



The Giant

**Brede & Udimore
Parish Magazine**

January 2026

The Giant: the Brede & Udimore Parish Magazine

... BUT MORE THAN JUST A PARISH MAGAZINE!

The editorial team consists of Benjamin Barnard, Darryl Bird, John Crook, and Nick Weekes. Contacts: benno.barnard54@gmail.com or john@john-crook.com

We welcome articles on a wide variety of subjects. It must therefore be understood that the views expressed do not necessarily represent those of our two churches.

If you disagree with the opinions expressed in an article please approach us. We welcome debate and are happy to publish a rejoinder.

Material for publication must be submitted between the 1st and the 15th of the month prior to publication. Items sent later may not be included.

Sir Goddard's Helm

As befits a knight, Sir Goddard is shown clad in his Tudor armour, portrayed by the sculptor in wonderful detail. This repays attention. According to the terms of his Will, his 'coat armour', i.e. his identifying tabard or surcoat, was to be suspended over the tomb; it presumably hung from the tie beam above the monument, but has of course long vanished.

In the September issue of *The Giant* we showed Sir Goddard's feet resting against a cuddly lion. His head, however, reposes rather uncomfortably on his helm, which is supported on an ornate cushion. This arrangement was common in the later medieval period.



ADVERTISING RATES

Quarter page £50, Half page £75, Whole page £150

All black & white or colour

Enquiries: Steve Edwards (contact details, inside rear cover)

Front cover: The churchyard in snow, looking south towards the Brede valley. Photo: John Crook

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Mr Hugh Pye

hughpye@hotmail.com or 07484 709316

Udimore requires another warden. If you are interested in this role please contact Hugh Pye for further information.

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January Services at St George's Brede

Sunday 4th 10.00 a.m.	Benefice Service at Udimore, celebrated by the Reverend Paul Messenger
Sunday 11th 9.30 a.m.	Family Service, led by David Oliver
Sunday 18th 9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist. Celebrated by the Reverend Barry Carter
Sunday 25th 9.30 a.m.	Family Service, led by David Oliver

Each morning at 8 a.m. (except Sunday), a small group holds a short, informal service of prayer, readings, and a hymn. All are welcome to come along and share any thoughts on the readings, and join in quietly praying for those we know who are in need.

Forthcoming Events, St George's Brede

January 18th	Dragons starting 10.45 a.m. in the church
January 9th	Drop In Friday (Coffee, Chat and Games) 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. Udimore Village Hall
January 30th	January 30th. Friends of St George's Quiz Night, Brede Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30. See page 13 for details.

Little Giants, for toddlers (and their parents), is currently on hold due to a lack of volunteers. Please contact Rhiannon Oliver on 01424 882037 if you are willing to help out.

Dragons, led by Jo Oliver, is for primary school children (and their siblings).

In November we started thinking about Christmas and why God may have decided to send us Jesus. We then focused on forgiveness and listened to Genesis chapter 50 verse 17, where Joseph is begged by his brothers to forgive them for sending him into slavery: he readily does so and is deeply overjoyed to see them once again.

Advent was a great time to reconnect with family and say sorry and forgive those who you have felt wronged you. Sometimes this is easier said than done, but healing wounds is great for your mind, spirit, and body, and that's something to consider as the New Year starts.

We made lots of Christmas tree decorations, some to take home, some for the big tree in the church, and some we coloured, cut out and laminated. These paper ones were then hung on our Christmas tree, which was themed on the nursery rhyme *Christmas is Coming, the Goose is Getting Fat*. We hope you liked all the trees in the church this year! And we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family, and we would like to wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

The next Dragons will be on Sunday 18th January from 10.45 a.m., in the church. It is a free, fun Sunday school based activity session with singing, craft, a Bible story, and a light discussion to get the children thinking about the meaning behind the story. Although it's aimed at primary school children, it's open to all kids, both younger and older.

Jo Oliver

January Services at St Mary's Udimore

January 4th 11.15 a.m.	Benefice Service, celebrated by the Reverend Paul Messenger
January 11th 10.00 a.m.	Family Service, led by Lesley Curtis, Lay Reader
January 18th 11.15 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, celebrated by the Reverend Barry Carter
January 25th	To be confirmed

Forthcoming Events, St Mary's Udimore

January 9th	Drop In Friday (Coffee and Games Morning) 10.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m. Hall
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THE PARISH OF UDIMORE

St Mary's Community Hall – Classes and Activities

PILATES: Monday to Thursday 9.15–11.15 a.m. (Term time)

Susan Taber: 07858 518504 susantaber66@yahoo.co.uk

ELEVATE YOGA: Flow Yoga suitable for all. Tuesday 7.00–8.00 p.m. (all year round)

Rachael: 07921 854105, elevateyogaclass@googlemail.com

SLOW FLOW TO YIN YOGA: Monday 7–8.15 p.m.

Jo-Jo Hancock: jojo@yogacreative.co.uk

STUDIO JAMIE BALLET: Tuesday 11.00 a.m.

Aysha Jamieson: 01424 883238, studiojamie@icloud.com

VINYASA FLOW: Friday 8.00 a.m.

Jo-Jo Hancock: jojo@yogacreative.co.uk

All classes in term time stop over half-term and school holidays

Enquiries contact Community Hall Booking: udimorehallbooking@gmail.com

St Mary's Community Hall Hire

Our hall, nestling next to the Church, is set amidst apple orchards. It is bright and modern with central heating, a large car park, a well-fitted kitchen, and facilities for the disabled.

