

WHO'S WHO AT THE St THOMAS À BECKET NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

Parish Magazine



**Framfield, Blackboys
and
Palehouse Common**

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026

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 **01825 840270**
Email: 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**

Curate: **Revd Janice Bartholomew**
 07955 754118

Churchwarden: **Mr Graham Seldon**
 01825 508758

Secretary to the PCC
and Church Admin: **Mr Barry Richardson**
Email: admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk

Treasurer: **Mrs Gaynor Robson**



From the Church Registers:

At Rest: **No entries this time**

Baptism:

FREE SMOKE ALARMS

Your local Fire Service personnel are happy to make an appointment to visit your home and discuss fire safety issues that are specific to you. They will also ensure that you have working smoke alarm(s) within your home and where you do not, they will supply and fit 10-year smoke alarms.

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Framfield & Blackboys WI

NEW YEAR COMES IN WITH AN ICY BLAST

However, we've all been tempted out of hibernation for our customary **January lunch** at the **Hare & Hounds**. We're very lucky to have such a thriving village pub and Jamie and Pete put together some lovely menu choices for us. A very jolly time was had by all.



QUIZ NIGHT

With Quizmasters Terry, Rich & Hayley

SATURDAY 14th MARCH

FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL

6.30 pm for 7.00 Start - Tickets: £12 each

Fun Quiz with Ploughmans Supper and CAKE plus a **RAFFLE!!!**

Bring along your own favourite tippie and glasses

Tables of 6. Tables will be made up for smaller groups

For tickets call Jackie on 07950 954827 or Gill on 01825 890459

(if no reply, please leave a message & contact number)

FUTURE MEETINGS - 2 PM FRAMFIELD CHURCH HALL

13th February Bring & Buy plus Bingo with Eddie!

14th March Speaker: Pete Benson - Tales of a film prop man

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

Father James Writes

All Shall Be Well: Lent with Julian of Norwich

In the quiet corners of our busy lives, we often seek a voice that understands both our deepest fears and our highest hopes. For many, that voice belongs to Julian of Norwich, a 14th-century mystic whose message of radical love remains as fresh today as it was six hundred years ago.

Who was Julian?

We know surprisingly little about Julian's early life - even 'Julian' was likely a name she took from St. Julian's Church in Norwich, where she lived as an 'anchorite', a person who lived in a small cell attached to a church, committing their life to prayer and offering counsel to the community through a small window.

In the May of 1373, while suffering from a life-threatening illness, Julian received a series of sixteen visions, or 'showings', of the love of God. After recovering, she spent the rest of her life reflecting on their meaning, eventually writing 'Revelations of Divine Love' - the first book in the English language known to be written by a woman.

The Hazelnut and the Great Love.

One of Julian's most memorable revelations involves something as small and ordinary as a hazelnut.

She wrote:

God showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, on the palm of my hand... I looked at it and thought: What can this be? And the answer came: It is all that is made.

In this tiny nut, Julian saw three truths: God made it, God loves it, and God keeps it. In an age of plague and political upheaval, not so different from the uncertainties of our own time, Julian's message was clear: nothing is too small or insignificant for God's care.

A word for our time?

'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

Julian's most memorable quote wasn't simply a naive optimism. Julian lived through the Black Death and witnessed immense suffering; yet, she became convinced that God's love is 'homely' (intimate) and 'courteous.' She even dared to describe God's care using the image of a mother, nursing and protecting her children.

Julian constantly reminds us that Love is the meaning: When she asked what God's meaning was in her visions, the answer she received was simply, 'Love was His meaning.'

Even sin she describes as being 'behovely': Julian suggested that while sin is inevitable and painful, it is also a way through which we learn to experience God's grace and healing.

Peace is possible

Even in a world that feels like it is breaking, Julian points us toward a deep, underlying peace rooted in the Divine.

Lent 2026.

This year's lent course will be based on Julian's life and words, and we will be using Sheila Upjohn's excellent book. 'The way of Julian of Norwich - A Prayer Journey Through Lent. ISBN 978-0-281-08369-5 It is published by SPCK and can be purchased directly from them, or it is also available on Amazon and Eden.co.uk It would be helpful if you could purchase a copy before the first evening.

If you were wanting to read the full version of Julian's Revelations of Divine Love it is readily available in numerous editions. You can even read it in the original Middle English.....

