

A close-up photograph of a field of flowers. The foreground is filled with numerous purple, bell-shaped flowers with white speckles, hanging from green stems. Interspersed among them are several plain white bell-shaped flowers. The background is a soft-focus field of similar flowers, creating a sense of depth. The overall scene is lush and vibrant, with green foliage and small yellow flowers visible at the bottom.

ALCISTON BERWICK SELMESTON

VILLAGE NEWS

JUNE 2023

◇ VILLAGE NEWS

Advertising is coordinated by Brian Calcott. Tel. 07999 788618.

Distribution is coordinated by Jeremy and Valerie Shaw. Tel: 01323 811567.

The Production Team is Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers.

Contributions, Photos, etc (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin by the 12th of the month by email: empty.sea@outlook.com

They can also be passed to one of the coordinators:

Jane Anderson at Old Postman's Cottage, Alciston Tel: 01323 870075.

Valerie Shaw at Selmeston House, Selmeston Tel: 01323 811567.

Laurie Tinsley, Wynsford, Berwick Tel: 01323 870895.

Donations

Financial donations to the Parish News are gratefully received.

Cheques payable to "Parish News" can be passed to: The Treasurer, Brian Calcott at 2 Railway Cottages, Station Road, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6TA.

Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to Barclays Bank -

Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.

◇ CHURCH CONTACTS

Benefice Priests

Revd Peter Blee Rector of Berwick and Vicar of Selmeston with Alciston

The Parsonage, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6SR

Tel: 01323 870512 Email: peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk

Revd Shirley Pearce Assistant Priest

The Vicarage, Wilmington, Polegate, BN26 5SL

Tel: 01323 318231 Email: revshirleym@gmail.com

Shirley Pearce's 'on duty' days are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

Churchwardens

Alciston - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623

Berwick - Andy Williamson Tel: 01323 870163 / Paul Lewis Tel: 01323 870927

Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

Benefice Administrator

Jane Grutchfield Email: benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk

◇ VILLAGE CONTACTS

Parish Council Clerks

Alciston - Sandy Thomas Email: alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com

Berwick - Alison Stevens Tel: 01323 460007 Email: berwickparishcouncil@aol.com

Selmeston - David Quysner Tel: 01323 811515 Email: selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com

Village Hall / Field Hire

Berwick Village Hall - Thea Eastmead Tel: 01323 871218 Email: theaeastmead77@gmail.com

Berwick Field - Carole Vine Tel: 07341 660046 berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com

Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall Website: www.southdownsvillagehall.org

Thank You

We are grateful to receive a donation this month from Rosemary Weir.

Open Day at Sherrington Manor, Selmeston

*11.00 am - 4.00 pm on Saturday
3rd June at Sherrington Manor*

The garden of Sherrington Manor, Selmeston, is due to be open as part of the Open Gardens season of St. Wilfrid's Hospice, Eastbourne.

The 'Ukeholics' ukulele band will be providing entertainment on this date, from 2.00 pm. To find out more, see www.stwhospice.org/opengardens.

Classical Guitar Recital by Kianush Robeson

*6.30 pm on Friday 9th June
In aid of St Mary's and St Peter's
Church, Wilmington*

Listen to the classical guitarist, Kianush Robeson play a programme entitled 'Impressions of Segovia' featuring some Spanish guitar favourites.

Tickets (£10) are available from:

Tim Berrett

Email: berrettba@gmail.com

Tel: 07771 641856

or Alan Norris

Email: norrial@gmail.com

Tel: 07411 589691

or at the door (subject to availability).

The performance lasts about one hour and refreshments will be available afterwards.

Tim Berrett

You Are Warmly Invited to a Pimms and Canapés Drinks Evening

*6.00 - 7.30 pm Saturday 10th June in
the garden of Geoff and Rosalind
Daintree at Wellstead, Caneheath,
Arlington, BN26 6SJ*

All are welcome and donations will be invited towards the work of Eastbourne Networkx supporting refugees living in the local area.

Music will be provided by The Melodic Brass Ensemble.

Parking is either on the layby opposite Wellstead or in Tye Hill Road on the grass verge opposite Bates Green Farm.

For further details and RSVP please contact: geoff.daintree@gmail.com or 07921 722403.