Monday – Friday £15.00 per hour (*Events 1 to 6 hours duration*)

Events on Friday may have to finish by 2.00 p.m. if there is a weekend wedding.

Saturday and Sunday £20.00 per hour (*Minimum Booking of 3 hours*)

Bouncy castle use at the hall surcharge: £10 (internal use), (£20 for external use).

One Day and Evening Hire

Sun to Thurs 08.00–23.00 (max 15 hrs) £240.00

Fri and Sat 08.00–23.30 (max 15.5 hrs) £350.00

Hire charges for some events over 6 hours may be negotiable.

Weddings

For information and hire charges email: udimorehallwedding@gmail.com

For all further details and booking, email: udimorehallbooking@gmail.com

Readings for January 2026

**Sunday 4th January
(Epiphany 6th January)**

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalms 72: [1-9], 10-15

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12

**Sunday 18th January
(Second Sunday of Epiphany)**

Isaiah 49: 1-7

Psalms 40: 1-12

1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

John 1: 29-42

**Sunday 11th January
(First Sunday of Epiphany)**

Isaiah 42: 1-9 (or 42:1-4, 6-7)

Psalms 29 (or 72)

Acts 10: 34-43

Matthew 3: 13-17

**Sunday 25th January
(Third Sunday of Epiphany)**

Isaiah 9: 1-4

Psalms 27: 1, 4-12*

1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

Matthew 4: 12-23

Knowing God : Creation

By Duncan Reid

The heavens declare the glory of God;

And the firmament sheweth his handywork. (Psalm 19)

Somehow it's January again – the time for new beginnings. The twelve (or so) days of Christmas have gone, or are going and we can think about starting afresh, beginning a new chapter in our lives. The Church's year, however, begins with Christmas—well, no!—it begins four weeks *before* Christmas with the season of Advent.

Be that as it may, January does seem a good time to consider 'creation' – an appropriate starting point. After all, as we all know, the Bible begins with '*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*'. Christmas was somehow the 'before the beginning'. The Word that became a human person at Bethlehem at a certain time in history was God, *is* God from even before the beginning.

Anyway, let's not get bogged down with all that. When we think of the word 'creation', it tends to be the big things that come to mind – the Big Bang (in and out of scientific fashion, it seems, but pretty impressive all the same); the Cosmos (the 'organised world'); life on earth ... all that sort of thing. Of course, 'creation' includes everything small too and all those things

we don't like and don't admire, but the psalmist is sticking with the big and overwhelming, with the impressive. In his day, when the earth was at the centre of the universe, that was awe-inspiring enough. Nowadays we know that the overall picture is unimaginably bigger and maybe we, in consequence, are unimaginably smaller and less important. Oh dear.

The psalmist, though, in Psalm 8, comes to our rescue as he gazes up at the night sky:

When I consider thy heavens... the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained.

What is Man, that thou art mindful of him?... For thou hast ... crowned him with glory and honour.

With Christmas, at a small, intimate but world-changing moment we are given, wonderfully, the complete God; when it comes to 'the heavens' and 'creation' we are given an aspect of the divine to contemplate. I came across a hymn the other day which I was not familiar with, though evidently it has been around for some time. It's by Isaac Watts (1674–1748) and he expresses these two things pretty well. When he speaks of 'thy word', he is obviously referring to Scripture rather than 'The Word' but maybe that's the same thing. The first two verses run:

*The heavens declare thy glory, Lord;
In every star thy wisdom shines;
But when our eyes behold thy word,
We read thy name in fairer lines.*

*The rolling sun, the changing light,
And nights and days, thy power confess;
But the blest volume thou hast writ
Reveals thy justice and thy grace.*



100 Years Ago

John Crook



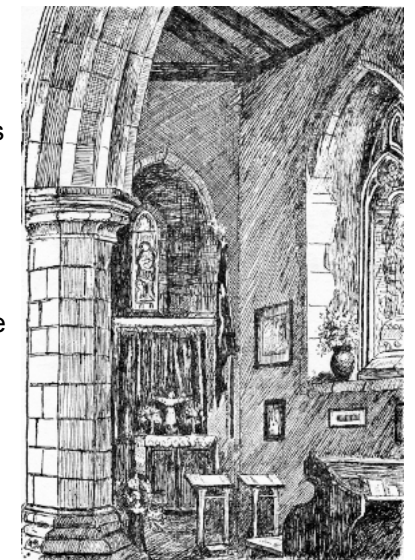
The font in its new location : a sketch taken in 1926

In the December *Giant* I reported on the plans for two building operations in Brede Church: moving the font to the west in order to create a new baptistry, and installing a new stained glass window in the north aisle as a memorial to Maud Mary Frewer, daughter of the previous rector. These works had first been announced in the December 1925 parish magazine, and work went ahead with a speed that would be unheard of these days – ready for the dedication service on 3 February 1926.

The planning of those two operations must, however, have been proceeding quietly in the background for some time. The window was designed by the archdeacon's daughter, Hester Cook, and made by her and a fellow student, E. H. Smith, at the Hastings School of Art.

The design of the window required a Faculty – though the design, and indeed the window itself, must have been prepared before the faculty application was made – and estimates had to be obtained for the work in the south aisle. The final bill for moving the font, forming the new steps, and paving the area, came to £33 11s 11d, paid for out of church funds. These points were discussed at an urgent meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 9 November 1925. The cost of the window was borne by the Frewer family.

By 1931 the west end of the north aisle had been further modified as the 'Children's Corner', as shown in this drawing by Marjorie Biddle. The Maud Mary Frewer memorial window is partly visible on the right.



