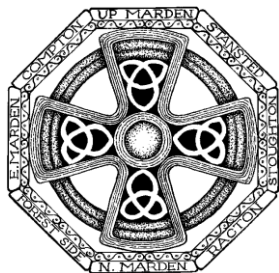


THE OCTAGON

3

July 2025



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OCTAGON PARISH

RECTOR

The Reverend Christopher Hancock The Vicarage, Compton, PO18 9HD
rector@theoctagonparish.org.uk 023 9263 1252

PARISH OFFICE

The Vicarage, Compton, PO18 9HD
For all general administrative queries relating to the parish and its churches,
contact: admin@theoctagonparish.org.uk 023 9263 1252

PASTORAL TEAM

*For support at times of need or challenge, just leave your number and we will
get back to you.* 023 9263 1252

OCTAGON PARISH CHURCHWARDEN

Carol Stamper cstamper@theoctagonparish.org.uk 023 9263 1159

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS

Mr David Parker 023 9263 1868
Mr Ian Coleshill 07747168170
Ms Michelle Wooding 07748848780

PCC TREASURER

Ms Michelle Wooding (michelle.wooding@theoctagonparish.org.uk)

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Mrs Fiona Mullett safeguarding@theoctagonparish.org.uk 07342 659 178

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St Mary	Compton	PO18 9HB	///ruler.pillow.hazel
St Mary	North Marden	PO18 9JY	///party.waltz.gestures
St Mary	Stoughton	PO18 9JJ	///level.woven.forgiving
St Michael	Up Marden	PO18 9LA	///them.stall.kindest
St Peter	East Marden	PO18 9JE	///otherwise.abandons.drifting
St Peter	Racton	PO18 9DR	///introduce.hidden.reaction

See Stansted Park website for visiting times

St Paul's Chapel Stansted House PO9 6DX ///mainly.sofa.allowable

Octagon Website

www.theoctagonparish.org.uk

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Letter from the Rector



Dear Friends,

On 31st May the Parish led the Westbourne deanery in a pilgrimage to Chichester Cathedral to help celebrate its 950th anniversary. Octagon Parishioners were joined by representatives of Southbourne, Westbourne and Lavant parishes as well as two dogs and a horse. We celebrated morning prayer at Stoughton, Holy Communion as guests of West Stoke at lunchtime and then, having been met by the Dean at the west door, enjoyed the wonderful singing of the Choir of Chichester Cathedral at Evensong. We were blessed with wonderful weather throughout and hope to make these Rogationtide pilgrimages a permanent fixture in the Octagon calendar.



In July we look forward to a series of Sunday evening services. Sea Sunday at North Marden on 13th July will be celebrated this year with a special evening service of poems and songs as well as bible readings about the sea. Then we have a double-header of evensongs at Up Marden on 20th July and at St Peter's Racton on 27th July. Please come along and enjoy the unique atmosphere of our churches in these summer evenings.

As I write, we are in the midst of wedding season with three concluded and four to go. It is a pleasure this year to be celebrating in a range of venues including Stansted Chapel and North Marden. If you or a close relative would like to get married in the Octagon Parish, please let me know.

Your servant in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Taylor".

rector@theoctagonparish.org.uk

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JULY SERVICES

Thursday 3rd July

12.00 Midday Prayer St Paul's Chapel, Stansted

Sunday 6th July –Trinity 3

10:00 The Octagon Eucharist St Mary, Compton

Sunday 13th July – Sea Sunday

10:00 The Octagon Eucharist St Peter, East Marden

10:00 Octagon Family Service St Mary, Compton

17.30 Sea Sunday Evening Service St Mary North Marden

Thursday 17th July

12.00 Mid-week BCP Eucharist St Mary, Compton
(followed by lunch in the Compton Tea Room)

Sunday 20th July – Trinity 5

10:00 Octagon Eucharist St Mary, Stoughton

17.30 Evensong St Michael, Up Marden

Sunday 27th July –Trinity 6

10:00 Octagon Eucharist Christ Church, Forestside

17.30 BCP Evensong St Peter, Racton

To receive details of Octagon church services direct to your email inbox, please subscribe to the Octagon weekly email bulletin.

<https://theoctagonparish.org.uk/sign-up/>

The Octagon

Items for the August Octagon should be sent to Caroline Taylor, at The Barn, Walderton, PO18 9EE, 023 9263 1479 or email:

thebarnsussex@gmail.com, by 15th July.