Geoff Daintree

Arlington Village Market and Coffee Morning

*10.00 am - Noon, Tuesday 13th June at
Arlington Village Hall.*

All are welcome. There will be bread, cakes, quiches, local eggs and regular stalls. For further information please contact Anne Hope: Tel. 01323 486219, Email

anntonyhope@gmail.com

Arlington's Pop-Up Museum will also be at the Village Market. June's theme is 'The Produce Show and Village Hall' presented by Henry McCutchan.

For further information please contact Wendy: Tel. 07889 689844

Email: talkingteapot@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who support our Village Market, it is a very social

Cover photo: A wonderful display of Snake's head fritillaries (Fritillaria meleagris) growing in a garden in Berwick village. Photo by Jane Corkran's daughter, Claire.



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occasion and proving to be a popular event.

Pauline Jackson

Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute

7.30 pm Wednesday 14th June at Firle Village Hall

Our May meeting was attended by 12 members. After our business meeting, we discussed where to send the 35 'Teddies for Tragedies' which some members had kindly knitted, and it was decided they should go to a charity which sends clothes, toys and food parcels to Ukraine. The teddies are about 10 inches high and knitted in colourful wool.

The members then enjoyed a short quiz followed by cheese and wine. Our June meeting will be 'A Summer Party' and members are asked to bring along a plate of food to share. We shall have some games and a 'lucky dip'. We shall be raising our glasses to one of our members who will be 102 in June and who now lives in a care home but some of us visit her on a regular basis and she is always very pleased to hear news of members and what is happening in Firle village.

Please contact me if you would like to come along as a guest. You will be most welcome.

Rosemary Norris

President Tel: 07784 707016

Village HUB

10.30 am - 12.30 pm Monday 19th June at A&S Village Hall

Join us for the next village HUB - a regular Monday morning spot throughout the year.

We will be serving refreshments, delicious tea and coffee as well as homemade cake. So why not join us,

pop in anytime during the morning. It is open to all ages, you could bring your little ones for a run around and meet up with neighbours and friends, young and old.

There will be a regular stall run by Selmeston Church selling cakes and quiches, so you don't have to go home empty-handed. As we develop, we are hopeful there will be other things for sale, maybe garden produce, homemade goods, cards, seeds or plants and hopefully a food bank in time.

Future dates will be advertised in the Village News, village WhatsApp groups and notice boards. Please contact any of the committee below if you have any questions or need help with transport to and from the hall.
Contact: Thea 07772 155772,
Helen 07969 732109,
Mairi 07582 938185
or Janie 07785 940915.

Rachel Lewis

The 2023 Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show

2.00 - 4.00 pm Sunday 13th August at A&S Village Hall.

Entries need to be staged by 11.00 am on the day of the show. Doors are then closed for judging and the doors re-open at 2.00 pm to enable people to view the produce and take part in a variety of activities.

Prizegiving is at 4.00 pm. Cups are awarded to class winners, and children winning classes receive a £5 prize for each class they win.

Jan Matthews-Moulding

Berwick Produce Show

19th August at Berwick Village Hall

The produce show committee continue with the planning for this year's show:

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show schedules will have been delivered and there are some available at the Berwick Post Office if you need a copy.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the show. For further information, please contact me.

Sue Woodgate

Chair and Secretary

Tel: 01323 870078

Email: sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com

Selmeston School



I recently deposited at The Keep in Brighton, a cache of historical documents concerning Selmeston, on behalf of the village, regarding its history, including a hard copy of the old website. These documents can be viewed in the Accession File Number 14155.

Before doing so, I couldn't resist reading once again some of the Parish Gazettes dated between 1888 and 1901, which contained the yearly reports of the Selmeston Primary School. (In 1870 over 2 million children of primary school age had no access to schools.) The school was built in 1846, (shown by a plaque fixed on its north wall) by the Reverend Henry Latham, in memory of his wife Maria, and at the time of building consisted of just one classroom, with surrounding greenery as a playground.

By 1866 there were 47 pupils, paying a penny a week, which had risen to 63, seven years later. The Rev WD Parish had then initiated a scheme for good regular attendance, by charging parents 3 pence a week, 2 pence being returned after 200 attendances by the pupil if confirmed. A shilling extra was paid to the parents of a child who attended 400 times during the year. This experiment aroused great interest and was mentioned in the House of Commons debate on the Schools Compulsory Attendance Bill of 1880.