Eat the Seasons January – Game

by Gill Potterton

When the weather is cold and bleak, it is hard not to let it affect our mood, so it might be just the time to indulge in some comfort food, cooking up some hearty, wholesome dishes to keep out the cold. Of course we also want to eat healthily, if we got a little carried away over Christmas, and many people are unaware of the healthy nutritional benefits and increasing availability and versatility of game. Defined as any meat derived from animals that live in the wild, why is game meat so very healthy? Wild game is much leaner than meat from livestock, as the animals are very active, living in the ultimate free-range setting, and eat natural food, rather than being commercially bred and fed for rapid weight gain. Venison, for example, is very low in fat and cholesterol, high in protein, and contains more iron than any other red meat.

If you haven't enjoyed any venison, pheasant, or a traditional game pie during the Festive Season, we are still in the middle of the Game Season, so this is the ideal time to ring the changes with your meat selection and enjoy meat that is heart-healthy but hearty tasting. Over the last decades, our choices of meat have become more and more narrow. I was brought up on a strict rotation of beef, lamb, pork, and chicken, totally unaware of any other options, but children today are even less informed, often only familiar with chicken. Seventy or eighty years ago, rabbit was more commonly eaten than chicken; there would have been hundreds of different recipes, but sadly, they



Still life with game and fruits, Frans Snyder (1579–1657)

stopped being handed down through the generations, and nowadays home cooks have lost the knowledge of how to cook rabbit.

Although the season is short, the seasonality of fresh wild game makes wonderful sense, giving us alternative meats for healthy, hearty winter-warmer dishes. Furthermore, there are perfect seasonal accompaniments to flavoursome game dishes, in braised red cabbage; celeriac, parsnip or Jerusalem artichoke mash; curly kale, or savoy cabbage.

With the increased sophistication of the game industry, its market share is growing impressively. With exposure to game meals on pub or restaurant menus, the eating-out experience leads consumers to seek it out for home consumption. Butchers are stocking an increasing variety of cuts of game meat, which the keen cook can transform into casseroles, pies, and pâtés.

If you have not tried game before, a good introduction would be the lighter, more mild-flavoured game birds such as partridge and guinea fowl, which can be roasted just like chicken. But you need not be restricted to the classic roast game bird. If you want to experience the wonderful gamey flavour of nutritious wild meats, experiment with recipes and substitute venison for beef, pheasant for chicken, or even wild boar for pork – they are all robust enough to take on other strong flavours.

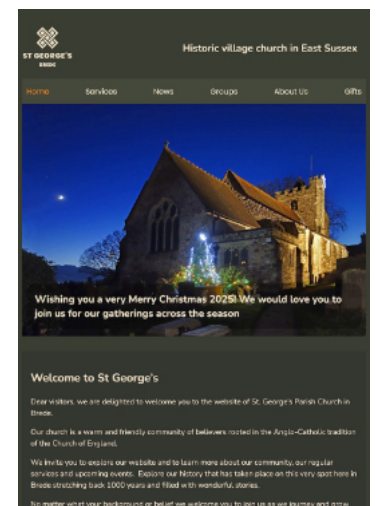
Always ask your butcher for advice, as the intensity of flavour depends on how long the meat has been hung, the animal's age, the method of cooking, and the flavours you add. If cooking with different cuts of game is not really for you, at least try some wonderful venison sausages, served with celeriac mash and a sticky red onion gravy, for a tasty plate of comfort food.

St George's Brede website

The church website will transform into a new look soon—well, not so different, but it will be up to date, easier to manage, and a bit refreshed. We will finally be fully reclaiming the website in the New Year, and even the email will start working properly again! So please feel free to make contact.

stgeorgesbrede.org.uk

As with *The Giant*, contributions are welcome, but overall we aim to keep things simple and informative. Also, the back issues of *The Giant* will be available for download.



Out and About

by Gary Marriott

How the seasons are changing! Three weeks ago, walking along Pottery Lane, I noticed what I have always called butterbur, but it is in fact called winter heliotrope, in flower. Along the sides of the lane at the edges of the ditches, the flowers, which are clusters of pale pink with spiky little petals, are not much to look at, but their vanilla-like smell is amazing. They are usually one of the first flowers in January to poke out their heads through all the road side dirt, a sure sign that spring is on its way. They provide welcome scent and pollen for those brave insects still hunting at that inhospitable time. However this was not January but November! Will they flower again through January, and what will the insects do if they don't? There are many who claim that climate change is not an issue, but those who observe their environment will probably claim there is no doubt!

We are enjoying this grey but mild weather at the moment, but our jackdaws along with 'their sisters and their cousins and their aunts' are obviously enjoying it elsewhere. Why this should be I do not know. We have lived with their good company for ten years, but this year have seen a change. Perhaps it is bird 'flu! Though a few weeks ago, when we were enjoying that very gusty weather, they were out in great number—perhaps sixty or so—just enjoying themselves, pretending to be a murmuration of starlings, but not quite so tightly grouped. They weren't hunting or courting, so it is lovely to think they were really playing and enjoying themselves together, rather like we do.

Our two-hour Christmas Tree Festival in St George's had to be squeezed in amongst all the others going on locally, but it was well attended and there was a good spirit; all the trees looked very pretty. But I must mention one in particular, created by the Rabbits Class from Brede Primary School, based on the nursery rhyme *London's Burning*. It is a very imaginative interpretation of a fire engine: a cart upon which are standing the long hooks that were used to pull down houses, creating open spaces where the fire would run out of fuel. And these hooks make



the tree from which hang the decorations, consisting of puddings and leather fire buckets. It is so very clever. It is a real treat for us to experience the children in this way as well as through their singing at the school Christmas Fair and the Farmers' Market. Well done children, we are looking forward to seeing and hearing more of you soon.

