

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Why Governors are vital to the mission of the church

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HOLY LAND

A GROUP OF 60 JOINED BISHOP MARTIN AS HE LED A PILGRIMAGE FROM TIBERIAS TO JERUSALEM

PLUS BISHOP MARTIN'S LENT APPEAL

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A VERY PUBLIC FAITH ROOTED IN PRAYER



“Faith in Sussex” reminds me of the title of the landmark report, “Faith in the City”, published in the autumn of 1985 by Archbishop Robert Runcie. The final words of the report are, “We have found faith in the city”.

What enables us to say we have found faith in Sussex?

The articles featured in each edition of this publication are immediate and obvious evidence for faith in Sussex. This forms a public profile by which Christians in the household of faith, which is the diocese of Chichester, witness to the reality of the unseen God revealed in Jesus Christ.

But there is more. Faith made public, if it is to be authentic and sustainable, must be built on prayer. In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus describes this as an activity that has a hidden, unseen quality to it: “Your Father, who sees all that is done in secret, will reward you” (Matt.6.4)

Prayer is faith experienced in the heart and mind as real, tentative, ambiguous and obscure, as we seek to love God. We should be known as people who are familiar with the habits of prayer, individually and corporately.

But from a Christian perspective prayer is not the only form of faith that has those qualities.

There are many people in Sussex, and many more in Britain at large, who devoutly practice a faith that is not Christian. Indeed, with Jews and Muslims we share faith in one God, though Christians believe that the one God is a trinity of persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The evidence for faith in Sussex includes the inclination of people who seek God in ways that are hidden and obscure to us as Christians. And there is more.

As Christians we are also called to be alert to the virtue of goodness wherever it is found, for we believe that all goodness has its origin in God. The evidence of faith in Sussex is therefore found in many people of goodwill whose commitment to goodness has not enabled them to identify God as the origin of their commitment, but it is clear that we and they share some points of reference on the moral compass.

As we move towards a General Election, I believe that issues of faith should inform our judgement as Christians and compel us to vote. I hope that we shall be seeking to know how Parliamentary candidates regard what it means to be a person of faith and what contribution they think faith makes to the common good.

Their judgement of us might well be stark, dismissive and disturbing. If that is a just and accurate assessment, then this election is a challenge to all of us to revitalise our public expression of Christian faith here in Sussex.

+Martin

Bishop of Chichester



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Diocese of Chichester

BLESS THIS PUB

Britain's first community-owned pub on a housing estate has opened with a blessing from the local vicar.

Father John Wall, vicar of St Andrew's in Moulsecoomb, Brighton, was at the launch of The Bevy following a three-year campaign by residents to give it new life.

It was formerly The Bevendean Hotel and closed in 2010, leaving nearly 18,000 people miles from a pub, despite being part of one of Britain's liveliest cities. The residents fought to have it re-opened and raised much of the



£200,000 needed themselves. There have been regular "work-ins" with volunteers giving up their weekends to fit out the pub ahead of its grand opening.

More than 700 people bought community shares in it, including the vicar and the Bishop of Chichester, and are now the pub's owners. Father John said: "Every community deserves a decent church and a decent pub. St Andrew's can do the church bit and we are hugely supportive of The Bevy as our pub.

"We are committed to supporting our community and

its needs. In an area where child poverty is among the worst in the country and where there are real problems of isolation and social fragmentation, we believe The Bevy will be a real focus and community hub.

"Having personally spent some seven hours sanding down our recycled bar, I can't wait to be served my first pint at it. Mine will be a pint of Bishop's Finger."

For more about The Bevy, go to www.thebevy.co.uk or find it on Facebook or Twitter @thebevy

FIRST WOMAN BISHOP CONSECRATED



The first woman bishop in the Church of England was consecrated in a packed service at York Minster on January 26. In a statement afterwards, The Rt Rev Libby Lane said she had been encouraged by the thousands of messages of support since the announcement of her appointment.

Women have been consecrated as bishops in many parts of the worldwide Anglican Communion since 1989 and as priests in

England since 1994. Further promotion in the Church of England only became possible last autumn after General Synod voted in favour of appointing women bishops, overturning centuries of tradition in a Church divided over the issue for decades.

An edited video of the consecration service of Bishop Libby is available on the BBC website at www.bbc.in/17pb3L0

CLERGY WALKS

A programme of events and activities for Clergy Spouses has been planned and includes walks in the countryside followed by tea. Twenty-four people signed up for the first walk in Bolney - including 7 children and four dogs. Event organiser Deborah Jackson said: "The walks are an opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful Sussex country side."

They start at 2:30pm and usually cover about four miles followed by tea back at a church. The next Walking event is on Sunday 8 March from St Andrews, Jevington then after, for tea, at St John Meads, Eastbourne; Sunday 19 April Holy Trinity, Hurstpierpoint, Saturday 16 May, St Mary's Barcombe; Sunday 27 September, St Georges, Crowhurst and Saturday 3 October, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Singleton. Email clergywalks@chichester.anglican.org to RSVP for catering.

The walks and other activities are open to all clergy, their families and friends. A programme can be found on the diocesan website www.chichester.anglican.org/parish-life

THE CHALLENGES OF RURAL MINISTRY

The Church of England has published a report aimed at releasing the energies of clergy and lay people for mission in the countryside. The study, which was debated at General Synod in February, addresses the challenges of rural ministry.

Bishop of Lewes Richard Jackson said: "It outlines both the challenges and the opportunities of rural ministry. It is clear that we cannot carry on the way we are if the rural church is to have a future. This report provides some creative ideas that weave the values of the tradition of the past into new strategies for mission and evangelism in the 21st century." A full report can be found on the church of England website.



REFLECT ON THE MOVE

The Church's Reflections for Lent for 2015 are now available online in an app format for both Apple and android devices. The apps, developed in conjunction with Brighton company Aimer Media, are available now on iTunes and Google Play. Search: Reflections for Lent Daily 2015 in your app store. More details at www.bit.ly/tzZRuiH

REFLECTIONS FOR LENT

Reflections for Lent from the Church of England offers a simple way to make space for Bible study and reflection from Ash Wednesday

Available on the App Store

Available on Google play

NEWS CONTINUED

BUY A REAL EASTER EGG

Some 80 million Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year but the “Real Easter Egg” is the only one that tells the Easter story, is Fairtrade and makes money for charity.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company came up with idea in 2010 but faced a struggle as supermarkets initially turned it down. Then churches and schools joined forces to place orders and made it a mail order hit. To date, more than 450,000 eggs have been sold, with 210,000 sent through the post directly to churches and schools.

This year there are three eggs in the range – a special edition with an olive wood peace dove key ring from the Holy Land, a sharing box with 20 small eggs and 20 Easter story booklets and a blue-boxed egg with a 24-page Easter storybook.



Place your order now at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

NEW DROP-IN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Chichester churches and the University of Chichester have come together to address the need for youth provision in the area

The Bell Tower Drop-In for young people is based in the 15th century Bell Tower in West Street. It is staffed by a team of trained and checked volunteers from the churches and university students. The drop-in is free and opens every day from 2.30pm to 6pm, providing a safe and fun place for youngsters aged 11 to 16. They can do their homework on the Bell Tower's computers or simply hang out with their friends in a safe, warm environment.

Dan Slatter, pastor of Revelation Church and a trustee of Bell Tower Drop-In, said: “A recent survey showed many young people return to an empty home after school. There is often no one to chat to or help with homework. Along with the university, we felt it was something we could help with - providing young people somewhere to go after school that is friendly and fun.”

Fellow trustee Dave Corcoran, head of student support and wellbeing at the university, said: “This is truly partnership at its best.” Find out more at www.belltowerchi.uk



LICENSING DATE

The Bishop of Chichester will license new Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes Rev Martin Clifford Lloyd Williams at Chichester Cathedral on Sunday, March 1, at 3.30pm. Gabrielle Higgins, who joined the diocese in January, will be commissioned to the post of diocesan secretary.



NEW HOME AT SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOW

The Church has served the annual South of England Show at Ardingly for many years, looking after lost children, providing activities for young people and serving refreshments. This year we will be setting up in a new spot known as The Sanctuary.

Rev Mark Betson, diocesan rural officer, said: "This year we've been given a great opportunity to engage with visitors in a new way. The show's chief executive Ian Nicol has taken a 'no bar to families' approach and hopes planned reductions on the entrance fee for families will encourage more to go along and enjoy all the show has to offer.

"The Sanctuary will provide a safe space for accompanied children to play and parents and carers to rest. It will house the lost people post and there will be a buggy park for parents with babies and toddlers. We are planning to involve the Forest School to provide activities for all ages. We will always include a prayer and worship focus that is central to our work and tea, coffee, and squash are always available. We look forward to welcoming you."

The show takes place on June 11, 12 and 13. If you would like to volunteer to help, email communications@chichester.anglican.org

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED VOLUNTEERING?

Crawley Citizens Advice Bureau needs more volunteers. Tony Cox, diocesan stewardship adviser and churchwarden, joined the team as a general adviser five years ago after taking early retirement. He covers topics including debt, benefits, housing and employment. He gains satisfaction from helping people whose lives have taken a downward turn. He said: "I really hate unfairness to people. I always put myself in their position and think it could easily happen to me. You are trying to help and that is important. You don't make any judgements, you just try to help."

Find out more at www.citizensadvice.org.uk



ARE YOU AN ANIMAL FRIENDLY CHURCH?

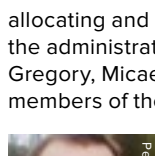
The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals has launched a project to recognise parishes and chaplaincies which operate as animal friendly churches. It gives an annual prize for an example of outstanding achievement or dedication in this area. You can download an application form and poster at: www.bit.ly/1w0K26C

STAFF APPOINTMENTS AT CHURCH HOUSE



Gabrielle Higgins

Gabrielle Higgins joined us in January as our new Diocesan Secretary.



Peter Lovett

Swena Weller was appointed as Administration Team Leader.

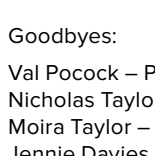
Swena joined the diocese in January and is responsible for allocating and supervising the day-to-day work of the administration team. We also welcome Jane Gregory, Micaela Mitchell and Marc Sacher as new members of the Administration Team.