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FROM THE REGISTERS May/June 2025

Thursday 15 th May	Funeral, Burial and Memorial Services at Christ Church Forestside Jacqueline Mary Broadway
Saturday, 24 th May	Wedding at St Mary Stoughton Lucy Kidd and Edward Montgomery
Saturday, 7 th June	Wedding at St Mary, Stoughton India Rae Bornhoft and Adam Cooke
Thursday 12 th June	Funeral at St Mary, Stoughton Caroline Donachie
Saturday, 14 th June	Wedding at St Paul's Chapel, Stansted Allie Gordon and Barnie Bennett

DIARY FOR JULY

Thursday 3 rd	Compton Community Coffee Morning
Sunday 6 th	She' Koyokh Concert at Lordington
Monday 12 th	Octagon lunch at The Hare & Hounds
Thursday 17 th	Craft Group meeting at The Barn, Walderton
Sat 19 th / Sun 20 th	Stansted Summer Festival
Monday 28 th	Tuesday Talk at Forestside

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 23 rd August	Racton Fete at Lordington
Saturday 6 th September	First Aid Course



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We have now received an estimated total of more than £1,500.00 for Sage House from our collection at Lent Lunches. This includes donations from the Maundy Thursday Supper and a contribution from the Lady Staggerers Christmas Lunch.

A wonderful total for such a worthwhile cause.

A big thank you to all those hosts and cooks and to those who attended.

Ros Velton

Compton Community Coffee Morning

The July Coffee morning will be in the Compton Parish room from 10.30am on Thursday 3rd July.

Octagon Lunch

The July Octagon lunch will be at The Hare & Hounds, Stoughton from 12.30 on Monday 14th July. No need to book - all are welcome.

Octagon Craft Group

The Octagon Craft Group will continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month. The July meeting will be on Thursday 19th from 2.00 – 4.00pm at The Barn, Walderton.

Octagon medical Support Fund – First Aid Course

The Octagon Medical Support Fund is organising a First Aid Course on Saturday 6th September. This is a course suitable for everyone, covering such things as cycling accidents, choking, burns, horse related injuries, spinal trauma etc.

Further details in the August Octagon, but please note the date.

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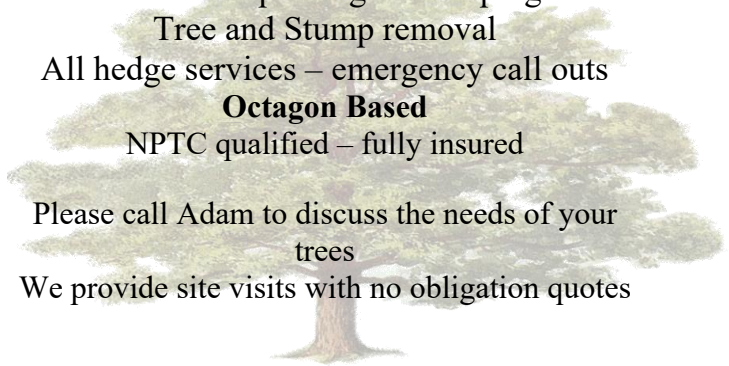
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Coming up: Forestside's Tuesday Talk

The next Tuesday Talk at the Forestside village hall is on Monday 28th July. Assistant Professor in Mental Health Nursing at the University of Birmingham, Manuela Jarrett will reveal how mental illness is treated in our prison system compared to in the community. It's another topical subject, following the fascinating insight we got last month on the development of the next-generation Challenger tank. The talk starts at 7.30pm as usual, entry costs £2 and the cash bar will be open.

There will be no Forestside last Friday social event in July.



Forestside church – *Nigel Prosser*

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Petition To Reinstate Royal Mail Outreach in Compton Village

The residents of Compton, West Marden and Up Marden Villages in Chichester, West Sussex have long relied on the Royal Mail post office outreach service. Historically, it provided a crucial two-hour weekly service, significantly benefiting our local community by offering easily accessible essential postal services, especially for residents who are unable to drive. This service became particularly invaluable to the elderly and those with mobility issues.

Unfortunately, this service was discontinued, which has left many residents without convenient access to postal facilities. The absence of this service has impacted many residents and places an undue burden on individuals who must now travel further afield, often bearing additional financial costs and using precious time.

The proposed reinstatement of the outreach service in a central and accessible new venue, the Tea Rooms, offers a realistic and beneficial solution. The Tea Rooms is perfectly positioned within the heart of the village, providing a hub for community interaction and an accessible meeting point for residents.

According to the statistics from Royal Mail service reviews, communities with accessible post office services see improved local economic activities and enhanced community well-being. By reinstating this essential service, we ensure that Compton Village continues to thrive as a cohesive community, where each resident has their needs adequately met.

We urge Royal Mail and local authorities to recognize the critical importance of this service to our community. Reestablishing the outreach service at the Tea Rooms will enhance the quality of life for Compton residents and maintain the village's vibrant community spirit.