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A BIG CHANGE FOR TAX FILINGS!**SELF EMPLOYED or HAVE RENTAL PROPERTY INCOME?****MTDITSA –**

(Making tax digital for income tax and self-assessment)

(Especially relevant if you previously prepared your own tax returns)!

It's:

On its way!

A dramatic change the tax reporting system

Just around the corner!

Structure:

Phased in from 06.04.26

Based on **TURNOVER** (not Profits) - relevant if yours is > £20,000

Filing requirements:

1. Four **QUARTERLY RETURNS** in a year-
2. A **FINAL FILING** by 31st January following the end of each tax year
(replaces the current annual tax return).
3. Key to the system is that it is expected that records be kept in a digitised format
(replacing the tradition paper-based systems).

Compliance requires the use of financial software to record the digital records and make the filings.

The system also carries with it **FINANCIAL PENALTIES** for late filings.

If you would like more information about our solution to compliance with the new system and what it could do for you –

Contact us: e: service@taxplus.org.uk t: 07746 777156

(We focus on service in the East Sussex / Uckfield general area)

Our first lent group meeting is in the diary for Monday the 23rd February, 6pm at Chiddingly Church, then rotating across our three churches on the following Monday evenings.

As we move through the weeks of Lent, perhaps we can carry Julian's 'hazelnut' in our pockets - metaphorically or literally. When you feel overwhelmed, remember that you, and all that is made, are held in a hand that will never let go.

'God, of thy goodness, give me thyself; for thou art enough to me.'

God Bless, Fr. James

The View from the Churchyard – Peter Berry

This is penned in the second week of January. We are truly in the depths of winter. In the last week we have seen snow, wind, ice and rain so not so much activity on the ground. However it became so frozen that I could get my tractor and trailer into the bottom end without sinking in and damaging the soil. So with our two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers we managed to clear out the compost heap which was long overdue. Very worthwhile. Not quite so satisfying was the more than half a Big builders bag of plastic wrappings, artificial flowers, Oasis the green stuff and all sorts of non decomposing materials in the compost. As we use this facility can we all make sure we only put waste that will compost. There is a bin next to the heap for recycling materials. Anything else please take home. Enough from moaning Minnie!

Lets all look forward to lengthening daylight, warmer weather and the beauty of nature springing into life, its on the way. Best wishes to all and many thanks for your support and encouragement Peter.

Ps. Have you noticed the fence I was talking about in the Autumn. It looks so much better. Many thanks to the family who provided new posts and rebuilt it. I am under strict orders not to name them. True Giving!! Peter. 07815459075.



15th February 2026 and 15th March 2026

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

Framfield Parish Council

MEETING SCHEDULE 2026

At the time of issuing this notice, all meetings are to be held at the Village Hall, Blackboys, at 5.30 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.

27 January

31 March

26 May

(Annual Parish Council meeting [6 pm]
and Annual Parish Assembly [6.30 pm] only)

28 July

29 September

24 November

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**

GRASS SQUARE – TOP OF BECKETS WAY, FRAMFIELD

Just a reminder that the grass at the top of Becketts Way is privately owned as is the footpath which goes around it. Residents should not therefore use it as a short cut or let their children or pets play on the area.

FRAMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

FRAMFIELD VILLAGE MARKET

Memorial Hall, Framfield

The market opens from 10 am to 12 noon.

2026

31 January

28 February

28 March

25 April

30 May

27 June

25 July

August – no market

26 September

31 October

28 November

19 December

Please contact Ann Newton with any queries
01825 890182 or email clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Diary of Church Services

Note: The latest church service information will always be on the New Church website: <https://www.thewealdwaychurches.org.uk>. This site, developed by Revd James, covers all three of the churches and will soon replace the Framfield Church site, which is being retired.

FEBRUARY 2026

01 Candlemas

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW) – Revd Janice

08 Second Sunday before Lent

10.00 am Wealdway Eucharist at East Hoathly – Revd James.

15 Sunday next before Lent

10.00 am Family Service – Revd James

18 Ash Wednesday

10.00 am Eucharist – Revd James

22 First Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Morning Praise – Peter Berry

There is now an Evening Prayer Service at 5.00 pm either at East Hoathly or Chiddingly on the fourth Sunday of each month.

