

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



WE ARE OPEN

ENCOURAGING STORIES FROM OUR PARISHES AND PEOPLE ACROSS THE DIOCESE

REVIEWING
THE PAST

/ 11

A goal is set for parishes

MEET THE NEW
ORDINANDS
FOR 2020

/ 20-25

Includes dates and
venues of services

PARISH FINANCES

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This online edition of Faith in Sussex gives us an opportunity to catch up on what has been happening around the diocese during the long weeks of Covid lockdown.

Many thanks to those who have been collecting and recording the amazing stories of faith from across the diocese.

The priority of prayer and worship, in and beyond our church buildings, has been our duty and our source of consolation and hope. The practical response to human need has also been a clear expression of the love of God for each and every person.

The pandemic has taken its toll, especially in the death of loved ones in our family and congregations. It has also been difficult to mark other life events, like leaving school, when we can say good bye, thank you, and God bless and keep you.

We have also had to defer the ordinations which are now happening around the festival of St Michael and All Angels – perhaps a good time to be celebrating how to serve as bearers of good news. (An angel is a distinctive messenger who does the will of God.) Please pray for those who are to be ordained deacon and priest.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Bishop Ruth, the new Bishop of Horsham, and Bishop Will, the new bishop of Lewes, and to assure them of our prayers and good wishes.

The ordinations will mark the beginnings of ministry by the new bishops in a very appropriate way for the whole diocese. For all of us, lay and ordained, are called to be people and agents of faith, in Sussex and in our daily life.

May this online edition and celebration of that faith be an encouragement to our future growth in holiness, in number, and in outreach to a needy world.

+Martin





28th October -
11th November

A major new Sussex-wide arts festival featuring visual arts, poetry and much more. A collaboration between **Chichester Cathedral** and **Sussex Newspapers** aiming to capture the spirit of togetherness which has seen us through the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic.



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Chichester Diocese



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Diocese of Chichester

NEWS

ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

NEW PRIESTS TO BE ORDAINED

FOURTEEN new priests will be ordained across the diocese during eight days of celebration in October. All the candidates, currently serving as curates in East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, were ordained deacon last summer in Chichester Cathedral.

The ordination services were due to be held earlier this summer but were put on hold because of the closure of cathedrals and churches due to Covid-19.

Following the normal custom, the suffragan Bishop of Horsham Ruth Bushyager and Bishop of Lewes Will Hazelwood will take responsibility for these ordinations.

A bishop has been allocated to ordain and celebrate on each date rather than having groups of candidates together. This allows more family members and representatives of churches to share in the joy of the ordination while worship remains subject to social distancing guidelines.

Canon Stephen Ferns, senior chaplain to the Bishop of Chichester, said: "We are really grateful to all of the incumbents and parishes who are putting a great deal of effort into planning a time of celebration for each of the candidates. After serving as deacons for just over a year they are now entering the final weeks of preparation for their ordination as priest and the prayers of all of us in the diocese are with them."

You can find out all the names, dates and venues [here](#). Meet the 17 deacons to be ordained this year on page 20-25

DIOCESAN REGISTRAR SWORN IN



DARREN Oliver, the diocesan deputy registrar since February 2019, was formally sworn in by the Bishop of Chichester as the registrar of the Diocese of Chichester.

Darren, a solicitor and partner at Winckworth Sherwood, has been

undertaking the registrar's duties since Matthew Chinery left to become head of legal services for the Church in Wales in March last year.

Ordinarily a formal swearing in would take place at the cathedral but Covid restrictions prevented that. Instead, the ceremony took place in London when the bishop and Darren were attending business together.

FREE SIGNS

THE Church of England has made available a series of poster and banner signs for use by parishes to help comply with Covid restrictions and direct people around their church buildings safely.

The signs are free for churches and can be printed at home or sent to a professional printer for larger sizes. You can view all the designs and templates and download from the Church of England website [here](#)

EASING OUT OF LOCKDOWN – WHAT NEXT?

NICOLA Canham is the diocesan head of wellbeing for clergy and families. Recognising the impact the pandemic has had on people's lives, Nicola has been working with St Luke's to share some excellent wellbeing resources that everyone can access.

St Luke's is a charity that improves clergy health and wellbeing. It has launched a 16-week wellbeing programme which you can access and download from www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk

CHECK YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

MORE than 3,000 churches are using a tool created by the Church of England to understand their carbon footprint, new data shows.

The tool aims to help parishes measure the carbon output and energy use of their buildings and provides pointers for improving efficiency.

It provides a calculation and issues a rating in the form of an energy chart, similar to those found on household appliances.

In February, the General Synod announced an ambitious target for the Church of England to become net zero by 2030. This tool is an important step in measuring a baseline of current emissions and to measure progress towards achieving this goal.

The Diocese of Chichester's environment officer Rev Debbie Beer said: "This is a good opportunity for our churches to work together and with local communities, businesses, local government and all organisations across Sussex on tackling the climate crisis.

"Deciding how to act effectively, justly and compassionately to reduce our carbon emissions is a difficult challenge for everyone, not just the Church. I believe that through joint efforts and mutual support and encouragement we can show how the Gospel is vital, practical good news in the face of this huge threat to our world."



This is a first step for the Church of England to understand and monitor the footprint of some 40,000 buildings across England. More and more parishes are getting involved and adding their data every day, helping to build up a picture for the Church to take action.

If your church hasn't joined in yet, there's still time to enter 2019 data if you hurry - the deadline is 30th September 2020. You will need your parish's 2019 energy utility bills for your church buildings, then go to the Online Parish Returns system to take part and see your carbon footprint ratings for last year's energy use. In time, parishes will be able to log in to an online dashboard to track their buildings' carbon footprint year on year.

Churches can also explore the carbon footprint of all their activities - travel, food, expenditure, waste and water as well as energy, through a new 360 degree carbon calculator, a project of Climate Stewards in collaboration with the Church of England - try it out at: www.360carbon.org

NEWS

ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

LAMBETH CONFERENCE RESCHEDULES

THE ongoing challenges presented by Covid-19 have prompted the Archbishop of Canterbury to reschedule the Lambeth Conference by a further year to the summer of 2022. The conference will meet in Canterbury. In a filmed message to the Anglican Communion, the Archbishop announced that a wider programme will be developed before and after the event, delivered virtually and through other meetings.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Archbishop of Canterbury and conference planning teams have been monitoring the situation, following advice from public and

global health authorities as it becomes available. They have also consulted with primates, bishops and spouses about the impact of Covid-19 in their countries.

As with most large-scale events and conferences of this nature, planning in such an unstable climate is difficult. As an international gathering - the Lambeth Conference invites bishops and spouses from more than 165 countries - there are significant uncertainties that make preparations for a 2021 meeting challenging.

Watch the film [here](#)



CHURCHES are being urged to find alternative ways to support a charity's key annual fundraising event after organisers pulled the plug.

John Barkshire, treasurer for Sussex Historic Churches Trust, said: "The cancellation of Ride and Stride 2020 this month is a major blow. Ride and Stride raises about £25,000 for the charity and significant funds for the individual parishes which take part.

"This could sharply reduce SHCT's grant giving capability, probably for the next two years, as well as depriving parishes of a useful income.

"The hope is that would-be ride and striding participants will find alternative sponsored activities to help fill part of the deficit. Our churches badly need the money to finance restoration in these difficult financial times."

This year alone £25,000 has been distributed between four churches. Find out more about the event on the charity's website [here](#)

CHRISTINGLE – SHINING A DIFFERENT LIGHT IN 2020?

CHRISTINGLE raises some £1 million a year for The Children's Society to support the country's most vulnerable children and young people. It is one of the most popular services of the year, enjoyed by children and adults alike.

Due to the pandemic and with uncertain times ahead, The Children's Society has started looking towards Christingle 2020 and how it might do things a bit differently.

New resources are planned from September with the launch of Christingle to Churches across the country. Share your plans for Christingle with Ruth Andoh-Baxter, relationship manager for The Children's Society. Ruth.Andoh-baxter@childrenssociety.org.uk



NEW RURAL DEAN



THE Bishop of Chichester has appointed the Rev David Hill, rector of St John the Evangelist Upper St Leonards, as the new rural dean of Hastings.

Fr David has been the assistant rural dean for some time and has

enjoyed working with his predecessor the Rev Rachel Creighton.

The Archdeacon of Hastings Edward Dowler thanked Rev Creighton for her work over the past two years. He said: "Rachel was given this task very soon after her arrival in the diocese and has fulfilled it with distinction and care for all our parishes.

"David is taking on this role in addition to his parish role and his duties as the hon chaplain of various organisations including the Hastings Veterans' Association and St Michael's Hospice. Please may we keep David, and everyone in the Hastings Deanery, in our prayers."

David was commissioned in July and his appointment is for five years.

PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS

It is the start of the new school term and our diocesan director for education Trevor Cristin has welcomed staff and pupils back.

He said: "Please pray for our schools as they move into a position of being open to all our children. It has been a challenging few months and I have no doubt there will be more challenges ahead. However, our school leaders have demonstrated great dedication and professionalism throughout, and I can only emphasise my gratitude and admiration for how effectively they have lead and the compassion they have shown."

You can read Trevor's full response on page 33



THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER TO FORMERLY WELCOME THE TWO NEW BISHOPS.

In the last issue of Faith in Sussex we introduced the two new suffragan bishops to serve in this Diocese. Ruth Bushyager is the new Bishop of Horsham and Will Hazelwood has become the Bishop of Lewes.

They were finally consecrated in the Archbishop of Canterbury's chapel at Lambeth Palace in July in a specially adapted service to reflect current restrictions.

+Ruth and + Will were able to be joined by close family members to witness the occasion and the services were streamed to enable the diocese and a wider circle of family and friends to share in the day.

The two new bishops are to be welcomed at Chichester Diocese on Sunday 13th September.