These yearly reports make interesting reading, here are just some of the conclusions:

1888 - Reading of New and Old Testament - Excellent The singing by ear is still very cheerful and pleasant, the songs are suitable and lively and the children seem to enjoy them, although some are nervous, timid, and shy. The sewing and knitting are well done, but the writing on paper especially is of very poor character and figures not well formed. There should be more room for marching, although the managers have taken away the gallery, if more desks are put in, I am afraid that the space for marching will be curtailed. The work up to the fourth standard is done with creditable accuracy, but the arithmetic above this standard quite a failure.

1890 - number of children 67. The boys in the fourth and fifth standards answer well in Geography. The Act to Regulate the Employment of Children in Agriculture came into effect in 1875; no child under 8 can be employed on the land unless he be its parent or guardian on land owned by them. If the child is over 8 and under 10, he must have completed 250 school attendances.

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1892 - By The Elementary Education Act of 1891 children at Selmeaton School will be educated for free, and no payment will be demanded. The parents of every child who is not less than 5, nor more than 14 years, shall cause each child to attend school. No child under 11 years may be taken into employment. The school has suffered very much from sickness, from which the children are now recovering. Reading is only pretty fair, there are many mistakes in spelling and arithmetic. Geography is very weak, needlework is good, and recitations are well said. The library is free to all persons residing in Selmeaton and Alciston, great care must be taken with the books, on application to Miss Harber on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5. The managers will give a money prize of one shilling upon passes in reading, writing, and arithmetic upon the Inspectors next examination.

1900 - New Playground for Selmeaton School, a piece of ground which was so kindly presented last year by the late Cecil Long Esq has been fenced with 6-foot oak palings at a cost of £121, sixteen shillings, and nine pence, and will be a valuable acquisition, with an improvement in sanitary arrangements. Needlework has been well taught, and the rest of the work in school appears to have made very satisfactory progress. The Organising Master expresses great satisfaction with the advance of the children, he has paid a second visit this year. Three prizes for excellence were awarded this year to Ralph, Hetty and Ethel Bettles. Workboxes were awarded for needlework to Kate Foord, Marion Hope and Bessie Sands. The school bank balance at Lewes Savings Bank amounted to £1,222 one shilling and eightpence.

© *Simon Muggleton*

Potholes

Having knocked on hundreds of doors over recent weeks I can safely say potholes are one of the biggest issues across the constituency from Ringmer to Alfriston. Not just the number on our roads at the moment but also the quality of repairs.

That is why I welcome the news from East Sussex County Council who have listened to residents and this month have changed the roads contractor after so many complaints about the quality of road repairs. The new contractor is Balfour Beatty who have taken on the £297 million contract by East Sussex County Council for the maintenance of highways assets and delivery of infrastructure services across the county.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will work alongside East Sussex County Council to maintain the county's highway network and infrastructure, including roads, pavements, drainage, streetlights, traffic lights and bridges. In addition, the company will also provide winter gritting services and deliver highway improvement schemes.

Building on the success of its 'Operational Control Hub' in Herefordshire and Southampton, the company will establish a new facility in East Sussex, using the latest in innovative technologies and in-house designed systems to provide a single source of visibility to monitor all activities in real-time, track progress of works and enable data-driven decision making to drive efficiencies across the network.

This has to be good news - not just to clear the backlog of repairs, but also the quality, as for too long road repairs have only lasted weeks. I am trying to get as many potholes repaired as

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quickly as possible especially with the government awarding East Sussex an additional £2.4 million in the recent budget for this year so if you have a pothole that needs fixing contact me on maria.caulfield.mp@parliament.uk and I can get it added to the repairs list, or visit the East Sussex Highways website (www.eastsussexhighways.com) to report direct.

Maria Caulfield MP

Recipe of the Month - Strawberry and Raspberry Mousse

Ingredients

170 g can Evaporated milk
4 sheets of Leaf gelatine
400 g Strawberries hulled and halved plus extra to serve
225 g Raspberries plus extra to serve
5 tbsp Caster sugar
150 ml Whipping cream

Method

Pour the evaporated milk into a medium bowl and cover and place in the freezer to chill. Soak the gelatine in cold water for 5 minutes until soft.

Puree the strawberries and raspberries and sugar in a blender until smooth (sieve, if you wish, to remove the pips).

Warm the puree gently in a saucepan. With the pan off the heat, lift the gelatine sheets from the water, squeezing out any excess, and stir into the warm puree until dissolved. Pour into a large bowl and cool to room temperature. Reserve 5 tablespoons of cream and pour the remainder into the fruit puree.

