

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



LOVE IN THE TIME OF COVID

HEAR HOW OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES HAVE RALLIED
PAGES 16-21

MEET THE NEW BISHOPS OF HORSHAM AND LEWES

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE

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Hearing You service launched

EXCITEMENT BUILDS AS MAYCAMP GOES LIVE!

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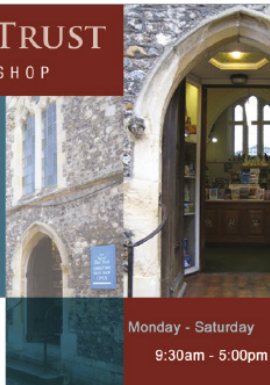
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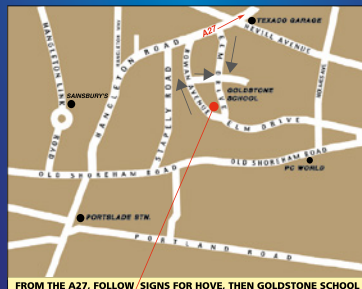
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“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

(Luke 18.8).

As we seek to sustain our life during this Coronavirus pandemic, there are many ways in which your Christian faith shines out like a thread of gold in the routine of lockdown.

This edition of Faith in Sussex is devoted to the signs of that faith. It might be found in something quite simple. The rainbow paintings of children are an indication of how powerful simple things can be.

I hope you will also find a similar sense of encouragement in the signs of faith that are the apostolic work of our life as a diocese. They are to be found in prayer and devotion, in care for another person by phone or social media, in some more active expression of your Christian faith in the local community, or in your daily work, sustaining the daily life of our nation.

This faith directs our attention clearly and unflinchingly towards the grief and loss that we are now experiencing. But it also proclaims the glory, joy and hope with which we endure and witness.

Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

+Martin





**FRIDAY
8th MAY**

**VE
DAY**

**75TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Join your neighbours
in a nationwide 'stay
at home' street party!

Prepare for the day by decorating your house in red, white and blue.

11am

2 minutes silence on your doorstep

3pm

Churchill speech shown on BBC

Then grab your picnic blankets or garden table and head to your front garden for:

4pm

Tea & scones (or coffee & cake)

6pm

Dinner and raise your glass to your neighbours

9pm

Nationwide sing-a-long to 'We'll meet again' with Royal British legion after the Queen's address

Please remember to follow the social distancing rules.



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BIG QUESTIONS EXPLORED IN NEW CATHEDRAL COURSE

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Chichester Diocese



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Diocese of Chichester



*Welcome to
the new bishops*
(FROM LOCK-DOWN)

The new bishops of Horsham and Lewes have been welcomed in the Diocese of Chichester after their appointments were announced from 10 Downing Street.

The Rev Ruth Bushyager, currently vicar of St Paul's, Dorking, in the Diocese of Guildford, will serve as Bishop of Horsham. The Rev William Hazlewood, currently vicar of the United Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham in the Diocese of Exeter, will be the next Bishop of Lewes.

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, said it was “a very significant day in the life of the Diocese of Chichester:

He said: “It is the outcome of prayer, across the diocese and beyond, that has sustained us in this complex and demanding appointment process.

“The announcement of who will serve as bishop of Horsham and bishop of Lewes now comes as a joyful pledge of hope and confidence in the Church’s mission beyond the painful restrictions that responding to the coronavirus pandemic demands of us.

“We gladly open our hearts to Ruth and to Will, and to the wonderfully diverse gifts and experience they will bring to our apostolic life, as we welcome them and their families into this household of faith.”

A video launch hosted by the Bishop of Chichester, during which he welcomed his two new colleagues, was streamed online. This was the first virtual introduction of new bishops since the current lockdown began.

A date for their consecration as bishop has yet to be announced.



Ruth Bushyager was ordained priest in 2006 and after serving in the Southwell and Nottingham and Oxford dioceses became area missionary for the Kensington area in the Diocese of London in 2010. She has served as vicar of St Paul's, Dorking, since 2014 and now also serves as area dean of Dorking.

St Paul's is a large church in Dorking with three thriving congregations and a resource church ministry.

The Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Rev Andrew Watson, said: "Chichester Diocese is hugely blessed to have Ruth as one of two new suffragan bishops. Ruth is a remarkable teacher of the faith, who combines a deep love for Jesus with a real creativity and enthusiasm as a church leader and missionary. She has witnessed significant church growth during her time

"I am really looking forward to getting to know the churches, chaplaincies and schools of the diocese and seeing how I can help to encourage and serve their mission."

as vicar of St Paul's Dorking and has made her mark in the wider life of the town, deanery and diocese, as well as nationally and beyond. She will leave a large hole behind her, but I am thrilled that Chichester, and the Church of England more generally, will now be able to benefit from her insight and energy."

Ruth said she felt humbled and excited by the appointment. She said: "As Bishop of Horsham I will be part of Bishop Martin's senior team and serve with them to help further the vision of the

diocese – for all to know, love and follow Jesus. I have a passion to see churches growing through fruitful evangelism and discipleship.

Ruth is married to Ron, a psychotherapist, and they have two young daughters. When not working, Ruth enjoys cross country running with her dog Maisie. As a family they love holidays in Devon and walking in the French Alps.

Ruth succeeds the Right Rev Mark Sowerby, who is now principal of the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield.



Will Hazlewood has been a priest since 2002. He served his curacy in the centre of Bristol before moving to Buckinghamshire to the parish of Iver Heath. He moved to the Diocese of Exeter in 2011 to be incumbent of Dartmouth and Dittisham, a market town and village in the South Hams. He became prebendary of Exeter Cathedral in 2017.

In his current role Will has sought to find new ways to imaginatively re-engage the church with the communities it seeks to serve. He plays a full part in the Diocese of Exeter, is a guardian of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and co-founder of Family Fest Southwest, an annual faith-based family camping weekend. His wife Sophie grew up in Sussex and is a project manager. They have two young children.

I'm looking forward to discovering what God is already doing and how each of us might more effectively join in so that God's unconditional love may be made known."

He said: "I'm really looking forward to getting started. My first task is to listen and get to know the clergy and people of the diocese so that I can discern how to support the local mission of the church in all aspects of its life, to help discover what God is already doing and how each of us might more effectively join in so that God's unconditional love may be made known."

The Bishop of Exeter, the Right Rev Robert Atwell, said: "Will Hazlewood is an outstanding priest and pastor, as the people of Dartmouth and Dittisham will gladly testify. He has engaged with families and children in such imaginative ways through Family Fest,

an annual family camping weekend, which he helped found. With Will, faith and fun go together. I am delighted at his appointment as suffragan bishop of Lewes, knowing that he will bring to his new role in Sussex an instinctive understanding of the joys and challenges of being a Christian today."

Will has a classic 1970s' Alfa Romeo usually in several bits in his garage, revealing his love of classic cars. He enjoys cooking, fixing things, walking and spending as much time as he can

Will succeeds the Right Rev Richard Jackson who is now Bishop of Hereford.

NEWS ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

CHURCH GOES DIGITAL

Churches must close and clergy cannot enter their own churches. That was the stark message issued by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York last month in a bid to help control the pandemic.

Since the announcement, churches have been looking at new ways to connect, to pray and worship. The result is a dramatic rise in clergy and laity utilising digital media tools... and doing it really well.

From Facebook Live streams and premiering pre-recorded videos to video conferencing service and video chat calls, many churches have started to use these tools. And it is encouraging to see how well their content is being received, with some church pages achieving record views.

The Bishop of Chichester has also gone digital, streaming and recording services and messages from his chapel in Chichester.

The bishops and his colleagues have also recorded daily videos to support and encourage people in their daily worship and prayers. These will continue at least through to Ascension and Pentecost. You can watch again any of the YouTube videos on the diocesan website at www.chichester.angican.org/videos



ARCHDEACON STEPS DOWN

The Archdeacon of Horsham, Fiona Windsor, will retire from full-time ministry this summer following a prolonged spell of ill health.

The Bishop of Chichester Dr Martin Warner commended Fiona for her “outstanding ministry” and her qualities as an “evangelist, a strategist and a wonderfully caring archdeacon”.

She will continue as chaplain to HM The Queen, an appointment announced recently.

A farewell service of thanksgiving for Archdeacon Fiona and her husband Robin has been postponed.

Canon Julia Peaty and Rev Derek Welsman have been appointed as acting archdeacons for an interim period.

REV PAULINE LUCAS

It was with great sadness that the diocese heard of the death of Rev Pauline Lucas, vicar of Kirdford with Plaistow and Ifold, who died on Good Friday.

Pauline was a great friend and colleague to many in this diocese. We continue to pray for Stephen Lucas and his family and we pray for her parish and for Chichester Cursillo family too, as Pauline played a key role in its mission. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Details of plans to celebrate Pauline’s life and ministry will be announced later.