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(but normally the first Friday of the month)

10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

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(Coffee, Chat, Games & refreshments – and Company)

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TN31 6BB

£5 (or more!) gratefully received

Contact Liz Turgoose on 07808 597689
Or Judy Edwards on 01424 882222 for more information

Transport

We have arranged with FlexiBus to pick up anyone who would like to come but doesn't have transport.

Please contact Steve on 01424 882222, or at steve@chitcombe.co.uk to book a seat.

There is no charge for the transport if you hold a Concessionary Bus pass or £4 return without one.

www.4charities.net

Operating under the Charitable status of the Church of England

Shotwick, Cheshire – 6th January 1945

by Stephen Wrigley

Their successes and their failures started here,
At the church door opening of the year,
The old course of the river curving near.

Sky steel, sky pearl, sky smoke; dark fallow land
Across the estuary, a winter band:
Unstated borders of the life they planned.

Only with difficulty did that contain
Ambition, love and lightning, passion, strain,
Tempest followed victory followed pain.

I remember them, I remember well:
Energy, letters, eruptions, smell,
Excesses, kisses, care, hands held.

Setting out, it doesn't do to know the way.
River course shift. I don't think they
Regretted that young January day.

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We Are Not Amused

by Rio Gardner

The most exciting thing that had ever happened to me in my admittedly short life was when, in the autumn of 1944, I stood clutching my mother's hand on the sea front at St Leonards-on-Sea. She was taking a short break from her drab, ration-restricted life in Tunbridge Wells. And, as her youngest child, I got to accompany her.

We had walked along the seafront from London Road, until we reached Sea Road, opposite Grosvenor Gardens. My excitement was entirely due to the seven large anti-aircraft guns, spaced along the front, facing out to sea. They were each manned by a crew of four or five soldiers, who were wearing the regulation khaki uniforms, topped by steel helmets. Each crew was fronted by a man with binoculars, scanning the horizon for enemy aircraft. I discovered afterwards from a kindly gentleman who was staying at our bed and breakfast hotel in Pevensy Road, that the guns had been sited there primarily to protect West St Leonards from the V1s that had been bombarding Southern England since June of that year. I knew about doodlebugs. I had watched them clattering across the sky from our back garden on their way to London. Once or twice, the engine would stutter and stop, in which event I was bundled indoors to shelter under our sturdy kitchen table.

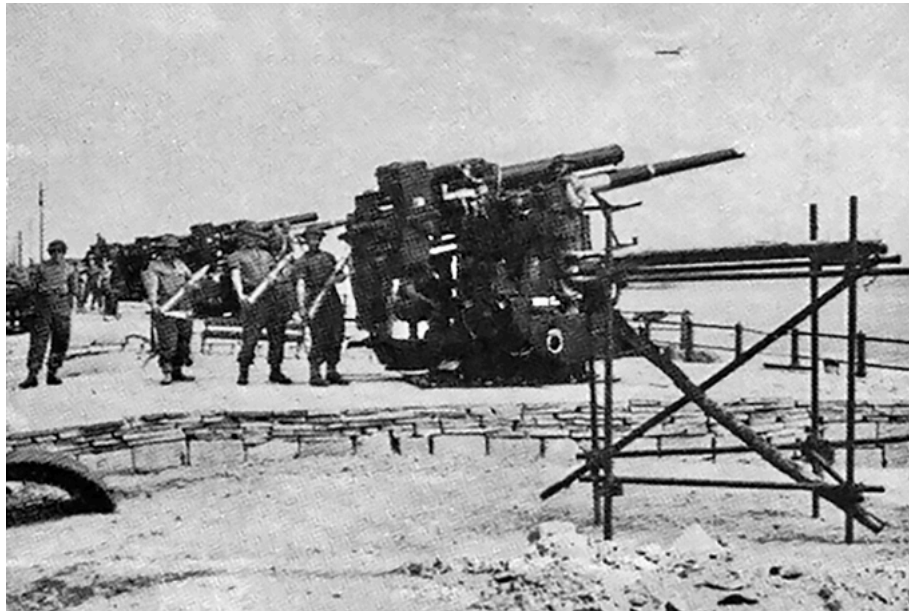
As the gun crews traversed the barrels of the huge weapons and practised their drills, my fervent wish was that the siren would sound and the guns would be brought to action. No-one pointed out to me that, in that event, the area would be instantly cleared of civilian onlookers like ourselves, who would be directed into the nearby air raid shelters, so we would actually see nothing.

To mitigate my disappointment, my mother took me eastwards, back along the seafront as far as Warrior Square. One of my most abiding memories is seeing the remains of St Leonards Pier, marooned forlornly out to sea. But the most striking feature of our walk was the fact that there were so many gaps in the houses. It appeared that of every four or five buildings, one or more was missing: a series of blackened holes where the Luftwaffe's fighter-bombers had struck. Indeed, when we finally reached Warrior Square, where so many grand houses had once stood, there appeared to be more rubble than buildings. In fact, the entire seafront resembled someone with a series of rotting and missing teeth,

In more recent years, having returned to live in the Hastings area at least partly because of my happy childhood memories, I came across a booklet,

produced by the *Hastings & St Leonards Observer* in 1946, cataloguing the ordeal of the local population during the recently ended war.