Whip the cream, with electric beaters, into the fruit puree for 1 to 2 minutes to thicken a little. Cover and chill the bowl for 30 minutes whisking 3 times during this period until thick, like milkshake.

Whip the chilled evaporated milk until very thick. Fold 2 tablespoons of this into the fruit mixture and then fold in the rest until evenly pink and fluffy.

Spoon into 6 serving dishes, cover and leave in the fridge until set. When ready to serve, whip the remaining cream until it holds its shape. Spoon or pipe on top of the mousse and decorate with the reserved berries.

Valerie Shaw

June's Gardener's Diary

This month is the last chance to sow main crop Carrots for them to be ready for harvesting in September or October. Also, Peas sown early in the month should still be ready in September.

Sow Swedes if they've not already been done and French Beans can go in for a second crop. Continue to sow Beetroot, Spring Onions, Turnips, Lettuces, and Radishes with some at the beginning of the month and some near the end.

This is also the last chance to sow Runner Beans and with a bit of luck will give you a crop as late as October.

Watering is especially important in dry weather. Keep the roots of all plant moist but not soaking wet. Hopefully, this month we will be harvesting some of the early sowings - i.e. Potatoes, Radishes, Turnips, Carrots, Peas and a few more.

Lisa Collington

Family Support Work (FSW)

It has been a year now since our new practitioners joined and grew the team to twenty. The time has flown by, and we have been able to support so many more families - in fact, in our last financial year, we directly supported over 600 families. Five years ago, that

Chloe Burrell

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number was 148 so it is really encouraging to see how much we have grown during this period. Sadly, we are currently having to turn some families away as we simply do not have space either on current caseloads or on waiting lists - we hate to do this, but we need to keep our practitioners' caseloads manageable. So please do pray for all our staff and the families in need of support. We will work with them as soon as we can.

Behind the scenes things have been very busy. We have recruited two members of staff to support the volunteer and community engagement aspects of our work, one for each half of the county. This will hopefully bring new volunteers to FSW who can help practitioners with group activities as well as one-to-one support, as well as increasing the number of volunteers to help in our Eastbourne shop and the fundraising team.

If anybody would like to discuss volunteering, then we'd love to hear from them so please contact the office on 01273 832963 or email admin@familysupportwork.org.uk.

Our foodbank is still very low on all items with the exception of teabags and pasta, so if you are able to help us replenish our stock levels, we would be incredibly grateful. We are in particular need of tinned meats, soup, baked beans, tinned vegetables and cleaning products. I also have a request from our charity shop in Eastbourne, which is low on children's toys and small homeware items (not electricals). If you have any donations for either the foodbank or the shop, then this would be wonderful.

Open Garden season is in full swing now and in June of all the gardens where we are providing teas this year are:

- ◆ 2.00 -5.00 pm Tuesday 6th and Saturday 10th June:
Kitchenham Farm,
Kitchenham, Road,
Ashburnham TN33 9NP
- ◆ 12.00 - 5.00 pm Sun 11th June:
Seaford Gardens,
34 Chyngton Road, Seaford,
BN25 4HP
- ◆ 2.00 -5.00 pm Thursday 15th and Friday 16th June:
Butlers Farmhouse,
Butlers Lane,
Herstmonceux, BN27 IQH
- ◆ 2.00 -5.00 pm Sunday 18th June:
Bexhill-on-Sea Trail,
De Wilp,
Collington Lane East, TN39 3RJ
- ◆ 1.00 -5.00 pm Saturday 24th,
Sunday 25th and Tuesday
27th June:
Luctons, North Lane,
West Hoathly
RH19 4PP.

It would be lovely to see you at some of them.

April's work in numbers

- ◆ 262 individual visits
and 1186 calls with families
supporting 277 adults and 194
children.
- ◆ 53 supported meetings with other
agencies
- ◆ 42 group sessions held
supporting 452 parents and 284
children.
- ◆ 135 food deliveries made.

Prayer points

- ◆ Give thanks for the successful
recruitment of two new members
of staff.
- ◆ Pray for all the children in our
families who are about to embark
on GCSE and A-level exams.



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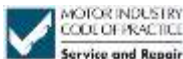
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- ◆ Pray for strength for our practitioners, who are finding workloads increasingly complex and challenging.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Sing to the Lord a New Song - Psalm 149:1

My adult life started out as an academic computer geek, which morphed in my late 20s into a somewhat reluctant, so called, IT professional (duly booted and suited). However, my real joy has always been music, particularly the end-to-end process of song writing. Never knowing quite how a few random words and a vague tune will turn out.