The two services of welcome each allow the two bishops to invite a limited number of guests to keep to the social distancing rules. Both services will be live streamed so that people from the wider diocese will be able to join in the celebrations.

Looking forward to the September services Bishop Martin said:

“The installation of bishops Ruth and Will is going to mark their incorporation into the life of the diocese and we welcome them with a great sense of confidence and hope.”

“This is the very best welcome we can give them and their families in the present circumstances and it's great that the installations will be streamed, enabling many others to join us on-line.”

Together with Bishop Martin, the new bishops will launch their ministry by ordaining new deacons and priests individually in churches right across the Diocese in the weeks ahead.

We will be bringing you photos of the welcoming services on our social media channels.

REVIEWING THE PAST

All the dioceses of the Church of England are currently undertaking what is known as PCR2 (Past Cases Review 2), a thorough and independent review into the handling of all safeguarding cases.

The aim of this review is to ensure that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of clergy and church officers towards children and vulnerable adults have been dealt with appropriately and that the support needs of survivors have been responded to.

The Diocese of Chichester has already started this process, following two letters from the Bishop of Chichester to all clergy in the diocese in January and February this year. The letters asked parishes to review all their files and search their collective memory to be sure all known instances of concern, past and present, had been reported to the diocesan safeguarding

team. Many parishes have already responded, but with the Covid pandemic causing huge interruptions to church life, the diocese will be re-engaging parishes with this review throughout the autumn. Our goal is for every parish in the diocese to have responded before the end of this year.

A project manager has been appointed and a Reference Group has been convened to oversee the project. The Reference Group is chaired by the chairman of the diocese's Independent Safeguarding Advisory Panel and includes representation from the police, social services, a survivor support organisation and someone with lived experience of abuse. The group also includes the Bishop of Horsham and the Diocesan Secretary.

Three professional independent reviewers have been appointed (with a fourth joining the team in the autumn) and their work will be to review all the

safeguarding case files that we have. They will read through not only all files relating to individuals about whom concerns are known but also all personal files of clergy and other relevant individuals to ensure there is nothing on file which has not been addressed according to best practice, and with survivor care at the forefront.

Anyone who wishes to make representations to the PCR2 process or who has information to share or any disclosure to make regarding church-related abuse is encouraged to do so directly with our safeguarding team by emailing: safeguarding@chichester.anglican.org

We acknowledge however, that some may prefer to contact an organisation independent from the church, so as an alternative there is a dedicated NSPCC telephone helpline - 0800 80 20 20. Please do make contact.

PARISH NEWS

STRONGER AFTER LOCKDOWN

CHURCHES and schools have continued to serve their communities during lockdown in new and dynamic ways.

Our clergy and laity have overcome obvious challenges to offer a wide range of services of worship, inviting people to participate from their home.

Many church schools worked together so some could remain open and deliver a much-needed programme for children of key workers.

The diocese also provided many resources, including services, prayers, witness and testimony. On top of this, each day throughout the pandemic, the bishop, clergy and lay people from across the diocese shared their thoughts, reflecting on readings to give us daily inspiration.

Church governance has continued throughout, ensuring that our parishes have, hopefully, had the support they most need so they were finally able to open their church doors once again, even better equipped to serve as the household of faith to people right across the diocese.

New things came out of this time. Choirs came together digitally to sing, children's



and youth work went online and many churches embraced the technology which allowed every parish to communicate services to current and, in many cases, new members.

The diocesan communication team produced a moving video, Faith In Action, which again captured some of the activity and moments experienced by our church communities. You can watch it [here](#)

On the following pages you will read more positive stories and comments we have captured from people from our churches and schools across the diocese. We hope you will be inspired and encouraged by how people's faith has been strengthened during lockdown.

Rev Paul Doick from St Peter's Henfield recounts a moving story.

"I recently received a note through my door explaining what St Peter's Henfield means to a local resident. It was a lovely thing to receive and in the envelope there was also a postcard size sketch of the

church that they had drawn looking at the east end. The resident went on to say that the care of the fabric and of the grounds added to its spiritual dimension.

"There is something that often pulls people into church buildings. And while for some it's a link with history, the knowledge that generations of family members have been christened, married or had their funerals take place in there, for others it might be the atmosphere, the architecture or the sense of peace and centuries of prayer, even if they find it hard to pray themselves.

"One of the most difficult things I had to do during the lockdown was close the church doors, not just for worship between the end of March and beginning of July but also, in Henfield's case, for private prayer and an



ST PETER'S, HENFIELD

opportunity for people just to sit in the quiet and beauty of the space. Many people have mentioned to me the things that they have missed over the last few months and much of that has been about fellowship, and rightly so. The church is the people of God gathered together to worship, as St Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, ‘...so we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another’. We are, no matter what our background or circumstances, meant to be together to grow in faith and in love and many of us will become friends and companions on the Christian journey.

“But what has struck me over the last few months is the important and indeed powerful presence of our buildings. If we aren’t careful we can underestimate the impact that our churches have on both our own faith and on the inner life of those who wouldn’t necessarily say they are Christians and would rarely come to a service. Perhaps now that we can open them again, even if at the moment it’s very limited outside worship, we might wonder how we can share the sacred spaces at the heart of our villages more often than we do. What new ways can we open them up for others to see? In doing so some, possibly even for the first time, might come to love them as much as the regular congregations and many other residents do, and they might even discover God at the same time.”

Kay Stringer, St Barnabas Church Hove, is the PCC secretary. She lives some distance from the church and has to catch two buses each way for a round trip of up to three hours which, she said, “is quite a journey for a said Mass”.

During lockdown, Kay was multi-tasking. She was busy keeping everyone informed, updating the parishioners from both churches, St Barnabas and St Philips, by emailing out a weekly bulletin and was at the end of the phone for queries and support.

“I made sure that the weekly live Masses on Facebook were loaded to our YouTube channel and our website, I then emailed all the links out to everyone to ensure all could view them in their own time and feel a part of what was going on,” she said.

Pip Fairweather, head teacher at Ashington CE First School, told us about what was an emotional farewell to the Year 6 Leavers.

Having been so focused on the practicalities of risk assessments, procedures and a constant flow of emails throughout Covid, the reality of the end of term hadn’t hit her.

She said: “The digital diocesan leavers’ service was produced for all schools to share with all the Year 6 children.

“We also used Zoom to ‘zoom in’ our RE and music lead teacher who is still at home so she could participate with them and us.

“Their singing, usually amazing was quiet and shy, I think due to the big physical spaces between them, but they all ‘sang’ and at the end joined in, with actions, to My Lighthouse.

“For me it was an extremely emotional 40 minutes, struggling not to let tears flow in front of the children and it was the moment I really realised they are leaving us next week.

“I want to thank everyone who was involved in putting the service together from the bottom of my currently very fragile heart. Thank you.”

FAREWELL TO ASHINGTON YEAR 6'S



PARISH NEWS

Hannah Milne is an ordinand at St Peter's Brighton and has been training for ordination at St Mellitus Theological College in London. She will be ordained deacon in October. Adapting was key to making sure church happened when the buildings had to close.

She said: "Lockdown was an amazing experience actually. We got used to Zoom – gathering online and moving home groups online. It presented new challenges for the church.

"What we have really been observing is just how the church can adapt. Pulling in whatever resources they can, pulling in volunteers, to meet the physical needs of our community.

"We are to proclaim the Gospel afresh in each generation and this generation is in a lockdown. So we're just trying to adapt really and continue

HANNAH MILNE



to help people in their walk of Jesus, even in lockdown. So, mental health challenges, losing jobs, furloughing, you know it just presents new challenges but a privilege to be walking with people through it."

Pat Weaver, church warden of St Richard's, Benefice of Heathfield, said: "I was struck by the remarks of a young mum who said the usual Sunday morning rush to dress and breakfast her family and travel 20 minutes to church left her feeling anything but 'holy'. She got far more out of settling down on the sofa with the family in their pyjamas to join in online."

Julia Thorpe is a Deanery Synod representative and attends St Mary's, Battle. She said: "Having actually enjoyed lockdown, getting back to something like 'normal' was a shock to the system.

"The one thing I missed was worshipping in church. At our small church we can only accommodate 18 souls including clergy, but it was so good to meet in church again.

"It is very strange not having music at all. Therefore our services are slightly shorter and if members wish to chat after the service they move outside to social distance in the churchyard.

"It will be good to have normal church services in due course and be able to visit the aged who have had to shield. Sometimes a phone call is not enough."

Before Fr David Reynish retired from St Peter's Bexhill, he had this to say: "We had our first said Eucharist at 10am after opening again at St Peter's Bexhill. I was expecting a trickle and we had a stream. Hoping that 30 might appear, we welcomed 65, all socially distanced. It took quite a while to get everyone seated, the registration and the hand cleansing holding things up. People appreciated the fact that the organ was allowed to play but we all missed the singing."

Rev Peter Walker from Ashburnham said: "I've been sending out via email simple Sunday services plus a thought for the day. Then the church opened for private prayer for limited periods.

"We've arranged hand sanitisers on entrance and exit. We marked all pews either as 'no entry' or free to use. We have run coffee mornings, a prayer meeting and two PCCs via Zoom. Everyone seems happy with the way things have been going but it will be good to get back to normal."

Crowhurst Church of England Primary School. We asked Year 6 pupils what they thought of school during lockdown and leaving to move on to senior school. This is what they had to say:

"A good thing about home schooling during lockdown was I got to wear my own clothes, I got help from my family with my homework and got to work in the garden. I also got to set my own pace of doing the work and had longer break times."

"Because my parents are key workers, it was OK having to go into school during lockdown because I got to see my friends, who had the same problems as me and we could share the same experience of lockdown. It was also easier to concentrate at school and all the resources I needed were there, such as my teachers."

"I loved the online school leavers' service the Diocese of Chichester did for us and our own church leavers' service on the last day of term."