Swena Weller

Peter Lovett was appointed as Management Accountant.

Fareesha Campin was appointed to the role of ICT support officer



Fareesha Campin

Goodbyes:

Val Pocock – Property Administrator
Nicholas Taylor – Interim diocesan secretary
Moirá Taylor – Schools administrator
Jennie Davies – Administration assistant



PREPARE TO

FOCUS

TO KNOW, LOVE, FOLLOW JESUS

by Bishop Richard

The initial phase of our strategy is a five-year plan to address the key issues of church growth, numerical and spiritual, re-imagining ministry to make it better fit our mission and contributing to the common good.

At parish level we expect the initial phase will be a thorough audit of the parishes' strengths and weaknesses in the three areas and a realistic assessment of the resources available.

Preparation for this could begin now by booking parish away days for the PCC and wider leadership team. Open meetings for the whole congregation

to allow as wide a group as possible to reflect together will also be important.

The next phase will be about focus - which is the most pressing area to address?

Parishes will need to give time to just one of the areas in turn so that by the end of the initial five-year phase, each will have been addressed. It will be crucial to focus on one thing at a time.

By the end of the year, we hope this audit and initial planning phase will be complete.

The three strategy groups are currently working on resources

and ideas that will be released over the next few weeks to help both with the audit process and the roll-out of the strategy.

Events for the Pentecost launch are being planned around the Chichester Diocese. We hope that beacons and barbecues will be lit, parties will be held and friends will be invited to celebrate this new phase in our life together.

The whole process will be sustained by prayer and we hope the prayer diary published at the beginning of Lent is already in widespread use.

LENT PRAYER PILGRIMAGE

As part of the prayerful preparations for the launch of the strategy, the Bishop of Lewes the Right Rev Richard Jackson will be leading a Lent prayer pilgrimage along the coast. Bishop Richard will travel from Rye to Shoreham between March 22 and 29, visiting every parish along the way and

pausing to pray in the churches en route. He plans to use various means of transport from foot to bicycle, though doubts his motorbike will put in an appearance unless the weather improves markedly. Further details of where and how to join him will be on the website shortly.

CREATIVE IDEAS TO **LIGHT** THE BEACON WAY

Lighting beacons across the diocese to mark the launch of the new diocesan strategy is the exciting initiative being rolled out to deaneries to mark the launch at Pentecost of the Diocesan Vision Strategy 2015 – 2020.

The archdeacon of Lewes, Philip Jones said the key aim for Pentecost-Eve, Saturday 23 May, is to have a chain of beacons, especially along the South Downs. He has been busy urging parishes to engage with the enterprise.

The archdeacon of Lewes, Philip Jones said the key aim for Pentecost-Eve, Saturday 23 May, is to have a chain of beacons, especially along the South Downs. He has been busy urging parishes to engage with the enterprise.

He said: "I am really encouraged by the creative ideas coming up from a number of parishes and deaneries, including BBQs, a barn dance and processions, all with an evangelistic edge.

Archdeacon Philip acknowledges that while deanery events are an excellent idea, the choice of a strategic site in terms of accessibility and visibility is important.

"The idea to light beacons, at as many sites as possible, is to create a sense that we are all linked-up and connected with the aim of making it an event to remember as well as putting down a marker for the meaning and excitement of Pentecost and the launch of the diocesan strategy."

He said: "In larger deaneries, it may be more effective if there are multiple sites – but this will be dictated, to a large extent, by the ability to organise and manage safely each party/event which culminates in a beacon lighting 'ceremony' at 10.00 pm with, no doubt, some fireworks.

Information about previously registered beacon sites are available from the Archdeacon

You can get in touch with Archdeacon Philip by email: archhastings@chichester.anglican.org

WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

by Rev Kevin O'Brien, Vicar of
St John the Evangelist, Burgess Hill,
and Rural Dean of Hurst



How do you make God laugh? Tell him your plans.

I rather like that joke. If you had told the atheist advertising executive of my twenties that he would become a priest ... now, that would have got a laugh. But while I have left that old life behind, the disciplines of planning and strategy still have much to commend them – providing you leave room for the humour of the Holy Spirit.

Strategies and planning models don't initially inflame the catholic heart but there is much in the diocesan strategy - to re-imagine ministry, to grow in Christ and to serve the common good - which resonates deeply

I suspect many of us have sat through presentations that suggest an army of volunteers and lay ministers waits, prevented from rescuing the Church of England solely by the clericalism of the Anglican priesthood.

As anyone in parish ministry knows, such a simplistic perspective does little to identify and address a far more nuanced reality. Nationally, we

see declining commitment to a plethora of institutions, political parties, trade unions, even clubs – clearly we are not alone.

There are a number of factors in play here. How often do we encounter people who we respect and cherish who do not come forward when we call for help simply because they cannot imagine their contribution could be valued? It may not be a case of us holding them back but we do need to redouble our efforts to build people up and combat whatever undermines their confidence. What signals are being sent, even unwittingly, that they have little to offer?

Conversely, we know that people still volunteer in large numbers - look at the food banks. People will give their time and energies to things they see as vital and serving a real need. That should tell us something – do we sometimes struggle to find help in our churches because we are unconsciously serving past agendas? What dreams do our people have for their churches that do stir their passion?

Clergy should not feel threatened. Certainly in the catholic tradition and beyond we believe there to be sacred duties that should forever be served by an ordained priesthood but we should also recognise those tasks and duties that have fallen to us in the past that are peripheral to that vision.

“Growth” need also hold no fears for us. The great evangelical and Anglo-Catholic revivals saw it as God's action in the world and so it remains. Surely whenever we preach or teach, lead retreats or chair meetings, we are hoping our people will grow - in depth of faith and understanding, in their love for Christ and one another.

If we wish this for our people, surely we also have a desire to draw in our wider community. The Catholic movement once had that passion. In the early days Anglo-Catholics were often considered scandalous even dangerous and subversive – wouldn't it be fun to find that edge again rather than retreat into the righteous remnant?

The common good represents a strand of theological thought and action stretching back more

than 150 years. Catholic social teaching melds in harmony with the social theology of the Church of England, a rich Christian tradition which has at its heart the knowledge that we are all made in the image of God and that all should be treated with dignity, whatever our circumstances.

The common good stands at the heart of the Anglo-Catholic movement. It is who we were and are. In these days of cuts and austerity our communities need us more than ever and want to work with us. I believe the future lies in partnerships where the churches are major contributors alongside charities and statutory bodies. We may not run the show but we may be the glue that holds it together. If we have a passion for social justice we push at an open door.

Atheism is so last century. It is surely time to rediscover our passion by finding new ways to communicate eternal truths to a new generation.

The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Psalm 67



THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER'S LENT APPEAL 2015

from Bishop Martin

In November, I was privileged to lead 60 folk from the Diocese on pilgrimage in the Holy Land. After visiting the biblical sites in Galilee our pilgrims travelled south to Jerusalem, through the challenging terrain of the West Bank, where they witnessed the diversity of conditions in which people are living.

One of the highlights of our pilgrimage was the constant sound of hearing local children playing. It was the children that spoke most clearly to us of the context in which they lived...the children spoke of division, fear, oppression – of occupation also. They got me thinking: “what is going to become of these children? What does the future hold for them?”

This Lent, while one clear focus for us will be praying about our unfolding Diocesan Vision, we have the opportunity to do something creative for the Christians of the Holy Land and their families. We can play a small role in giving the children a brighter future. I am inviting you to direct your charitable giving this Lent – whether raised by the traditional disciplines of self-denial/ abstinence or whatever – to the Friends of the Holy Land, as my personal Lent Appeal. This ecumenical charity, unlike others at work in the Holy Land, does not so much support major institutions as rather gets alongside ordinary families facing stresses and bringing them practical encouragement. The charity, of which Archbishop Justin is a patron, works with local churches on the ground to support and hearten the Christians who find themselves dispirited and alienated by the ongoing unresolved conflict in the land. While we intercede for our mission in this county, let us keep our hearts open to our sisters and brothers who live in the land of the passion and resurrection.

+Martin

HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS - SOME FACTS

In 1947, Christians represented ten percent of the population. Today they form about one and a half percent of the total. About two thirds of all Palestinian Christians have left to live outside Israel/Palestine. Their exodus began in 1948 when 60 thousand Christians fled, while in the war of 1967, 20 thousand Christians became refugees. Since then there has been a steady flow of Christians from the country. Some speak of the Christian population haemorrhaging.

The main reasons Christians are leaving include: deteriorating living conditions, rising unemployment, uncertain economic prospects and

curtailed freedom of movement, due to checkpoints and road closures. There has also been the experience of house demolitions and evictions. The Christian population has for over a hundred years enjoyed good education, due to foreign Christian missions running excellent schools. This has led them to seek better prospects, but the opportunities for this in the land are diminished.

Jerusalem patriarch Fouad Twal speaks of his fear that the Holy Land could become a “spiritual Disneyland” with sparkling shrines but no local Christians to worship in them; or a museum

where the holy places are vestiges of an ‘old religion’ but there are no longer any local Christians.

Stresses are felt by all parts of the Christian population. Young Christians are leaving because there are so few accessible or affordable universities: training programmes, imparting a practical skill are appreciated and help to keep the young blood in the land. Young couples struggle to find a place to live. Older people worry that they cannot access healthcare or the practical resources that are needed by the elderly.

THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

The Friends supports all segments of the Christian population as a channel of hope and encouragement from the Christian community in England and Wales. It enables them to maintain a minimum level of quality of life so that the pressures to abandon their homeland are reduced. The Friends resource small projects that make a big difference to Christians in the community. Funds contribute to the sustainability of the Christians, especially the most vulnerable.

The Friends of the Holy Land is a Registered Charity in England & Wales (1130054).

On the website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk you'll find Lent resources, including worksheets for children, information on projects and how to order Easter cards. Olive wood collection boxes are available direct from the charity on 01926 512980 – especially relevant for those who want to support the charity longer-term.

