



**Ashurst St James
Parish E-Newsletter
Summer 2026**

Father Mark writes

A lot of the people who drive north or south on the main road through Ashurst will see the Fountain Inn and the Village Hall, but they may not realise that there is also a Parish Church. Having a parish church is what distinguishes a village from a hamlet – and the church is much more than a building.

We may be off the beaten track but it's clear from our visitors' book that many people stop and look in. Some people, local or not, spend a lot of time in the church or our churchyard because it is a place of peace, a place (to quote TS Eliot) 'where prayer has been valid', a place where we can pause, reflect and perhaps rediscover what it means to be alive.



Our church is open every day for this reason. Sometimes a church needs to be empty for us to find the space we need to pray; sometimes, not often, but especially at Christmas, weddings and funerals, it is packed to capacity when people come together to worship through the changing scenes of life.

Because our church is dedicated to St James the Apostle, we set aside one Sunday every year to celebrate the continuous existence of our parish church through the centuries – the Sunday closest to St James's Day. If you can, please join us for Sung Evensong at 4pm on 26 July when we will celebrate our patron saint. Our visiting preacher will be the Archdeacon of Chichester, the Venerable Tom Carpenter. As always, this service will be followed by refreshments, including (following a revived medieval custom) 'St James's Ale' – but other options will be available. The service will last for less than an hour.

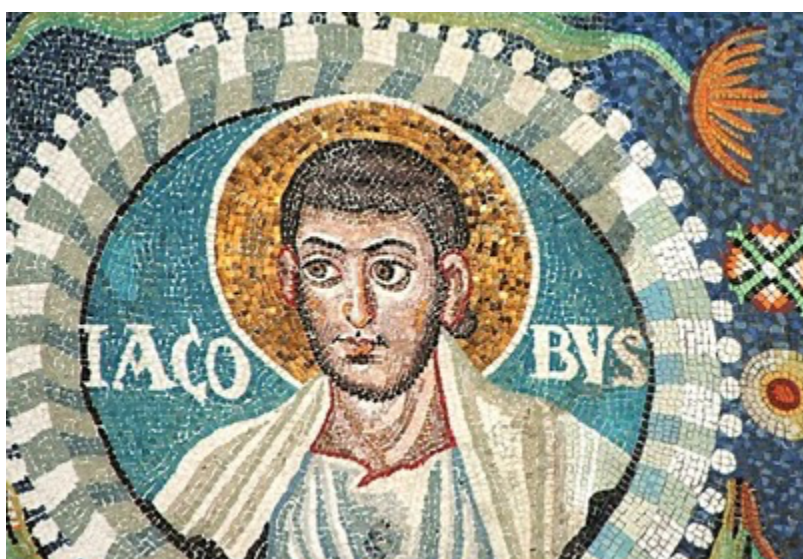
Yours in the love of Christ

Fr Mark

Collect for Grace

**O Lord, our heavenly Father,
almighty and everlasting God,
who hast safely brought us to the
beginning of this day; defend us in the
same with thy mighty power;
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger,
but that all our doings may be ordered by
thy governance, to do always that is
righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

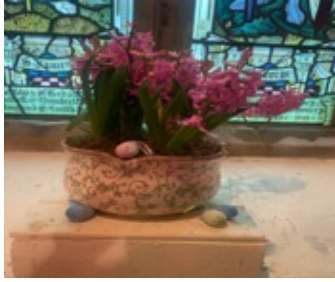


**St James the Apostle, (the Great) -
Mosaic in Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna
Photo by © José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro,**

PCC Update

Summer 2026

Recent Events



We had a lovely **Easter Sunday Service** at the beginning of April.

The flower ladies' idea to plant up various containers with spring bulbs for our Easter Service was inspirational.

So this is a good opportunity to thank them for their wonderful contribution. Their displays provide us with so much pleasure throughout the year.



We celebrated the **God's Own Acre service** on a glorious summer's day, in the middle of June. We enjoyed hearing how the fauna and flora are doing after five years of limited intervention in the churchyard.