"At school during lockdown, the classroom layout completely changed and everything I needed was already on my desk. We had to stand and sit two metres apart, with less people in the classroom, wash our hands a lot and at break time we had to play in our own 'bubbles'. We weren't allowed to use the sandpit and castle and our parents had to drop us outside of school – they were not allowed to come in with us."

Andrew Howat is a cleaner at Varndean College and a church member of St Barnabas Hove.

He said: "After a few weeks of being off work I asked Fr John if there was anything I could do to help as I felt my skills could be made use of. I have helped with general cleaning of the church, which has included dusting, helping scrub the church floor, cleaning and moving furniture and polishing the brass. I also helped rearrange the church ready for the opening for private prayer and then for the opening of the church for public worship."

"This was all made possible by the hard work of a small team of volunteers. It was nice to hear people say how clean and bright the church looked."

All Saints Church, Crowborough, offered online services throughout Covid and also welcomed some 200 regular church goers in a field in 60 cars to its first drive-in church service on Sunday, July 5.

It was led by Holy Trinity vicar Rev Mark Ashworth and the vicar of All Saints, Crowborough, Rev Steve Rees. Steve said: "It was a complete success. The pandemic saw us discovering more and more new ways to share God's word, support each other and worship as God's people."



"It was also a great opportunity to meet safely and reconnect with each other and worship God together. I do hope this acts as a catalyst for other creative forms of church to bubble up from within the diocese."

Rev Arwen Folkes from Seaford was thrilled to hear from people new to the church letting her know they wanted to attend services after "journeying with us in lockdown". She recounted the moving moment when one family visited the church with forms to be baptised.



St Mary the Virgin church in Ringmer welcomed parishioners back to the first service in the building after lockdown. Amongst the congregation were three couples with a long association with the church who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversaries.

PICTURED, ARCHDEACON OF LEWES & BRIGHTON REVD MARTIN LLOYD WILLIAMS WITH JOHN AND JENNY PAYNE, PETER AND JOY JACKSON AND JOHN AND ANNE STAMPER.



PARISH NEWS

FEELING THE HEAT ON A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SPONSORED WALK



ON one of the hottest days of the year, three friends set out to walk from St Mary de Haura Church, Shoreham, to Chichester Cathedral to raise funds for their church.

Mark Potter, Paul McLaughlin and Phillip Gibbs, all experienced walkers, thought the 31-mile distance was possible in a day, though the blistering heat turned it into rather more of a challenge.

They set off at 8am with a blessing from Canon Ann Waizeneker, vicar of St Mary's. Members of the congregation, family and friends gathered to see them go, some of them shaking tambourines.

Phillip had plotted a route that kept them on the South Downs the whole way. Once across the River Adur it took them up to the South Downs Way, along the Monarch's Way, and finally followed the Literary Trail down into Chichester. It included a refreshing stop in Amberley by the River Arun for a well-deserved ice cream.

The three said the afternoon heat was particularly challenging between Amberley and Bignor Hill. It was intense and relentless and did not ease until early evening. It forced a slower pace, but they used their experience to keep each other going.

They arrived at Chichester Cathedral at 6.30pm, with 31.5 miles and 10.5 hours exercise behind them. The temperature had been around 30C for most of that time. They were met with a welcome selection of iced water and craft beers.

Why do this in such challenging conditions? Mark, an active member of St Mary's with his family for ten years, said: "I wanted to do something to help the church and our community during this difficult time.

"A sponsored walk seemed an obvious thing I could do to help raise funds and Chichester Cathedral a very fitting journey. The Covid 19 lockdown has meant we've stopped many fundraising activities but many expenses have remained. Being on the PCC I get to see the

great things that are done by everyone reaching out to our community and I simply felt inspired to support them if I could.

"A very warm thank you to everyone who has been able to support this adventure. Thank you Phil for great navigation and Paul for helping us keep up the pace. I'm very grateful."

So far the men have raised £2,800 and Mark expects this to be matched by the company he works for.

Canon Ann said: "The support they have had is fantastic and this contribution to our finances will really help us to keep the church open and supporting the community as it always does. We are so grateful to them for undertaking this walk in such challenging conditions and to everyone who has sponsored them."

If you would like to support the church of St Mary de Haura through Mark, Paul and Phil's walk, it is not too late. [Please visit this dedicated sponsor page.](#)

MARK'S GOSPEL: THE LOCKDOWN READINGS

During the long days in lockdown people have put their spare time to good use by turning their hand to all kinds of projects.

John and Lis Gibson, members of the congregation at St Augustine's Scaynes Hill, have certainly unleashed their creativity by making a film of St Mark's Gospel that involved the whole church community. John reads at church services and manages the church website. Lis reads the intercessions in services and is a home group leader.

John, who is well known for his vocal reach, and Lis decided to produce a film of St Mark's Gospel and invite people to take the parts of the different characters in the story. The original idea was expanded into a real community lockdown project.

There was no shortage of volunteers from young to old across the church family and the parts were quickly cast. Cast members filmed themselves or in some cases were filmed by Lis via Zoom reading their parts. Lis, who had no prior experience of film editing, put the whole film together.

The music, which was provided by some of St Augustine's Church musicians and by members of the cast, included a special song at the end.

Church member, Alice Mwerenga, who was part of the project said: "We are being strong as a church during the crisis. At a time when it is difficult for us to meet together it is a way of keeping the congregation united".

Copies of the DVD have been made available free of charge to members of the congregation and to the local community.

MINISTRY IN LOCKDOWN – SOCIAL MEDIA HAS REALLY BEEN THE KEY

Fr Andrew Perry has been the parish priest at St Mary's in East Preston for three years. He said: "Lockdown has challenged us enormously to consider different ways of supporting, ministering and reaching out. I think we've done quite well in terms of rising to the challenge and responded as well as we could have done to continue being inclusive and as open as possible, and social media really has been key to this.

"We've had to rely on the telephone, email, Facebook and it's been a very steep

learning curve. We've been live streaming morning prayer and compline on weekdays, a Thursday thought and then up until recently, mass from the vicarage study on Sunday mornings and I think I've noticed the enormous difficulty of both grieving and celebrating with restrictions, restrictions of numbers, singing, touching and I think that's been really quite difficult for a lot of people.

"The other thing which has struck me is that we've reached far, far wider than just this parish during the time

and we're now considering reflecting on how we should think about using social media more regularly, perhaps live streaming services from church more regularly.

"We've seen lots of people learning how to be church through this time, they haven't been able to do church, they haven't been able to come to church, so they've had to learn to be church and people have been reaching out in all sorts of new ways to really be the church.

PARISH NEWS

MY JOYFUL PILGRIMAGE

By Colleen Thirkell

Sacristan and previous church warden

LAST year a group from St Thomas's Church Groombridge walked the "English route" of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. It was a joyful, spiritual time, sharing highs and lows, enjoying the countryside and supporting each other throughout our pilgrimage.

As 2020 has been designated by English Cathedrals The Year of the Pilgrimage, we decided to walk from Groombridge to our cathedral in Chichester. Groombridge is about as far as you can be from Chichester yet still be within its diocese.

Plans for the 75-mile August trek were going well with 16 friends keen to join in. I had the route mapped and accommodation booked with church congregations en route. Then Covid struck.

There was no way we could safely walk as a group and we could not expect to be put up by other parishes. It seemed a shame to abandon it

and we hope we may manage it together next year - but I couldn't wait.

Ancient pilgrimages were often undertaken in a group but are just as worthwhile alone. I decided I would walk the route by myself.

It would take five days: Groombridge to Uckfield; Uckfield to Ditchling; Ditchling to Steyning; Steyning to Arundel; Arundel to Chichester Cathedral. The route was planned to be as rural as possible, on ordinary rights of way and national paths, sections of the Forest Way, Weald Way, South Downs Way, Monarch's Way, disused railway lines and a Roman road.

Coronavirus meant many of the 18 churches I visited were closed but they were still a joy and solace. Eleven have their origins in the 11th century, a rich treasure of our culture and a wonderful testament to the faith of our forebears. Many gave me shelter from the sun in their porch and a contemplative space in their graveyard.

The countryside was stunning, the weather incredible. From sheltered woodland to the open Downs, from tiny cottage gardens to vast country estates, from flat meandering paths by rivers to steep hills, from crossing a busy road to the serenity of a church, it was a joy.

A pilgrimage gives space and time away from a busy world, a time to think, reflect, heal and give thanks.

I arrived tired and hot at Chichester Cathedral on August 18 to find it shut. Not quite the arrival I was hoping for but lo and behold, the kindly dean appeared and let me enter for a unique moment when I had the sacred space to myself.

If you are contemplating a pilgrimage, short or long, alone or with friends, I have no hesitation in urging you to go. It will enrich your life.

THE COUNTRYSIDE AT GROOMBRIDGE



A LONG AWAITED WEDDING

Angela Driver and Albert Dack, both in their 80s, finally tied the knot after Covid put paid to two previously planned wedding dates earlier this year.

They were due to marry in West Sussex in May but when they realised that would not be possible they tried to bring it forward to April, but unfortunately that couldn't happen either. A new date was set and their special day took place on Saturday 5th September at St Peter's church in Slinfold, West Sussex.

Rev'd Sandra Hall, Rector of St Peter's Slinfold, is the daughter of the bride and was delighted to take the service.

She said: "Mum is actually from Brighton but she is on the electoral role due to her worshipping in the parish. I'm so pleased for them both. We lost dad in 2011 and mum met Albert as a friend on holidays they both took in Bournemouth. Albert then lost his wife and their friendship blossomed into love, they now want to be together.

"They planned to marry in May but because of the restrictions in place due to Covid 19 that got postponed. They were allowed 30 guests which is exactly the number they needed. Twenty eight family members and two friends.



"The whole church community has been fantastic and supportive. They all pulled together for Saturday, including the bell ringers who rang the bells for free!

"The family are thrilled for them both and we pray that they will be very happy together."