LENT COURSE

There is a Lent Course to support this Appeal. 'Cries of Passion and Resurrection' is based on interviews Andrew Mayes conducted with people who actually live on the Via Dolorosa, The Way of the Cross, as it treads its way through the city of Jerusalem today. It includes prayers and questions for discussion and reflection, and can be found at www.chichester.anglican.org

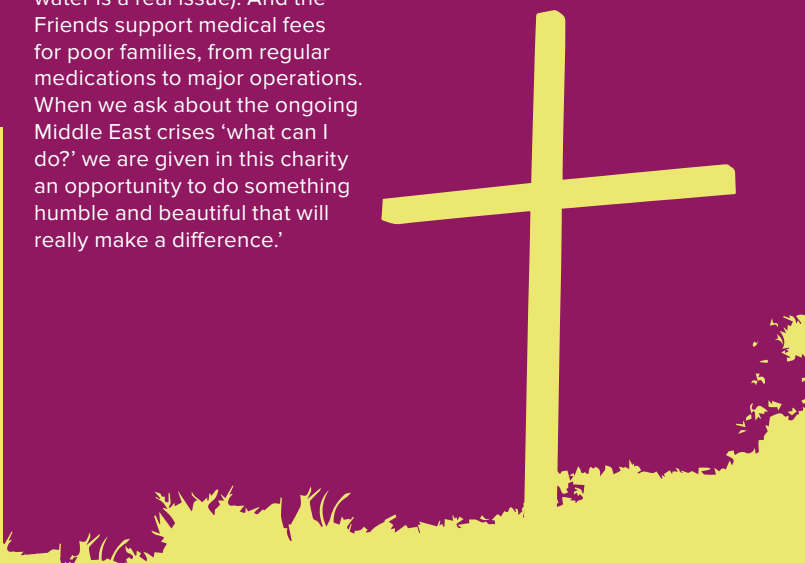
PROJECTS WE CAN SUPPORT

Andrew Mayes, our Spirituality Adviser, who worked in the Holy Land, writes:

'I've seen firsthand the terrific difference that the Friends make. In Bethlehem the charity helped a group of lonely widows open up the first day care centre, St Martha's House, for elderly women: it brims with laughter and Christian fellowship. Meanwhile, the School of Joy ministers to Bethlehem's street children, who have a range of learning difficulties. It really empowers them and heartens them. I saw a small olive-wood workshop set up with some 'pump-priming' support from the Friends. It brings income to Christian families who were on the breadline. The charity brings hope to a lot of families stressed by unemployment and high rents. It covers a range of expenses, from school fees to providing water tanks to catch the rain (the erratic supply of water is a real issue). And the Friends support medical fees for poor families, from regular medications to major operations. When we ask about the ongoing Middle East crises 'what can I do?' we are given in this charity an opportunity to do something humble and beautiful that will really make a difference.'

Please send your parish's collective donation by April 30 to Church House Hove, with cheques payable to Chichester Diocesan Board of Finance. Please mark the envelope **BISHOP'S LENT APPEAL** and provide an email address and your church's name so that the donation can be properly acknowledged.

Thank you.



FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

BISHOP MARTIN'S
PILGRIMAGE TO
THE HOLY LAND

It is hard to believe three months have passed since Bishop Martin led 60 pilgrims from the Diocese of Chichester and beyond on a journey through the Holy Land.

For some, it was the first time they had visited the place where Jesus lived and worked. Dr Martin Warner and two duty priests from Brighton, Father David Clues from St Bartholomew's and Father Mark Lyon from St Michael and all Angels, made sure their experience was enriched by the liturgy. The scripture readings and prayer intercessions, thoughtfully chosen, made each Eucharistic service throughout the pilgrimage meaningful and relevant.

This report is intended to inspire and encourage readers to consider making the journey

themselves. We want you to think about the difficulties presented to the people we read about in the Gospels, how such a journey was made so many years ago and how this complex landscape is still rooted in its long and often difficult history.

We arrived at the shores of the Sea of Galilee, now known as Lake Tiberias, and we spent the first three nights in a tranquil German hostel near the water's edge with stunning views.

A trip on the lake in glorious sunshine was a reminder this water was the source of life for people at that time and it was a good place to start our pilgrimage. It was an opportunity for the pilgrims to experience the views seen by Jesus and his friends. Over the next two days we visited many of the sites

where Jesus lived, worked and performed his miracles. We were reminded of the stories familiar to us in the scriptures.

And in the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea. Matthew 14

From Galilee, we travelled to Nazareth and visited the great Basilica of the Annunciation, built over the house of Mary where the angel appeared to her. It was here that we celebrated the Eucharist and prayed for our homes and families.

We visited the Greek Orthodox Church of St Mary, located over an underground spring and where the water theme begins. We also went to the synagogue within the old market (souk), a 12th century church built by the crusaders which was, according



to tradition, the original location for the Roman period synagogue where Jesus first learned, prayed and later preached as a young man.

In Cana we visited the church of the wedding of Cana, where couples renewed their marriage vows. This was a moving occasion as we were encouraged to remember loved ones no longer with us.

Our few days in this part of the Holy Land included visits to The Church of The Ascension, Mount Tabor, believed to be the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus, and where we celebrated the Eucharist.

In Capernaum we saw the ruins of St Peter's House. We visited the Mount of the Beatitudes at the top of a hill where the

sermon on the Mount was delivered. This was a wonderful spot where we had time to sit and reflect about all we had seen and heard in the first few days of our pilgrimage. The following afternoon we prepared to leave for Bethlehem but we left Galilee with reluctance.

Our journey to Jerusalem, along the West Bank, across difficult and sometimes bleak terrain seemed to take only a few hours. As we travelled through villages and small Bedouin camps with wandering goats, it gave us a glimpse of how this Holy Land must have looked in ancient times.

We stopped at Jacob's Well where Bishop Martin conducted a live interview with BBC Radio Sussex back in the UK. He acknowledged the difficult

terrain and occupied lands along the way, saying: "We witnessed the diversity of the conditions in which people are living. It all made the news more real to us. We feel it, we see it, we are of course isolated from it in terms of how it affects people's lives but we have glimpsed it."

Our next stop was the River Jordan. It was here, according to tradition, that John the Baptist baptised Jesus and here we renewed our baptismal vows. This was a wonderful experience, as much about watching others being immersed as anticipating our own renewal of baptism. This site was previously only open twice a year but was recently invested in by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism as a major pilgrimage centre and is now open seven days a week.



When we arrived in Bethlehem, there was unanimous dismay at the sight of the high, grey, solid concrete wall which now surround the city.

After settling into our Franciscan hostel for the night, we anticipated what lay ahead for our early morning visit to the Church of the Nativity. This 1,500-year-old church, now a UNESCO World Heritage site was covered in scaffolding inside and out due to a major restoration project. However, the magic of seeing the silver 14-pointed star at the birthplace of baby Jesus and listening to the specially selected readings created a sense of being in a very special Holy place.

In Jerusalem the total population is around 800,000 and in the old city, which is divided into

four - Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Armenian - the figure is around 40,000. This represents a diverse population and has its difficulties. There was evidence that tensions run high and we saw armed soldiers - but we felt safe.

It was an emotional day for us when we followed the way of the Cross. We walked along the Via Dolorosa, the path of sorrows, weaving in and out of the market place and orthodox churches of the old city. It was pouring with rain but it rooted us and gave us focus and, when we retreated into the church for our daily Eucharist, we were grateful for the time to sit and reflect, away from the clamour and distractions of the markets outside.

As well as the shared experiences, friendships and times of quiet and reflection, what made this pilgrimage special was the way Bishop Martin led us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. It was with a logical but spiritual purpose and each day we were given a reminder of the life and ministry of Jesus, ultimately to understand why his death gave life to others.

He came to give his life, to die, and his death would result in salvation for others. Matt 26.

Our sincere thanks go to Lightline Pilgrimages, our guides Bassam and Gasam and our drivers, whose knowledge and professionalism made it such a memorable pilgrimage. Bishop Martin invites all the pilgrims to a reunion on February 28 at The

Palace in Chichester. The next pilgrimage is being planned for Rome.

A personal view

Not everyone on the pilgrimage came from the Chichester Diocese. Malcolm McGivan is a member of St Francis Church in Bournville, Birmingham, for who a pilgrimage to the Holy Land was a long-held ambition. Here is an extract from his reflections.

I met my fellow pilgrims for a flight to Tel Aviv. The sense of expectation was enhanced as it quickly became apparent that we had an inspirational leader in Martin Warner, the Bishop of Chichester. With the support of two priests from his diocese, Bishop Martin led the daily celebration of the Eucharist, on each occasion with a distinct focus.

We explored sites by the evocative Sea of Galilee, waking each morning to the smell of grapefruit and lemon trees. This was the region where Jesus focused some two thirds of his public ministry and where fishermen still cast their nets. Our itinerary included Nazareth, where Jesus lived for 30 years, Cana, where he performed his first miracle, and Capernaum, where he first met five of his disciples. This was before we left the tranquillity of Galilee and set our sights, as Jesus had done, on the intensity of Jerusalem.

Visiting the place of Christ's birth and the array of key sites associated with the turbulence of Jesus's time in Jerusalem underlined the reality of what we read in the Bible: the magnificent view of the old city

from the Mount of Olives, the Palm Sunday route, the moving Garden of Gethsemane, the Way of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa, leading to Calvary enshrined within the astonishing Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The site of the tomb itself is, arguably, the holiest place in Christendom.

So what does all this mean for me? For one thing, it has changed for ever my response to reading the four gospels. As Bishop Martin put it, the experience "earths one's faith". This was about the physicality of the identity of Jesus – not a theory, not an ideology but about a person living in a specific place at a specific time: God as flesh and blood. Each of us made our own, personal connection with the Holy Land - and its heart, Jerusalem - but could not return home without the stark realisation of the continued importance of praying for its restoration as a peaceful and holy place for everyone: Christians, Jews and Muslims.

A wave of friendship and understanding

Janice and Bob Doran are members of the Church of the Good Shepherd at Shoreham Beach in West Sussex. They were part of a parish group that went on the pilgrimage with their vicar Gail Souppouris.

Janice and Bob enjoyed their time in the Holy Land immensely and were amazed at the detailed work that to make the pilgrimage

so meaningful.

Janice said: "Each day brought new light to us. It has made scripture so much easier to understand."

Bob said: "We especially want to thank Bishop Martin, Father Mark and Father David for the services held each day which were varied, to the point and so interesting. I cannot believe I sat through all these services in so short a space of time and never became weary.