Forthcoming Events

We have a number of services and events coming up, including a couple of baptisms and two weddings. Our best wishes to those involved, and thank you for sharing these happy events with us at St James's Church.

As Father Mark says above, a service we would encourage you to come along to is St James's Patronal Evensong, our only evensong of the year. As well as hearing the Venerable Dr Tom Carpenter preach, we will also be accompanied by Brian Sawyer, the Steyning organist and some of the Steyning Choir. We will celebrate afterwards, hopefully outside in the churchyard, with the odd pint of St James's ale, a glass of wine or something softer and some eats. Hope to see you there Sunday 26th July at 4pm.

In memory of Kevin King 20/4/1948. - 17/3/2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Kevin, who died peacefully on 17th March aged 77.



Born in Brighton, Kevin spent his early years in Kent before moving to Ashurst in the 70s where he made his home and became a familiar figure in the village.

Known for his independence, Kevin approached life in his own unique way. He was an avid reader, had a wicked sense of humour with a wonderful, distinctive outlook on life and he enjoyed a good pint of Guinness.

Many will remember the sight of Kevin cycling through the village, his faithful dog riding behind him in a little trailer. It was a familiar sight that perfectly captured his character – independent, practical & resourceful.

He will be deeply missed by his friends, neighbours and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Rest peacefully Kevin

Churchyard Notes

Summer 2026

In mid-June, the Church held its two-yearly God's Acre service, a Celebration of St James's Churchyard. What follows is extracted from the brief talk I gave at that service.

Churchyards are precious habitats, and Ashurst is no exception, as they generally have over the years not been sprayed, fertilised or tilled and are therefore a repository of many ancient species.

An appropriate maintenance regime is however essential to get the best out of the habitat.

The mission is threefold; make the Churchyard as lovely a place to visit as possible; a place for peaceful reflection and contemplation open to all comers; without forgetting its purpose as a burial ground.



Our approach is being mirrored across more and more churchyards in the UK (including Steyning) as, sadly, we grasp the extent to which nature has been depleted by habitat loss in particular.

The basic habitat management approach has been to let things grow across the Churchyard in the growing season while cutting tracks (thanks to Graham Timms) to encourage the visitor to wander around.

At the end of summer, between the evening Patronal service at the end of July and the Remembrance Day service in November, we have a big clear up in stages. The single most important task is to take away all the grass cuttings to prevent the habitat becoming too rich for wild flowers i.e. weaken the grass, strengthen the flowers.

The outcome is colour in the Churchyard most of the year round - a 2016 survey identified over 100 wild flower species to be present in the Churchyard. To name just a few, we have snowdrops in winter then, as we move through the months, primroses, daffodils, tulips followed by bugle, plantain, sorrel, oxeye daisies, red campion, trefoil, cinquefoil, selfheal with knapweed marking the end of the summer and time to begin the clear up.

The colour encourages the insects - bees, butterflies, damselflies etc.- which add more colour and attraction.

The Churchyard abounds with bird noise and, along with the familiar domestic songbirds such as robin, blackbird and wren, we have also observed/recorded, inter alia, song thrush, goldfinch, blackcap, goldcrest, chaffinch, chiffchaff.



We are fortunate at Ashurst to have such a Churchyard. You are all encouraged to use it and encourage others to do so as well. The mental health benefits of immersing oneself in nature and taking time to stop, look, listen are well documented.

The plan for the future is more of the same with some experimentation with differing grass heights to encourage different species.

In terms of help, we would love to have the involvement of a keen gardener to tend the flower bed and a keen botanist for species identification and recording. Volunteers welcome!

Ashurst Recreation Ground

Summer 2006

Ashurst Cricket Club



Preparing the pitch
– with some help!



We are pleased to report a fine victory in our first game of the year, last Sunday v Nuthurst, in front of an attentive crowd.