DAILY HOPE, FREE NATIONAL PHONE LINE FOR HYMNS AND PRAYERS

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of coronavirus.

Daily Hope, which is available now, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

It is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 and has been set up particularly for those unable to join online church services during the restrictions. You can find out more on the Church of England's website www.churchofengland.org



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

CAN I SEE A CHAPLAIN PLEASE?

Due to Covid-19 restrictions it has been challenging for NHS staff to control visitors to hospital but chaplains have now had a little help so they can be admitted when a patient needs to see them.

Chichester Diocese, in consultation with hospital chaplains, has launched a simple card for people to print and take into hospital with them. It says they are a Christian and agree to a chaplain to visit them in hospital. These have been distributed via churches and the hospital chaplaincy.

You can download the card from the diocesan website www.chichester.anglican.org/news

WALSINGHAM CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE

More than 60 children from across Chichester Diocese attended the last children's pilgrimage to Walsingham in February, one of the last groups to go before lockdown.

Walsingham is now closed due to the Government restrictions but assures everyone the education and learning team is still planning for the future and very much looking forward to hearing from schools and parishes wishing to visit. You can contact Caroline Ward at C.ward@OLW-shrine.org.uk for details.

NEWS ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

MA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

An MA course on Christian ministry is on offer at the University of Chichester and has been designed with the needs of busy clergy and laity in mind.

It is taught at Three 3-day schools. (Aug 25-27 then Jan 5-7 and May 11-13. All Tues -Thurs). It has been designed to enhance the ministerial practice and theological expertise of clergy and lay people.

The Rev Dr Earl Collins is the diocesan continuing ministry development officer and has been involved, with others, in the development of some of the modules. He said: "The MA is offered at a very affordable rate for clergy in the Diocese of Chichester. The diocese administers a scheme which means the MA is part of the CMD process and is supported financially by the diocese."

You can explore the programme further in the course leaflet which can be found here and also on the university website [here](#). More details are available from g.smith@chi.ac.uk, 01243 816191, University of Chichester, Bishop Otter campus, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 6PE | chi.ac.uk/finfus

VULNERABLE YOUNG CARERS

The Children's Society is concerned about hidden young carers and the impacts of coronavirus.



The Children's Society

It fears they have become even more vulnerable during the pandemic and is doing all it can to support them.

The society is available to young carers and their support workers and wants to find out what their needs are and allow them to share their worries and their priorities.

Working closely alongside Government departments, the society will ensure young carers' needs are included in responses from both national and local government and support agencies.

The Children's Society thanks the Church and school communities for all they do to support and encourage its work.

To find out more about the work with and for young carers, contact Helen Leadbitter, area manager and National Young Carers lead at helen.leadbitter@childrenssociety.org.uk

HOW TO HOLD A VIRTUAL CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Christian Aid week runs from May 10 to 16 and there are many resources available on its website, including advice on how to hold a virtual Christian Aid service, how to run an online quiz and top tips for fundraising ideas. There are also prayer resources and a pre-recorded video sermon from former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams. See www.christianaid.org.uk.



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS, FRIDAY 8 MAY

Public events have been cancelled but we can still have commemorations online.

You may also want to make use of two events being organised by the Royal British Legion:

1. Live streaming will take place of a 45-minute long service beginning at 11.15am on May 8th. <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-75-livestream>
2. A national sing-along will take place at 9pm on 8th May on the BBC, with Dame Vera Lynne singing 'We'll Meet Again'; <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-singalong>

Find out what the Cathedral is doing for VE Day on page 39. or visit www.chichester.anglican.org/VEday



CHURCH WORKERS CARE HOME

Terrys Cross House, a retirement and care home for former clergy and church workers, has been rated “good” by inspectors after a previous inspection found grounds for improvement.

The impressive Victorian building, bequeathed to the former Chichester Diocesan Housing Association, is nestled in the heart of the West Sussex countryside near Henfield, with outstanding views over the South Downs.

The board of trustees oversees the management of staff and buildings, ensuring continued improvements to the home and the experience for its residents.

Manager Lynn Knowelden was pleased with the verdict from the Care Quality Commission inspectors. She said: “It has taken a lot of hard work, dedication and some necessary changes to ensure we received the rating we have.

“We can only continue to support people in being as independent as they can for as long as they can in the least restrictive way possible.

“Communication between staff and residents and responding to residents’ feedback about the home and support they individually require has been key in moving forward.

“Currently, during Covid, we have needed to put in additional measures as required by the regulatory bodies. Lockdown has been challenging but we are all coping as best we can and everyone is well and healthy.”

Rev Christina Bennett, who chairs the trustees, was delighted the rating has improved. She said: “All the trustees are very grateful to the staff, led by the registered manager Lynn Knowelden. They have all worked very hard to achieve this. We look forward to continuing to care for retired clergy and all our residents, now during this challenging time of Covid, and into the future.”

See the full report on the Terrys Cross website, www.terryscross.co.uk.

There is
no health



without
mental
health!

St Saviour's Church signs up to the Friendly Places Pledge.

The Diocese Vision for Growth 2020 – 2025 has been launched and at Together in Sussex we believe that becoming a more mental health friendly church can demonstrate your commitment to the FOUR MORES strategy.

'Faith Action' have compiled some practical ideas on how you could make your church more inclusive and supportive to those who are going through difficult times with their mental health (this is going to be more important than ever post lockdown). You can sign up to the Friendly Places Pledge, where your church makes a commitment to be a place, which welcomes and supports those struggling with their mental health.

Mental health is just as important as our physical health. Like our bodies, our minds change and develop throughout our lives. And, like our bodies, our minds can become unwell. One in four of us is likely to visit our GP in connection with mental ill health concerns. Every faith community contains people who have experienced or experiencing mental health challenges.

There is a significant and positive role for our church to play in support of people with mental health challenges - both within our congregations and in the wider community. It's crucial that a church draws those with mental health challenges, as with others, into a place of genuine relationship.



Visit www.togetherinsussex.org.uk/whats-new to find out how you can become a more mental health friendly church or contact Elle Weaver, Head of Mental health & Wellbeing, elle.weaver@togetherinsussex.org.uk

You are not alone...
someone is

Hearing You



HEARING YOU is a new pastoral support phone line, launched by the Diocese of Chichester in partnership with Together In Sussex.

It is not an emergency service. It is a human, Christian response to anyone who rings the helpline on 01273 425047.

Elle Weaver is the development manager and head of wellbeing and mental health

for Together In Sussex. She is also a trained Samaritan counsellor and has advised how the helpline operates.

The service works to support people suffering from bereavement, isolation, anxiety, stress, fear and loneliness.

Elle said: "During this global coronavirus pandemic we are facing a tragic loss of life, often under very difficult circumstances. If you are

bereaved, you may have to deal with an increase in your own anxiety, stress and fear.

"Isolation and lockdown might mean you are cut off from some of those you usually rely on, your family and friends. It is heart-breaking if someone dies and you cannot even be with them. You may cope with bereavement differently to others, perhaps feeling emotional, feeling the need to be strong, feeling exhausted. Your emotional response is individual to you, there is no right or wrong way to respond but talking about how you are feeling can help."

Hearing You was launched to offer a listening ear and a prayer and act as a signpost to a local church or community support.

Hearing You was launched to offer a listening ear and a prayer and act as a signpost to a local church or community support.

One of the curates on the helpline said a typical caller found out about the helpline from a letter sent to them as someone classed as "vulnerable". The curate said: "They shared some of their anxieties and experiences of life during lockdown. They talked about their faith and the reassurance that gave them. It was a privilege to encourage them with some words of scripture and to pray for them."

Hearing You is for everyone living in Sussex and is open to people of faith or no faith. Also download a poster [here](#)

**TOGETHER
IN SUSSEX**

**DIOCESE OF
CHICHESTER**
TO KNOW • LOVE • FOLLOW JESUS

PARISH NEWS

WE HAVE been delighted to see all the activity and creativity taking place across the diocese.

We have shared all sorts of great online content for worship and mission outreach, including plenty of live-streamed services, virtual coffee mornings, Sunday schools, Messy Church, assemblies and even worship workouts and cheering the NHS and frontline workers. And that's not to mention all the different ways churches have been serving their communities and helping the homeless, housebound and elderly with food banks, hot cooked meals and a listening ear, to name but a few.

Here is just a snapshot of what is happening - thank you for sharing your stories.

GOOD ADVICE

Sue Wharton, priest in charge at Lower Beeding and Cowfold, is enjoying live streaming. She said: "I was nervous to start with but was unafraid to ask for help and one good bit of advice was to practise first. I am now gaining confidence and others are contributing to the content. Not all of our parishioners are on Facebook so I email out, using blind copies, the readings and my sermon to help them stay in touch with church."