"We would like to mention our hosts who were not only good people but so knowledgeable, guiding us safely through each day and making sure we were safe in that troubled land. The team's humour carried us along on a wave of happiness, friendship and understanding."

A shared experience

Jennie Davies is a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Mile Oak. She found the Pilgrimage a very prayerful experience.

Jennie said: "There were so many lovely people to share the journey. My favourite place was around The Sea of Galilee - an extremely peaceful and restful place. I was honoured to read The Epistle during the Eucharist at The Church of The Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. It was a pity the weather was against us a lot of the time!"

We travelled with Lightline Pilgrimages. For more information, call 0845 610 6447 or email info@lightline.org.uk.

DIOCESAN MISSION FUND NEWS

The Chichester Diocesan Mission Fund was created to support mission initiatives in our area, focusing on those that deepen faith and increase commitment to worship. Rev Canon Martin Onions, fund chairman, gave us an update on two successful stories.



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An ambitious project by the team at St John's Church in Southbourne, West Sussex, is about to hit the road – literally.

It is in the middle of converting a 52-seater coach into a mobile unit that will become a social centre for young, old and those in between.

The Bourne Angels Coach Project will tour villages in the area and provide a base for all kinds of activities from arts and crafts for children to a café style hangout for teenagers.

Church youth worker Jon Robinson came up with the idea following the closure of the youth wing

at Bourne School in the village, which caters for about 800 secondary age children from all over the surrounding area.

Jon said: "The youth wing was closed due to lack of funding, resulting in no statutory youth provision in the area, which was deeply concerning. We couldn't use the building so I asked the local bus company if they could help – and they did."

To his great delight, Emsworth and District Buses donated one of its vehicles and also serviced it and put it through its MOT.

Jon said: "We then applied for some grants and were lucky enough to receive £5,000 from Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, £2,000 from West Sussex County Council and another £5,000 from the Chichester Mission Fund.

"Our target was £12,000 and this is spot on. I am ecstatic."

The mission fund has also supported St Mary's Church in Willingdon, Eastbourne, with a grant for its new lunch club, which has proved to be a much-needed asset. It's based at The Trees Community Centre where the church also holds a Sunday morning service.

The Army lets Jon and the team keep the bus at a nearby base and next month, the interior refit and conversion will begin. Students from Chichester College will be lending their skills and labour with the aim of making the coach multi-purpose.

Jon said: "One day a week we will park it in a specific place and in the mornings and early afternoons it will be a community space. Children can use it and also the elderly who may need a place to chat. It also has a disabled lift so will be accessible to all.

"I hope to have people from the police and fire brigade and other organisations visit to give talks for our older users. Then in the late afternoons and evenings we will have drop-ins for children and teenagers.

"We hope to have it ready by Easter and everyone is getting very excited. Lots of local businesses have donated equipment already."

The project is now looking for volunteers to get involved – there are lots of things to do, both front line and behind the scenes – and is also inviting other groups who may wish to use the coach to come forward. To find out more or discuss sponsorship, email Coach@stjohnssouthbourne.com.



The grant enabled the purchase of a hot cabinet, crockery and cutlery to equip the coffee and lunch club, which started on a monthly basis but is now open weekly.

Lunch club leader Marie Boxall said: "Many of our diners are not church attendees but they find comfort in being in a church environment. Our church ministry team often comes along and sits and chats to people and offers comfort in difficult times.

"We have a bookstall and this helps those unable to get out much as well as being a great way of sharing an interest.

"We have a great team of helpers who have fun both in sharing their culinary skills and being able to offer a friendly welcome in a safe place."



St Patrick's Church in Hove, closed because of the small congregation, is getting a potential new lease of life.

CHEMIN NEUF READY AND WILLING TO HELP

The Chemin Neuf Community, which came to Sussex in 2013 to live at Storrington Priory, is to move its Tuesday evening charismatic prayer group there and will also hold an Anglican Eucharist on Sundays at 5.30pm.

The idea is to launch an outreach for students, a project run in partnership with local churches and universities.

Anglican vicar Charles Hadley, of Chemin Neuf, said: "It is an experiment and we'll try it for a year. We're not quite sure what God is calling us to do but we are aiming to establish a youth mission in Hove."

Chemin Neuf was formed in the Seventies and is named after the address of its first house in Lyon, France – New Street Hill or Montee du Chemin Neuf. It is a Roman Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation. It has about 2,000 members in more than 30 countries – men, women, couples, families and others who have chosen a community way of life to serve the Church.

Its first house in England was St Gildas Christian Centre at Langport in Somerset, where it moved in 1999.

Charles, who was then parish priest at neighbouring Somerton, was already involved. He and his wife Felicity ran Cana sessions, a popular feature of Chemin Neuf's outreach work. They are residential retreats for married couples which help them deepen their faith and their relationship with each other.

Later, in 2010, Charles gave up his job as chaplain at Exeter University to join the Chemin Neuf Community full time. When the St Gildas lease expired, Chemin Neuf moved to Storrington. Charles and Felicity followed soon after and now live ten minutes' walk from the priory.

Charles said: "We wondered what God's plan was. What we hadn't expected was that, all at the same time, Chemin Neuf would be invited by Archbishop Justin Welby to animate the prayer life of Lambeth Palace, invited by (then) Archbishop Vincent Nichols to run the parish of Cockfosters in North London AND be given Sclerder Abbey, a monastery, near Looe in Cornwall.

"From the beginning, the major influences on our spirituality have been on one hand the Jesuit (St Ignatius) tradition and on the other, charismatic renewal (the Holy Spirit).

"Our missions include spiritual exercises retreats, retreats for inner healing, formation programmes, youth missions and the Cana mission for the enrichment of marriage and family life.

"It seems to us the most important thing any human being can do is to commit their life to God through Jesus and to anchor that choice in prayer. Community life is the way some of us have chosen to follow Christ, poor and humble, in order to serve the Church and the world.

"We hope to work as partners offering our work and missions where it will be helpful. We want to be of service to parishes, schools, youth groups, education departments, formation programmes up to theology degree level, pastoral and reconciliation projects - and individuals who need a safe, quiet space."

To find out more about Chemin Neuf, visit www.chemin-neuf.org.uk or call the Storrington community on 01903 742150.

MAKING MEMORIES AT IMMANUEL



It was a day to remember when Bishop Martin visited Immanuel Church in Chichester.

He was there to confirm eight church members and license Rev Steve Flashman as minister in charge – and the place was packed for the occasion.

Immanuel is a Bishop's Mission Church which meets in Graylingwell Chapel in the middle of an 85-acre former hospital site. It's on course to become the spiritual heart of Graylingwell Park, a large housing development on the outskirts of the city, and works

alongside the parish church to reach out to the hundreds of new residents moving into the area.

Bishop Martin's latest visit came exactly four years after Immanuel's inaugural service in the former hospital chapel.

It was filled with church members, family and friends for what was a colourful service full of contrasts. Bishop Martin's robes and mitre fitted well with the traditional stained glass windows of the chapel – and the vibrant wall hangings and art works created by Immanuel members.

Steve Flashman and his team were seen in their robes - an unusual sight at Immanuel where Steve is more often found with his guitar, leading the worship band.

The Bishop moved seamlessly from putting the candidates at ease with humour to conducting them through their solemn vows. The combination of the traditional and the informal made it a memorable occasion for all.



Vision of Immanuel Church:
"To create a spiritual heart in Graylingwell, Winterbourne and the communities in which God has placed us."

OVERSEAS FOCUS

EBOLA CRISIS

PLEASE
KEEP UP THE
SUPPORT

Thanks go to everyone in our diocesan family who prayed and contributed to our annual harvest appeal and our Adventide Ebola emergency appeal. So far they have raised £18,400 and £10,800 respectively.

Prior to the appeals, our Diocesan Overseas Council gave £5,000 from its limited reserves to the four Ebola-affected dioceses: Guinea, Freetown, Bo and Liberia.

This money has been used to feed families in quarantine who have to remain in isolation for 21 days. During this time they cannot go out to work or to buy food or medicines.

Bishop Jacques Boston of Guinea tells us quarantine has led to increased death rates from other diseases such as malaria, yellow fever and typhoid, whose symptoms akin to Ebola have gone undiagnosed and untreated.

In all Ebola-affected areas of West Africa, governments have closed schools and imposed limitations on public worship to prevent the risk of the disease spreading. The consequences for the Church have been great. Schools have long been a vital source of income for the Church in West Africa and their closure has had a severe financial impact. Without a steady income, our partner dioceses have not been able to pay their clergy, diocesan staff or teachers. Archbishop Jonathan Hart reports that in Liberia, state school teachers have received no pay during their months of enforced inactivity.

We are accustomed to think that wherever there is tragedy, disaster or hardship, the Church will be there, faithfully living into Christ's call to loving solidarity and compassionate service (Mat. 25: 34 – 40). Our sisters and brothers are doing just that. The Diocese of Bo, in Sierra Leone, for example, has offered some of

its 75 schools as Ebola-testing centres. In Liberia, the diocese has distributed disinfecting agents and food in the slums of Monrovia and in Freetown, the diocese is working with Ebola survivors, encouraging abstinence for three months after recovery as the virus can be transmitted through sexual contact during that time.

Ebola, however, has revealed the fragility and vulnerability of the Church. Our Christian sisters and brothers are not exempt or spared the suffering and chaos this disease has wrought in their societies.

In Bo, 21 Anglicans have died. Bishop Jacques in Guinea has had to close two of the diocese's four clinics and halve clergy stipends because of lack of funds. The clinics in Fallanghia and Tintima serve isolated rural communities where Ebola is not present. It costs only £6,000 a year to staff and run them but with exhausted reserves,

"All of these groups extend their heartfelt appreciations and thanks to you for the Diocese of Chichester. May you all live long and continue in peace, joy and love for the goodness of our God through Christ. God richly bless you for such a co-ordination and support to the Anglican Diocese of Bo. Again I say thank you to the Diocese of Chichester."

Bishop Emmanuel Tucker of the Diocese of Bo in Sierra Leone

no income and few overseas partners, he had to make painful decisions in favour of the two clinics in Conakry where Ebola is still being diagnosed. Meanwhile, malaria, yellow fever and typhoid continue to claim lives in the remote interior.