Things didn't start promisingly as we slumped to 58-7 but a fine rearguard action led by 41 runs from the evergreen Steve Duffett and helped by fighting innings from the numbers 9 to 11 saw us reach the dizzy heights of 133 all out.

After a splendid tea thanks to the Gregg family and helpers, our total proved too much for Nuthurst who slumped to 102 all out in the face of hostile bowling (four wickets to Aaron Bowley and three to promising youngster Alexander Smith) backed up by steady fielding and good catches.

A fun day was had by all in beautiful sunshine bringing the best out of the idyllic cricket setting of the leafy Ashurst Rec Ground with its splendid views to the South Downs.

The next game is on Sunday 23 August and the last game on Sunday 13 September.

Please feel free to come along and watch.

And anyone interested in playing, please contact Rowley Gregg (07850 051850).

July 2026



Sunday 5th July
← Match Photo

The attentive crowd! →



Ashurst Football Club

Ashurst United managed to avoid relegation to Division 2 last year with some amazing results and performances throughout the second half of the season.

The lads pulled it together to keep us in Division one, creating a fantastic team atmosphere at this year's End of Season Awards.



We now look to season 26/27 and with a new sponsorship and brand new kits, we hope to change our fortunes and get back to bringing success to Ashurst.

On Sunday 2nd August we have a club fundraiser to celebrate a loyal player of ours and his 50th Birthday. We hope it will be a great day out for the players and families.

Please come along to watch. Ashurst vs Ashurst - All past and present players of the club.



Ashurst Flower Show

Summer 2026



The 67th Ashurst Flower Show

The Ashurst Flower Show Committee is pleased to say that it will be holding the show this year on:

**Sunday 19th July 2026, 2:00 – 4:30 pm
at the Village Hall.**

Visit our website <https://ashurstflowershow.co.uk/entries/> for more information regarding timings of submissions. Look at the schedule and select your entries!

We hope to see you at there at the Village Hall at what is always an enjoyable village occasion.



Ashurst Parish Council Summer 2026



Next meetings

Our next Full Council meeting is to be held next Thursday, 16th July at 7.30. Immediately prior to that we will be holding our Annual Parish Meeting - see the Agenda for this meeting below.

We hope you can come and join us.



Village Clean-up day Sunday March 29th

We had another successful clean-up day at the end of March. For those of you who came along -thank you. It was also pleasing to see that we had a good age range of volunteers. Although we didn't collect as much rubbish as in previous years, there was more than enough to make it a worthwhile exercise!

Ashurst benefits from a significant number of residents collecting rubbish, local to them, at regular occasions throughout the year. In addition, the schoolchildren are also now engaged in keeping Ashurst clean. So well done to all of us!

New website

Please do visit our new user-friendly Parish Council Website, <https://ashurstparish.gov.uk> which will be updated over the course of the next few months.

New Recycling Bin

We are pleased to say we now have a blue recycling bin on the Recreation Ground for all to use.

Wildfires Festival – To be held at Wiston between 22nd July and 26th July

There is a dedicated **Residents Information page** at <https://wildfiresfestival.com/faq-category/residents/>

ASHURST PARISH COUNCIL

IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU

TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

TO BE HELD AT ASHURST VILLAGE HALL

ON THURSDAY 16th JULY 2026 AT 6.00 pm



AGENDA

- 1. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman.**
- 2. To agree and sign the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting.**
- 3. The Chairman's Annual Report together with updates from other Village Groups and Societies.**

Questions from the Floor.

Refreshment Break

- 4. Our Horsham District Councillor, Victoria Finnegan, will be providing us with an update and overview on recent developments in what has been a busy and significant year at HDC and further afield.**

Questions from the Floor.

The Annual Parish Meeting, although chaired by the Chairman of Ashurst Parish Council, is not a Parish Council Meeting. It is a good opportunity for residents to be given an update on current local issues and to provide a forum for them to ask questions, share ideas and to express views on these issues.