Walking with Jesus - church members get creative making their own footprints. A good excuse to get outside in the sunshine and get messy

SHARP LEARNING CURVE

Marc Lloyd, rector of Warbleton, Bodle Street Green and Dallington and rural dean of Dallington, is getting used to online church. He said: "Church services online have been a sharp learning curve for me, but I've been delighted to hear how much people have appreciated our efforts and pleased by the number of people who have watched the services and who have liked or commented, some of who are far from being regulars on the Sunday.

"We've been live-streaming services and an audio of the sermon is made available on our church website as normal. Those who don't have the internet can also phone a number to hear the audio sermon.



MARC LLOYD

"Each week we are trying to make the Sunday service live stream better by including videos of readings and songs using Open Broadcasting software, but it feels to me a bit more like trying to fly a spaceship than lead a conventional service."

IT'S BEEN FUN

Hollie, church youth leader from Wadhurst, has taken her children and youth clubs online. She now runs Jellybeans Toddler Group, J Club and Grid Youth Group through video conferencing and so far it has proved a hit.



She said: "I raided the church vestry for the box of puppets and prepared to go online.

"Routine and seeing familiar faces is very important so for all our groups, video or video conferencing, I try and do something similar to what we would be doing together. It doesn't need to be perfect. Planning the videos with my boys and our dog make it so much more fun and we've had some lovely feedback."



PRAISE YOU NHS

Father Anthony Murley from The Ascension, Brighton, delights passersby with a projection of the NHS sign on to a stained glass window in his church to honour all the NHS are doing. And Rev James di Castiglione from Chanctonbury group of churches in West Sussex sent in this great photo of Ashington church which lights up on Thursday nights in tribute to the NHS and frontline workers.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Father Chris Brading from St Richard's, Haywards Heath, said: "Streaming our Sunday Mass is helping to maintain a sense of unity of prayer among our extended church family. We have tried to maintain as much consistency as practical, between what we do in church and online. The feedback has been very positive, with people really appreciating how they have been able to continue to gather as a Christian family on Sunday morning."



CROWNING GLORY FOR HOLIDAY CLUB

Rev David Beale from St Mary's, Billingshurst, and a team of helpers had a hit with a virtual children's holiday club during the Easter break. Crowns And Crowds was a series of videos, activities and storytelling for families throughout Holy Week. On top of that the church has a partnership with community groups in Billingshurst to set up a coronavirus support group to help people in the village. You can still view the material from the church website here.



A PRAYER FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS

**Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your
mercy.
Sustain and support the
anxious,
be with those who care for
the sick,
and lift up all who are
brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can
separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen**

COMMUNITY RALLIES DURING CRISIS



A VICAR has helped direct a rapid response to the coronavirus crisis, leading a major community effort to support all those isolated or housebound because of Covid-19.

Rev Arwen Folkes, vicar of East Blatchington and Bishopstone, Seaford, sprang into action just before nationwide lockdown began.

An old Facebook group, originally set up to assist in a past flooding season, was repurposed and soon a significant and effective volunteer effort was under way, with hundreds of helpers coming forward.

A partnership grew between the town's churches, people in the community and councillors across the political spectrum, some of who have never met apart from across Zoom and Facebook.

Using an old landline number, listed with St Peter's Church, thousands of leaflets were printed and delivered to every household in the town over one weekend.

Seaford Volunteer Emergency Team, SVET, now runs a helpline from 8am to 8pm seven days a week, manned by a team of phone volunteers on shifts - the phone number is diverted to each of their homes. Residents can also make requests for help via the website. The helpline currently receives between 20-50 calls each day

Recognising the longevity of the situation, SVET is about to launch a tier 2 level of support through a telephone befriending Scheme called 'Listening Ear'. A team of

trained volunteers will be contacting the residents who have used the service to offer regular chats.

A further team of dispatchers works a rota of shifts to batch the tasks and then get them out to the volunteers who are active right across Seaford. The tasks are mainly shopping and collecting prescriptions, but there have been requests for heaters, lawn mowing, collections from and for the GP surgeries, self isolating NHS staff and even just a friendly voice on the phone.

Funding, big and small, has come from the Church, councils and Rotary clubs. The churches have pooled resources such as administrative staff, phone lines, financial management and safeguarding supervision. A bespoke web app and database system was created and donated by Hot Horse Ltd which enabled SVET to have a very sophisticated way of managing the immense goodwill that has come forward from across the town.

The Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes Martin Lloyd Williams said: "Seaford churches have mobilised hundreds of volunteers and distributed 11,000 leaflets.

They have set up an emergency helpline, an HQ to co-ordinate responses and a huge team of delivery volunteers. The diocese is certainly celebrating all that has been done in Seaford to bring help and support to the isolated and vulnerable.”

The vicar at the centre of it all, Arwen Folkes, has been responding to all kinds of media attention (including from the BBC and Channel 4) as well as running a parish and keeping on top of the SVET responses.

She said: “I have met more people from across the community in the last few weeks than I have since arriving here a year ago. It has been incredible to see the level of goodwill that has emerged and to be able to use the church resources, alongside the time and energy of others, to channel that compassion and charity in the right and safest directions.

“The needs that we are hearing about are acute and difficult and we are well aware that this is a marathon and not a sprint. We are beginning to sense the difficulties for mental health that arise with such a degree of isolation and so beyond providing support for the practical aspects, we are hoping to provide another level of support through a trained

“The generosity of people and the power of compassion to enable people to overcome their differences is just incredible. The churches are working closely together, the volunteers are speaking so willingly to people they’ve never met before, members of political parties are working together in ways that political boundaries wouldn’t normally allow.”

and supervised ‘listening ear’ project the diocese launched recently called Hearing You.

“From the donation of a bespoke designed web app by Hot Horse Ltd, to the provision of financial management, to the time and commitment of these incredible volunteers who are queeuing up daily to collect goods and medicines for the vulnerable, or those who answer the phones, and process the requests, the management team are daily

in awe of what has organically grown for this town and united so many in a common compassion.

“We’ve helped people near and far including a family based in Barcelona who have their elderly mother living here in Seaford. We have been able to ensure she is provided for by our service.

“It leads us all to wonder what legacy we might be able to leave when the pandemic crisis subsides.”

STATISTICS

By April 21 the helpline had received 1,300 calls on the helpline (launched on March 28) with at least 840 requests for help

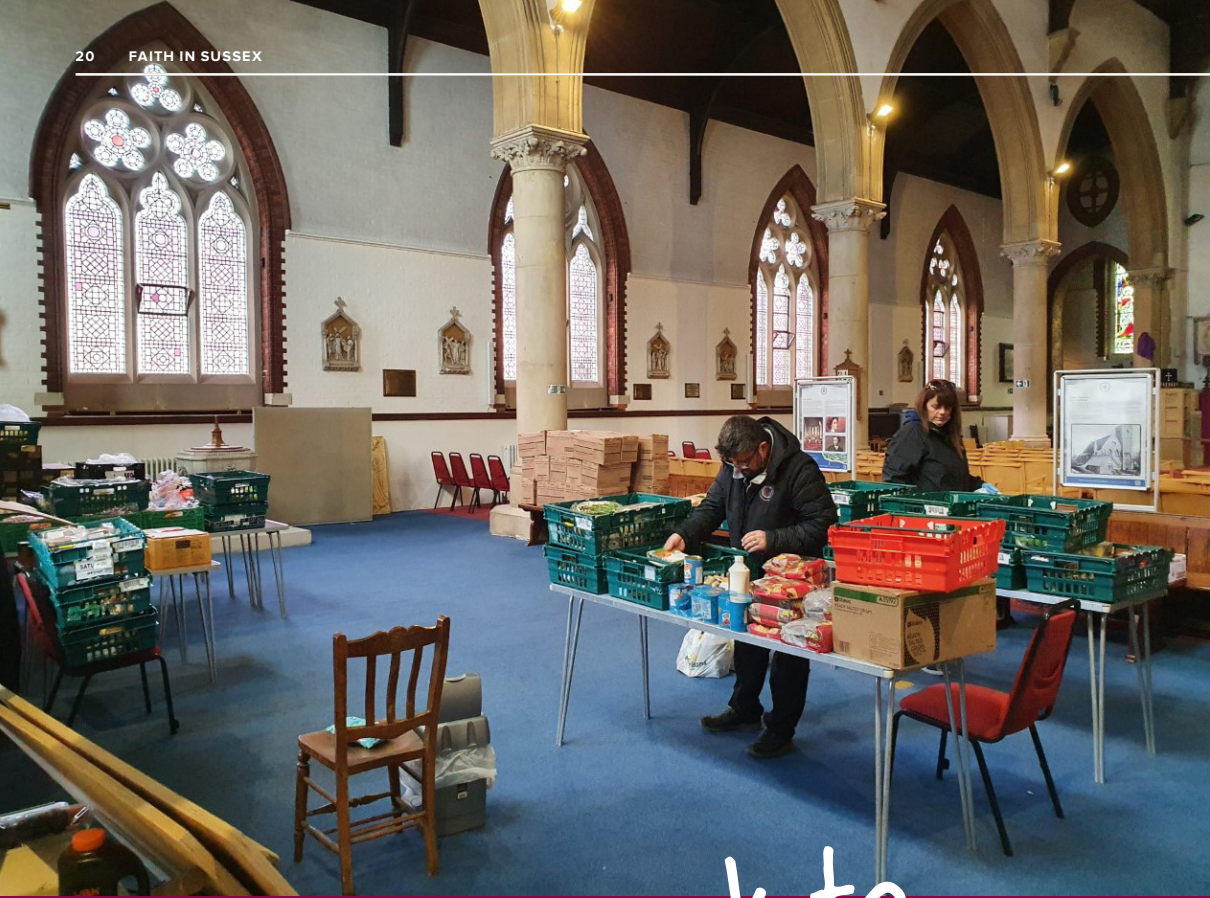
200 volunteers signed up offering to do collections, deliveries, shopping