Amongst the photos was one taken by an *Observer* photographer of the gun crews at Grosvenor Gardens in the summer of 1944. Delighted at the opportunity to relive a treasured childhood memory, I scanned the photo into my computer for a keepsake. When looking at a picture of this vintage, one should bear in mind that not only was it a rare thing to have one's photo taken at a time when film was hard to come by, but that every picture of a military feature would have to pass the scrutiny of the censor before it could be published. Thus the gun crew grinned broadly as they posed in the act of passing shells along the line to the loader. What both they and the censor seemed to have missed was, in the top right-hand corner of the picture, the unmistakable silhouette of a V1 crossing the coast, completely unmolested, on its way to London. One just hopes that it was intercepted further inland by the RAF fighter defences.



Gun crews at Grosvenor Gardens, summer of 1944 (Hastings & St Leonards Observer, 1946)

Finally, we stood in front of the life-sized statue of Queen Victoria, and primed by the words of the gentleman staying at our guest house, we marvelled at the hole in Victoria's right knee, made by a German machine gun bullet. The blemish on the royal knee can still be seen today, and remains as a mute testimony to how the people of St Leonards and Hastings stood up to Hitler's ravages of their hitherto peaceful and much loved town.

Of course, one can deduce from the expression on the royal personage's face, that They were definitely not amused.



Queen Victoria's statue 'with the dodgy knee' in Warrior Square. The picture was taken in the 1950s.



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Letter From America

by Christopher Barnard

A few weeks ago, I was invited to the British Ambassador's Residence in Washington DC, to watch the World Cup draw. The Embassy was full of World Cup 2026 decorations, screens highlighting unforgettable moments in British football history – from England's World Cup victory in 1966 to Scott McTominay's recent bicycle kick to send Scotland to next year's tournament in the United States – and emissaries from all over the world, proudly wearing their nations' jerseys.

The day before, President Trump delighted fans across the world (and possibly angered a few Americans) by saying that maybe, just maybe, 'football' is the right word for the game, not 'soccer'.

As I walked around the Embassy, seeing old friends and making new ones, I happened to bump into Usha Vance, the lovely wife of Vice-President J. D. Vance. The Second Lady was busy herding her children and trying to prevent them from breaking priceless antiques, as they raced after a football. Yet, she kindly gave me a few minutes of her attention, and shared that her young children were members of a local 'soccer' league, where they played against the children of other politicians and diplomats in DC – a mini World Cup, if you will. While baseball, basketball, and American football are quintessentially American sports, real football is actually the most common sport among young children here.



Usha Vance and Christopher Barnard

In anticipation of next year's World Cup, football really is surging in popularity in the U.S. As some of you might know, I used to play professionally for Dover Athletic when I was living in Brede, and still play semi-professionally now that I live in DC. Two summers ago, my team, which

plays in the NPSL (the highest semi-professional league in America), made it to the conference play-off final. We played in front of nearly 10,000 cheering fans at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland. That's more fans than you'll ever see at a semi-pro game in England.

Of course, the recent injection of funds and high-profile signings for the MLS, the American top league, has brought a whole new profile to the sport – a trend that was started by David Beckham a few years ago when he signed for LA Galaxy. Rarely a day goes by that I don't see a Messi shirt out in the wild, since his signing for Inter Miami.

On a personal note, I can't wait for the World Cup to come to these shores. The beautiful game reminds me of home – I still call my parents after every single game, even when the time difference means it's 3 a.m. in the UK. Now I just hope I can schmooze my way to a few tickets... one embassy down, many more to go.







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Gnome

by Liz Miles

I know a gnome who lives near my house
And keeps to herself like your average mouse –
She doesn't want the world to know
That her mood of late has been terribly low.

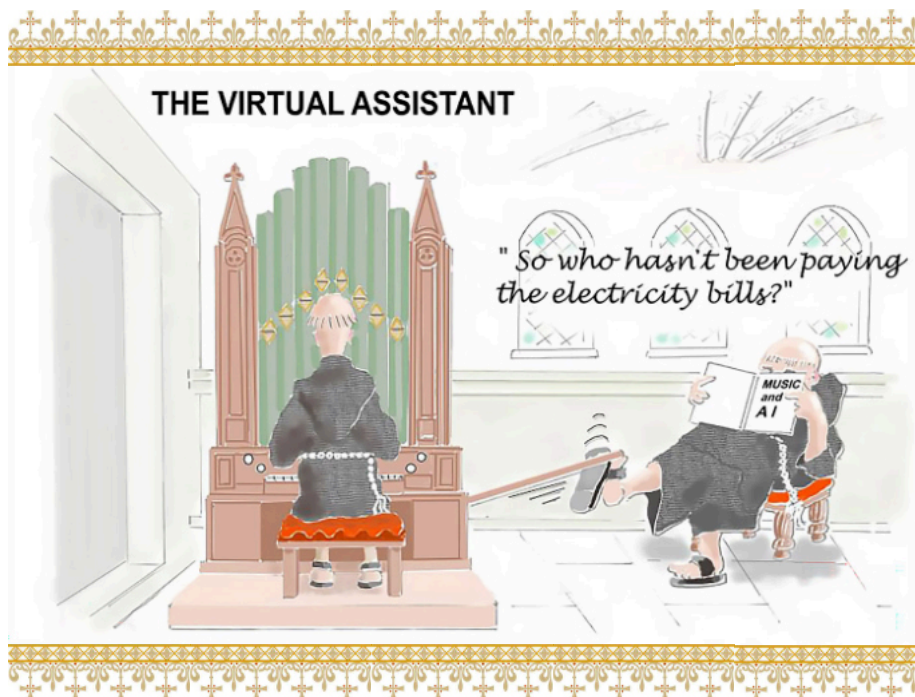
She used to have a lovely pad,
With all things good and nothing bad;
Over the hills and far away
She loved to dance and laugh and play.