The refreshment break gives you an opportunity to catch up with us, your Parish and District Councillors, as well as fellow residents.

We hope to see you on 16th July!

Please remember - we are here to represent you so don't hesitate to contact us if you think we can help in some way.

Contact e-mail: ashurstclerk@outlook.com



Dear Ashurst

The latest report on the hall sadly paints a disappointing picture.

Whilst our regular hirers continue to use the hall, we've not had any new regular bookings for over a year.

Some while ago we hosted a steady stream of evening parties, but this source of revenue seems to have virtually dried up. Similarly, the number of Children's Parties has decreased over the last 6 months.

Unfortunately, on the other side of the equation, costs have inexorably risen, eg over the past 2 years the electricity bill has risen from £1,432 to £3,123. Also ongoing servicing costs, eg Fire Extinguisher and Emergency Lighting have risen.

At the AGM, the Committee reluctantly decided to raise hire charges for the first time since it opened in 2015, which brings us into line with adjacent halls, although even with the amended fees the hall is still set to record a loss this financial year.

Over the past 11 years the hall's sound financial position has been largely maintained by regular hirers, most of whom are not residents of the village. However, this is no longer a viable business model and more input from the good folk of Ashurst is urgently needed.

The Committee are hugely grateful to Hall Secretary Mandy and her team for organising the annual Country Fair and Dog Show. The importance of this to the hall finances has taken on a greater relevance and we ask that everyone supports the Show in any way they can.

The Committee have organised another musical evening featuring Superstrings, who were so well received when they played in November 2024. Those who attended then really enjoyed the event and we anticipate a decent sized audience next time around, which will help bring in much needed funds. Please make a note in your diaries for **Friday 22 January 2027**.

However, it is clear that we need to attract new business to the hall, and to run additional fund raising activities if we are to keep our hall and maintain it in its current excellent condition. Therefore, we are keen to involve anyone with the skills and enthusiasm to help, possibly by forming a hall sub-committee which will focus on attracting new hirers and the implementation of new Fund Raising projects.

If you would like to get involved in this project, or if you have any ideas as to how we could increase our bookings, please do get in touch, via admin.ashursthallws@btinternet.com.

Finally, the Committee are delighted to announce that Olivia Kelsey has taken on the paid dual role of Bookings Officer and Hall Manager. Olivia brings a wealth of admin experience to the roles and we're sure she will prove to be a worthy successor to Sandra Taylor who voluntarily has kept the 'show on the road' for nearly a decade.

I'm sure the whole village will all join me in thanking Sandra for all her hard work and commitment.

I'd also like to thank those who gave up their time to join the outside working party to smarten the environs of the hall, and on another occasion to repaint parts of the hall and generally Spring clean.

Graham Timms Chairman

For hall bookings please visit the website: <https://www.ashurstvillagehall.org.uk/>.
There are special rates for local hirers.

Ashurst Country Fair & Fun Dog Show 2026

The highlight of the Ashurst year is not long away now! **Ashurst Country Fair, Fun Dog Show and Car Boot Sale** is once again being held on our beautiful Recreation Ground. The date for your diaries is **Sunday 6th September 2026**, with the show opening at 12pm and the very popular Dog show classes beginning at 12:30pm.

Once again, this year there will be a great range of unusual **gifts, plants and crafts** to buy in the shopping area. We can always make room for more stalls - so please do get in touch if you would like to reserve a space. Details available on our website.

Don't forget the **Car Boot Sale** too (we especially encourage Vintage & Retro goods). Now is the time to start gathering things to make a carload or share a pitch with friends. Everyone welcome, food vendors by arrangement only please.

Running throughout the afternoon will be a fun **'Best Dog in Fancy Dress' class** – we are leaving the theme to you this year, *the funnier the better!* There are *prizes for all*. We are *really* looking forward to seeing your parading pooches! Don't forget to have a go at the Fun Agility too, that also runs throughout the afternoon.