50 volunteers are ready for the next phase “listening ear” service

11,000 households have received a leaflet

The Facebook group has 1,388 members

£8,200 has been provided in funds to help pay expenses such as personal protective equipment, cash flow for shopping and card readers, phone line



Heroic work to feed the needy



A church in Eastbourne has become a radically different kind of church since Covid 19 and the UK lockdown.

Rooted in prayer and service, a ministry to the homeless and vulnerable has been operating from one of the halls at Christ Church for almost twenty years. It is called the Matthew 25 Mission (M25M).

But since many other outreach services in the town have had to cease operating because of the pandemic, M25M has seen an unprecedented rise in demand.

Fr David Charles, Vicar at Christ Church said: “Originally the proposal was to use part of the church to accommodate guests who come to M25M for meals.

“But to meet increasing demand and to conform to Government guidance relating to social distancing, we decided to reconfigure the west end of church and the north aisle to cater for an additional 20 guests.

“However, while this worked for a few days, it quickly became clear, following discussions with the borough council (they have their own equivalent of a ‘Cobra meeting’), that M25M would have to move to serving takeaway meals only.

“This necessitated an entire re-think, but the upshot is the west end of church is now being used to store all the food that is being donated by the local supermarkets for M25M to prepare in the hall itself. Meals are then served from outside the centre (ie from the church path/car park area). The queueing system, with seats spaced at 2.5m intervals, ensures that social distancing is upheld and the standards of hygiene and safety are rigorous.”

M25M is now serving up to 200 meals a day, through daily breakfasts and afternoon meals, alongside food parcels which are distributed across the local community, and evening takeaways on a couple of nights of the week.

On current projections, M25M expects to serve 13,000 more meals this year [as compared with last] as a direct result of the pandemic.



From the church’s perspective, we are proud of being able to ‘step up to the plate’ in this regard, and to engage with our local community in a very visible and meaningful way. One post, detailing news of developments at M25M on our parish Facebook page, attracted over 7000 views.”

The Centre Manager, Oscar Plumley, said, “We have long enjoyed our partnership with the Church, to support people with both their physical and emotional needs, alongside their spiritual ones. During this time of crisis, it’s been great to work even more closely as a team, to serve the most vulnerable in our community.”

The Archdeacon of Hastings, Edward Dowler said: “The Matthew 25 Centre continues to do heroic work in a very poor part of Eastbourne and you will see the church itself is now being used as an integral part of the operation to provide hot meals for the increased number of people who use the centre.”



PRAYER AND CARE

Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost. Since its launch in 2016 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Christians from 172 countries and 65 denominations have taken part in praying for friends and family to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

The 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come have always been full of expectation and anticipation, and during the coronavirus pandemic we expect no different. As the Lord Jesus ascended, He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable the disciples to be witnesses. As they waited for the promise to be fulfilled, they devoted themselves constantly to prayer (Acts 1:14). So, the renewed call across the church during these days is to pray for five people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Rob Dillingham, diocesan parish development officer, said: “We need to engage with this on the run up to Pentecost. Never has our country been more in need of knowing, loving and following Jesus. There are lots of excellent resources available nationally, free and easy to download.

“The key focus of this time should be to pray for our friends and family who don’t know Jesus.

“It’s very simple. Each person should list five people they want to pray for, on their phones, tablets, white boards or old school with a piece of paper, and then pray for these people every morning and evening in the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost. During this tough season, give it a go and pray for thy Kingdom to come in your home, village, town or city.”

Here are five ideas for your church, family and individual reflection, inspired by Thy Kingdom Come.

As a church

1. Join together in daily prayer across video calling platforms
2. Set up virtual prayer stations by posting on your church’s social media page or Facebook/WhatsApp group every hour with a new challenge or “prayer station”
3. Organise a special virtual service or event – make sure to register it on the Thy Kingdom Come website

Embark on a family prayer adventure

1. Commit to pray together, perhaps during meals or bedtime

[2. Enjoy the Thy Kingdom Come family prayer map. Watch Archbishop Justin Welby try it out! \(downloadable poster is situated below the video\)](#)

[3. Listen to the family podcast on the Thy Kingdom Come website](#)

4. Hold your own Messy Church and get creative

Individual prayer

[1. Use the Thy Kingdom Come journal for daily prayer](#)

2. Write down five names you will be praying for as a reminder

3. Use a piece of string and tie five knots in it as another reminder to pray for your friends and family to know Jesus

[4. Download the Thy Kingdom Come app \(also available Google Play\) with daily prayers, reflections, readings and videos](#)

5. Place a candle in your window to “shine your light” on the world

Find out more and how to take part and order resources: www.thykingdomcome.global

Don’t forget to use the hashtag #ThyKingdomCome and #prayerandcare

Order all your prayer and care resources from www.cpo.org.uk/TKC-2020



Maycamp goes live

(and no queueing for showers)

By Dan Jenkins Diocesan Youth Officer

CORONAVIRUS has affected all our lives and has meant most festivals and events have been cancelled or postponed.

But lockdown can't stop the May Camp festival, which is now in its fourth decade.

Back in March we made the heart-breaking, but right, decision to cancel the physical May Camp at Plumpton Racecourse.

We prayed about what to do in this season of Covid-19 to support young people across the diocese. We heard loud and clear that May Camp has been a consistent event in the Diocese of Chichester for nearly 40 years and we were not going to let lockdown hold us back from being together and learning

from God.

So May Camp 2020 is STILL ON, but in a different format. It may not be not in person but it will be live online.

May Camp Live will be coming to a device near you on May 23 and 24.

We have been working hard to line up the usual madness and mayhem of challenges along with great seminars, Bible-centred teaching, excellent worship and more, all to be broadcast live over the May Camp weekend.

If you have never been before, this will be a great way to get involved and have a taste of the weekend

from the comfort of your own home - and no queueing for showers.


We have a great team who have been working hard with the technical side of how we can do this and we have others who have jumped at the opportunity to be part of the May Camp experience and family.

Come and join us over the weekend of May 23 and 24 - www.maycamp.org/live has all the information you need.

Follow us on our socials

Twitter:
twitter.com/DioChiYouth

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/diochiyouth



Cash boost for historic church

“All Saints is a centre of renewal, hope and hospitality. In both unobtrusive and grand ways, thousands of people know it as a place of inspiration.”

A MUCH-LOVED church is to share in a £330,000 funding payout from the National Churches Trust.

A £40,000 Cornerstone Grant will help restore the two east towers of All Saints in Hove and preserve its historic fabric for the future.

The vicar, Father Ryan Green, said everyone involved in All Saints was extremely thankful for the generosity of the National Churches Trust in assisting in this “very significant restoration project”.

He said: “All Saints is a Grade I listed building of national significance and the state of our east towers has recently meant that our heritage has been at risk. We can now stabilise our towers and look to the future as we continue to be a gathering place for our community to experience the beauty and mystery of God and to feel the embrace of his inclusive love.”

Ann Joyce and Adrian Herbert, church wardens at All Saints, were overjoyed by the announcement.

They said: “This is brilliant news that has alleviated a great deal of anxiety, particularly at this difficult time, that will ensure the continuation of a wonderful church and its vibrant community in Hove. We are most grateful to the National Churches Trust.”

The Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes Martin Lloyd Williams said All Saints has played a central role in the spiritual and civic life of Hove since 1901 and the grant would “enhance the church’s ability to go on enriching the life of the community for years to come”.