CATCH THE PILGRIMAGE BUG

Rev Jeremy Sykes, is the new Vicar at Hellingly and Upper Dicker. Having a few retreat days in hand and not knowing where to stay as most places were still closed, he decided to undertake a walking pilgrimage from his parish to Chichester Cathedral. Jeremy plans to cover 67 miles over 5 days, from September 7 to 11th taking in the Weald Way, South Downs Way and

finally Stane Street. He will be pausing at churches along the route to celebrate mass and say the Offices. As we go to print Jeremy will have already made a start but anyone can join him for a leg or two, or supper. He said: "I thought it would be fun and a lovely way to get to know my flock a bit better, and maybe enable some to catch the pilgrimage bug!

We've added Jeremy's route to the diocesan website and you can find it [here](#)

THE new curates to serve across the diocese will be ordained deacon in their own parishes this autumn.

The event is usually a summer highlight but has not been possible this year because of Covid restrictions. Instead, the individual ordinations in parish churches across Brighton and Hove and East and West Sussex will be led by Bishop Martin and the two newly consecrated suffragan bishops of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager, and Lewes, Will Hazelwood.

The curates will still be supported by family, friends and representatives of the church communities they are serving and, because of social distancing, it is hoped many of the services can be live streamed or recorded.

The candidates were licensed as lay workers by the bishop earlier this year when the postponement of their ordination was announced.

Canon Stephen Ferns, senior chaplain to the bishop, said organising new dates and venues had been major logistical undertaking. He said: "We are enormously grateful to the incumbents and parishes working with us to ensure we provide the very best celebration of these varied new ministries across the diocese."

The date and venue of each candidate's ordination can be found on the diocesan website.

NEW MINISTRY OF DEACONS TO BE CELEBRATED ACROSS THE DIOCESE



DAVID GRIFFIN

St Mary's Hailsham

David grew up in Loughborough and completed his formative training for ministry at Oak Hill. He said: "As a teenager I wanted to follow Christ wholeheartedly. As an engineering student I couldn't imagine doing anything else with my life but serve Christ as an ordained person, so I began to explore my calling at All Saints, Crowborough.

"Two wonderful years serving there confirmed that conviction for me and I began exploring ordination. I'm extremely grateful for all the prayers and support of many church family members over those years.

"After living in Oxford, Crowborough and London, I am very much looking forward to returning to Sussex with my wife Esther and baby Daniel."



TREVOR HARRISON

St Thomas, Groombridge

Trevor felt called to the Lord's service for years but eschewed the idea of formal ordination training because he felt there were other ways he could be of service.

He said: "About seven years ago I finally had to acknowledge I had run out of excuses and so the present journey began. The first landmark was being licensed as a reader in 2017 and I settled happily into that role in my home parish of Groombridge.

"About 18 months ago, much to my surprise, I was invited to offer myself for ordination and even more surprised to be accepted.

"My ministry will continue to be based in Groombridge but with the added responsibilities that come with ordination as deacon and priest. I hope I will continue to grow in faith and wisdom, and help others to grow in faith alongside me."

**JAMES BAILEY**

To serve at St Peter's, Brighton

“James began a banking career in Jersey before he was called to the Church.

He said: “My process of discernment for ordination began in 2013 although in reality that process started at the age of 12. I have the privilege of a great heritage in the Church. My grandpa on my mum's side was Bishop of Chelmsford, my dad's father was a priest, my dad was a priest, one of my uncles was a priest and another still is a priest. You could say it's in the blood.

“I feel proud and humble to carry on the tradition for my family as well as believing God is going to work powerfully in my own calling.”

James, who is married to Rachel and has one son, added: “We are thrilled to be continuing our journey in Brighton and at St Peter's where I have been training as an ordinand since arriving in 2017 from London. I look forward to playing my part in serving and loving the people of East Sussex and beyond.”

**SAM BUCK**

St John's, Crawley

“Sam, who is married to Amy and has two young daughters, is passionate about communities and youth work. He trained at St Mellitus College, London, and looks forward to being part of God's story in Crawley.

He said: “Having been brought up in a Christian context in Shoreham-by-Sea, I moved to London at 18 where, among other things, I studied theology at LST and Kings College. I had a conviction I would end up working in politics or the Church and through much discernment, my calling has proved to be the latter.

“Youth work is a ministry I am passionate about and I long to see our churches grow as diverse families of faith across the age spectrum. My aim is to help release the whole church to live confidently as sons and daughters of God, and to change the face of our communities as a result.

“As a family we are massively looking forward to joining in God's story as part of St John's.”

**WILLIAM 'JOSH' DELIA**

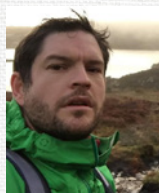
St John the Divine, West Worthing, and St Andrew's, Worthing

Josh trained for ordained ministry at St Stephen's House, Oxford. He is married to Emily and they have two children.

He said: “From the moment I was baptised as a teenager I have felt a call to ministry, but it was during a year-long parish placement in Devon that this developed into a call to ordained ministry.

“I was confirmed into the Church of England while studying philosophy in Birmingham and ended up working for a church in the City of London while going through the vocations process.

“One of the most exciting things about being a Christian is we are all given the opportunity to share in the outpouring of God's love, called to share the offer of new life to all people through Christ. I am looking forward to ordination where I will share in this mission in a new way – equipping people with word and sacrament for the work of the Gospel.”



STEPHEN EMERSON

St Mary de Haura, Shoreham

After praying in an empty church following a service, Stephen felt God had more in store for him.

He said: "I had often wondered about a vocation to ordained ministry. Friends and acquaintances had asked me about it. I felt happy that teaching was where God wanted me to be. There was plenty for me to be getting on with, working in a school and volunteering in the parish.

Things began to shift in me when, after an Easter service and everyone else had gone home, I began praying in the empty church. I felt God was saying he had more in store for me although it wasn't clear exactly what. I started to explore the idea of vocation and the rest is history.

"I feel a strange mix of confidence and nervousness. If I think about it too much it feels impossible that I could serve God's people as a deacon or priest. However, the confidence comes from knowing this was all God's idea and with God by my side, nothing is impossible."



ANTHONY GODDARD

St Peter and St Paul West Wittering, St James Birdham and St Nicolas West Itchenor

Anthony has been living and worshipping in West Wittering, where his wife grew up, for four years. He said: "We feel part of this community and want to see God's Kingdom built up here. I have been involved in the local church, leading the marriage ministry and as a member of the leadership team, but as I contemplated what God might want to do, felt I needed to be more useful.

"A year ago I felt a stirring of the vocation I now know to be my calling to the ordained ministry. Through a combination of circumstances, the possibility I might be ordained to serve in this benefice opened up. After a period of deliberation, I was approved to commence training on a new path to ordination to serve in a rural context.

"I am excited, daunted and full of expectation but more aware than ever of my need of the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit."



SARAH VAN DEN DRIESSCHE

St Mary's, Kemp Town, Brighton

Sarah is a single mother with a career stretching from nursing to restaurant management. She spends her spare time as a voluntary chaplain and supporting her church in outreach.

She said: "Contemplation and silence were the keys to my faith and my journey took me on a meandering path as I investigated different spiritualities, seeking but never finding my spiritual home.

"In 2013, when I had almost given up, God guided me towards the Christian mystical tradition and I fully committed to the Church. So here I am, delighting in the wonderfully challenging formational training at St Augustine's and very excited about joining the team at St Mary's.

"My career has been varied too, from nursing, to restaurant management in Paris. Editing work now gives me the time to do the voluntary chaplaincy and church work I love. I hope my experience will support the richness of the inclusive outreach St Mary's offers to the vibrant and diverse people of Brighton."



JON HARLEY

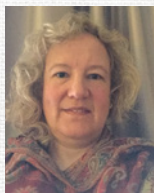
St Matthias, Brighton

Jon is married to Tara and they have two children. He trained for ordination at St Mellitus College, London.

He said: "I came to faith on an Alpha course after being intrigued by Tara's own faith when we first met. It had a significant impact on my life. Not only did it lead to marrying Tara but it soon developed into a call to ordination.

"After getting married, Tara and I travelled the world and on our return we felt called to settle in Brighton. St Peter's Brighton became our spiritual home and I joined the team as part of my discernment process.

"Tara and I are really excited at the enormous opportunity to serve at St Matthias. We feel passionate about our city and would love to see those who don't know Jesus coming to faith and joining the community. We are passionate about people and relationships, including those on the edges of our society, and building meaningful communities."



HEATHER WILKIN

Parish of Henfield, with Shermanbury and Woodmancote

Heather grew up in Essex and can't remember a time she didn't believe in God. Since her childhood her faith has developed.

She said: "From very early on in my life, I always felt God was asking more of me and over the years I have felt God calling me and 'new roles' have miraculously appeared.

"I moved to Brighton to study at Sussex University at 18. I loved the challenge of study and my surroundings, held together with making new Christian friends here.

"Among those friends was my future husband, Jonathan. We have worshipped together ever since. Family life has been a great blessing. We have two daughters now making their own way in the world.

"My sense is that my calling to ordination has always been there, it is now happening in God's time. I am very thankful for the love and support over the most recent stages of this journey. I very much look forward to serving my parish."



BEN LUCAS

St Margaret's, Angmering

Ben is married to Emily and they have two daughters.

He said: "It's a privilege to be moving south again to beautiful Angmering. We look forward to getting to know the area and, most importantly, the people."

Ben grew up in a Christian household. His father was a vicar. It was not until his teens that his own faith was challenged during a Christian summer camp.

He said: "I simply remember a youth leader asking me 'are you a Christian?' and in my recollection, this was not something anyone had asked me before. It dawned on me I wasn't really a disciple of Jesus Christ and that really challenged me. It spurred me on and I was encouraged to live an authentic life of radical discipleship, following Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life.

"God has been very good to us, leading us through transitions with small children. His faithfulness in the past assures us of his future goodness. We know he'll lead us and we hope to encourage others to meet, or come to know the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ."