Thankfully, it looks as if the number of new cases across the region is beginning to fall. We must continue to pray that infection rates continue to drop and that there will not be a resurgence of Ebola during the rainy season beginning in May.

The Church in West Africa is playing its part in reminding people of the need for vigilance, in organising and running awareness campaigns and training workshops, looking ahead to the need to provide seed and agricultural supplies to help farmers who stopped tilling their fields to grow food crops and training a new generation of health workers.

All this will need resourcing and it is our hope that in the coming weeks your generous gifts will be sent to our partner dioceses to enable them to continue being faithful servants of Christ.

Bishop Emmanuel Tucker of the Diocese of Bo in Sierra Leone emailed the Chichester Diocese in gratitude for the "untiring support, both spiritually and in kind" towards his "vulnerable" team.

He said:

"For your information, the money sent (£1,500) was used to secure half-bags of rice for each of the 16 priests, 11 deacons, evangelists and catechists and the total office staff membership of 47."

OVERSEAS FOCUS

Church on the front line against Ebola



Danish Lutheran pastors Mette and Alex Bjergbaek Klausen have been in Africa helping train readers and those preparing for ordination. Their work has taken them to Sierra Leone, one of the areas worst hit by Ebola. In preparation for their posting, they spent time in the Diocese of Chichester where they learnt about the diversity of traditions in the Anglican Church. In Africa, they have hosted visitors from Chichester. Here they tell us how the country has been affected.

The first Ebola cases were confirmed in Guinea in March last year. The affected area is highly populated and borders both Liberia and Sierra Leone. Many people cross the borders every day for trading purposes and family relationships.

There were early rumours of suspected cases in Sierra Leone's Kailahun district. The Anglican Diocese of Bo covers the entire south-eastern region of Sierra Leone, including the Kailahun district, and it acted immediately to get information and protective equipment to the villages with Anglican presence.

Despite the efforts of the church and government, the disease continued to spread throughout the country and until December, numbers of new cases continued to rise daily.

The Anglican Church has been proactive throughout the outbreak. In June, it organised an information meeting between the Red Cross and members of the interreligious council in Bo.

This was the first time religious leaders were invited to join the campaign. Many questions were asked to understand the full extent of the disease and the consequences of the outbreak. At this time, Kailahun was already quarantined and travelling to neighbouring Kenema was

restricted. Schools were closed in the affected districts and all social gatherings banned.

The church began a more organised campaign by making use of existing structures within the church. HIV/Aids counsellors were trained to advise on how to avoid transmission of Ebola, the Mothers' Union took food and clothes to families in quarantine and department leaders formed an Ebola task force which could respond rapidly according and co-ordinate resources, including money received from foreign aid and partners.

The country has been crippled as the disease swept across it. Fortunately the Anglican Diocese of Bo has suffered few casualties compared with the extent of the outbreak and this has given the church the strength to reach out to others. Many church members have opened their doors to accommodate refugees who fled to the cities from badly affected areas. Local church leaders have monitored the situation and reported back to the task force when assistance was needed.

In December, more than 500 new cases were reported in Sierra Leone in one week. By January the number of new cases has dropped significantly, with the last report from January 21 listing 117.

Kailahun district is close to being declared Ebola free with no new cases for almost 42 consecutive days. The quarantine has now been lifted in many parts of Sierra Leone to promote travel and trade and the schools are expected to reopen by March.

A much-needed sense of everyday life seems to be returning to the country. However, there is still a long way to go before the outbreak is contained and life can fully return to normal.

The outbreak has caused the country many scars, both visible and invisible. The national economy is in recession, investors have withdrawn, leaving many unemployed and with no prospect of work. In many areas, farmland has been neglected with people restricted by quarantine and the health services are largely non-existent, with many nurses and doctors among the diseased.

It will take a long time, lots of work, help and prayers for the country to regain its former strength. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all assistance during these difficult times. Thank you for remembering the diocese in your prayers and for your kind donations.



Artistic inspiration

Organising an arts trail in a picturesque village proved a greater inspiration than Paul Milton could have imagined.

The surface textile designer and multimedia artist was so enthused by the church of St Mary's in Balcombe that he has become a regular member of the congregation.

Preparations for his second arts trail are under way and he has ambitions for another that would focus solely on churches and take in the whole of the Chichester Diocese.

Paul, 31, who trained in Sussex and lives in Haywards Heath, said: "I'd love to involve churches throughout Sussex and have a piece of art on show in each of them."

His inaugural Balcombe Arts Trail last year involved all kinds of local businesses and was a great success. For Paul, the church was the perfect exhibition venue.

He said: "St Mary's is such a lovely church and a wonderful location to showcase work. I loved it when the sun streamed through the stained glass windows – it lit up the art so

beautifully. I even drew the church while the trail was going on.

"I was so taken by the lovely community of Balcombe and the congregation of St Mary's. It was a real honour and privilege to meet such kind people. They renewed my faith and I now attend every Sunday with my parents."

Paul, whose recent work includes a portrait of Prime Minister David Cameron, is busy designing a new altar cloth for St Mary's.

The second Balcombe Arts Trail takes place in September and he is also working on his list of exhibitors. He said: "I'm trying to keep it local and, like last year, will have all kinds of art – paintings, textiles, photography, everything.

"Then I would love to do a bigger trail involving lots of churches. I hope people who want to get involved will get in touch."

To find about more about Paul's proposed church art project, email him at paulmiltonbinx@yahoo.co.uk.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

HOW WE BECAME AN ECO CHURCH

by Anne Stone, churchwarden, St Mary's, East Grinstead

The decision to become an eco church was quite slow to develop. In March 2011, the PCC had adopted its own environmental policy but while undertaking our annual policy reviews we realised it was having little effect on our decision-making.

By now I was part of the Diocesan Environmental Action Group and had also attended a couple of Christian Ecology Link meetings (soon to become Green Christian) and I thought we needed a definite goal rather than just tweaking a few of our actions.

Then in March last year, the PCC agreed we should aim for Eco Congregation status and an eco group of four was set up. We each completed the church audit and the modules from the A Rocha website – A Rocha is an international environmental organisation with a Christian ethos - and these were compiled to make a single working document.

We made notes of all our meetings and kept a logbook of our progress. We used the

A Rocha website for ideas, particularly for our work with the children in our Kidz Club.

The youngsters have been enthusiastic in their response and this has been encouraging for us. They have planted a Lenten Cross of snowdrops and daffodils in an area of grass between the church and hall, the idea being that the snowdrops flower for Lent and the daffodils for Easter. This area is also being developed as a spring wild flower meadow and the perimeters of the car park have been planted with bee-attracting plants and wild flowers. We already had compost and leaf mould bins.

Our church building does not lend itself to becoming an eco building - even the doors are difficult to draught proof - but we had already upgraded the hall with double-glazing and a new heating system. We designed attractive signs asking people to turn off lights and taps, we changed our electricity provider to Ecotricity and we monitor our gas and electricity use.

We have held several community events with an eco theme and our harvest celebration was focused on the environment. The Kidz Club gave a presentation based on the three Rs and the children sang a song which ended with the words "it starts with you and me", which we thought was an important message.

Since the eco group was set up in April last year, we have kept the PCC well informed on our progress and Eco Congregation has been an item on each PCC agenda.

We have also had articles in our email newsletter, which reaches most of our congregation. We now have an eco notice board in the church hall and so far have had "Ways to live gently on the Earth" and "Hope for the future" as well as a transport-themed display encouraging people to reduce their car use, fly less and use public transport more.

Our policy has been one of encouragement and positive action. We have been encouraged by the support we have had from most members of the congregation but saddened by the fact that some do not seem to make the connection between faith and the way we live and that we are all part of creation.

At the end of October we submitted our application for our first Eco Congregation award and had our assessment on November 26. The good news is we are being recommended for our first award – and we hope it will not be the last.

I am very willing to talk to anyone interested in taking a similar path. As one person said – it's a lot more fun than talking about parish share or leaky roofs.



SUPPORTING BRITAIN'S DAIRY FARMERS



Arthur Rank Centre calls on churches to support British dairy farmers

Following the recent announcement from First Milk to delay payments to farmers, the Arthur Rank Centre is calling on churches to pray for and support dairy farmers.

Arthur Rank Centre CEO issued a statement to say that prices are

at their lowest since 2007 while costs have risen 36%. It also said British Dairy farmers are facing an exceptionally difficult time and called on churches to pray for the industry.

Mark Betson, diocesan rural officer said, "I commend this prayer action to all our church communities, rural or urban, as it is something that we can all do. Also we can give significant

confidence to the industry by choosing to buy milk from supermarkets and brands that pay a fair price to farmers and by buying British dairy products".

Church members can find out more about supermarkets that pay a fair price to farmers. Visit <http://www.nfuonline.com/back-british-farming/news-channel/how-can-i-support-british-dairy-farmers/> to find out how.

GREEN INITIATIVE IS GROWING

Leaders of the Diocesan Environmental Action Group (DEAG) are celebrating an important step forward in their work.

Diocesan Synod has unanimously approved the environmental policy presented by the group.

DEAG chairman Mark Betson said he was delighted and thanked everyone who worked hard on getting the policy to this stage.

He said: "The group membership incorporates the skills, knowledge and external links that will help in our continuing work with our church communities."

He hopes one initiative all parishes will take advantage of is a free environmental audit with Eco-Congregation, a programme which helps churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith and respond with practical action.

Mark said: "Southover Church in Lewes and St Paul's in Chichester have already won awards for this. I urge every parish to get it on to the agenda for their next PCC meeting and we look forward to many more of our churches winning awards."

Following an audit, parishes choose options based on what they want to achieve and what they can afford. Remember - some options will save money or

create an income rather than be an additional cost.

It is a free self-assessment and to be considered for an award there is a £50 sign-up fee and £50 for the award itself. Church House administration centre in Hove is the latest building to sign up for an audit.

A copy of the policy and the supporting notes from the Synod meeting are available through the Diocesan website.

You can find out more about eco-congregations at ew.ecocongregation.org

*It is fantastic to see the children
grow academically, spiritually,
emotionally and physically.*

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

a vital mission opportunity



by Ann Holt

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

We cannot underestimate the valuable contribution more than 700 foundation governors make to our Church schools, our Christian mission and the education of children across the Chichester Diocese.