He said: “All Saints is a centre of renewal, hope and hospitality. In both unobtrusive and grand ways, thousands of people know it as a place of inspiration. Thank you to the National Churches Trust for supporting this.”

Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards is vice president of the National Churches Trust. He said: “The UK’s historic churches and chapels are a vital part of our national heritage. During the coronavirus pandemic churches are doing so much to help vulnerable local people and boost morale”.

These grants are the first made this year. Last year the National Churches Trust distributed more than £1.2 million to 176 churches and chapels around the UK.

All Saints has been described as “probably the most magnificent of our 19th century parish churches in England”. The late Victorian Gothic style church, built of Sussex sandstone and Sussex oak at near cathedral size, was designed by John Pearson, best known for Truro Cathedral, and constructed between 1889 and 1901.

Composer Ralph Vaughan-Williams was married in the church in 1897 and the then Prince of Wales attended a service there the year before.

The church’s organ is one of the finest Hill organs in England, encased in an outstanding double fronted case of magnificent proportions. Other internal fixtures include oak choir stalls and canopies, a stone pulpit and a red marble seven-sided font.



SUPPORT CAN TRANSFORM LIVES

Spotlight on young people with special needs



Dr Irene Smale
Diocesan Children’s and
Families Work Adviser.

SUPPORTING young people with special needs was one of the key topics at a training day focused on achieving an “all-inclusive church”.

The session for children’s leaders and clergy was part of the Diocesan Vision For Growth and the new Children’s and Family Work Strategy 2020-25.

The emphasis was on helping to support children and young people with additional needs

in their journey of faith. We also looked at church-based community initiatives to support families.

The day was led by Mark Arnold, additional needs ministry director of the national Christian children’s and youth organisation Urban Saints.

Mark is an enthusiastic national and international advocate for children and young people with additional and special needs or disabilities and is passionate about enabling everyone to be inspired, engaged, trained and well resourced in this ministry.

The day began with an overview of national statistics on such children and inclusion in general. Mark challenged some of the

myths surrounding work with children with additional needs. He spoke about the importance of understanding some of the key needs they have. He also explained how to identify and manage symptoms, for example, children with ADHD, autism, dyslexia or who are hard of hearing or have physical disabilities.

We looked at case studies and were asked to suggest ways challenges might be overcome through some of the methods Mark described. He gave tips and strategies to make church more accessible, inclusive and a place where everyone has a sense of belonging. He showed samples of resources and we were given an excellent workbook to take away with many website links and lots of further reading to explore.

Mark identified some of the benefits inclusion can bring to our communities via our church. He told moving stories about children and families whose lives had been radically transformed just by being accepted and included in church rather than turned away.

Through a truly all-inclusive church we have amazing opportunities for growth by supporting families, engaging with our communities and living out the Gospel with actions as well as words.

Mark's enthusiasm and passion for this specialist ministry came across in his informative and inspirational presentations. More than 40 people attended and their feedback showed how helpful this training was for all.

If you would like Mark to provide training in your church or deanery, email him at marnold@urbansaints.org.

Comment after the training day included:

“Not only did it help in equipping you to better support young people/children

with additional needs, but it helped you understand how to better engage with all people who learn differently.”

“It was brilliant to hear personal stories of success and to resonate with how churches are changing and adapting to support.”

“Helps to understand why children with special needs respond the way they do. Gives you knowledge and ideas on how you can act to support them.”

“We will spend time with the families of young people with additional needs, asking how better to support them and make youth sessions more interactive, being aware different children will learn differently.”

“We will feed back to the rest of our children's team and to the trustees at church, explore with parents what is working for their children at school and start putting more support in place in church.”

The Chichester Diocesan officer for disability is Rev John Naudé, associate vicar, The Point, Anglican Network Church for Mid Sussex. He has years of experience in this specialist field. He lives with a disability and has been a disability consultant/adviser for more than 25 years. John is happy to give advice via email or phone call. You can contact him at john@thepointchurch.co.uk.



MARK IS ALSO CO-FOUNDER OF THE ADDITIONAL NEEDS ALLIANCE AND IS A CHURCHES FOR ALL AND LIVING FULLY NETWORK PARTNER, A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL FOR DISABLED CHILDREN AND THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY NETWORK, AND WRITES A MONTHLY ADDITIONAL NEEDS COLUMN FOR PREMIER YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK MAGAZINE. HE BLOGS AS THE ADDITIONAL NEEDS BLOGFATHER AND IS FATHER TO JAMES, WHO IS AUTISTIC

HELP CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS UNDERSTAND CORONAVIRUS

Please hold parents, carers and schools who are responsible for children with additional needs in your prayers during this difficult time. Please also pray for the children themselves who must be confused about the disruption of their normal routine because of the lockdown. There is an excellent resource which helps children with additional needs to understand Covid-19 on the Youth and Children's work website, www.youthandchildrens.work.

There is a Covid19 response page on the diocesan website with resources for stay at home for children and families which can be found here:

youth.chichester.anglican.org/

GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING TOO!

Charity overwhelmed by support during pandemic

LIKE many charities, Family Support Work has had to adapt its ways of working since the coronavirus outbreak - and fill the gaps left by usual fundraising activities. Chief executive Martin Auton-Lloyd explains how life has changed for FSW.

FSW helps families in Sussex struggling with poverty, ill health, learning difficulties, bereavement, family break-up and domestic abuse.

Established in 1890 by a group of church women in Chichester, it gives support through children's activities, drop-in centres, home visits and groups for parents. It also provides food parcels, clothing, household goods and help with winter fuel bills.

People are wonderful!

As the pandemic has dominated the news and everyone's thoughts, here at Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work we have been amazed at how so many people from across Sussex have come forward to offer help to the 400 families we are supporting in so many new ways.

As the outbreak started, our fundraising events began to be cancelled and our income started drifting away. Then the archbishops closed the churches and our partner, The Diocese of Chichester, had to follow the order. Suddenly all the collection points for our food bank were gone. As schools closed, activities such as after-school clubs and drop-ins, vital links and support for parents and children, had to stop. Finally the face-to-face support for the families had to go as well.

Like everyone else, we turned to the phones - WhatsApp, Zoom and Facebook - to ensure our practitioners were accessible to the families, many now self-isolating because of pre-existing medical issues.

The vulnerable nature of our families means our work is needed more than ever as families come together in unusual and trying situations. We have a new mother on her own with her three-week-old baby, unable to access support from family and friends, another mum with two autistic children and two pre-school children living on the third



floor of a building with no lift. For some families in the early days the novelty for children of having mum and dad at home together was great - and there is a positive side to having time together - but as time moves on the strains will tell.

What is remarkable is how people have responded. First there was a cheque for £5 with a note saying "I normally give food at church but I can't, please use this to top up the food store". Then there were more and, without being asked, the people of Sussex started to send money in and the immediate worry was gone. We could restock the food bank. We have received more than £20,000 but with our shop closed and all our events cancelled this income is vital.

Fairfax Properties contacted us. They wanted to help. Could they go shopping to top up our food bank? They have come to us twice now and each time

the van has been full, not just with food but toiletries, sanitary products, everything that we might need to keep a family going.

A supporter came forward with the offer of short-term accommodation for anyone needing to leave the home to escape tensions and abuse.

The Sussex Community Foundation's funding has come to our support with a grant for £5,000 that has enabled us to increase the number of deliveries across the county. At a time when we only hear bad news, we need to remember good things are happening too. Yes, we are just at the start of a challenging time and here at FSW we know that, during the lockdown, life will change and for many families, these changes are going to be hard. It is also clear that demand for the support from FSW will grow in the coming months but as long as our partners, friends and the people of Sussex are there to help us and sustain us, we will be there for those families we can help through the coming months.



The Sussex Charity for Children
Since 1890

Please keep giving (if you can)

by John Kemp, Parish Giving Adviser

OUR churches are closed during the coronavirus pandemic but the work of parish ministry continues and many people are contacting clergy for help during these difficult times.

Furloughing or redundancy mean financial uncertainty and, as a result, many parishioners' ability to give to their church may be affected. No one can be expected to give when the source of income is lost or seriously curtailed. This means it is even more important that those who can give have the facilities for doing so – when our churches are in greatest need.

We are sure other parishioners still want to make their contributions to church ministry but may be unable to do so while staying at home.

If you have the resources to continue giving, why not consider arranging a bank standing order or joining the Parish Giving Scheme? PGS now has a system whereby givers can sign up by phone. We are grateful to all in the diocese of Chichester who volunteered to trial the sign-up process and for the positive feedback it received.

If you would like to arrange for your giving to reach your church before lockdown regulations are eased, ask your clergy or the church treasurer for more information on how you can help maintain a regular flow of income to your church.

Parishioners who are more tech savvy may like to consider providing the church with regular donations through their banking app or other methods. Check whether your church has a "donate" button on the website on A Church Near You or on Facebook.