**BEN MARTIN****Bishop Hannington, Hove**

Ben is looking forward to returning to the Sussex coast. He is married to Morag and they have three children. He said: "I was born and raised on the beautiful island of Guernsey. I thank God for my upbringing not simply because of the surroundings but because since the day I was born Jesus has always been part of my life.

"It wasn't until my teens that I really began to understand Jesus's love for me and the need for my own response and to be set apart for service. At first this was a church apprenticeship, then working as a staff worker for UCCF and finally a staff member of St Margaret's, Angmering.

"Throughout this time, God's call became focused on ordained ministry. As a family we are looking forward to fulfilling this vocation as we serve the church and community at Bishop Hannington."

**RICHARD MERRICK****St Cuthman's Whitehawk**

Soon after moving to Brighton, Richard and his wife Catherine felt called to be part of the partnership between St Cuthman's Whitehawk.

He said: "I came back to a life of faith whilst riding a bike around New Zealand where I often found myself talking to a God I didn't really believe in and ending up in a church on Sundays.

"Soon after moving to Brighton with my wife, we were called to be part of a church partnership in Whitehawk and we have lived and served in the community ever since. Whilst I tried to continue my career in the fitness industry and lay ministry, I found it increasingly difficult to ignore the stirrings of my heart to help pastor our community with all my time and resources.

"I loved my time at St Mellitus. I deepened my knowledge and faith and have come out with a much wider appreciation of the deep rooted practices that have been guiding the saints for centuries. We will continue to be obedient to what God may be saying to us and seeing what exciting things he has in store for St Cuthman's Whitehawk."

**HANNAH MILNE****St Peter's, Brighton**

Hannah moved from Devon to study at the University of Sussex in 2011. Brighton has been her home since.

She said: "I started following Jesus as a teenager. Through the local church youth group I developed a love for the gospel, and the person of Jesus, and was baptised at 16.

"Since then, I have continued to grow in my faith and understanding, following the call of God to work for a non-profit organisation in the United States, then studying for a degree in international relations before discerning a call to ordination in my final year of study.

"Having trained at St Mellitus, I am thrilled to be serving my curacy at St Peter's where I will serve the vision to see the evangelisation of the nation, revitalisation of the church and the transformation of society.

"Whilst we love the creativity and vibrancy of the city, my husband Henry and I enjoy the outdoors, and getting out on our bikes or on a long walk to enjoy all Sussex has to offer."



PATRICK PEARSON-MILES

Parish of Chanctonbury

Patrick moved to Sussex in 2005 with his family and loves living here. His journey to ordination started in 2014 when he entered reader training.

He said: “During the discernment process, one question asked is ‘have you ever considered ordination?’. My response was ‘not a chance, that’s not me’.

“However, in early 2017 while walking the dog on the Downs, out of nowhere the Father dropped this thought into my mind - ‘I want you to get ordained’. This could not have been further from my mind. I did my best to ignore it but after two weeks I gave in and before I knew it, the ball was rolling. I am passionate about seeing people discovering the true nature of God and how that shapes us as his children, and learning to flow naturally in the practical works of his kingdom.”



MARK RODGER

All Saints, Wick, Littlehampton

Mark was called to Hastings six years ago to serve a new church plant. Soon after he felt God calling him to explore ordination and while studying at St Mellitus College, he continued to serve at Holy Trinity, Hastings.

He said: “Jesus has been so faithful to my wife Laura and I, reshaping us to be more like Jesus and calling us to be a small part of his amazing plan.

“It’s been a privilege and we’ve learnt so much about God, ourselves and what it means to be a church on a mission. I’ve loved having opportunities to preach the Bible and equip disciples and leaders to live out their calling.

“We go as family, me, Laura and our beautiful children Grace and Boaz, excited to see what God has for us. For me I hope it includes playing squash, gardening and enjoying time with my family on the beach, reading stories and playing silly games.”



GRETA SAWYER

Parish of Worth, Pound Hill and Maidenbower

For years Greta felt God was calling her towards something but ordination wasn’t what she had in mind.

She said: “I busied myself by leading Sunday school and becoming involved in church life, but I still had the feeling that wasn’t enough. Eventually a friend told me to stop and listen to God. Then I had the inkling I was being called to ordination, but I wasn’t ready to accept it and spent a few more years ignoring all the nudges until they became overbearing.

“Once I accepted it and started to mention it to others, the response was overwhelmingly positive.

“During my discernment and training I have been blessed by the support and encouragement from family, friends and my sending and training parishes. Training was transformative and I know I’m different now to when I started. I look forward to ministering to the community as I continue to serve God in my curacy.”

MU members rally to boost food bank

When Mothers' Union launched its own food aid to help charity Family Support Work (FSW) during lockdown, members had no idea they would be clocking up nearly 1000 miles to bring food relief to families.

FSW has been supporting families across Sussex since 1890 and the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, is its president.

Martin Auton Lloyd, chief executive of FSW, said: "The MU has always been a great friend to FSW. Our food bank became very stretched during the early days of Covid as did all the food banks across the county, but then the Mothers' Union president asked, what can my members do? Just as we thought we were going to hit problems with food supplies, they stepped in and offered to help keep the food bank running.

"Bringing our joint supporters together like this was a great way to show to the wider

community the commitment to serving those in need that we, as Christians, have."

FSW and Mothers' Union mirror each other's core values and were an obvious partnership in these difficult times.

Karen Hill, president of Mothers' Union Chichester, said: "We are supporting at grass roots level our communities and nurturing faith as well as supporting families around the world.

"The additional costs of coronavirus include financial hardship for families, pressures on relationships, loneliness and isolation. During the Covid outbreak it was much more difficult for many people to financially or physically access food. This includes families on low incomes.

"Members of our branches across the diocese pledged to collect and donate food for FSW. It was felt that collections from our church



ANN DITTON, MU MEMBER FROM BEXHILL WITH A FOOD COLLECTION

communities over a four-week period should be enough to allow FSW time to get more permanent structures in place.

"Most of the 44 Mothers' Union Branches in Chichester Diocese took part. They always pray with their feet moving, so it seemed appropriate to start on Ascension Day, May 21, as Christians all join in prayer with Thy Kingdom Come.

"This was a simple need and one I knew we could help with to help those on our own doorstep. The last eight weeks in lockdown was hard and our members relished the opportunity to do something, to help others."

Happy to be together

Family Support Work (FSW) and the Mothers' Union, Chichester Diocese, are building on their already strong partnership with a move to share offices. Mothers' Union will be moving into the FSW offices at Garton House, 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton.

For more than 100 years these two organisations have worked together supporting families, both in Sussex and across the world.

Being able to share an office and offer support to each other will only go to strengthen

the joint mission of helping families grow and survive the ever-changing world and the demands this brings for them.

Alyson Heath, FSW chairwoman, said: "We are delighted that the Mothers' Union will soon be joining us in Garton House. FSW and Mothers' Union have worked closely together over many years in support of vulnerable families and having them share our offices will enable the two organisations to forge even greater links "

A fond farewell

AFTER four years as Mothers' Union president for Chichester Diocese, Kathryn Anderson stepped down to take up her new role as Mothers' Union provincial president for Canterbury Province for 2020-1.

Kathryn, a former nurse and primary school teacher who has three young children, was following in the footsteps of her own mother and grandmother when she joined Mothers' Union.

In 2013 she became the branch leader at Old Town, at St Mary's Church, Eastbourne. It was one of the largest branches in the diocese with more than 80 members. She went on to lead on a number

of projects as well as taking on the role of project co-ordinator at Eastbourne Family Centre.

At the beginning of 2015, former Mothers' Union diocesan president (DP) Chris Emerson asked Kathryn to consider becoming the next DP.

Kathryn said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed being diocesan president for Chichester Diocese and am so grateful to the loyal and prayerful support of the trustees and members and trust that God will continue to work through the new DP.

"It is a privilege to have been nominated provincial president for Canterbury Province for 2020-1. I know God is



KATHRYN IS PICTURED WITH HER HUSBAND ANDY AND HER MOTHER

continuing to guide and equip me. I look forward to the challenges and the joys of being provincial president.

"I am mindful of this quote from Proverbs 16 verse 3: 'Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed'."



WELCOME TO THE NEW READERS

WE WILL be welcoming three new readers into the diocese in September. They will be licensed in their parishes following two years of demanding and challenging theological study. Readers are a vital resource in the diocese and are trained to lead, preach and teach about Jesus and the Christian life. They will join the parishes in which they will serve and exercise their ministry.



VICTORIA LARLEY

St Wilfrid's, Chichester

Victoria is a music teacher based in Chichester. She is married with two young daughters. She is looking forward to serving in her parish and exploring the idea of school chaplaincy.

She said: "I work at The Prebendal School, Chichester Cathedral's Choir School, and at Great Ballard and Churcher's College Junior. I've been teaching and performing for over 20 years, alongside my role as a church organist at St Wilfrid's.

"I was brought up as an active member of the church, serving, reading, singing in the choir and eventually directing the choir.

"My training at St. Augustine's was a fantastic experience. I met new people from diverse backgrounds and with different faith stories. I'm very much looking forward to working in the parish of St Wilfrid's, in particular with the young people, and exploring the idea of school chaplaincy."

Victoria will be licensed September 15.



CLAIRE LEVIN

Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint

Claire works for the Crown Prosecution Service as a Lawyer. As a child, she was sent to Sunday school by her parents. It was not a happy time, however, God had other plans for her.

She said: "I didn't enjoy Sunday school. At the age of 10, my piano lessons were moved from a weekday afternoon to Sunday mornings so I had to choose between Sunday School and piano lessons. I chose piano lessons, as that was marginally the better option for me. I now know God had other plans for me because 40 plus years later I find myself as the choir director at Holy Trinity, Hurstpierpoint.