The role of governors as partners in the education of children and the importance of having the right people with the skills to support, challenge and develop schools has been increasingly emphasised by the Department for Education and Ofsted. It is impossible for our schools to be graded as good or outstanding without a good governing body.

Our schools' team offers training, advice and support for all governors, not just foundation governors, in church schools. Although foundation governors are appointed to maintain a watching brief on the Christian distinctiveness of the school, this is a responsibility of the whole governing body alongside all the other responsibilities.

To ensure we are able to do this effectively, we need to know who the governors of our church schools are and what they bring to the table.

The Diocesan Board of Education recently changed the way foundation governor appointments are made. In future, all appointments will be made by the DBE with nominations from Parochial Church Councils and deaneries. We have new forms for nominations and the Foundation Governor Appointment Policy on our website, along with more information about being a governor, what it involves and how to apply.

Bishop Martin, as chairman of the DBE, endorses the move. He urged parishes not to leave governing bodies with vacancies but to be proactive in nominating skilled and enthusiastic people "to ensure that we get the best candidates who are committed to this vital mission opportunity and service".

Jenny Dudgeon, one of our foundation governors, took on the role when her elder son started primary school. She had been a teacher and wanted to remain involved in education.

She said: "I became a governor at his school. It has been very rewarding as well as challenging and it does take some time to do the role properly. Governors set the strategic direction for the school, hold the head teacher to account and ensure the financial health of the school.

"I have chaired the governors for five years now and find the relationships I have built with the school have been very rewarding. It is fantastic to see the children grow academically, spiritually, emotionally and physically.

"It is a privilege to be involved in the lives of so many young people. In our society at the moment, most children are not taken to church by their parents and so I feel that the experience they get of Jesus and the Christian faith in school is of vital importance."

For the past year, Jenny has been working as a National Leader of Governance, meaning she has been able to work with chairmen and women of governors in other schools to coach and mentor them where needed. This involves informal chats, telephone conversations, observing governing body meetings and carrying out external reviews of governance.

Jenny said: "I really enjoy the work of a school governor and if it is something you are considering or if you chair governors and would like a friendly person to discuss issues with, do not hesitate to contact me. I am completely independent and only report to the National College about how I am spending my time.

"We have some 37,000 children in Chichester Diocesan schools. This represents a unique opportunity to reach and serve an age group and their families who are often missing from our congregations. "



TRUST US

CURSILLO IS AN INSPIRATION

In the last issue of Faith in Sussex, Stephen and Pauline Lucas wrote about their Cursillo experience – and prompted a good deal of interest. Here they tell us more about the movement, which “provides a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God’s love with everyone”, and reflect on the experiences of others.

After reading our last article about the impact our Cursillo had on us, several people have said that although they had heard of Cursillo, they didn’t know much about it. Strangely, this is a good thing.

We often say “let go and let God” but actually find this hard to do. Give us the smallest piece of information and we start assessing the situation. In a meeting when told when the coffee break will be, we start looking at our watches. Give us a service sheet and we look to see which hymns we will be singing and decide if we like them. We find it hard to trust that those leading us have taken time to plan the meeting or service and

that all we need to do is leave things to them.

This is what pilgrims are asked to do when they sign up for Cursillo. They are called “pilgrims” because the weekend is based on the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela but instead of trekking many miles, we go on a spiritual pilgrimage and stay at Wychcroft Retreat House in Redhill, Surrey.

We can liken this pilgrimage to walking a labyrinth. When we walk a labyrinth, we focus on the path just in front of us. There is no need to look ahead as we know the path will lead us to the centre. We may find ourselves walking on a





sweeping bend or that the path takes an unexpected turn. This is not there to confuse or alarm us as in a maze, rather it is an opportunity to be surprised and delighted as we allow space to focus on God.

Pilgrims are invited to attend not knowing the entire programme but rather to go along, trusting that many pilgrims have trodden this route before them and have experienced God moving powerfully in their lives because of it. In short, they are encouraged to trust the team and “let go and let God”.

Here are a few comments from some of the pilgrims who did just that on the latest Cursillo weekend last October:

“We haven’t been here 24 hours yet and I’m blown away by all this.”

“There isn’t a word to describe it, it’s like an avalanche of love.”

“Humbling, wonderful, life changing and amazing, to say nothing of the surprises.”

“Abundance ... in fellowship, love, caring, teaching, healing ministry and fun.”

The weekend runs from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon. The purpose - in the words of Cursillo - is to “send out equipped witnesses, empowered by the Holy Spirit to call other people to God in their situation”. This is done through three days of prayer and worship, short talks coupled with opportunities to reflect and respond, good food and much fun.

No course on Christian living comes with a 100 per cent guarantee but the vast majority of pilgrims come away affirmed and inspired on their journey of faith, many taking on new leadership roles within their churches.

So will you dare to let go and let God? Cursillo might just be the course you are looking for.

**TO FIND OUT MORE, CALL STEPHEN ON 01323 891831
GO TO WWW.CHICHESTERCURSILLO.CO.UK
OR WWW.ANGLICANCURSILLO.CO.UK**

DISHING UP SUPPORT



Cooking on a budget, messy play and coffee mornings are among the activities helping the church connect with people facing isolation and poverty in Worthing. **Lydie Badcock**, of FSW Family Support Work Charity, told us more.



FSW Family Support Work Charity and Christ Church have recently launched a new project in Worthing. FSW aims to work with the church to come alongside families by offering support for those who are facing difficulties.

By using Christ Church, we had a base for families we currently work with to come and meet up but also we decided to put on sessions that were open to other families in the community.

Me and my team of volunteers, many of them members of the church, have organised a variety of sessions and activities. These include coffee mornings, messy play and cooking on a budget, which has been particularly popular.

We are constantly looking at the needs of the community and as such the project is always evolving. Food poverty is extremely prevalent in Sussex at the moment and the cooking sessions allow families to be educated about preparing and cooking food and also how best to budget.

Many of the sessions are attended by the parish priest Matthew Luff, who said: "FSW has given us a foothold in the community that really wasn't there before and gives us a link to a group of people - young families, single parents - who make up a substantial part of the parish who we were not able to reach.

"Lydie's work in the hall is starting to involve and attract local people alongside her

clients. They often have similar issues and at the FSW Christmas party, there were three or four families who were local and not clients."

The team members have many more ideas for the coming months, including an after-school homework group.

Some families have no access to computers and books and we thought having a place where they can come and have some quiet study would be extremely beneficial.

If you would like further information on the Worthing project, visit www.familysupportwork.org or email lydie@familysupportwork.org.uk.

MONEY MATTERS

PARISH GIVING SCHEME THE VERDICT

Tony Cox asked parish people in Sussex about the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS).

Here are some of the responses:



"By joining PGS and combining its introduction with a Stewardship campaign, the average weekly gift by participants has almost doubled, including gift aid recovered. The experience of the PGS office in Gloucester has been excellent and the general efficiency of the PGS system is commended."

Allan Plumptre, Parish Giving Officer & Stewardship Task Force leader, Goring-by-Sea

"PGS has helped grow planned giving by about 24% over the period 2012 to 2014. Other benefits to the parish have been improved cash flow, inflation index-linking of regular giving and reduced the workload on Treasurer in the area of bank reconciliations and Gift Aid reclaiming. PGS runs smoothly and efficiently and any problems have been speedily addressed."

Homer Cox, Treasurer, Buxted & Hadlow Down

"PGS was promoted as 'Resourcing the parish vision', not on the mechanics of the scheme. Overall giving has increased by about 15% and within this there was a big switch from weekly envelopes to the scheme. 68% of PGS donors have opted for the inflation link giving the Treasurer some confidence about future income growth. The support from PGS has been excellent."

Jonathan Franklin, Treasurer, Ringmer

"PGS works very efficiently and the few times help has been needed from the PGS office in Gloucester, it has been very prompt and helpful. The scheme is simple to operate and ensures improved cash flow."

John Relfe, Treasurer, Fairlight

"The main benefit has been to aid cash flow with receiving the Gift Aid back within 10 days. Once set-up there has been less work for the Parish office and it does save our Treasurer time! The best response has been, by personal invitation, to existing standing order and weekly envelope givers."

Roger Booth, Churchwarden, Hailsham

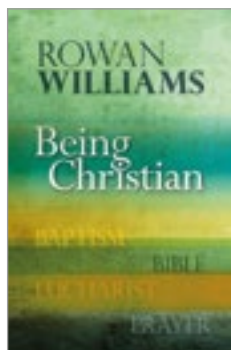
"PGS has greatly helped our cash flow and budgeting and we were introduced to it at a time when it was most needed. Key factors in deployment were the quality of the PGS forms, the dedication of the small parish team and encouragement by PCC members, Wardens and the Patron."

Paul Stephens, Treasurer, Wadhurst

John Sherlock – a Reader in Rudgwick, adds: "The best move was asking 'people in the pews' to explain how simple the system is for the donor, which allayed many unfounded fears! The other brilliant thing about PGS is the way it collects 'odd amounts': once inflation has been automatically calculated, the amount collected (for those donors that 'opt-in' to inflationary increases) usually has a few pence added to the pound figure – an amount that nobody would normally think about putting in the collection or even changing their standing order to. But across the whole congregation, these small amounts make a huge difference. I'm also thrilled that our hard-working Treasurer has slightly less to do now, although I'm sure the PCC will think of some other challenge for him before long!"

The latest data about the take-up the scheme, including information about how your church can join, is always at www.chichester.anglican.org/pgs

BOOKS AND REVIEWS



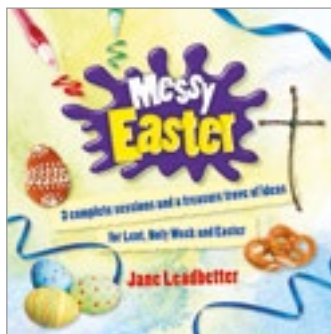
BEING CHRISTIAN

ROWAN WILLIAMS

The best teachers can put awesome things in ordinary words for the unschooled. This book captures that gift in Rowan Williams by his providing here a simple, clear yet profound taster of Christianity that will serve to guide seekers into the way of Christ. It will also lead Christians to see afresh the profundity of their faith. To Rowan Williams Christianity is 'a certain way of being human'. It's humanity in its right mind as God intended it which Jesus came to restore. To be baptised is to live close to painful chaos around us and within us. It is 'to be where Jesus is', just as prayer and eucharist are to enter his passion for God and humanity. Christians have solidarity with humanity, not status above it, just like Jesus. Ours like his is to be a listening and insightful life and this book abounds with insight into God and humanity.