A poster for the Ashurst Country Fair & Fun Dog Show 2026. The poster has a red border and a green inner border. At the top, it says "ASHURST COUNTRY FAIR & FUN DOG SHOW" in red. Below that, it says "SUNDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER 2026 from 12pm" in red. Then, "ASHURST RECREATION GROUND" in red, followed by "Nr Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3AY" in red. In the center, there is a photo of a fair with text overlay: "COUNTRY STALLS, CAR BOOT SALE, Games, Bar, Pimms Bar, Teas/Coffee/Cake & Barbeque & SO MUCH MORE!". Below the photo, it says "FUN for ALL the Family and a FABULOUS doggy day out!" in blue. Then, "Why not enter one of our many Dog Show Classes?" in red, followed by "Have a go at the Fun Agility or see if you can win a prize with the Best 'DOG FANCY DRESS'" in red. Below that, it says "Check out our website for further information on classes, stall bookings, Vintage/Retro & Car Boot & more!" in red. Then, "https://sites.google.com/view/ashurstcountryfair" in red, followed by "Email: ashurstcountryfair@gmail.com" in red, and "07774585313 or 07821799004" in red. At the bottom, it says "Please bring cash for car park, dog show class entries & some local stalls" in red. On the right side of the poster, there is a photo of a black and white dog.

The fire brigade will be with us once again and the Ashurst Football Club for some footy games' fun, plus **LOTS** more!!

Teas, cakes, ice creams, bar and David Jesse's famously delicious barbeque will also be available so no need to bring a packed lunch!

We will be putting up marquees etc on the Friday evening before the show (4th September) from 6pm. Please do come and help, the more people the better.

Also, if anyone is free to help run a stall, we need you! The Teddy tombola and Skittles need people at the moment. There are also lots of other ways to get involved too, so please do get in touch. Donations of **raffle prizes, bottles for the bottle stall, prize hamper food & gifts** can now be left with any committee member. **Cakes** nearer the time please. If you can help, please leave items in the box on the decking outside the Village Hall (available from August) or with Gail Turrell, Liz Hamilton, Jan Griffiths & Mandy Hedley. **THANK YOU!**

We have the popular 'bank' facility for cash again this year (Graham & David) but do bring cash if you can on the day.

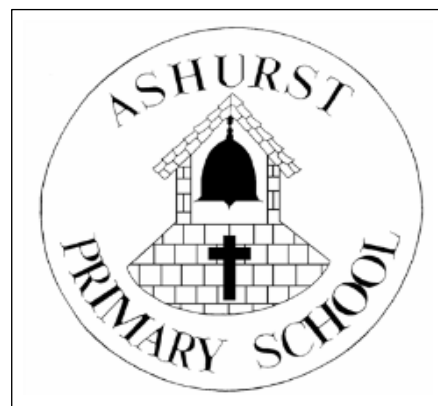
Proceeds go towards Ashurst Village Hall; however, **local groups are welcome to join us with a stall or activity for their own fundraising**, please contact the organisers in advance.

We look forward to seeing you all there. Please visit the website to see lots more information including the Fun Dog Show classes list.

<https://sites.google.com/view/ashurstcountryfair>

Email: ashurstcountryfair@gmail.com

This has been another busy term! We began by taking Mouse Class down to visit Steyning Library, where we had a wonderful morning listening to 'Zebra-cadabra' being performed enthusiastically by one of the library staff. We're delighted to know that many of our families have since taken to visiting the local library. We're excited to take part in the school library challenge, and we are all very keen to sign up for 'Read to the Beat' with a music theme this year. All we have to do is read 6 books, or complete 3 activities and read 3 books by September 12th. Some of the children really think they will have completed this by the time term ends!