"With my involvement in church music, I developed a love of all things liturgical so in October 2015 I commenced a three-year MA course in Christian liturgy. As I came to the end of the second year, in conversation with others on the course, I started to sense I was being called to a different type of ministry.

"Lay ministry was the call and with the support and guidance of those around me, I was selected for reader training in 2018. The two-year training at St Augustine's' College has been both emotionally and intellectually demanding, but everything was done in a structured way so that it contributed to my formation as a lay minister. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for me next and I am excited to begin the next stage of the journey."

Claire will be licensed on September 9.



PETER SHEARS

St Anne's, Lewes

Peter entered into reader training because he wanted to discover more about his faith. He is looking forward to his licensing and is excited to see what comes next.

He said: "I sensed myself being called to use the skills which I've developed in my career as a teacher to serve God in the community. I soon realised that although being a teacher and being a reader are similar in some ways, in others they are very different vocations.

"The training programme run by St Augustine's at Malling Abbey in Kent not only helped me to understand more about the bible, Christian doctrine, spirituality and church history, it also introduced me to a wonderful group of fellow readers, whose knowledge, good humour and friendship have given me a sense of belonging to a wider faith community.

"The two years of training have been hard at times, but the challenges have all been ones which I think have changed me for the better. I particularly enjoyed the demands of being on placement at St Mary's Barcombe and I know from comments made by my very supportive friends and fellow worshippers at St Anne's in Lewes that my preaching has developed and improved considerably.

"I'm now taking a much more active part in parish life. If I hadn't been training to become a reader I'm not sure that I would have volunteered to introduce online services in response to the closure of our church during the lockdown."

Peter will be licensed on September 27.

Cash boost for churches

Grants will help address long-term impact of virus outbreak

CHURCHES, cathedrals and Christian charities can get grants to help them adapt and respond to challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

Allchurches Trust has launched Hope Beyond, which will support projects that are directly responding to new or increased need brought about by the pandemic.

There is a focus on those that address isolation, loneliness and mental health problems exacerbated by coronavirus.

It will also look at projects to adapt buildings for better or safer post-Covid-19 access, improve digital access to activities such as live-streaming of services, and training for people to use online resources.

Grants up to £50,000 are available, covering up to 80 per cent of project costs. Money will be awarded on a rolling basis until the fund is used up, so it pays to apply sooner than later.

Katherine Prior, diocesan fundraising adviser, said this was an excellent opportunity for churches who found during lockdown that they

were capable of more types of outreach than they realised.

She said: "With the Hope Beyond scheme Allchurches Trust is encouraging church communities to build upon and consolidate those new endeavours. This is not funding for business as usual or to replace lost income but a chance to develop new and lasting forms of community support."

Allchurches Trust's website has friendly and accessible advice and has simplified the application process as much as possible. Katherine Prior is happy to advise churches on applications as well as flag up other possible sources of funds. Like most diocesan staff she is currently working from home, but can be contacted on katherine.prior@chichester.anglican.org or by phone, Wednesday to Friday, on 01273 425000.

Hope Beyond funding will address:

Projects responding to issues of loneliness and isolation made worse by coronavirus where new and/or enhanced support is being proposed. This could include improved accessibility to buildings/activities and measures to ensure buildings are Covid-19 safe

Projects focused on developing community resilience and promoting mental and emotional health and wellbeing, including provision of support groups and one-to-one counselling for people of all ages, including clergy

Projects focused on developing technological capability and resilience, particularly increasing digital capacity and provision, and supporting those without online access to get online through training and support.



ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED®
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Vote for our ancient tree

A DEDICATED churchwarden hopes his ancient yew tree will be named the UK's best.

The Wilmington Yew, thought to be 1,600 years old, sits in the grounds of St Mary and St Peter's Church in the village near Eastbourne.

The Woodland Trust has placed the ancient tree on its England Tree of the Year shortlist.

Churchwarden John Marshall has tended the Wilmington Yew for 25 years.

"It's a wonderful tree by a church," he said. "It's in a splendid position.

"Many old yew trees are in a decrepit state naturally. But because of the props [keeping the branches up], ours still looks magnificent. For many years it had a set of props which were redundant. Last year we had them completely re-done."

The ancient tree is believed to have been planted by pagans in about 400 AD.

More than 600 years later St Mary and St Peter's Church was built next to it in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest.

The tree's branches are propped up with beams to ensure they do not droop.

Woodland Trust chief executive Darren Moorcroft said trees are "easily overlooked and routinely undervalued".

"At a time when we're fighting both a climate and nature crisis, it is undeniable that trees are needed now more than ever," he said. "They are nature's most powerful weapon in this fight. Lockdown had so many of us slowing down and taking more note of nature on our doorsteps, a boost for our mental health and wellbeing.



"This competition is a very simple way to show people do care about trees."

Voting is open until September 24. To vote, visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/treeoftheyear

Thank you to Argus reporter Sam Brooke for permission to use this story which appeared in The Argus in August.

Words of encouragement

Let's build up our young people as they take their next steps

By Dan Jenkins, Diocesan Youth Officer

CAN you hear me? I can see you but I can't hear you... you might be on mute.

How many of us have been getting used to doing things a little differently in 2020? It's been a fresh challenge for us to consider how we can engage children and young people remotely during lock down. For many this has meant producing video resources, Zoom calls, online games and loads of other creative ideas.

As lockdown eases, we can reflect on new skills we've learned and how much more comfortable we've become with talking to camera and video conference calls. My question is what will we carry with us as things start to return to normal?

This year we took on the challenge of running May Camp online. You can still watch all the live seminars on YouTube – just search May Camp Live and you'll find a playlist of the whole weekend. We used YouTube, Instagram, Zoom, live video feeds and pre-recorded video. We tried to make use of sharing features and live chats to keep the programme as interactive as possible. It was a great success but no replacement for

the real thing. But next year, when we're back at Plumpton racecourse, we've got big plans to bring you behind the scenes using the technology we've become comfortable with this year.

I don't think Zoom can replace face-to-face gatherings but in strange times such as these they can help to bridge the gap which, just ten years ago, would not have been feasible.

As we are able to start meeting again, my advice to churches would be to focus on transition ages in the coming months. Children and young people who would normally begin to move into older groups or attend summer events haven't been able to do this. Some will be starting in secondary school in September and will have missed much of the support they would otherwise receive in these summer months.

Young people becoming young adults may be off to university and unsure about whether lectures will be able to go ahead. If you know young people off to university in September consider linking them up with Fusion www.fusionmovement.org whose mission is to support new students, linking them up

with new churches and other Christians starting at the same university.

At this time we need to be encouragers, building these young people up and spurring them on and continue to journey with them.

Lord, help us to see the young people in our communities in the way that you do. Help us to build them up and encourage them in their next steps.

Philippians 4:6-7 (MSG)
Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life.

For guidance on using Zoom for youth and children's work go to the diocesan youth page <https://youth.chichester.anglican.org/>

For further information contact the diocesan youth officer Dan Jenkins on 01273 421021.





Prayers for our schools

Diocesan Director for Education, Trevor Cristin, welcomes back staff and pupils to the new school term for 2020/2021.

Please pray for our schools as they move into a position of being open to all our children. It has been a challenging few months and I have no doubt there will be more challenges ahead. However, our school leaders have demonstrated great dedication and

professionalism throughout and I can only emphasise my gratitude and admiration for how effectively they have lead and the compassion they have shown.

Having full schools again will no doubt be a source of joy for them all but please pray that all will stay safe and well. Pray also for the children as some readjust to being back in school for the first time in many months.

Our team at Church House have been kept very busy since March and I would like to thank them for their commitment and care for others. There is a gradual return to Church House but many of us continue to work remotely. This brings both benefits and challenges but all have been resourceful and positive in ensuring our new way of working is effective.

WELCOME TO NEW STARTERS

I am very pleased to welcome Rachel Doherty and Jon Gilbert to our team. Rachel will be leading our work on site trusts and land ownership. I know a number of you are involved in matters such as this and I am sure you will enjoy engaging with Rachel. Jon has recently left a Headship role in West Sussex and is joining our Schools Effectiveness Team.

He brings with him a very wide experience which we look forward to offering schools across the diocese.

Please pray for both Rachel and Jon as they settle into their roles at a time when our team and our schools are still operating in new and different ways.

Thank you for your ongoing prayer and support. Prayer is essential in sustaining us all as we engage in this fruitful and wide-reaching ministry that is such an important part of our household of faith.

Trevor Cristin



REFUGEES
WELCOME

The refugee crisis

Now is the time to show our love for our neighbour

By Godfrey Kesari Diocesan Interfaith Adviser and Vicar of Southwater

THERE is growing concern over the increasing number of refugees crossing the Channel and coming to England.

Many are quick to point out the limited resources Britain has by virtue of being a relatively small island and the undesirable effect the steady flow of refugees might have on the country's economy and security.

It is perfectly understandable that many tend to express concerns over the mass immigration of refugees for its likely debilitating and detrimental consequences. The legitimate concerns need to be addressed in earnest. All aspects of the refugee crisis have to be considered in depth before any legal or political decision is changed to tackle it.

As a nation famed the world over for its humanity and compassion,

we would do well if we try to understand this humanitarian issue from the refugees' point of view prior to making vital decisions.

We would understand the plight of the refugees better if we could imagine ourselves in their place. More often than not, refugees are driven to undertake perilous journeys by sheer desperation. People wouldn't risk everything crossing the Channel if they weren't deeply frantic.

They have nothing to lose, so they take their chances and embark on their search for a new lease of life in a newer place. It could be true that the welfare system and social security network which the UK offers is what attracts refugees to this country from France. In addition, for many of them, English is their second language. Some of them claim that they

have a relative or a friend in this country and cite it as a reason why they would rather be here than in France.

All would agree that whatever decisions the government makes they should be robust and wise and commensurate with the core British values. In this context, it should not be forgotten that accommodating refugees can have a positive and beneficial effect too.