Until one day she got quite bored
As happiness cannot be stored.
So taking a grip of this situation
She looked for a source of enduring elation...

Opening cupboards and all of their catches
She found, delighted, a whole box of matches.
The rest, I'm afraid, is a woeful tale
And the crater that's left is now up for sale.

No home insurance, nor PPI,
No other options but to say goodbye.
And this lesson, my friend, is really most dire:
If you don't have insurance, do not play with fire.

*Suggestions for a new poem? Contact me at
lizmiles77@outlook.com.*



Cartoon by Mike Bone

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St George's Brede in the snow from the south-east. Photo: John Crook

National Trust Rye & District Association | Monthly Flyer

We offer a range of enjoyable events each month to members and non-members of our association in support of The National Trust.

Walks September-June | Talks October-May

Our 5 mile circular walks cost £3 and begin at 10.00am. All walks end with a rewarding pub lunch and a quiz. Our talks with popular guest speakers cover a range of topics and are held from 2.00pm at Brede Village Hall, and cost £5 for members/£10 for non-members – including refreshments.



Walk | Blacksmith's Inn, Ninfield Tuesday 13th January



For seventy years **The Blacksmiths' Inn** at Ninfield was known as the *United Friends* and stood next to the village forge. In 2000 it was renamed the Blacksmith's Inn and the car park is the original site of the forge. The Blacksmith's Inn is now a Gastro pub serving delicious food, using locally sourced produce and offering a varied menu including game and fish.

Talk | The Weald of Kent Canal Thursday 15 January



The Canal That Never Was. In 1800 at the height of the war with France a few good men came up with the idea of a canal that could link the Rivers Medway and Rother, and open up an inland route to the English Channel. This talk explores the initial ideas and planning, up until the project literally ran out of steam with advent of the railway.

Outing | Quebec House & Emmett's Gardens Wednesday 22 April



We have arranged an outing for you with two contrasting locations. Firstly, we travel to the once home of General Wolf, **Quebec House**, Westerham, and then on to Sevenoaks to **Emmett's Garden**, the Edwardian garden of plantsman Frederic Lubbock, to enjoy the beautiful bluebell woodland, and have time for refreshments in the Old Stables Tearoom.

SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY: Spring Lunch at Flackley Ash Hotel
Saturday 9th May | Canterbury Theatre Trip: Operation Mincemeat Wednesday 20th May

Contact: Dee Williams (membership) 07760 115413 membership@ryenationaltrust@gmail.com
Julie Etches (bookings) 01797 225317 julie.etches054@btinternet.com

Vocality: Your Local Community Choir

Bringing People Together Through Song

Introduction

Vocality is a vibrant and inclusive community choir based in your local area, dedicated to bringing people together through the joy and power of singing. Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or someone who simply enjoys humming a tune, Vocality welcomes everyone with open arms and warm voices.

About Vocality

Established by passionate music enthusiasts, fifteen years ago, Vocality aims to foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie among its members. The choir rehearses weekly embracing a wide range of musical genres. No auditions are required; enthusiasm and a love of music are all you need.

Community Spirit

Vocality is more than just a choir: it is a community hub where friendships blossom and local connections are strengthened. Members not only sing together but also participate in social gatherings, charity events, and performances in local venues, supporting community initiatives and spreading joy through music.

Why Join Vocality?

— Inclusivity: Open to all ages and abilities — everyone is welcome.



Vocality at the Big Sing 2025

— Wellbeing: Singing in a group has proven benefits for mental and physical health.

— Social Connection: Meet new people, make friends, and feel part of something special.

— Musical Growth: Learn new songs, improve your vocal skills, and gain confidence.

How to Get Involved

Vocality holds regular rehearsals at Brede Village Hall, from 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. for singing, and then a well-earned cuppa. If you would like to join, simply turn up for a rehearsal or contact the choir coordinator Nadia Florence-Marshall on 01424 882948. There is a modest membership fee to cover venue hire and sheet music etc.

Upcoming Events

Vocality isn't a performing choir as such, but we try to support St Michael's Hospice event, The Big Sing each year. We also like to sing carols to the residents of local care homes.

Conclusion

Whether you are looking to improve your singing, meet new people, or simply have fun, Vocality offers a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all. Join us and discover the transformative power of music within your community.



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Brede Residents 75 Years ago

by RoseMary Musgrave and Jennifer Sparkes

... continuing our series of memories of Jennifer Sparkes and RoseMary Musgrave, who compiled these childhood memories of local residents as a COVID lock-down project in 2020–21. Our account resumes at the south end of the Village Green.

Beside the Red Lion and heading down Brede Hill were three attached cottages known as Pear Tree Croft. Les Horton and his wife Nel lived in No. 1, the Waters family in No. 2 (he was the village milkman), and Eliza Chapman, together with Bill and Agnes and their daughters Joyce, Margaret, and Linda in No. 3.