This term saw the last of our class bake-offs - the Mouse Class Parents' Bake Off. More money was raised for FAPS so a big thank you to all who have baked, bought and ate to make this so successful. On 20th May, we attended the Chantonbury Music Festival - once again, another wonderful evening of singing and music which showed our commitment to developing our skills and talents and to working with locality schools. At the end of April, Y3 and Y4 had a wonderful trip to Wakehurst where they met some very experienced botanists and some very unusual plants! June saw the first of our tennis tournaments. We've taken part in two tennis tournaments this term, and we're very grateful to parents who transported their children. One was for Y3 Y4, and one was for Y5 Y6. All reported that the behaviour and sportsmanship was excellent and the children really did us proud. On 4th June, we had a marvellous evening taking part in a dodgeball tournament. Thank you to parents for taking our children there. We were able to enter two teams: Ashurst Green and Ashurst White. We started off playing quite politely, but by the time it was Ashurst Green versus Ashurst White, we were throwing the ball with accuracy, speed and determination! I can say from experience that these balls hurt when they hit you!



This year, we had the opportunity to take another group of children to Swanage. We met some wonderful people who were our guides and experts at Corfe Castle and at the Etches Museum. We were delighted that Steve Etches himself judged our dinosaur competition and then joined us for our group photograph. This is the second time we've met him, and last year our children chose the Etches Collection as one of our charities.

We found out that they're hoping to remove the body of the pliosaurus from the cliff within the next couple of years and have already managed to secure funding for a new extension to the museum to house this enormous dinosaur. We're very excited about going to see it in a couple of years' time!

At the beginning of June, four of our children (two from Y3 and two from Y4) attended wellbeing training run by the Thoughtful team at Thakeham Primary School to become our well-being ambassadors, or as they have now chosen to be called, the 'Helping Heroes'. These are children who look out for other children and make them aware of what they can do if they're not feeling so good. They will be instrumental as we go into next year as part of our well-being days, introducing topics for the children to choose from and helping them to see how they can benefit their own mental health and well-being.

Our friends at Splash! have been visiting us again this term, not just for our whole school assembly but also the special transition work they do for Year 6, helping them to prepare for secondary school. It's a wonderful afternoon where the children do lots of creative activities and have the chance to talk about their hopes, fears and dreams too.

Garden club have been busy but something strange has happened to our veg! No-one has seen any of the parsnips, the radishes have disappeared and only two of our pumpkins have survived, luckily Mr Garnett gave us two of his so we are hopeful for squash and pumpkin delicacies in the autumn. Our strawberries have been enjoyed by the children and we have a good crop of potatoes. We are taking part in the West Grinstead & District Agricultural Society Ploughing Schools Competition and those potatoes and sunflowers are growing... slowly!



On 1st July it was transition day, we all moved up a year group for the morning and we welcomed our 11 new Reception children who are joining us in September. There were lots of busy children hunting for woodlice, playing with Stickle Bricks, making new friends on the field and joining up with older brothers and sisters. It looks like it's going to be super year this September!

Yet more visits are planned as Y5/Y6 will be visiting the Adur and Shoreham Beach area as part of their geography and field work. This will enable them to do comparisons with places they have studied before, including the bay around Swanage, Studland and Old Harry Rocks. Also, on Wednesday 15th July, Y5/Y6 are going to visit the House of Parliament. We're very excited by this opportunity - we've tried several times to get tickets and have been successful this year!

Another first for a very long time is performance by our newly formed choir; Mrs Double and the choir from Tuesday mornings have been practising hard, and we're looking forward to an afternoon performance on 14th July at 3pm in Kings Grove - weather permitting

Sadly, we'll soon be waving goodbye to our Y6s. They have two special services, the first is on Monday 6th July which is their Leavers' Diocesan Assembly at Christ's Hospital, followed by lunch with their parents and class teachers and then on Thursday 16th July we will have our Spiritually Day based on Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In the morning we will be working in our house teams to explore this bible verse and then we will follow this in the afternoon by our own Ashurst Leavers' Service at St James's Church at 2.45pm.