Canon John Twisleton Rector of St Giles, Horsted Keynes, West Sussex

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR EASTER



MESSY EASTER

JANE LEADBETTER

Three complete sessions for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, together with a wealth of activities to extend the range of excitingly messy activities for your Messy Church—creative prayers, games, food crafts, and ideas for organising an Easter trail. Craft templates and a session planning grid are included.

Jane Leadbetter is part of the BRF Messy Church team, has worked as a primary school teacher and was Children's Work Adviser in the Diocese of Liverpool for twelve years. She runs L19: Messy Church once a month.

Visit www.messychurch.org.uk/9781841017174/ for free template downloads

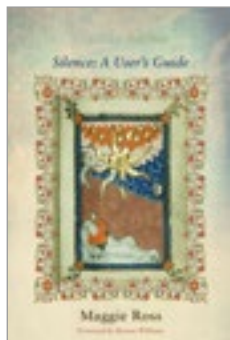


CREATIVE IDEAS FOR LENT AND EASTER

JANE TIBBS

This colourful book contains a wealth of inspirational ideas and activities for the Lent and Easter season. All the ideas use readily available materials and have instant appeal. From the traditional

Simnel cake through a living Easter tree to a 3D action ascension scene, this book will inspire church leaders and families to deepen their experience of Lent, Easter and the Easter season.



SILENCE:

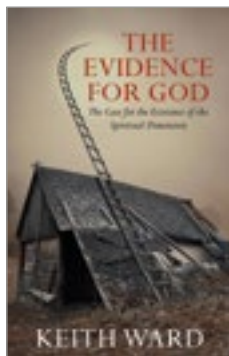
A USER'S GUIDE

MAGGIE ROSS

The spiritual discipline of silence can help relocate energy from the superficial mind to the deep mind. If we regularly go beyond our noisy self-conscious thinking and wait silently and receptively we find cleansing and empowerment as the mind rests centred in the heart. Anglican Solitary Maggie Ross writes enthusiastically of this experience, its joys and pitfalls, and how inner silence will be the saving of the world. The author has invaluable images of transformative silence such as 'a free-fall in the love of God'. Though western society finds silence difficult its interesting nature films are so popular with viewers riveted by the beauty and silent attentiveness of wild animals. This book is hard on the institutional church and dismissive of the creeds though it has a foreword by Rowan Williams who praises her insight and ruthlessness.

Canon John Twisleton Rector of St Giles, Horsted Keynes

Darton Longman Todd 2014 £14.99 ISBN 978-0-232-53148-0 235pp



THE EVIDENCE

FOR GOD

KEITH WARD

The case for the existence of the spiritual dimension

Keith Ward's forte is the reasonable basis of Christianity making sense of the world and where its meant to be heading through reasonable faith that's never beyond doubt. 'The Evidence for God' looks at six realms of life that witness the existence of a spiritual dimension that points to God: the arts, morality, philosophy, science, religion and personal experience. 'The evidence of footsteps in the snow does not immediately lead you to a murderer, but it may be part of a cumulative body of evidence which can lead you to the identification of a murderer.' Belief in God is a similar puzzle resting on both reason and intuition as they interpret the riches and traumas of life to establish a clear pattern.

Canon John Twisleton Rector of St Giles, Horsted Keynes

Darton Longman Todd 2014 £9.99 ISBN 978-0-232-53130-5 149pp



FORGETFUL HEART

LUCY MILLS

If life pressures make you feel a bit like the seedlings in Jesus' parable that got choked by thorny ground Forgetful Heart Lucy Mills DLT may be a good Lent read. Worry, stress and fear link to this spiritual forgetfulness. So does our need to seek approval from any other than the Lord. Mills chronicles these energy-draining things sometimes linked to a refusal to see rest as something constructive. This inspiring book includes a free postcard suited to Lent as it prompts the daily remembrance of God.

CATHEDRAL NEWS

WHAT'S ON

Lunchtime Concerts at Chichester Cathedral – Spring 2015

Tuesdays until 17th March
1.10pm – 2pm

Admission is free. Bring your sandwiches and come along and enjoy the concert. Coffee provided. All are very welcome.

Exhibition in the North Transept:

Installation of 1000 Tear Bottles by Deborah Tompsett, Artist and Ceramicist

Until Saturday 18th April

There is an ancient tradition of 'Tear Bottles' ranging from their use by the ancient Greeks to references in the Bible. Tear-shaped vessels would be carried by pilgrims as they journeyed and in the Victorian era tear bottles surfaced again as a popular icon of grief and grieving – during funerals for example,

mourners would capture their tears to assist their mourning. Made in a traditional way on a potter's wheel, these tear bottles vary in size and each of the thousand bottles has its own distinct individuality. Open daily with free entry. All are welcome.

Cathedral Fellowship Talk

Monday 2nd March 2.30pm

Charles Harrison (Organist and Master of the Choristers): 'The Turbulent and Troubled Story of Music at Lincoln Cathedral' – a light-hearted dash through the archives. In the Dresden Room, George Bell House, Chichester Cathedral.

The Fellowship meets monthly (not July and August) to hear a talk, followed by refreshments. Anyone is welcome. A donation of £1 is suggested. For more information please contact the Cathedral office on 01243 782595 or reception@chichestercathedral.org.uk

Chichester Theological Society Lecture

Tuesday 10th March 7.00pm



'The Body Beautiful? Body, Soul, Spirit and Mind in the Writings of Paul' by Dr Paula Gooder

Dr Paula Gooder is a writer and lecturer in New Testament studies with a rare gift for making scholarship accessible. She is also a visiting lecturer at King's College London, and Canon Theologian of Birmingham and Guildford Cathedrals.

In the Cathedral Nave. Free Entry. All are welcome.

Easter Family Activity – 'Feathered Friends'

Monday 30th March
10.00am – 3.00pm

Family activities working with the RSPB. No need to book, just come along to the Eastern Arm of the Cloisters. Suitable for children aged 3-12, who must be accompanied by an adult.

For further details call 01243 782595 or see the website for more information:
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk



Chancellor's Lectures 2015

Thursdays 23rd and 30th April
and 14th and 21st May – 6.30pm



From my Prison Cell –
Reflections in captivity on life,
faith and death'

Join Chichester Cathedral's
Chancellor, Canon Dr Anthony
Cane, for his annual series of
lectures in the Cathedral Nave.
Free entry. All are welcome.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

5.00pm Evening Prayer (said)

5.30pm Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 25th March – Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

5.00pm Evening Prayer (said)

5.30pm Sung Eucharist

Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Mattins

11.00am Sung Eucharist

3.30pm Evensong

HOLY WEEK:

Monday 30th March

6.30pm Holy Communion with hymns

Tuesday 31st March

10.30am Chrism Mass

6.30pm Holy Communion with hymns

Wednesday 1st April

6.30pm Holy Communion with hymns

Thursday 2nd April – Maundy Thursday

7.30am Mattins

8.00am Holy Communion (Shrine)

10.30am Holy Communion (Lady Chapel)

5.30pm Evening Prayer (said)

7.30pm Sung Eucharist and Watch of Prayer

Friday 3rd April – Good Friday

10.00am Mattins with address

1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

5.30pm Evensong

Saturday 4th April

7.30pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 5th April – Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Mattins

11.00am Sung Eucharist

3.30pm Evensong



NEW DEAN OF CHICHESTER INSTALLED IN CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

The Very Reverend Stephen Waite, the former Archdeacon of Dorset, has been installed as the new Dean of Chichester in Chichester Cathedral. This special service included a sermon by the new Dean, who spoke of his 'sense of privilege and deep joy' to be installed as Dean and also outlined his view of Christianity as 'not a private religion, or a spiritual comfort blanket, but rather a radical agenda of justice, giving voice to the marginalised, power to the powerless'. Speaking about his new role, Stephen said: 'I'm looking forward very much to taking my place in the life of the Cathedral, and to discovering how it may best serve the people and parishes of the Diocese'.

The Installation was a fascinating mix of the Cathedral's current life and local community, and its rich and ancient heritage. Traditionally, a dean's appointment is made by the Crown and announced by 10 Downing Street - this process took place last November

and the Queen was therefore represented at the service by the Lord Lieutenants of East and West Sussex who presented the new Dean to the Bishop of Chichester, the Right Revd Dr Martin Warner.

During the service, the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, described the Cathedral as: 'The heartbeat of the life of the Diocese, because it is the heartbeat of the life of prayer' and then turning to the new Dean said: 'We entrust to you this responsibility with great joy and confidence.'

The Installation took place within the act of worship for which cathedrals are probably most famous - Choral Evensong. Many countywide civic dignitaries attended, including the Mayor of Chichester and the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, the Chairman of West Sussex County Council and the Chairman of Chichester District Council, the Vice Chair of East Sussex County Council and the High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex. Deans

from neighbouring cathedrals, visiting bishops and church leaders from Bamberg, Bayreuth, Chartres and Berlin were also present.

During the service the Dean was 'in-stalled' - symbolically placed in his 'stall' within the Cathedral Quire (image attached). The Quire contains a number of beautiful wooden stalls dating from the 14th century; these stalls seat the clergy and the Cathedral Choir, who face each other in the tradition of 'antiphonal' choral singing - singing alternate verses from side to side. The service also included presenting the Dean with a Bible, a rod (this symbolises the spiritual discipline of truth and prayer) and a 'loaf of common bread' (historically the bread represents the produce grown on Cathedral land that would have nourished the clergy and community).

'I'm looking forward very much to taking my place in the life of the Cathedral, and to discovering how it may best serve the people and parishes of the Diocese'.



STORIES BEHIND THE HYMNS

CHRIST TRIUMPHANT, EVER REIGNING

BY NEVILLE MANNING

Do you occasionally have the experience of singing or hearing a hymn that is so powerful it keeps running through your mind for days afterwards?