MARCH 2026

01 Second Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

08 Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 am Wealdway Eucharist at East Hoathly

15 Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

10.00 am Family Service – Revd Janice

- 22 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
10.00 am Morning Praise - Peter Berry
- 29 **Palm Sunday**
10.00 am Wealdway Eucharist at Chiddingly – Revd James

(Everyone is welcome at any of the church services)

Note: The latest church service information is always on the new Church Website:

<https://thewealdwaychurches.co.uk/framfield-parish-church/>

**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE PLEASE
BY 10th MARCH 2026**

**TO
ANN NEWTON – 01825 890182
Email address:
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.
Email: clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk
**Postal Address: 'Highlands', Framfield Road, Blackboys,
East Sussex TN22 5LR.**
Parish Council website: www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk

**CHURCH NEWS ITEMS MAY ALSO BE
EMAILED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE:
admin@framfieldchurch.org.uk**

NEWS FROM YOUR WEALDEN DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

A repeat from last time - Councillor Ward Budget Scheme – a new community grant funding scheme has been launched by WDC to give each elected councillor a budget of £10,000 to support community projects, events and organisations within their ward. The scheme is open to non-profit community and voluntary organisations to apply for a grant of up to £5,000 in support of projects that will benefit Wealden residents. If anyone is interested, please make contact with me.

Local Government Review Consultation – the ruling Alliance decided again not to support the One East Sussex bid within the Government Consultation. It is likely that again they will be the only District/Borough within East Sussex to take this stance.

Wealden Draft 'Focused' Local Plan (Reg 18) Consultation – a new draft has been put together increasing the amount of houses significantly across the District to 1,457 homes per annum – if this Plan goes ahead this will have a big impact on the District and especially Uckfield and will effectively join the south end of Framfield with Uckfield.

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.
Tel: 07762 746334. Email: aenewton1965@gmail.com

THE ADVERTISEMENTS IN THIS MAGAZINE ARE
PUBLISHED IN GOOD FAITH. THE PUBLISHERS DO NOT,
HOWEVER, ENDORSE ANY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
SPECIFIED

An Evening of Illusion & Impact: Annual Dinner & Auction

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026
7:00PM – 10.30PM
BARCOMBE VILLAGE HALL



Join us on 6th March for a memorable night of celebration, fine dining, and illusion. Our annual dinner and auction is always a truly special evening and an opportunity for us to thank our wonderful supporters as we share the work of The Bevern Trust.

Hosted by our Patron, **Natasha Kaplinsky**, this unforgettable evening includes a delicious **three-course dinner**, a bespoke performance by world-renowned illusionist **Bertie Pearce**, as well as our much-loved **charity auction**, all in support of a life-changing cause.

We're thrilled to be showcasing mouth-watering food from local caterers, **Circa Events**, who specialise in working with local producers and artisans to create exceptional menus.

We are very excited to make a special announcement on the night – book your tickets to discover our amazing news!

To book your tickets, visit
beverntrust.org or call 01273 400752

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The Bevern Trust is a disability charity based in Sussex, and Bevern View is its residential home.

Nature Notes

The frozen chill of Winter presents us in Britain with a wonderful opportunity to see birds that we cannot normally see here. Most of them come to our warmer land from the even colder lands of Iceland, Arctic Scandinavia and Siberia. For example, on a recent visit to Folkestone beach, I counted about 900 dark bellied brent geese (*Branta bernicla*) flying up the English Channel. These small geese, not much larger than a mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), breed during the long warm summer days of northern Siberia but cannot survive there during the dark freezing days of winter. I have also seen and heard many redwings (*Turdus iliacus*), which are a type of thrush that visit our islands in their thousands every year. There is another Scandinavian thrush that you may see called the fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), which is a bit larger and has a slate grey head. Another exciting bird that arrives in some winters is the waxwing (*Bombicilla garrulus*). They feed in flocks on different types of berries. It is a very good winter for berries currently, e.g. holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and *Cotoneaster* spp., so the birds should be able to survive well this year.