We're hoping to have a 'Little School. Big Heart' morning on the field on Saturday 26th September where we hope people will be able to join us for a morning of fun, friendship and discovery, to meet our pupils and staff, enjoy family activities, and experience what makes Ashurst such a special place to learn and grow. Unfortunately, by that stage our new EYFS and KS1 outside covered area will not yet be complete, but we're hoping to be able to share some of our plans to create a covered area for our youngest pupils. We look forward to seeing you all in and around the village, which we hope is a little bit tidier due to the litter picking completed by the Squirrel class on 30th June. They were very pleased to receive a free glass of squash from The Fountain at the end of it! Please feel free to join us at any of the following:

Leavers' Service at St. James's (16th July please note this is a Thursday not Wednesday)

Whole School Sports Day (17th July)

Rounders Tea Party (20th July)

Little School. Big Heart morning (26th September)

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Smith and all at Ashurst CE Aided Primary School.



Ashurst Flix in the Stix Summer 2026

Our late presentation this month is:

Mr Holland's Opus (1995)

Starring Oscar nominees Richard Dreyfuss and Olympia Dukakis and directed by Stephen Herek, it's a solid drama where a composer (Richard Dreyfuss) puts his lofty ambitions on hold to become a high school teacher in Portland, Oregon.

Richard Dreyfuss leads a splendid cast in this old fashioned sentimental tale. His journey which spans several decades, is a surprisingly uplifting film that touches on some of the realities of public school, music and education.

It says something honest, pertinent and moving about undervalued teachers and endangered arts programs. We have him getting into trouble with the school authorities because he uses rock and roll amongst other genres to teach music theory to bored students.

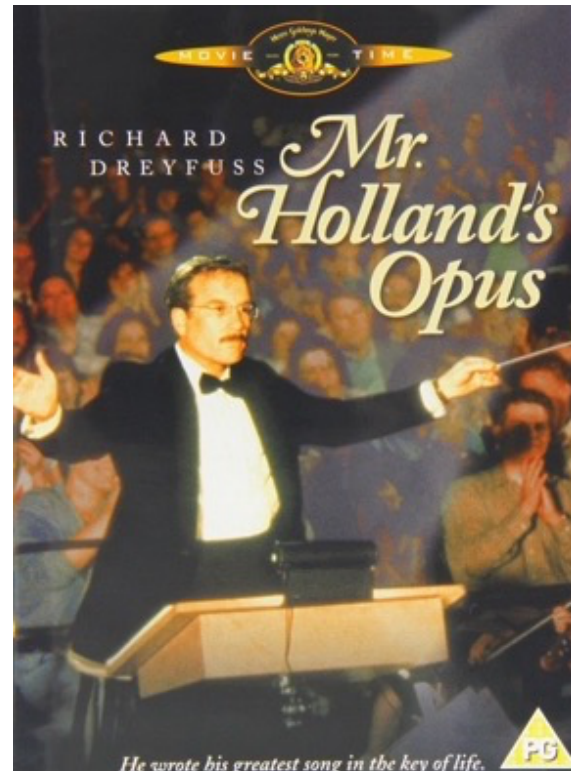
His family situation is enough to make this a part '5 handkerchiefs' and part very uplifting film.

It's honest and you will enjoy it. It was chosen by a vote of the Flix in the Stix volunteers.

The adult ticket price of £7.50 includes free tea or coffee and biscuits and participation in the raffle. There will also be a bar for drinks at reasonable prices.

You can benefit from a £10 double ticket if you introduce a new Filmonaut to any film night. If they're not on our mailing list, ask them to join by simply e-mailing me.

We now accept credit card payment for entrance of film presentations, but have some cash available, just in case!



We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 11th July 2026 at the revised time of 6.00pm.

Bob Harari (bob@flixinthestix.com) Apologies for late notice.

Ashurst W.I

Summer 2026

Ashurst WI has had two wonderful visits in the last couple of months. In May we had a great afternoon with Derek Crush and Margaret looking around Daylands Farm with Derek who is just the most amazing mine of information. It poured with rain but in true WI & British style we carried on! Our visit was followed by tea & delicious cake made by Margaret and scones made by Gill.