A big thank you to those who still have the ability to continue giving. By sharing our resources, God is glorified when we give generously to His work.

HYMNS UNPACKED

BY REV NEVILLE MANNING

COME DOWN, O Love Divine

AS A young student travelling each day to and from teaching practice in a primary school in Cirencester in the Cotswolds, I remember seeing signposts with the name Ampney on them.

Little did I realise that one of the villages with that name, Down Ampney, had a connection with a well-known hymn, *Come Down, O Love Divine*. The connection is in the tune to which the hymn is nearly always sung, *Down Ampney*, which was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, who was born in that village. The hymn was included in *The English Hymnal* in 1906 together with the tune and is now included in the more recent edition of that hymnal and in many others.

The hymn itself is much older in origin and its original version, in Italian, was the work of Bianca de Siena (c1350-1434). Little is known of Bianca, except that he was a member of a religious order, a writer of poetry and hymns, who lived the last part of his life in Venice. The English version of

the verses that are now part of the hymn were translated by Dr Richard Littledale (1837-1890) who, like John Mason Neale, was a “high churchman” who translated many older hymns from the original Latin, Greek and other languages.

O COMFORTER, DRAW NEAR

In its reflecting on and seeking the gift of the Holy Spirit the hymn uses the Biblical imagery of fire: “O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing”. Interestingly Charles Wesley’s *O Thou Who Camest From Above* uses similar imagery: “Still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up the gift in me”. In *The Acts Of The Apostles 2* the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is pictured in terms of wind and fire. In its work as expressed in the hymn, the flame of the Holy Spirit (v2) both burns away earthly passions and provides light to illumine the path of our lives.

The monastic background of Bianca de Siena and the vows involved may be reflected (v3) in the reference to holy charity as our outward vesture (with no hint of the way “charity” has sometimes been discredited by the person who says “I don’t want charity”) and lowliness with the keynote of humility as our inward clothing. In the final verse there is a sense of intense desire: “And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long, shall far outpass the power of human telling”. The closing words look to the Holy Spirit coming to dwell within us: “for none can guess its grace, till he become the place wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling”. St Paul centuries earlier had written of our bodies as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6 v19).

The Church seeks afresh the coming of the Holy Spirit each year at Pentecost, but that coming is something to be sought each day of our lives.

Have faith in the new normal

The Church of England has launched a new programme to make prayer a household habit once again.

Faith At Home is a national campaign that builds on the work of Growing Faith and Everyday Faith to support the faith development and pastoral care of children and young people.

The programme broadly supports three areas: school, parent and church.

It aims to share experiences that inspire parents and families to grow in faith together in the “new daily normal” of the home.

It will provide resources that equip children and young people to explore faith together and feel supported pastorally as part of school and church communities, and signpost networks that connect school leaders, church leaders, chaplains to share great practice and build community together focused on the faith development of children and young people.

Trevor Cristin, director of education for the Diocese of Chichester, said: “We are really excited by the launch of Faith At Home. A partnership between family, church and school gives a strong foundation for our



children and families to grow in faith together.

“As part of the wider church family, we look forward to exploring these opportunities together.”

Video content will be featured each week to help families to talk about faith and pray together. The videos will be led by children, young people, staff and school leaders from across the country.

Over the next three months, #FaithAtHome will explore themes including courage, patience, generosity, resilience, love and hope.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, said: “These aim of these resources is to offer simple ways for families and households to approach complex and difficult topics such as illness, fear and bereavement.

“The coronavirus pandemic has forced people of all ages to confront difficult and painful questions that none of us can explore on our own. We need one another to help navigate them.

“My hope and prayer is that #FaithAtHome will not only equip children and young people to engage with difficult questions but also inspire them to explore how they can become the answers to their own prayers and, when this crisis is over, they are freshly inspired to love and serve those around them.”

The Church of England’s chief education officer Nigel Genders said: “Home is the new normal and faith at home is a habit we need to rediscover.

“It will offer people of all ages and faith backgrounds a chance to pause, think and reflect and to rebuild lost habits of prayer and faithful reflection in the home.”

The #FaithAtHome programme will run for an initial 11 weeks and can be accessed on the Church of England’s website, where you can watch the launch video and find out more about all the exciting things in store for your church, your school, your community.

Church Buildings Update

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

by Emma Arbuthnot

Last year General Synod approved further changes to the faculty rules. Although the 2015 Faculty Jurisdiction Rules were introduced at the beginning of 2016 to simplify the faculty process, the central Church of England initiated a consultation in 2018 with parishes, DACs, and other interested parties, and asked them to propose amendments to the legislation that would make life easier, particularly in relation to Lists A and B. As a result of that consultation, the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019 were drafted and approved.

The revised Rules, which include expanded versions of List A and List B, will come into effect on 1 April 2020. Whilst major works will still require a faculty, it will be possible to carry out a wider range of works under Lists A and B. For example, it will be possible to replace a boiler under List A, so long as it is in the same location and uses the same fuel supply and pipe runs. Under List B, it will be

possible to install CCTV for security purposes, remove asbestos, refurbish catering facilities, and carry out like-for-like repairs to pipe organs. The changes will particularly benefit parishes with unlisted buildings, as it will be possible for them to carry out more extensive works under List B including, for example, the introduction of AV equipment.

The revised legislation also includes a change to the way in which consultations with statutory consultees are handled; from April, the DAC will be unable to consider applications for Formal advice until the relevant consultees have had an opportunity to offer their views.

Both the current Rules and the forthcoming Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019, including the revised Lists A and B, are available to download from the 'Resources and Useful Links' page of the Church Buildings section of the diocesan website. Parishes planning to apply for permissions this spring are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new lists and to get in touch with the Church Buildings team if it

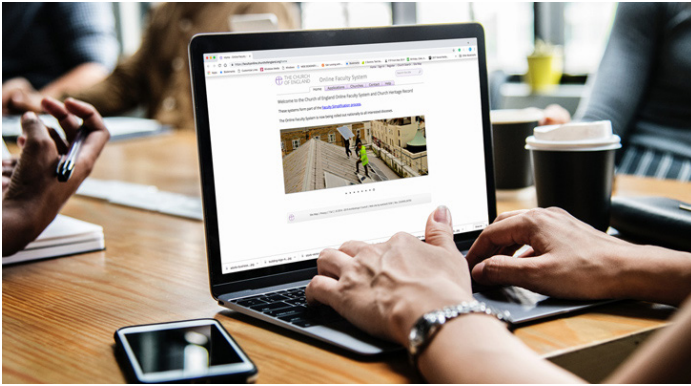
would be helpful to discuss the level of permission needed and whether it may be advantageous to wait until after the new legislation comes into effect on 1st April.



FAREWELL TO THE DAC CHAIR

The Revd Canon Martin Lane stepped down as DAC Chair in January, in order to focus on his parochial ministry. As a DAC member for eight years and Chair of the committee for three years, Martin has made an enormous contribution to the DAC and the life of the Diocese and will be hugely missed.

INTRODUCING AN ONLINE FACULTY SYSTEM



The DAC and Church Buildings Team have been working towards the introduction of the Online Faculty System. The OFS is an online system that was developed by the central Church of England in order to facilitate the processing List B and faculty applications. The advantages of the OFS are that it cuts down on printing, reduces postage costs for the parish and the diocese, and allows parishes to log on and follow the progress of the application. Over time, it will also create an online archive of works carried out, which will form part of the parish's records.

In the Diocese of Chichester, it is currently possible to log List A works (so that the parish has an online record) and parishes are encouraged to submit List B applications through the Online Faculty System (although we do still accept email or postal applications). However, it is not yet possible

to apply for a faculty as the Online Faculty System is being rebuilt to accommodate the legislative changes outlined above and it was felt that it would be best to wait for it to be relaunched before opening it up for faculty applications. We are hoping to be in a position to fully move over to the Online Faculty System in April and will be encouraging parishes to register and begin to use it to make applications. However, for parishes that prefer to submit paper applications, the Church Buildings team will continue to accept paper applications and will upload the application on behalf of the parish. Some training will be offered later in the spring and dates and venues will be circulated by email.

What is a faculty?

A faculty granted by the consistory court of the diocese is required before

any alterations, additions or repairs are carried out to the fabric, fixtures or fittings of a church. A faculty is also required for the introduction, repair or disposal (including sale) of any plate, pictures, ornaments or other moveable goods of a church. Any secular use of a church may need to be authorised by faculty (such as filming). The faculty jurisdiction also applies to the churchyard so that a faculty is required for putting up a building or other structure on the churchyard, the introduction of a monument, the exhumation of human remains or the reservation of a grave space. Churchyard trees are also subject to the faculty jurisdiction.