We cannot regard the refugees as mere liabilities. If the refugees get opportunities to unlock their potential, they can become assets to the nation. It is possible that many of today's refugees can well turn out to be tomorrow's key workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, teachers, and journalists.

No doubt, there will be talented athletes, musicians, artists and

others who enrich our lives among them. Who knows, there could be a future Archbishop Sentamu or capable political leaders and even a future British Prime Minister in today's so-called refugees.

It is apt to describe Britain as a land of migrants. It is evidenced and attested by history. Romans, Normans, Vikings, Palatines and Huguenots are but to name a few prominent groups of immigrants. It is an ineluctable fact that throughout Britain's history there have been bigots who have whipped up hatred against the migrants, often out of unwarranted fear and blatant ignorance, and perpetrated victimisation, persecution and occasional execution of them.

Yet it is heart-warming to state that the different migrant groups who have settled in the British Isles and made it their home have made it stronger and greater. We can even safely go one step further and say that the history of mankind is the history of "migrations and immigrations".

We all suffer immeasurable pain and loss due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We all struggle to cope with the "once-in-a-century" health crisis and its profound impact on all aspects of our lives. This is the moment to bring out the best in us. This is the moment to be altruistic. This is the moment to realise our common humanity and act accordingly.

We are now called to be considerate towards the refugees and show empathy

for their situations. All churches need to provide clear guidance and direction in resolving the refugees' crisis. Wherever opportunities are found, churches need to continue to engage with the refugees, listen to their stories and interact with them with love and compassion.

It is heartening that churches in Hastings are already engaging creatively with the distraught refugees. Now is the time to show our love for our neighbour in action. Now is the time to act in accordance with the true inwardness of Christ's teachings.

Christian life is about sharing the burden of others.

Refugees may be less fortunate than us. But their identity as refugees does not make them any less human. They are not the children of a lesser God. The same God who has made us has made them too.

Refugees and others in difficult situations are within the divine scheme of things. Remember Jesus identifies Himself with immigrants and refugees. Of course, we need to pray earnestly for them, we need to pray for the advent of God's Kingdom but we also must act in real life situations to make it a reality in ways we can. We find fulfilment in life when we live cheek by jowl with others.

True, physical distancing has become necessary as part of the pandemic response. But it does not mean that we don't need

others or human connections to complement our lives. It would be an affirmation of our common humanity if we are moved by the plight of the refugees and do whatever we could to alleviate it.

Here I might make three suggestions. First, practical actions such as organising collections of clothing, food or medicines to be used by agencies (either here or abroad) can be done. We all can do what we can in small ways.

Second, churches can observe and celebrate a "Refugees Sunday" when they can reflect on the dire situation of refugees, light a candle, volunteer to support and stand in solidarity with them. They could exert a positive influence on policy decisions on refugees taken by the government.

Third, in the long term, we can pray for peace in the different countries from which the refugees are fleeing from. When wars cease and when enough food, clothing, security, peace and access to education is at their doorstep, no one would want to leave their home country in desperation. Making weapons of war need to be discouraged. Leaders need to be trained to govern with compassion rather than greed.

Perhaps engaging with the refugees is a daunting challenge, but the restoring good news is that the love of Jesus Christ on the Cross gives us the strength to deal with challenges, changes us, renews us and redeems the entire world.



Help in the Holy Land

FRIENDS of the Holy Land is a small ecumenical Christian charity which was inspired by a 2007 pilgrimage.

A group of returning pilgrims felt called to do something to improve the lives of Christians in the land at the root of our faith.

FHL operates an office in Bethlehem to support vulnerable Christians. As well as meeting their direct emergency needs when families fall into financial difficulty, the team works with other agencies to support people with medical costs and school fees. Both can be very expensive, often accounting for as much as a quarter of a normal household's yearly income.

Fr Andrew Birks has recently taken over from Fr Nigel Prior as the FHL co-ordinator for the diocese and hopes to visit each deanery to talk about



the charity and how parishes can get involved to support its work in the Holy Land.

He said: "We are looking at a number of projects over the next year which include supporting education in the Holy Land, ensuring the future of Christian communities; funding students; improving employment prospects for Christians living in the Holy Land, which is vital to help them build a secure and sustainable future.

"We are funding employment projects and supporting institutions such as St Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Nablus and the Arab Episcopal Medical Centre in Ramallah through targeted appeals, helping provide clean water to so many households, a thing we in the UK take for granted.

"Since its foundation in 2009, FHL has also supported St Martha's House, the first day care centre for elderly women in Bethlehem, and we are aware of many other cases when funds become available."

The Bishop of Chichester Dr Martin Warner said: "The call to pray for the peace of Jerusalem must have a place in the heart of every Christian. The work of the Friends of the Holy Land is an expression of this prayer and I gladly commend FHL to your prayers and generosity."

The Christian population in the Holy Land is already fewer than two per cent. Through the work of the FHL and your support, we can make a difference to the lives of so many.

To find out more about what you or your parish can do to help, contact Fr Andrew.

Cash in on the cash-free approach

TIME TO PUT AWAY THE COLLECTION PLATE... THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF GIVING



AS CHURCHES move out of lockdown, the collection plate could see itself kicked into the long grass.

Many churches had already switched to offering alternative ways of giving way before Covid, but offering other, simpler methods of online giving has now become essential for all PCCs to consider, not just because of the continued health risks of handling cash but because people are carrying less of it as shopkeepers urge customers to pay using a cashless device.

But the future is not as bleak as you might think. Diocesan secretary Gabrielle Higgins recently sent a note to all parishes saying thank you for the inspiring generosity in their parish share payments and indications of the outlook for the rest of the year.

She said: "Of course it is early days yet and many parishes have already dug into their reserves. So it is more important than ever to fully embrace other methods of giving for church congregations and visitors."

More and more donors are ready to use online giving as a method of funding their church's ministry. Parishes have been discovering how this produces more income than they thought possible. As well

as direct debit and the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) there are now a range of alternative online methods that are cheaply and easily available to every parish with a web site or facebook page.

Martin Lane, vicar of Holy Trinity Church in Bosham, has been using a cashless giving device for some time. He said: "As well as being a thriving church, Holy Trinity attracts a large number of visitors throughout the year because of the history of the church and the area.

"Although we are a listed building dating back to Saxon times, there is no good reason why this technology should not be embraced. Once we installed a cashless giving device it made a significant impact seeing an increase in donations and, more significantly, the number of donations being gift-aided."

Why not consider:

- Donate buttons on your church's website, Facebook or A Church Near You page. Many churches have done this and have found a steady source of income after broadcasting their services
- Unattended contactless devices when visitors come to the church, now they are reopening for private prayer.

The Church of England's Parish Buying website contains a wealth of resources to enable online giving as an alternative to cash.

During this difficult period we need to reimagine everything we are doing in church and this includes how we help people to donate to sustain the ministry now and in the future. For parishes who don't have a website with the ability to receive donations, we are exploring a scheme similar to that in operation in another diocese where donors can access a button on the diocesan website to make donations for the benefit of their parish.

These donations, together with any gift aid tax recovered, will then be set against the parish pledge for the relevant parish. As soon as this is up and running we will let you know.

Take a look at the link to the Digital Giving page on the Parish Resources website here. More information can be found at <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/contactless-giving/> or contact John Kemp John.Kemp@chichester.anglican.org for more advice and help.

HYMNS UNPACKED

BY REV NEVILLE MANNING

FOR THE BEAUTY *of the earth*

DURING lockdown, with church buildings closed, many of us have missed being able to join with others to sing the hymns we love, though we have been grateful for services broadcast or streamed. The hymn we are thinking of in this issue, For the beauty of the earth, is a very uplifting one of thanksgiving, whether at Harvest or any other time.

Its author was Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917). A West Countryman, Tractarian style churchman, classics teacher at the Somerset College, he was also a man with poetic gifts, producing three collections of poems. For the beauty of the earth was written around 1863 as a Communion hymn, taking its cue from the post-communion prayer in The Book of Common Prayer with words about the Father accepting this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Some hymn books omitted three of the original verses and adjusted the wording slightly to make it suitable also for non-eucharistic worship. There are several tunes to which it may be sung, but the most used

ones are probably England's Lane (adapted from an old English melody) and Dix (by W H Monk). There is also a very moving version by John Rutter, dating from 1980, suitable for a choir rather than congregation.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF EACH HOUR, OF THE DAY AND OF THE NIGHT

The opening two verses of the hymn lead us into thanksgiving for the Creation around us: "For the beauty of each hour, Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light". One benefit of the difficult coronavirus lockdown for some people has been a new awareness of the natural world around us, as we have walked each day or used our garden areas, listening to birdsong and watching the wildlife. We may have learned afresh what St Antony as a hermit knew. When asked

whether he missed all his books he replied: "My book... is the nature of created things and, whenever I wish, I can read in it the works of God."

Someone else who knew that lesson was the late Bishop Stephen Neill, who wrote that what set him free from being introverted "was the discovery of natural beauty" and added "the years have brought me an ever-increasing awareness of the abounding generosity of God in the beauty of natural things". Our Lord himself also drew on the beauty and lessons of nature in his teaching.

The following verses move on to the joy of what we hear and see, as well as rejoicing in the blessings of human relationships, all the joy of human love. Strange as it is, the experience of isolation has brought home for many a deeper sense of community. The hymn draws to a close with the acknowledgement that these are all gifts of our loving God ("For each perfect gift of thine"). The final verse pictures us together as the Church of God "offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love".

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Chichester Cathedral is #GoodToGo

FOLLOWING months of closure in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, Chichester Cathedral reopened its doors on June 4.

It has made changes to ensure people can visit safely. Measures in place include hand sanitiser stations, an enhanced cleaning regime and all staff and volunteers wearing face masks.

As a result of these changes, the cathedral has been awarded the “Good To Go” mark by Visit Britain. The UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark demonstrates to visitors that an organisation is following government and public health guidance.