That is my repeated experience where Michael Saward's "Christ triumphant, ever reigning" is concerned, especially if sung to the usual tune Guiting Power. Those who have been to the annual Blessing of the Oils service in Chichester Diocese in Holy Week, when the hymn is often sung, will know exactly what I mean.

Michael Saward, who has just died at the age of 82, had a distinguished career. He was born in 1932, came to Christian faith some 14 years later and was ordained in Canterbury Cathedral. In addition to having been vicar of two London parishes, he had several interesting appointments, including radio and TV officer for Archbishop Michael Ramsey and Canon Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral, London.

He was also a key member of both the Jubilate Group of hymnwriters and the Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

Of more than 100 hymns written by Michael Saward, "Christ triumphant, ever reigning" is probably the best known. The usual tune Guiting Power, named after a village in Gloucestershire, was composed by John Barnard, although there is also a lesser-used tune by Michael Baughen.

"CEASELESSLY
UPON YOU
GAZING, THIS
SHALL BE OUR
SONG".

Good Christian hymns need to express good theology and that is certainly true of Christ triumphant in all it affirms about the person and work of our Lord. There is a wise balance between the themes of Christ the victim and Christ the victor.

"Suffering servant, scorned, ill treated, victim crucified" recognises the vulnerability and pain of Jesus but not at the expense of the other side of the paradox which realises,

as the Gospel according to St John stresses, that Jesus is still Lord at his passion: "Christ triumphant, ever reigning".

There is also the right balance between Jesus as both the self-revelation of the eternal God and one who shares our real humanity: "power and majesty concealing by your humble birth". Alongside the sense of what Jesus did here on earth there is also recognition of him as he is now in eternity: "priestly King, enthroned for ever, high in heaven above".

The closing verse effectively brings home that our only proper response to the story of the Christ is the offering of worship: "So, our hearts and voices raising through the ages long, ceaselessly upon you gazing, this shall be our song".

One of the key points Bishop Richard made in his presentation of emerging diocesan strategy was the need for confidence in the transforming power of the Gospel. That confidence is certainly something which is transmitted in Michael Saward's vibrant hymn.

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL

PIPE ORGAN TECHNICIAN

Pipe organ technician consultant based in Chichester, West Sussex
Email: pot@consultant.com
Or telephone: 07785101334

LENT RESOURCES

Forty Lent and Easter resource and ideas can be found at
www.chichester.anglican.org

CLERGY FAMILY WALKS

Starting at 2:30pm and usually covering about four miles followed by tea back at a church. Sunday 8 March from St Andrews, Jevington then after, for tea, at St John Meads, Eastbourne; Sunday 19 April Holy Trinity, Hurstpierpoint, Saturday 16 May, St Mary's Barcombe; Sunday 27 September, St Georges, Crowhurst and Saturday 3 October, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Singleton. Email clergywalks@chichester.anglican.org to RSVP for catering. The walks and other activities are open to all clergy, their families and friends. A programme can be found on the diocesan website www.chichester.anglican.org/parish-life

ST. CUTHMAN'S FOR 2015!

There are some exciting events occurring throughout the year, and we are also pleased to announce a new venture in conjunction with St Beuno's Ignatian Spirituality Centre. This year we will be running two Individually Guided Retreats, one for seven nights and the other for 9 nights, which will be led by directors from St Beuno's

CUTHMAN LECTURE

The Next Cuthman Lecture is on Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at 7.30pm In The Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning. The speaker will be Hannah Leader and her topic will be 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' The Cuthman Lectures are open to anyone who is interested. There will be a retiring collection.

ECOCONGREGATION STARTER EVENT

Friday 24th September 2014, 10am – 1pm, Church House, Hove
At Diocesan Synod in November 2014 the diocese passed an environmental policy that encouraged parishes to look at how our churches celebrate and safeguard creation. A simple step by step guide for doing this is provided by Ecocongregation (ew.ecocongregation.org) through their audit. A training session on how to get started with this, including stories from those churches in the diocese that have already been successful in winning an Ecocongregation award, is being offered to help parishes get going. Plus participants will get a first glimpse of the new Ecocongregation toolkit available January 2015. To book a place email Mark Betson: m.betson@hotmail.co.uk

A STUDY DAY FOR LOCAL CLERGY, FAITH LEADERS, SPIRITUAL CARERS AND PASTORAL WORKERS

Wednesday 4 March 09.30-14.00
The Education Centre: St Barnabas House: Cost £30 Facilitated by Stephen Gurr: Hospice Chaplain. This study session seeks to engage with those involved in pastoral care of the dying in their faith communities. To book a place email education@stbh.org.uk

LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR CLERGY AND READERS

Led by the Revd Neil Roberts, Vicar of Steyning and Rector of Ashurst. Thursday 5 March at St. Andrew and St. Cuthman's Church, Steyning. BN44 3YL. 10.30-4.00. Spaces re limited for more information contact: Rebecca Swyer, Diocesan Church House, 211 New Church Road, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 4ED. Tel: 01273 425693 or email IMEAdmin@chichester.anglican.org

MUSIC

CHICHESTER BAROQUE CHOIR AND PLAYERS

The Lay Vicars of Chichester Cathedral

Chichester Cathedral
3 April 7.30pm
With the generous support of the Chichester Cathedral Friends
ST JOHN PASSION
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
By kind permission of the Dean & Chapter
Charles Harrison Director
Stefan Kennedy Evangelist
Basil McDonald Christus
FREE ENTRY, RETIRING COLLECTION

PILGRIMAGES

A PILGRIMAGE EXPLORING THE NORTHERN SAINTS

13th-17th July 2015

Led by Revd Dr Rob Marshall

Staying at the George Washington

Mercure Hotel, near Durham

(Monday - Friday)

Visit Whitby, Jarrow, Lastingham,

Lindisfarne, Holy Island, Bamburgh

Learn more about the Venerable

Bede and explore the lives of Hilda,

Cuthbert, Aidan and Cedd. Download

a brochure at

www.livingthegospel.co.uk

Tel 01992 579697

A PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA – IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

6th – 12th October 2015

Led by Andrew Birks

Staying at the four star Santana Hotel

near St Paul's Bay

Visit Valetta, Mdina, Rabat. Learn

about the megalithic temples of Hagar

Qim & Mnajdra. Explore the famous

Blue Grotto, fishing villages and the

peaceful island of Gozo.

Cost £699.00 per person

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THE CHICHESTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

To Rome and Assisi “One in Christ”:

Recovering a Shared Inheritance of Faith - A Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi led by Bishop Martin

9th - 16th April, 2016

Following the huge success of

our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in

2014, the 2016 pilgrimage will link

Chichester with Rome on a vibrant

and exciting journey of discovery

BROCHURES AVAILABLE

01992 576065

info@lightline.org.uk



CHURCH MAINTENANCE CALENDAR

March

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- » Check that eaves gutters and downpipes have not been damaged by frost. Look for cracks and leaks in rainwater goods and note damaged sections.

THINGS TO DO:

- » Parapets and valley gutters need to be cleared of snow to prevent melt water raising above them and causing damp internally. Extra caution is needed in icy conditions.

April

THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- » Check the roofs for frost, snow and wind damage. Debris on the ground from broken slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.
- » Check for splits and cracks in areas of flat or sloping sheet roofing.
- » Inspect lead flashings and mortar fillets at chimneys for signs of decay. Problems will include holes or splits in leadwork and erosion of mortar fillets.

THINGS TO DO:

- » Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees, or perched on by pigeons. Cast iron gutters may also require repainting.

May

THINGS TO DO:

- » Gulleys beneath rainwater pipes should be cleaned out regularly and drains should be rodded out if they overflow during wet weather. Remove silt and debris and ensure water discharges freely.
- » Make sure that windows and ventilators are operable so that the building can be ventilated on dry days during the summer months. Lubricate door and window ironmongery and check security of locks.
- » Shut down the heating system and have the boiler serviced. Bleed radiators if you have them and ensure that the frost thermostat is operational.
- » Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.



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help make a difference

Ramsay Hall at Worthing is one of several Supported Housing retirement complexes run by the Church of England Pensions Board, offering security and peace of mind to retired clergy and their widows or widowers and licensed lay workers.

Many of our pensioners need help to pay for their care. Your donation or legacy will help us to continue this much needed work for those who have cared for others in the name of Christ. Please help us in any way you can.

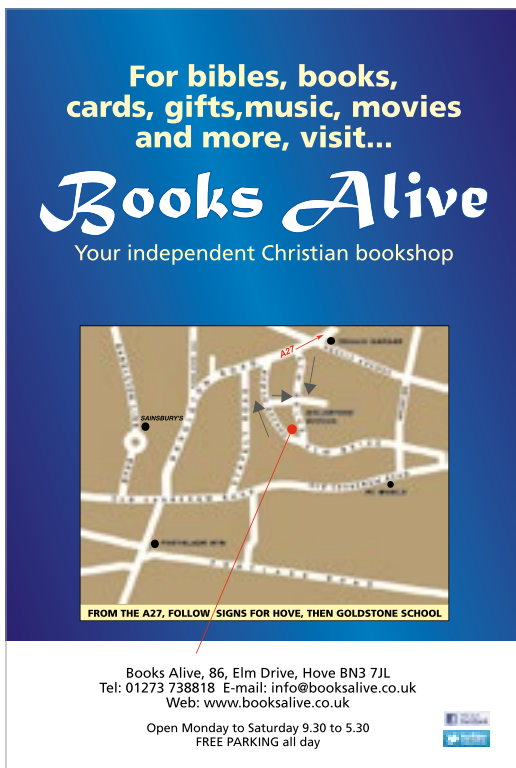
thank you

Contact us to find out more about giving: 020 7898 1800
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Website www.cepb.org.uk/appeals
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The Church of England
Pensions Board



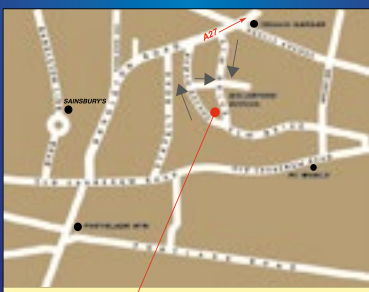
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