The dawn of a new year, following the winter solstice on 21st December, brings new behaviour in the bird world. Many birds, such as male blue tits (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) taking control of nest-boxes and wood pigeons (*Columba palumbus*) repairing nests, are starting to court females already. I have also heard male song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*) singing loudly to defend their territory and attract females. However, the recent cold spell must have challenged them greatly. Birds tend to moult in the late summer and early autumn, so they should have a good new plumage of warm and colourful feathers. They also have a wonderful arrangement of blood circulation to keep their tiny legs and feet warm. The warm blood from their heart flows down their legs via their artery into their feet against the colder blood passively moving up their legs in the vein back to their warm body. The legs of a bird are covered with hard scales, just like those of a reptile. Indeed, some taxonomists still regard birds as reptiles, referring to them as little dinosaurs that never went extinct. There is some truth in that, because early birds were evolving from dinosaurs at the time, 66 million years ago, when the **Chicxulub impactor**, an asteroid, apparently eliminated the “non-avian” dinosaurs. It was apparently not a meteorite (a meteorite is an object that survives atmospheric entry and lands on the ground). It was apparently estimated to have been about 10 to 15 kilometres (6 to 9 miles) in diameter, impacting in what is now Mexico. The birds were able to survive because they were endothermic (warm blooded) and able to fly away from unhealthy environments. Tortoises and other extant reptiles, which are exothermic (cold blooded) also survived by burying themselves (hibernation). These animals still do this these days during the coldness of winter, and if the daytime temperature gets too hot when it is called aestivation.

Martyn Stenning

All monthly Nature Notes are also available on the Parish Council Website at:
<https://www.framfieldcouncil.org.uk/naturenotes.html>.

Blackboys CE School

Happy New Year to fellow parishioners. Everyone at Blackboys School wishes you a safe and fulfilling 2026.

2025 ended at Blackboys School with the usual enjoyment of the Christmas Period. We thoroughly enjoyed sending a choir to the Parish Christmas Service at St Thomas a Becket, along with our own school carol concert a week and a half later. We always encourage our pupils to take part in community events as we feel it develops their sense of belonging. Added to this, we took great pride in running our Senior Citizen Christmas Party. We welcomed record numbers of senior citizens to school, who all enjoyed an afternoon tea and entertainment.

A highlight of the festive period was our Key Stage 1 Nativity. The children performed 'Hey Ewe', a traditional style nativity, taking the perspective of the shepherds and their sheep. It's so good to see our youngest pupils grow in confidence and perform. Credit also must go to our Key Stage 1 staff and Mrs Bayman, our accomplished school pianist.

We were excited to be visited by Nus Ghani, our local MP in the last week of term 2. One of our year 4 pupils had won her Christmas Card design competition. Thomas received a prize from Nus and was proud to hear of all the dignitaries who would have received his card design.

So far 2026 has seen the final open day for our potential Reception 2026 intake. We have once again seen plenty of visitors to school and are excited to meet our next new cohort come September.

We also received a boost via The Brighton Argus newspaper at the start of the year. Due to the success of our Key Stage 2 SATS results, the newspaper named Blackboys as the third best primary school in East Sussex. Although we acknowledge there is more to a successful primary school than just test results, we felt a sense of pride for our former year 6 pupils and the staff team who work so hard to make sure the children are ready to face the next stage of their education. You can read the article at

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25727898.best-worst-primary-schools-sussex-2025-revealed/>

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Framfield & Blackboys Horticultural Society News

Now the days are getting longer it's time to turn our attention to the new season, seed sowing, mulching etc.

Jobs to do in early spring:

- Some seeds, such as chillis, respond well to being sown in early to late February to give them as long a growing season as possible. If you can, sow chillis in a heated greenhouse or a bright windowsill. At the same time why not sow a few lettuces for an early crop.
- Before it is too late, finish pruning fruit trees, Apples and Pears (but not Cherries or Plums) and fruit bushes and roses.
- Order your seed potatoes and start to chit them on a cool bright windowsill. Chitting is simply allowing the tuber to start to produce fat green buds. This then helps the tuber to get off to a good start when planted later in the season, from mid-March depending on the weather.
- On a nice sunny day get out and clean the greenhouse glass both inside and out, if you have one, and have a bit of a tidy up. Its great to feel the warmth of the sun at this time of year.
- Again, if the weather is a bit warmer, spend a bit of time weeding and mulching flower beds. Mulching is the process of laying a thick layer of material, this can be garden compost, bark, cardboard or composted green waste which can be obtained reasonably cheaply, over the flower and vegetable garden. This then suppresses weeds and preserves water retention for much of the growing season.

Children are increasingly interested in where their food comes from and how its grown. As Mum's and Dad's we are there to help them understand the process. Why not come along to our next meeting and have a chat if your interested in horticulture. We have a varied programme of events which run throughout the year. Details can be found on our website:

<https://framfieldandblackboys-hort-soc.com>

We have a lot to look forward to in 2026. Classes are preparing for their school trips: Class 3 head to Brighton Museum to learn about mummification; class 4 and 5 are off to the Natural History Museum in London; and Year 6 always appreciate their informative trip to the Houses of Parliament and London in February.