The cathedral is hosting a revised schedule of services, which all are welcome to attend, and space is set aside for reflection and individual private prayer.

Those visiting can do so daily between 10am and 4pm. Remember to #KnowBeforeYouGo and visit the cathedral website to plan your visit.

The Bishop's Palace Gardens are also open to explore and for those looking to spend more time in Chichester, the Cathedral's Guest House, 4 Canon Lane, and self-catered accommodation are now taking bookings.

FAREWELL TO CANON TIM SCHOFIELD

CANON Tim Schofield, residentiary canon and precentor, presided over his final service at Chichester Cathedral on June 7, streamed online.

Tim's wife Julie has also retired, having worked closely to develop children's ministry in the form of Pebbles, a now weekly group which takes place every Sunday.

The Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Stephen Waine, said: “We have been truly blessed by Tim's ministry at the cathedral and beyond. It has been a ministry devoted to the worship and music of the cathedral which he has ordered with great skill, and to caring for members of the cathedral community.

His priestly ministry is sustained by the depth of his own spiritual life.

“He has been strongly supported by Julie who we will also miss. Julie has been instrumental in children's work through Pebbles, but also in countless other ways, many of which were unseen and unnoticed except by those to whom she too has offered hospitality and care.”

ATTEND SERVICES AT HOME

WHILE Chichester Cathedral is now open, the clergy and staff team recognise many people are still unable to access their place of worship.

For this reason, they will continue to provide a range of spiritual resources for people to access online. This includes live-streamed services every Sunday at 9.30am, weekly reflections from the cathedral's clergy and the opportunity to complete a virtual pilgrimage to the historic Shrine of Saint Richard, to name but a few. Find out more at chichestercathedral.org.uk

Modern day slavery, what can we do?

By Suzette Jones, development officer for the Clewer Initiative

MORE than 200 years after the abolition of slavery there are still an estimated 40 million men, women and children trapped in modern slavery today.

Modern slave traders deal, buy and sell men, women and children for the labour, construction, agriculture, sexual, domestic and criminal markets. People are trafficked and enslaved for financial gain because slavery is a high profit, low risk crime and serious organised criminality sits firmly behind it.

Slaves, here in the UK, today - in 2020. How did they find themselves in this unseen marketplace? Lured by promises of work, a better life, only to find they are shackled invisibly to inscrutable beings. Poverty, gender, inequality, lack of education, opportunities, war, a dream of a different life.

Why do they stay? Threat of violence to themselves, their families, traps them in this stall of horrors. Even if not completely physically controlled by their slave master, a mistrust of authority may stop them from going to the police.

No one really knows just how many people are trafficked and enslaved in this country, but the World Health Organisation estimates it at 136,000. The statues of the past can be hidden but let's not become statues of today, innate from moving forward to free the enslaved here and throughout the world.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby says of slavery: "William Wilberforce convinced his generation that slavery was a sin. That belief has not changed. The sin lies in our ignorance to its existence around us."

The Clewer Initiative forms part of the Church of England's approach to eradication modern slavery. Funded by the Clewer Sisters, an Anglican order of nuns founded in 1852, it originally helped marginalised young women by providing shelter and teaching them a trade.

Today the aim is to enable the Church to work in partnership with wider church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and provide victim support and care.

The Clewer Initiative is committed to building links with partners and is represented on the Together In Sussex partnership. It can resource these links by its reach into parishes and communities, allowing a cascade of modern slavery information.

What can you do? Go to The Clewer Initiative web page www.theclewerinitiative.org and YouTube channel. Watch the video clips, read the articles, sign up for the newsletter. Download the Safe Car Wash App to your mobile. Display one of our posters in your workplace, church, community centre. When you see or feel a situation isn't right, call the modern slavery helpline on 08000121700 (emergency police 999).

You can find out what is happening in Sussex at www.togetherinsussex.org.uk or contact Elle Weaver, development manager and head of wellbeing and mental health, Elle.weaver@togetherinsussex.org.uk.

 **WE SEE YOU.**

THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Transforming Young Lives

Young People Need Your Help More Than Ever: Sleep Anywhere But Your Bed to Help Prevent Youth Homelessness.

On 9th October - sleep anywhere but your bed

Family breakdown is a leading cause of youth homelessness and pressure created by COVID-19 has drastically increased the number of vulnerable young people presenting as homeless in Sussex and Surrey. Since March, YMCA DownsLink Group, who provide supported accommodation and housing advice to young people (16-25) across the region, has seen a 61% increase in presentations of homelessness compared to the same time last year.

To compound the problem, the charity is facing the financial impact of having to cancel its biggest annual fundraising event, Sleep Easy, due to have taken place in March. So, in an ingenious attempt to both raise the profile of the issues around youth homelessness and fundraise, they have re-invented Sleep Easy to encourage people to sign up on Friday 9th October 2020 and raise money by sleeping, 'anywhere but your bed'.

Nikki Mason, YMCA DownsLink Group Director of Communications and Fundraising explains:

"Due to coronavirus, we had to postpone our mass participation Sleep Out event – so we have given it a stylish makeover to ensure it's an accessible, inclusive and safe event that anyone can take part in. Instead of meeting up, the new challenge on 9th October, is to spend the night sleeping somewhere other than your bed, with your 'bubble' or on your own. Just grab a sleeping bag and sleep anywhere you like, your garden, hallway, lounge or any other safe space. The money raised will help fund our services which tackle the root causes of youth homelessness, including our vital family mediation service."

The new format of Sleep Easy 2020 means that anyone, anywhere can take part. Children and young people are positively encouraged to take part and will be provided with special activity packs.

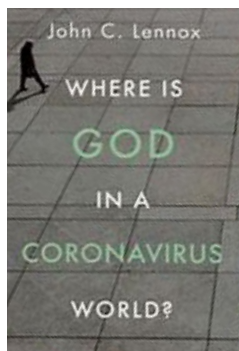
There will also be virtual entertainment on offer throughout the evening on 9th October to ensure that there is a community feel to the event. In previous year's participants have raised an average of £200 each and the charity is hoping that this year's event will raise £60,000.

To find out more or sign up visit Sleep Easy (<https://www.ymcadlg.org/get-involved/fundraise/sleep-easy/>)



BOOKS AND REVIEWS

BY REVD JOHN TWISLETON



**WHERE IS GOD IN A
CORONAVIRUS WORLD**

JOHN LENNOX

John Lennox is an Oxford University mathematician who is also actively engaged in defending the Christian faith. He has appeared in public debate and written a number of books. John invites us to imagine that we are sitting with him in a coffee shop while he gives us his answer to the question which is the title of the book. I found his response easy to read and helpful in making sense of these unprecedented and difficult times. It is also a book that I would feel able to give to non-Christian friends and relations.

Good Book Company 9781784985691



**IN CONCERT SING -
A MIRFIELD BEDSIDE BOOK**

EDITED BY BRUCE CARLIN

Lockdown has brought many to the Community of the Resurrection (CR) at Mirfield through access online to their five daily services. *In Concert Sing* is an anthology of odds and ends about CR, trivial and profound, including a contribution from former Bishop of Horsham Mark Sowerby, now College of the Resurrection principal, about priestly formation. My first connection with CR was hearing Bishop Trevor Huddleston preach, alerting me to Africa and its needs and the force of his prophetic book *Naught For Your Comfort*. The book portrays CR's historic mission partnership with the Church in Africa. The fruit of that mission which took in Fr Desmond Tutu as seminary assistant is evident. The editor is to be congratulated in gathering a variety of source texts into an amusing and deep anthology.

Mirfield Publications 2020 £8.50 ISBN 978-0-902834-51-4 166pp

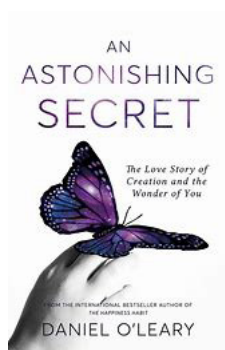


VERBUM DOMINI POPE BENEDICT XVI

MARTIN ROBINSON

A reminder that “all authentic and living Christian spirituality is based on the word of God proclaimed, accepted, celebrated and meditated upon in the Church” is timely as 2020 is kept as the Year of the Bible. The republication of Pope Benedict’s 2010 exhortation on the Bible is linked to this. Just as God comes to us by the Spirit through bread and wine so Scripture is to be received and understood by the same Spirit. The author builds expectancy about this process within Christian discipleship building love for the Bible and, in Anglican fashion, recovery of “the unity between word and sacrament”. Benedict presents the given-ness of scripture as a key asset in presenting Jesus Christ to this generation.

Alive Publishing 2020 (2nd Edition) £4.95 ISBN 978-1-906278-11-3 170pp



AN ASTONISHING SECRET

DANIEL O'LEARY

Reading this book in lockdown blessed my thinking, praying and, hopefully, my action. In a way there was nothing new in it, simply a reminder to see God in all things and all things in God. In another way it was full of newness, the perpetual newness of Jesus captured as a bridge from Christianity towards the progress and evolution of the world. It is constructed with an eye to Pope Francis’s encyclical on the environment, a here and now challenge of a book thrilling with zest for faith and life. It raises theological questions but it is also a powerful and graspable statement of the main Christian thesis of God’s irrevocable love to be engaged with in all things.

Columba Books 2019 Kindle Edition £12.99 ISBN 978 1782183242 256pp

A low-angle, wide shot of the interior of Lancing College Chapel. The image captures the soaring height of the Gothic Revival architecture, with tall, slender piers supporting a complex ribbed vaulted ceiling. Light streams in from high windows, creating a warm, golden atmosphere. In the foreground, rows of wooden pews are visible, leading the eye towards the distant altar area where a large, colorful rose window is visible. The overall impression is one of grandeur and historical significance.

Welcome to the tallest school chapel in the world

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**Lancing College, founded by Nathaniel Woodard in 1848,
is an independent boarding and day school
for boys and girls aged 13–18**

www.lancingcollege.co.uk/chapel

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