We moved to Berwick in the spring of 2021 and have been blessed to find Berwick church. I wrote the song Blessed (Jesus Lives) some time ago and it is based on the Beatitudes (see Matthew 5: 3-10). The other song Cold Winds a Blowin', (see 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, John 14: 1-3). has become ever more poignant of late, as my wife is quite unwell. Indeed, as the years have increased and, as a family we now face, the certainties of life (death and taxes), our Christian faith has become more and more important to us.

I do hope the songs might be a blessing in some way to others and welcome the chance to share them with you locally.

You can search on YouTube for "rob mann blessed" and "rob mann cold winds a blowin" or use the following links: Blessed (Jesus Lives)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cgbmxhynji0

and Cold Winds A Blowin'

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd_kiDVbCDI

Rob Mann

Stag Beetles



I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6 ft 6 in and weighing in at 365 lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequined spandex.

In June, Stag Beetles - the big daddies of the beetle world - are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble. There are around 3,000 different species of beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5-inch-long Stag Beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male Stag Beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny titans step into the ring, they have to put in some long

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hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a deadwood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground. As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they whirl through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to it that's when things get nasty. In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers. With incredible strength a Stag Beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before spectacularly body-slamming them down onto the stump.

We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our Stag Beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had dramatic impacts on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a Stag Beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex or around Ringmer in East Sussex.

Michael Blencowe
(Picture © Derek Middleton)
Sussex Wildlife Trust

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From the Parsonage

The local church congregations are small but the commitment and gifts of the people who are members and their voluntary work sustain the life of the church: organising events, looking after the buildings, contributing to worship, and conducting the necessary business associated with any organisation. The Annual Parochial Church meetings have just taken place and it's a good moment to stop and remember those who keep our churches open every day of the year. It's easy to take the parish church for granted, thinking that it has always been there and always will be. It won't without the support and the dedicated involvement and contribution of parishioners. So, it is a good moment to thank everyone who contributes in whatever way to the life of our parish churches.

Each year we particularly thank the churchwardens (Selmeston - Jan Matthews / Alciston - Michele Boys / Berwick - Andy Williamson and Paul Lewis) and Parochial Church Council (PCC) members. Arlington and Wilmington are still without churchwardens and we're looking for people to take on this role. Our Treasurers bear an important responsibility. Crispin Freeman has been outstanding in all that he has done at Berwick during the restoration project. He has also been Treasurer for Arlington but has had to step back from this role, so if there is anyone out there who can help, please do come forward! Lewis Grey is Treasurer for Selmeston and Alciston assisted by Stephanie. Peter Dowling is Treasurer for Wilmington but also needs to step back and again a new Treasurer is needed.

The churches are very fortunate to have Christine Skinner as the Safeguarding Officer. She makes sure that all the Diocesan policies and procedures are followed in each of our parishes and is a trainer for the Diocese.

The churchyards are lovingly maintained to promote their conservation value by teams of volunteers.

At Berwick church, following the restoration project, we are continuing to welcome educational and charitable groups and have just appointed Catherine Marsh-Lewis as the Education and Outreach Worker. She is looking for volunteers who would like to get involved in this work.

The Cuckmere Pilgrim Path is an important way of linking our churches and offering an alternative spiritual resource for people.

We rely on people contributing their gifts in different ways and if there is something that you'd like to get involved in or suggest, then we'd be pleased to hear from you.

With many thanks to everyone who supports our five churches in whatever way they do.

And finally, a thank you to those who organised and everyone who contributed to and came along to the surprise celebration to mark the 20th Anniversary of my ministry in this beautiful group of five churches. I so greatly appreciated the effort made by so many people to be there, the beautiful gift and generous words. It will be, as some else put it, an 'evergreen moment' in my memory.

Peter Blee

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www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk

or www.berwickchurch.org.uk .

Sunday 4th June

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion

09:30 Selmeaton Holy Communion

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 11th June

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 18th June

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion

09:30 Selmeaton Holy Communion

11:00 Berwick Holy Communion

11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

Sunday 25th June

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion

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Prayer

9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick

church, except on the first

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an Holy Communion (BCP)

service instead.

5.00 pm each Wednesday

at Wilmington church.

To receive a weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please email the Benefice Administrator at benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk

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