry Richardson  
Treasurer: Marie Owen

Distribution: Barbara Trickey,  
Delia Gillies, and their  
volunteers

Printers: Print Matters

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*CIRCULATION:*  
*This magazine reaches over 1100 households in the parish.*  
*It is therefore an ideal way to reach a wide customer area.*  
*Contact the Clerk, Ann Newton for advertising details and rates.*  
[clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk)

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## FREE SMOKE ALARMS

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## USEFUL WEALDEN TELEPHONE NOS.

ESCC contact centres

Call our contact centres during normal working hours 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (4.30 pm on Fridays).

Adult social care – 0345 60 80 191 - [HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:HSCC@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Buses – 0345 60 80 194

Children and families – 0345 60 80 192 (see latest news above)

Library renewals – 0345 60 80 195

Library enquiries – 0345 60 80 196

Roads and paths – 0345 60 80 193

Street Lighting: 01825 890182

Trading Standards – 0345 04 05 06

Waste – 0345 60 80 194

Main Switchboard – 0345 60 80 190

From overseas – +441273 336000

Crimestoppers, report crime anonymously 0800 555 111

Police, non-emergency: 101

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service: 0303 999 1000

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