We have welcomed some new staff members recently. Mr Brendan and Mrs Suzanne Hammond join us as job share caretakers and Ms Rebecca Miller joins us as Clerk to Governors.

Thank you for your continued interest in our school. You can keep up to date via our Instagram feed @blackboysschool

Graham Sullivan
Headteacher

Blackboys CE School, School Lane, Blackboys, Uckfield,
East Sussex, TN22 5LL, 01825 890423
X and Instagram: @blackboysschool

Blackboys Village Hall, Blackboys Pavilion and Framfield Memorial Hall

With immediate effect, if anyone is wishing to hire one of our halls, please note that we now have a single point of contact for all of them:

Email clerk@framfieldcouncil.org.uk

Or

Phone (Office Hours) 01825 890182

(Please leave a message on answerphone with your contact details)

Blackboys Village Hall: Two heated rooms with a seating capacity of 100 and 50 respectively. Very competitive rates for both regular and casual bookings.

Framfield Memorial Hall: Large hall with a capacity of 150. Very competitive rates for both regular and casual bookings.

Framfield CE School

Since September Framfield CE Primary School has been developing relationships and getting to know some new teachers, some new support staff and a new Head of School. The children have been enjoying a new, exciting and creative curriculum that is specially designed for mixed year groups. It has been a wonderful Autumn term, filled with many wonderful community events, such as the Harvest Festival and Christmas Carol events, led by Father James Vine. We were lucky enough to have his keyboard skills for some carol singing rehearsals. Thank you Father James.

Our pupils continue to be part of the Uckfield Sports events and some of our children have got through to the second round of the cross country last term.

At this time of year, we reflect on the Christmas message of hope, peace and love, and we carry these values with us as we step into the new term.

The December Fabulous Finish is a favourite event of the staff and children when we enjoy sharing the success of our learners with families and carers. It is a great way to come into the school and see where the children learn and share their books and other work.

We welcome the new year and a fresh start and the children have returned back to school ready and happy to learn. The snow brought so much excitement and it was wonderful to watch them playing together and having special moments with their friends.

Although our Open Days have finished there is always an opportunity for new families to come and visit us. Please ring or email the school office to make an appointment to have a tour around our warm and friendly school.

Natalie Riley
Head of School
Emma/Rachel

School Secretary

Framfield CEP School, The Street, Framfield, East Sussex TN22 5NR

Tel: 01825 890258 Email: office@framfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk

www.framfieldcep.e-sussex.sch.uk

Please note that Emma Doherty is School Secretary Mondays & Tuesdays and Rachel Kelly is Wednesdays - Fridays



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meaning that the majority of lighting would need to be relocated or replaced, and enhanced through a new lighting assessment scheme. In addition, there are statutory legal processes, formal consultations, traffic management requirements, and procurement rules that must be followed before a single cone is placed on the road.

For context, the Lewes Road (B2192) speed reduction scheme funded through the Community Match process was initially costed at around £60,000, then rose due to design work, and has recently been revised by ESCC to just over £40,000. Even that comparatively straightforward scheme requires a Parish Council contribution of £20,000. The High Street scheme would be substantially more complex and costly. CMF is not currently available, and is unlikely to be in the near or distant future. Previously, we also had the privilege of using Gold's technical engineers and design team which we do not have now.

I will be frank. I am increasingly weary of receiving the same emails, often repeating the same inaccuracies, and often carrying the implication, sometimes explicit that the Parish Council is opposed to a reduced speed limit or is deliberately withholding information. That is incorrect. It is also unfair. I have gone to considerable lengths to be open and transparent through these Parish Magazine updates. While I cannot provide "chapter and verse" on every procedural detail, the suggestion that matters are being hidden and/or delayed purposely is simply wrong.

Other matters

The Sussex Police PCSO Street Meeting will take place on **Thursday 19 February, from 10 am to 12 pm, at Framfield Memorial Hall**. A Parish Councillor will also be present should you wish to raise any local council issues. Please also remember to support the parish market at Framfield Memorial Hall. Dates are listed elsewhere in this edition of the magazine, and it would be great to see residents supporting local businesses, crafters, and the hall itself.

We will shortly be kicking off the **Parish Survey** looking at potential options to improve and enhance our leisure spaces. We encourage all residents to participate. The online version will be released in due course. If you do not have the ability to complete an online form, please contact the Parish Council on 01825 890182, leaving your name, address and contact phone number. We will arrange for a hard copy of the survey to be posted to you.