Pear Tree Croft and the top of Brede Hill

Just down the hill on the left was the Rectory (Rameslie), up a flight of steps, a large brick house built by old Canon Frewer in his retirement, who left it to the church. For all our time the rector was Percy Hill. He was a moderately tall, thin and aesthetic-looking man. When out in the village he was rarely seen not wearing a biretta covering his white hair. His wife Mary did not play a prominent part in local affairs. They had four children, John, Michael, Monica, and Anthony, all of whom were young adults when we knew them. Anthony trained to be an architect.

Directly below their garden was an area set back with the old church hall and a shed where stuff such as scout tents, camping equipment, trestle tables, etc were stored. The hall itself had originally been built in 1842 as the



The Rectory, 'Rameslie', later 'Brede Court'

National School and later was used as the Sunday School room, though when we were young Sunday School was held at the back of the church. The Scouts, Guides, Cubs, and Brownies met in the old school-room, and we think it was where meetings such as the Mothers' Union and Parochial Church Council were held. It was very rarely used for social events; those took place in the Village Hall in Cackle Street.



The former National School

Across the road from here was a lane that led down to the Waterworks. We always knew it as 'Waterworks Lane' but there was an older name for the area, 'The Forstal', meaning a paddock. On the right when going into the lane was the bottom of Hillside garden, a steep bank held in place by rocks, over which was a profusion of aubretia in various shades. I used to go there just to enjoy the colour.



Turn off Brede Hill into Waterworks Lane, and the former Hillside bank



Church Farm oasts in 1910 looking east towards Brede Church

Going on down the lane there were silage pits about halfway down the hill and at the bottom was a winter pen and shelter for cattle. Mount Ephraim Shaw went up behind this.

At the end of the surfaced lane stood a row of cottages behind which was the Waterworks. It was quite eerie to see these huge machines turning and plunging and with no noise coming from them. The cottages were for those who worked there.



The waterworks from the south-east

Beyond was the bottom of the graveyard and then the turning into Church Farm. This was owned and run by Ben and Winifred Fryer, and Cyril, Ben's brother. They were not hop farmers. The big farmhouse provided plenty of room for their large family: the eldest was Faith (she had a twin sister Hope, who died in infancy), then Joan, Barbara, Gordon, and Christopher.

From there on the lane turned into a rough track that led to a field in which there was an 'Isolation Hospital' that we think was built during the war as it was a wooden frame with a corrugated iron sides and roof. It was for people with tuberculosis or smallpox. When we could first get anywhere near it, probably about 1948, it had been abandoned. I have a clear memory of going up with my mother to have a look. The doors were open, windows flapping and the roof becoming derelict. We looked inside and saw the long room, with rusting metal beds on either side that were falling apart, and some remains of mattresses. It had a chilling atmosphere.



View up Brede Hill, with Jubilee Cottages on right

Returning up Waterworks Lane we turn right down Brede Hill (the A28). The first turning on the left led to the far cottage in which Miss Hampshire lived. She was the sacristan/verger in the church. A small lady who had a problem—perhaps osteoporosis—which meant that always she had to support her head by holding her hand under her chin. She had a pretty garden and a love for sweet peas, which she grew in profusion.

Back towards the road, in a modern bungalow (c.1948) called Bryn Mawr, lived Charles and Peggy Howe. Their children Anita and Graham were born there in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Charles took over running the Scout troop.

We think it was through this short road that one reached a field where Miss Margaret Greely kept some of her beautiful Arab horses. She lived in Well House in Pottery Lane and for a short time ran a kindergarten school at her house. She was born in Northern India where she grew up with Arab horses. In 1942 she bought started owning Arabs and then set up Well House Stud. We are not sure whether that was in Brede or not. In 1976 her book *Arabian Exodus* was published. She was well known throughout the Arab horse world.

Further down Brede Hill on the left were Jubilee Cottages. In the top house lived the Parsons family George and Stella, with daughters Ursula and Janet, then a baby brother Matthew; Stella's father lived in the middle cottage Mrs Parsons was a strong church member and we think helped Miss

Hampshire as she became increasingly frail and finally became the sacristan.

The next house down the hill was lived in for a relatively short time by Mr and Mrs Richardson and their daughter Geraldine. She would have been born in the late 1940s and it was thought that she was adopted. The family only lived there for perhaps two years.

Adjoining this was a smallholding owned by John and Stella Sharpley. They had chickens, grew soft fruits and vegetables and had planted an orchard. They must have had a regular market for this produce,

A little further down and on the other side of the road is a pair of detached red brick houses that had been built for the managers of the Waterworks. A cinder path below the houses, formerly the railway track, led to the works.

Then down to Brede Bridge, and the end of our stroll down Brede Hill.



View back up the hill from Brede Bridge



Why not send us an article? We'd love to share it with the community

Brede and Udimore Luncheon Club

At the November Meeting of the Club, Red Lion chefs Spencer and Tracey served a very tasty meal of scampi, chips and peas (a first for us!), followed by ginger pudding with cream. Thank you to all the staff at the Red Lion for the warm welcome and for your cheerful and efficient service.

The Festive raffle after the meal was great fun. Our thanks go to Beryl Jenkins and Joy Wild for their help each month; it's very much appreciated.

We next meet in the New Year on Tuesday 27th January at 12.30 p.m. at the Red Lion.

For information about the Club, please contact me on 01424 882007

Frances Parnham (Membership Secretary)

Brede Women's Institute

It was Christmas party time at our December Open Meeting and what a lively and fun afternoon it was! Our special party guest, King Henry VIII (Anthony Harris), made a commanding entrance as he strode into the hall, richly attired and instantly recognisable. He introduced himself, and then announced in his stentorian voice that he'd be telling us about 'Life in his Court'. As his entertaining stories unfolded, we gained insight into all aspects of Court life during Tudor times. Exchanges with his audience were particularly funny and witty, and when pressed, King Henry was persuaded to tell us about his wives and his troubled marriages!

