



# Pews News

## Sunday 27th July

### 10am Joint Parish Communion, Hascombe

#### The Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Please remember in your prayers

**The Sick:** Marilyn Bailey, Sandra Baxter-Brown, James Field, Jacquie Griffiths, Sheila Jones, Cindy Kennedy, Stacey Medalyer, Christine Miles, Ruth Wilkinson, Jacky Williams and Hazel Wiltshire.

Next Week!

10am Joint Parish Communion, Dunsfold



### Thought for the week

*“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” Matthew 5:16*

This week, let your actions reflect Christ's love - quietly but clearly. Sometimes the simplest kindness is the most powerful testimony.



#### The Pond Service

Surrounded by nature's tranquillity and blessed with fine weather, the congregation lifted their voices in worship through a wonderful selection of hymns, brought to life by the Godalming Band. The setting, the singing, and the spirit of togetherness made it a truly special event. Thank you to everyone involved in organising an uplifting and memorable service.



## WE SALUTE TON-UP PAT

**With thanks to David Walker who interviewed our fabulous centurion**

Pat Higgins has a vivid memory of the most unforgettable sight she has witnessed in Dunsfold Church.

“It was during Geoffrey Willis’s time as rector when he had arranged for a motorbike to come into church and drive up the aisle. Like many others, I was transfixed.”

Then revealing her still sharp wit and comedy timing Pat added: “I don’t remember a word of Geoffrey’s sermon - but I do remember the motorbike coming into church!”

The wonderful Pat will be 100 on Sunday (July 27th). A landmark occasion for a popular cornerstone of our village and church communities.

We asked the mother of four to share a few thoughts about becoming a centenarian and some of her key memories during her last 45 years in Dunsfold.

“So many people have been kind to me down the years. I really am deeply grateful to them all,” she said. “One of the turning points in my life, and an act of real friendship, came after the death of my dear husband Reynold in 1993. These were difficult times for me. A friend came to see me at our then home. She told me: ‘You can’t hide away up here any more. We’ve got to get you into the heart of the village, meeting people and getting new hobbies.’”

From her home on Dunsfold Common, Pat still walks regularly along the footpath. “Back then I joined the Evergreens committee and I must have made about 400 coffee cakes for our meetings. That was my speciality. It was a great way to meet people in our village.

“I also joined a painting group, initially in Hascombe and later at the Winn Hall. I remember Sally Rivett, David’s late wife, being in our group. I loved painting.” Those who have seen her work will confirm her botanical art is of the highest order.

Reflecting on village life she said: “Dunsfold has changed. Down the years country people always said ‘hello’ when they were out and about - even if you didn’t know them. Now I say ‘hello’ to people wearing headphones who walk past me with their minds elsewhere.







“When we first arrived here my husband Reynold felt a bit out of his depth. The Nugents, (Sir Richard, later Baron Nugent of Guildford), and his wife invited us for lunch. Before we went we received a card detailing who would be with us at lunch. I’d never known anything like it.”

Pat was born in St John’s Wood, London, her family moved to Slinfold when she was one. In her teens Pat served afternoon teas to the players at Slinfold Cricket Club. “I went to help but wasn’t very good. I had my thumb pressing down on the sandwiches to keep them on the plate. We had two Canadian soldiers billeted in our attic during the war. These were difficult times for us all and I remember two of the Canadians being sent to fight in Egypt.”

Pat qualified as a physiotherapist. Her husband Reynold was an archaeologist at the British Museum and they met at a Christmas Party at London’s St Thomas’s Hospital in 1945, just months after the end of the Second World War. “We got married at St Peter’s Church, Slinfold and lived in

a two up, two down in Cobham,” she recalled.

Two weeks ago Pat attended Cafe Church and met the visiting preacher Canon Richard Fisher, the chief executive of the Bible Reading Fellowship. He wrote: “I very much enjoyed meeting your congregation and especially Pat - what an inspirational lady she is. I am sure there will be a wonderful and joyful celebration of her 100th birthday.”

As she reaches her landmark is there anything, outside her extensive family, that’s a source of special pride to her? “Yes. My dentist is amazed but I still have all my own teeth. I’ve not lost one. The secret is cleaning them after every meal.”

## PAT HIGGINS’ LIFE IN NUMBERS

**100** years old

**5** The number of Kings and Queens of Great Britain.

**12** The number of rectors of Dunsfold Church.

**20** The number of British prime ministers in her lifetime.

**76** The age at which her mother, sister and husband all died.