Please sign this petition to support the reinstatement of our vital weekly outreach service, ensuring that Compton Village remains connected and supported.

A paper version of the petition is available in Compton Village Shop. Alternatively, to sign the petition online, please scan:



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- 023 9241 3576

Compton Festival 2025

Get ready for one of the most exciting weekends of the year—**Compton Festival 2025** is returning for its third year on **Friday 29th & Saturday 30th of August**, and it promises to be bigger, brighter, and more exciting than ever before!

Building on the success of 2024, the team has pulled out all the stops to make 2025 even better—without losing the friendly, local feel that makes Compton Festival so special.

This year, we're introducing a **second music stage**, meaning there'll be live music playing throughout the weekend. The expanded setup also allows for a more diverse mix of acts, including two of the UK's top tribute bands—UK Queen and Totally Blondie—alongside a **traditional African choir** and many more exciting performers.

But it's not just about the music - you'll find everything from traditional crafts to contemporary art and circus workshops, plus plenty of opportunities to relax and connect with others in a family-friendly environment.

This year's festival highlights include;

- Two stages of Live Music and Comedy
- Great food from around the world
- Huge range of local beers & ciders
- Traditional Crafts to 'Have a Go'
- Loads for kids to enjoy
- U18s go free
- Weekend camping available
-

Compton Festival is run by volunteers and supported by the community, so buy your tickets, mark your calendar, invite your friends, and join the celebration!

Whether you're coming for the live music & comedy, the food, the crafts, or simply the atmosphere, Compton Festival 2025 promises a weekend to remember.

www.comptonfestival.co.uk

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www.comptonfestival.co.uk



Why not treat yourself and family or friends to a special afternoon tea at the fete to be held on

Saturday 23rd August at Lordington House?

To book a table, which will be yours all afternoon, in the big marquee, with a perfect view of the Morris dancers and a musical ensemble to entertain you, go to

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/theoctagonparish>

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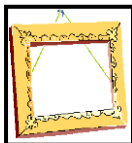
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Do not forget to pamper your wonderful dogs in preparation for the fun dog show and exercise them well for the terrier racing and obstacle course.

Oh - and lose weight in preparation for the delicious teas and ice creams!

Any donations of nearly-new clothes you have grown out of love with or bottles you will never open would be much appreciated. Please bring them to Stable Cottage, Walderton (ring first)

Carol Stamper (02392 631159) cstamper@theoctagonparish.org.uk

We would welcome any offers of help especially for setting up and taking down. Please consider baking a cake and growing some extra produce for the day.

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Buy Tickets at The Novium, Chichester:
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Petworth House & Park: July & August News

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth>



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Octagon Activities & Useful Contacts

Bell Ringing Practice at St Mary's, Stoughton (Tuesdays 7.00-9.00pm): Contact the Tower Secretary, Joanna Woodcock, on 023 9241 2967

Octagon Lunch: Held at The Hare and Hounds, Stoughton at 12.30pm on the second Monday of each month for all Octagon residents. No booking required.

Compton Coffee Morning: Held in the Compton Parish Room at 10.30am on the first Thursday of each month.

Octagon Craft Group: Meet on third Thursday of each month 2.00-4.00pm at The Barn, Walderton. For more information email Caroline Taylor at thebarnsussex@gmail.com or call 023 9263 1479.

Compton Film Club: Films are shown at Compton School Hall over the Spring and Autumn months. To be added to the mailing list for details of films and dates, please send your email address to comptonfilmclub@gmail.com Doors and bar open at 7.30pm; films start at 8pm.

Compton Tennis Court: Bookings via John Popplewell 023 9263 1500; Julia Moulton 023 9263 1412; Nigel Clark 023 9263 1450; Tony Hughes 023 9263 1273; or Sarah Hill 07909 683 995

Compton and District Community Car Scheme: (Medical appointments only) Contact Caroline Berkley 07740 465400.

Compton Parish Council Website: <https://comptonwestsussex-pc.gov.uk>

Stoughton Parish Council Website: www.stoughton-wsx-pc.gov.uk

Compton Parish Room Hire: The Parish Room and its equipment (tables, chairs, cutlery and crockery, etc.) are available for hire seven days a week. Special rates are available for charities. For more information, to make a booking or to be added to the Parish Room events mailing list email Patricia Garratt at comptonparishroom@gmail.com or call 023 9263 1272.

Forestside & Stansted Village Hall Hire: : The historic Forestside Village Hall can be hired for events but on a limited basis during the winter months. For more details, email forestside.events@gmail.com or call 02392631868.

Compton & Up Marden CE School Community Hall Hire: Large, spacious modern hall for hire. One off or regular bookings. Stage lighting, projector and screen, chairs and tables. For more information email office@cuprimary.school.org or call 023 9263 1900.



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