In June we visited The Shrine of our Lady of Consolation in West Grinstead. The Church is steeped in history and is the first shrine of our Blessed Lady to be established in England before the Reformation.

Ashurst WI would love to welcome anyone who may be interested in joining us as we have a very varied and interesting number of Speakers and Visits throughout the year. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 2.00PM at Ashurst Village Hall and there is always a cuppa and a delicious piece of cake cooked by one of our lovely WI Members.

Ashurst Nature Notes

Summer 2026

The weather story over the last three months has been all about heat. In England, April was the sixth warmest on record, May the second warmest and June the warmest ever. Maximum temperatures recorded were 35.1 degrees centigrade in May (Kew Gardens, breaking the 1944 record) and 37.7 in June (Norfolk, highest ever recorded since records began in the 20th century).

The Chelsea Flower Show showgardens had a common theme - how garden design is going to have to adapt. Less lawn (if any), more shade and focus on water retention and more heat/drought resistant plants. Exit the traditional and most prevalent design - a lawn surrounded by formal flower beds. Better for us and better for nature.

The changing climate is challenging for UK agriculture and, with rising geo-political tensions, food security is becoming a more topical issue. The UK imports some 40-45 percent of its total food supply (over 80 percent for fruit). And many of the countries from which we import are even more affected by climate change than the UK.

In forestry, the balance is even worse. The UK is the second largest net importer of timber in the world and our forest cover, at 13%, among the lowest in the world. The European average is 46%, the world average 31%.

All quite shocking - how did we get to here? And shouldn't we have a better plan (and implementation) to do something about it, rather than covering the landscape with solar panels and data centres?



To finish on a more cheery note, Summer is a good time to look out for some of nature's finest creatures - insects such as butterflies, moths, dragonflies and damselflies - and wild flowers, along with the young fledgling birds finding their way in the world, all of which are guaranteed to brighten one's mood.



The previous Nature Notes (Spring 2026) ended with a hope that cuckoos and nightingales would be heard in Ashurst over Spring - and the good news is that they were both in evidence around the village! They were accompanied by a full range of other summer migrants - including warblers, whitethroats, blackcaps (used to migrate but now appearing to also overwinter in the UK) and swallows, all of which could be heard and seen around Ashurst.

July 2026



Forthcoming Village Dates

Flix in the Stix	Village Hall	Saturday 11 th July	NB Time: 6.00 pm
Family Service - Baptism	Church	Sunday 12th July	10.30 am
Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall	Thursday 16 th July	6.00 pm
Full Council Meeting	Village Hall	Thursday 16 th July	7.30 pm
Flower and Produce Show	Village Hall	Sunday 19 th July	Public from 2 pm
Patronal Service	Church	Sunday 26th July	4.00 pm
Ashurst Football Charity match	Rec Ground	Sunday 2 nd August	2.00 pm
Flix in the Stix	Village Hall	Saturday 8 th August	7.30 pm
Family Service - Lammastide	Church	Sunday 9th August	10.30 am
2 nd Cricket match	Rec Ground	Sunday 23 th August	1.30 pm
Dog Show and Country Fair	Rec Ground	Sunday 6 th September	From 12 o'clock
Flix in the Stix	Village Hall	Saturday 12 th September	7.30 pm
Family Service	Church	Sunday 13th September	10.30 am
3 rd Cricket match	Rec Ground	Sunday 13 th September	1.30 pm
Flix in the Stix	Village Hall	Saturday 10 th October	7.30 pm
Harvest Service	Church	Sunday 11th October	10.30 am
Harvest Supper	Village Hall	Saturday 17 th October	7.00 pm



Deadline for the Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Please note that the deadline for the next Parish Newsletter is **Friday 9th October 2026**.

Please send items for inclusion either as an e-mail or as a Word attachment to susie.fischel@outlook.com. All contributions particularly of photos are most welcome.

Many thanks for all the contributions to this Newsletter – they are much appreciated.