However, certain matters can be undertaken without a faculty if they come within the national "Lists A and B" of works (please note List B matters require the Archdeacon's written permission). Another exception relates to monuments in churchyards which can be introduced with the permission of the minister provided that the monument complies with the diocesan churchyard regulations. If you are in any doubt about whether a particular proposal requires a faculty you should seek advice from the diocesan registry.



SONGS *of* PRAISE

A special day with Songs Of Praise

SINGING star and Songs Of Praise presenter Katherine Jenkins learned about the work of the Mothers' Union during filming in Sussex.

The BBC show visited the county as part of its Mothering Sunday programme.

Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Chichester has 57 branches across East and West Sussex, with more than 1,400 members. So when Songs Of Praise contacted the national MU office in London inviting it to take part, it was a challenge

to decide which of the many projects should be featured.

Songs Of Praise chose the Worthing Hospital Project. West Tarring Worthing branch of Mothers' Union has been working as part of the hospital's chaplaincy team and plays a big part in the larger hospital volunteers' team.

Branch members work alongside doctors and nursing staff in the Blue Fin and Bramber specialist children's wards, offering practical help and support including

providing essential baby bags to emergency maternity admissions and memory bags to families on the baby neonatal ward.

They also offer "Ministry of Cake", providing tea, cake and a listening ear to parents and staff in these wards, aiming to "provide the ordinary" at a time when lives are far from that.

The BBC production team filmed at Worthing Hospital and St Andrew's Church West Tarring.

“At times it was a little nerve-racking as none of us were used to television cameras watching so closely everything we did.

At the hospital, Katherine Jenkins met and held newborn babies and interviewed staff and patients about the work of the Mothers’ Union. She also spoke to MU team members Sue Gillard and Dana Dix while delivering tea and cakes to parents and staff.

Katherine had an emotional interview with Kylea Reynolds, a mother who had been enormously helped by the MU team while in hospital. Kylea wanted to publically thank MU for all it had done for her. The interview took place in the chapel at Worthing Hospital and her story was a poignant reminder that Mothering Sunday holds both happy and sad memories for many.

At the church, Katherine interviewed Karen Hill, West Tarring, Worthing MU branch leader, and some of her members. They explained all about putting together the memory and maternity bags for the hospital. These contain items identified as essential to the maternity staff, including nappies, breast pads, maternity pads, small vests and a baby grow, toothbrush, toothpaste,

brushes, comb, flannel, tissues, deodorant and shower gel. The bags are made out of pretty fabric and have a label sewn inside saying “with love Mothers’ Union”. They are made and given with love by the members.

Father Mark Lyon, parish priest, was also filmed in the church, blessing the bags before their distribution. He said: “I was delighted when I was advised that Songs Of Praise had chosen our Mothers’ Union branch to feature on the Mothering Sunday programme. Personally I have been a member of Mothers’ Union for a number of years and but have experience of their work, locally, nationally and internationally with connections I have in South Africa. As for our local branch, although I am no good at sewing bags or baking cakes, I do help with the packing of the bags and of course importantly ask for God’s blessing on our gifts, that our labours of work may be visions of Christ’s healing, glory, and love in the lives of the babies and families who receive.”

Karen said the day was special for everyone who took part. She said: “At times it was a little nerve-racking as none of us were used to television cameras watching so closely everything we did.



MU MEMBERS OF TARRING WITH KATHERINE JENKINS



MU MEMBERS MAKING MEMORY BAGS

“We are a large branch of 57 members, who attend seven different churches. We only had space for half of our members to be filmed so we decided that all who were filmed had an involvement in the Worthing Hospital Project by going in with Ministry of Cake, making the cakes, making the bags etc. We also included newest, youngest and oldest members.

“They all had the opportunity to speak about what Mothers’ Union meant to them. It was a memorable day.”

YMCA

Chaplains

A SUPPORTIVE PRESENCE

Samantha Burton, YMCA chaplain for West Sussex, based in Worthing, and Elly McKay-Smith, her counterpart for East Sussex, based in Eastbourne, tell us about their roles.

SAM'S STORY

AFTER seven years of youth work and a year in Australia as special educational needs assistant in a primary school, I knew it was time for a change.

My first surprise was not getting a dream job I had an interview for in Bristol. That was hard. So I changed tack and started exploring what a little voice was whispering to look at... chaplain work. I wasn't expecting it to go anywhere so when I was offered the job as West Sussex chaplain with the YMCA Downslink Group (DLG) I had my second surprise in as many months.

Listening, encouraging, supporting, making tea, connecting with community and recruiting volunteers are some of the things I find myself doing, as well as praying for and with people in various situations. The job takes me to four very different 24-hour housing projects across West Sussex - Worthing, Crawley, Horsham and Burgess Hill - where I can be a supportive presence to young people at risk of homelessness and the housing staff who work with them, and manage the volunteers who run our weekly chaplaincy evenings.

These evenings are all a ministry of presence and hugely appreciated by the residents of the accommodation. Our volunteer chaplains, people of faith from the community who have a heart for young people and a listening ear, bring food and a homely "family"

atmosphere that can include board games, discussions and an opportunity for residents to engage with everyday people from the communities where they live.

One resident said: "Chaplaincy makes me feel like I have a place to go at the end of the day and reflect on things in the company of others, where I can unpack my feelings and thoughts a bit, socialise if I want to. It's a fairly open space where people can get to know each other... and overall it makes me feel pretty happy, content and just accepted, and that's good."

We welcome new volunteers so if you would like to find out more, please get in touch.



ELLY'S STORY

It was a winding path that took me to St Peter's Church in Brighton nearly three years ago to attend a "vocations day". Little did I know my life would change that morning in ways I never expected.

"Reluctant to commit but keen to do more" would have been how I described myself. Despite regular encouragement from my rector and others in our church community I didn't believe I was being called in any specific way. I went to the vocations day to put to bed the gentle nagging to look further into church leading.

Plunging into the course I grew in confidence, realising I knew so much more about faith and the Bible than I thought but also that I had so much in common with others on it.

How wrong I was. I came away inspired to find out more about chaplaincy as it seemed to be the most relevant area of church to suit my skills and outlook. The big step I took that day was signing up to the Living Faith course

Plunging into the course I grew in confidence, realising I knew so much more about faith and the Bible than I thought but also that I had so much in common with others on it. We rubbed each other's rough edges and polished each other's diamond sides, developing friendships and networking to share ideas and resources in our various churches.

Following that came the choice of the then new ALM courses and I picked the pastoral care elective. It was a smaller group but no less powerful in our strength and support.

During this time, I started volunteering for the YMCA DLG in Eastbourne, helping to run chaplaincy meals for the residents at the Foyer. This became a true reflection of what I feel is my calling, using all my skills, gifts and training to encourage young people to be the best they can be.

After a few months I successfully applied for the job as chaplain for East Sussex, which involves recruiting volunteer chaplains for our residential houses in Eastbourne and working with churches and faith organisations to highlight what the chaplaincy team is trying to achieve, what we have to offer our residents and how they can get involved in helping the future generation of amazing young people realise their potential.

CATHEDRAL NEWS

A fresh approach

CHICHESTER Cathedral is to run a new online course called Fresh Thinking. There will be five sessions, each exploring a different question.

The Rev Canon Dan Inman, chancellor of the cathedral, has been instrumental in developing the course.

He said: “The lockdown has been provoking many people to think more deeply about life and death, the purpose and value of our own lives, what hope might mean and how we find meaning in suffering.

“It will be an opportunity to have a crack at some of the big questions that might be bubbling beneath the surface for many of us.”

The questions are:

1. WHAT (OR WHO) DO WE MEAN BY GOD?

2. CAN WE FIND MEANING IN OUR SUFFERING?

3. WHAT DOES A HEALTHY SPIRITUAL LIFE LOOK LIKE?

4. WHAT CAN WE HOPE FOR?

5. CAN THE CHURCH BE TRUSTED?

The sessions, via Zoom, will last about an hour and take place at 11am on Thursday mornings from May 14.

They will start with a 25-minute introduction to the topic from Canon Inman, during which people can send

in questions as they arise before a more open discussion among all participants.

Some reading material and other resources will be provided before each session via the Diocesan Virtual Learning Environment, to which participants will be given access.

For the technophobic, instructions will also be given on how to use Zoom.

If you would like to join in, send your name to theology@chichestercathedral.org.uk and you will hear further instructions in advance of the first session.

For more informal questions about the course, email chancellor@chichestercathedral.org.uk.



PEREGRINES SETTING UP HOME AT CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Chichester Cathedral's famed peregrine falcons have returned for the forthcoming breeding season and have been sighted regularly from the Cathedral grounds.

The male, affectionately named Maverick, is back defending his territory with the same female – and four peregrine eggs have now been laid.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL WILL BE MARKING VE DAY (FRIDAY 8 MAY)

The Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Stephen Waine, will lead an online service marking the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May at 10.00am, streamed via the Cathedral's website.