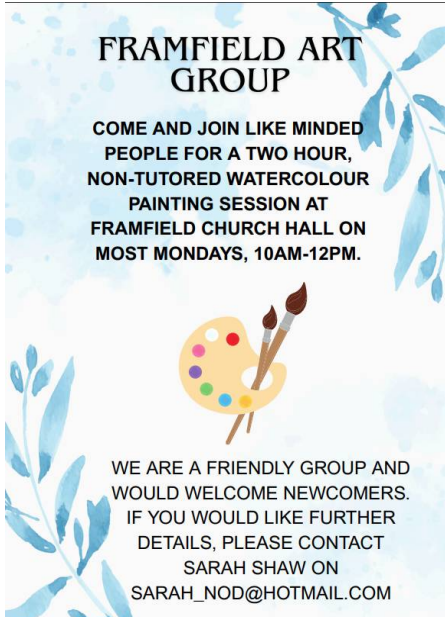
Thank you.

Keith

Chairman, Framfield Parish Council



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NEWLIFE

Living for Jesus / Loving like Jesus

Equipping the church to serve the Community & Share the Good News of Jesus

Do you believe a lie?

Someone once told me ‘you’ll never argue anyone into the Kingdom’* That was over 40 years ago and so far, in my experience, they have been proved right. The fact is, most people have made their minds up, consciously or non-consciously. Christians quite often hear the phrase ‘I wish I had your faith.’ The problem is most people are fearful of how having ‘this faith’ would impact their lives. Which means they already know that something in their life probably needs changing.

The thing is – why do you think Christians are prepared to make ‘fools of themselves’ in the way they live and speak? Don’t you think we have experienced and seen something that drives us to want to share this faith? Or are we all deluded? Society will have you believe you don’t matter – God disagrees – you are known and loved. There is a current surge in the UK, particularly with young people, buying Bibles and seeking spirituality. Perhaps they see this world for what it is – one that doesn’t satisfy.

For the next few weeks we will be offering a Café Style look at the Bible on Sunday mornings. It is for anyone interested in finding out more about this amazing book and how it has shaped history and is still relevant today.

Brendan Hammond (one of the New Life Church Leaders) *believing in Jesus

CAFÉ Bible Mornings : Sunday 15 Feb – Sunday 29 March 2026

Blackboys School, School Lane : 10.45am – 12 noon with coffee & pastries

Email: newlifechurchblackboys@gmail.com Website: newlifeblackboys.com

Facebook: New Life Church Blackboys

Parish Council Update

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you were able to enjoy a restful break over the festive period.

I am starting the year by addressing one issue that continues to generate a disproportionate amount of correspondence to the Parish Council: the proposed speed limit change on the High Street in Blackboys. Unfortunately, much of this correspondence is driven by misinformation, and inaccurate assumptions that need to be firmly corrected.

Let me be absolutely clear. The Parish Council is not idle, obstructive, indifferent, or “dragging its heels”. We have been ready to move to the next stage for a considerable period of time. The delay sits entirely with East Sussex County Council (ESCC), who have stated that they are currently unable to resource the meeting required to agree and initiate the next steps. That position has been reiterated repeatedly. It is also the only next step.

Previously, the Parish Council had reached a unilateral agreement with the developer of the 50-home development in Blackboys. Draft design work was already being considered by ESCC when that developer went into administration. During the planning process, the requirement to reduce the 50 mph zone was objected to by Sussex Police, resulting in amendments to the approved plans. This created an unavoidable period of inactivity while the Parish Council reassessed its position and awaited a new developer.

When Elivia Homes took over the site, we immediately made contact regarding the previous agreement with Gold Developments. After repeated chasers, the only response received has been a holding statement that they would “get back to us”. To date, they have not done so.

The Parish Council has received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from this development and neighbouring sites. In light of the lack of developer engagement, it was decided to pursue the speed limit reduction independently with ESCC. Our County Councillor has been actively attempting for several weeks/months to secure a meeting with the relevant officers, but we are consistently told that ESCC has resourcing constraints. Submitting complaints about this will not magically produce officers who do not currently exist.

There also appears to be a widespread misunderstanding of what a speed limit change actually involves. This is not a case of replacing a few signs. ESCC has made it clear that reducing the speed limit on the High Street would require significant traffic-calming measures, most likely build-outs with priority flow. It would also require the street lighting to comply with current regulations,