'A brilliant afternoon, funny and informative in equal measure,' said Brede WI members. Joy Wild gave the vote of thanks, commenting on Anthony's brilliant performance.

The party tea followed with drinks and a delicious spread, and the generous Christmas raffle brought the meeting to a close.

Brede WI next meets on Wednesday 14th January at 2.00 p.m. in Brede Village Hall. The speaker is Lucy Jenner, who will be telling us to 'Move it or Lose it!' The Competition will be 'Your New Year's Resolution'.

For information about Brede WI, please contact Sue Orchard (Joint President) on 07305 693745

Frances Parnham

News from Trinity Methodist Church, Broad Oak

Church Services. We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, an informal Service is held in the Hall at

3.00 p.m. All are welcome to join us and stay for refreshments after the Services.

Meet-on-Mondays. Every week between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. (except Bank Holidays). Join our friendly group for various activities: games, crafts, talks or discussions and 'book swap' (we have a large selection of paperback books), and then enjoy tea and cakes!

Wednesday Welcome. Every Wednesday 10.00 – 12.00. Call in for refreshments: there's a choice of machine made coffee, a selection of teas, and cakes and biscuits, all to be enjoyed in a warm and friendly space.

Community. We were made most welcome when members from Trinity visited our two local care homes, Roselands and Whitegates. At Roselands, the residents enjoyed joining in the carols and festive songs in our Christmas Singalong. And at Whitegates we held an Advent Service of carols and readings for the residents.

In the lead-up to Christmas, Brede Primary School was welcomed to our church for their end of term Whole School Assembly. After school, the children and family members were invited to *A Christmas Cracker*, a creative session which included making cards for Roselands Care Home, singing Festive songs and a story.

For further information about Trinity Methodist Church Broad Oak, please visit our website: www.trinitybroad oak.org.uk

Frances Parnham

Brede Friendly Circle

Although sadly depleted for our Christmas meal, due to four of our members not being well, we enjoyed a delicious silver service lunch, in pleasant, warm surroundings. It felt very special and we were all enjoying ourselves. We always do a Secret Santa and here we have just started opening our presents, before we had our coffee and mince pies.

Our next meeting will be at Shirley's home on Wednesday 15th January. It will be our New Year's Coffee morning. If you would like to join us please contact Carol on 01424 883262 or Rhiannon on 01424 882037.

Rhiannon Oliver



Brede Mothers' Union



We held our Christmas Party early December. Because of illness there weren't too many of us, but we had a really interesting afternoon. We listened to carols but our meeting was different as one of the things we talked about was abuse, how it affects families and what we could do about it. Also we talked about Modern Day Slavery, which is very real and often goes on under our noses. We did have a laugh, though, and enjoyed Christmas fare with our second cup of tea.

Now we are entering a New Year we are hoping that our membership will increase. There is much we could achieve if we were a bigger group. We used to have forty members! Let us try to reach that number again by your joining us and joining In. Our next meeting is at 2 Bellhurst Cottages, Chitcombe Road, on Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 1.30 p.m. If you would like to join us please come along or phone 01424 882037.

Rhiannon Oliver (Branch Leader & Bexhill District MU Chairman)

Brede Design with Flowers

Our ladies have done fantastic designs over the last two months to enhance their homes for Christmas. In November we did wreaths and in December table decorations,

I was so proud of our new member who created this beautiful design with battery candles. If you are using real candles, the right distance between them and the foliage and flowers is important – you don't want your creation to catch fire.

Our January meeting is at 2 Bellhurst Cottages, Chitcombe Road, on Monday 12th January. We are doing an 'All Foliage Design'; and on Monday 26th January we are doing 'Something Romantic'. (I have to cancel our February meeting, so we are a few weeks earlier.) If you would like to learn this amazing skill please contact me on 01424 882037.

Rhiannon Oliver



Udimore Christmas Fair

Saturday 29th November 2025

The village held its annual Christmas Fair in the Village Hall on the last Saturday in November. The gift stalls, packed with tempting Christmas gifts, were enticing. The produce stall, filled with delicious cakes, jams, preserves, savoury tarts as well as a spectacular display of dried flowers (all from Matty Holmes' garden) was hard to pass by. As usual, the raffle, tombola, guess-the-weight-of-the-Christmas-cake, and hamper drew crowds for a chance to win one of the wonderful prizes.



There was a good turnout of young ones to see Father Christmas and partake in the fun children's activities. On the other hand, you could just sit with tea or coffee, or mulled wine and mince pie, and catch up with friends, new and old, in the cafe.

A big thank you to Father Christmas for drawing the raffle, hamper etc. Well done to Zoë Wilmoth for winning the hamper and Lou Hutchins for guessing the correct weight of the Christmas cake. As usual, there was a chance to see what was going on in the village, with representatives of the Parish Council, Friends of St Mary's and Drop In Friday (formerly known as 4Charities).

It was a Very Merry start to Christmas, and huge thanks to everyone who helped contribute to the day. Whether by setting up, clearing away, donating, planning or volunteering, all your help was invaluable. Our event raised £2,200 and all the proceeds went to St Mary's church. An excellent result!





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Rear cover by Graham Johnson

Old Sussex words
&
their modern translations



Snudge

Walk with a stoop,
looking down.