The service will include readings from the Cathedral's Clergy and Mrs Susan Pyper, HM Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, recorded from their homes. The service will also feature music from the Cathedral's choir.

In addition to their online service, Chichester Cathedral has joined other Cathedrals across the country for the Big Picnic For Hope, an initiative encouraging people to join their communities, friends

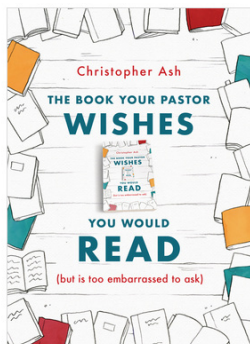
and families for an online celebration for VE Day in the place of physical events which have now been cancelled.

The project also serves an opportunity to recognise that these times are difficult for many people and aims to raise £5000 towards The Trussell

Trust, a charity supporting a network of foodbanks and helping those in need in the UK. You can join in by visiting the project's website (www.bigpicnicforhope.com) and by sharing your picnic online using hashtag #BigPicnicForHope.



BOOKS AND REVIEWS



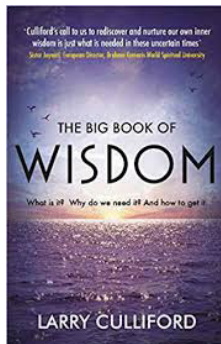
THE BOOK YOUR PASTOR WISHES YOU WOULD READ

CHRISTOPHER ASH

FORMER seasoned pastor Christopher Ash urges church members to think about pastors not just in terms of what they do, how they lead and pray and preach and teach and so on, but what about who they are. He encourages us to remember pastors are people and to pray for them as they serve us. Paradoxically, caring for our pastor will be a blessing to us as well as to them, and create a culture of true fellowship in our church family.

Gillian Carr from Books Alive, the Christian bookshop in Hove, said: "This is a book every member of a church should read for the sake of their minister and for the relationships within each church. Don't worry about the use of the term pastor, the book applies to the vicar, priest, minister and to all churches of all denominations. It is easy to read and gets to the point quickly.

Good Book Company 9781784983635



WISDOM - THE BIG BOOK OF WHAT IS IT? WHY DO WE NEED IT? AND HOW TO GET IT

LARRY CULLIFORD

SUSSEX-BASED Larry Culliford's gift is in opening up a big picture, placing his readers within it and showing how they can change the world. His latest book argues how openness to the Spirit helps us capture a universal sense allied to God's compassion for all by letting go of materialist values and engaging positively with suffering. As a psychiatrist, the author is skilled in helping individuals put themselves right. As a spiritual person, a believer in God, Larry is wise to putting the world right, creating a healthier and happier environment. We grow from egocentricity through social conditioning to become individuals seeking social integration. Too many of us stop halfway. The power of this book is in its attempt to coach us forward.

Review by Canon John Twisleton

Hero 2020 £9.99 ISBN 9781789551211 176pp



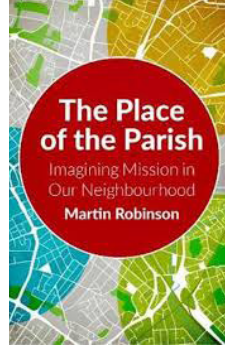
THE FORGOTTEN PALACE

LUKE AYLEN

CHICHESTER ordinand Luke Aylen is currently undertaking an MA in theology as training for pioneer ministry in the Church of England alongside writing his books.

In 2018 Luke released his debut novel, *The Mirror and the Mountain*, which introduced readers to the magical kingdom of Presadia and its many troubles through the eyes of two children, Summer and Jonah, who accidentally stumble through from our own world. *The Forgotten Palace* published last year, picks up on Antimony's story and runs alongside *The Mirror And The Mountain*. It's a fantasy adventure ideal for older children but written for the whole family. Entering the magical kingdom of Presadia is a chance to not only enjoy an exciting and dramatic story but to explore even deeper themes that run through the book. Identity, leadership, belonging, brokenness and self-worth are explored movingly through this exciting story. Perfect for solo readers, schools and families with powerful themes which can be analysed and absorbed.

Lion Hudson 9781782642794



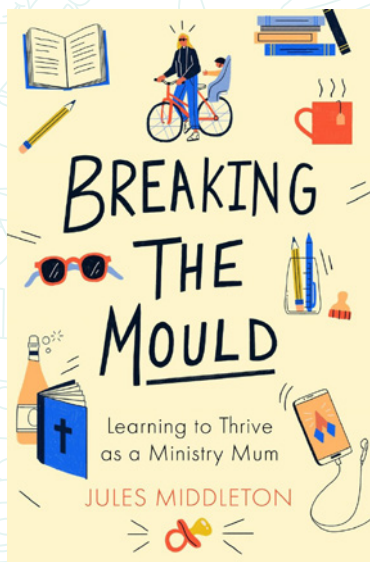
THE PLACE OF THE PARISH

MARTIN ROBINSON

I READ this book as a former mission adviser noting how things have moved back to affirm parish ministry from times when the parish was in question as “merely attractational church”. Better, the theorists used to say, to get out and engage with networks from bikers to pensioners. This timely book affirms how parish churches at their best are both engaging and attractational. Recovering God's primacy is key along with “discipleship which speaks of venturesome love... encouraging people to do business with God and to contribute to God's purposes for humankind” (Ann Morisy). With insight on church vitalisation, mainly from Evangelical tradition, this book is valuable for its conclusion affirmative of eucharistic worship in parishes, exercised imaginatively with expectation upon God at work both at the altar and in the community.

Review by Canon John Twisleton

SCM 2020 £19.99 ISBN 978-0-334-05825-0 160pp



Life as a mum in Ministry

JULES MIDDLETON is associate vicar at **TRINITY, Lewes**. She spoke to Amber Jackson about her first book, **Breaking The Mould - Learning To Thrive As A Ministry Mum**.

When did you feel God was calling you to write a book?

It started a few years ago when I was in the discernment process. I wrote quite a lot about my experiences of that and as a result people got in touch and asked me for advice and that kind of thing. Lots of women, particularly younger women, were coming and saying, oh, but how is it as a woman, how is it as a mother? So I started to write about that on my blog. And then it grew from there.

How was the writing process?

As I was working full time, I wrote on my days off which meant it was quite difficult to get into the flow. Sometimes I'd be really into a chapter and it would be time to pick up the kids or make dinner. The whole process of balancing, writing, working and being a mum is what the book's about and it was difficult at times - especially when I had a deadline for the publisher and I just had to just get on and write. My husband literally took on everything at home so I could focus on writing.

What was your life like before being a ministry mum?

Before I felt called to ordination, I was an artist and ran an art gallery. When I had this inkling God was calling me to something different, it was really interesting because at the same time I had to renew the rental contracts on a building we were using. The agents wanted us to renew for five years and I was thinking, I don't think I can do that when I'm feeling called to something else. That was the turning point really.

It's not just for mums in ministry of course, there's a lot of stuff in there that might benefit others too.

Where did your ideas for the book come from?

It's important to say it is not just my story. It's the story of lots of ministry mums. I had this idea of what I thought the book needed to be but also wanted to hear from other people so I did a lot of research and got input from other ministers (not just in the Church of England too). From there, I took the key themes and put them into chapters. So there's things like encouraging women to be able to find their own mould of ministry; ideas of good balance and practical stuff like managing maternity leave for example. And above all it's completely underpinned by scripture.

What were your prayers when you were going through the book?

A lot of prayer went into the book! There were times that I was like, oh, Lord, I can't do this any longer. But also, I really wanted it to be an encouragement. I didn't want it to be an 'oh, it's so hard

being a woman in the church' kind of book. I wanted it to say: 'look, we can do this'. So quite a lot of the time was praying about getting the right tone and it being supportive, and I continue to pray that when people read it, the Holy Spirit works through it and they hear what they need.

How could the book help women in the discernment process?

In this diocese we focus on being part of the 'household of faith' (Galatians 6:10) where we all have a part to play. As women, we need to recognise that is true for us too. Discernment for me was really challenging because I felt every part of my life and every part of my identity was being questioned. I hope the book will help people to remember God is with them and wants them to be the person God has made them to be.

It's not just for mums in ministry of course, there's a lot of stuff in there that might benefit others too. There's lots on the real life of ministry; what it's like when you're ministering to people; what it's like being a parent in ministry, that kind of day-to-day stuff.

Are you going to write another book?

At the moment, I need a little break from it! But I want to continue to share stories and encourage both ministry mums and people in church leadership, so keep any eye on the blog for the time being, but watch this space.

- The book is available now. It's £9.99 and it is available from SPCK online, Amazon, Goodreads and your local bookshop!



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