

# FAITH IN SUSSEX

*The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex*



## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

**TWO OF OUR CLERGY REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF REMEMBRANCE - PAGES 10-11**

**AUTUMN CHEER FOR PARISHES**

**/ 18-19**

Grants awarded for mission plans

**THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX**

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A vision for Outdoor ministry in Frant

**SUPPORT FOR TRAINING FUTURE PRIESTS**

**/ 16**

Diocese given funds to help with costs

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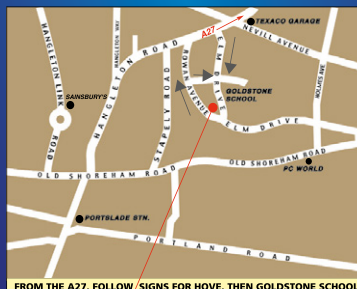
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## Remember, remember

IF YOU have ever been to Westminster Abbey you may have noticed the ten statues above the west door, erected in 1998. Each one represents many other victims of tyranny, fanaticism, dictatorship, prejudice and brutality. They include Archbishop Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, who stood out against the oppression of the poor and the abuse of human rights by a repressive government. He was shot at the altar in 1980 while saying Mass. There are also the human rights leader, Martin Luther King, assassinated in Memphis in 1968, the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, a member of the Russian royal family, who renounced her status to take religious vows and care for orphans but who was murdered by the revolutionaries, and Esther John (Qamar Zia), an Indian Christian whose Muslim family had to flee to Pakistan at partition, and who was murdered in 1960 because her faith was seen as a threat to the established order of her community.

In November, old comrades will think again of the sacrifice of those who died alongside them in war, but we can all, particularly in this challenging time ponder the Christ-led vision of the future that inspired them and countless others who have striven, often against enormous odds and at great personal cost, to make our world a fairer, better place.

One of the dreadful realities of the pandemic has been the rise in domestic abuse cases. Each of us could support change by joining our voices with the Mothers Union 16 Days of Activism, November 25 to December 10, or look at the resources they are putting together to highlight the Global Day of Action on the December 5.

True remembrance should motivate all of us to renewed efforts to preserve all that is good in our society and change what is bad. May each of us increase our prayers and activity as we prepare for the coming of God's Kingdom.

**Will Hazlewood**

Bishop of Lewes





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[www.sussextogether.org](http://www.sussextogether.org) | [@sussextogether](https://www.instagram.com/sussextogether)





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Chichester Diocese



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Diocese of Chichester

# NEWS

## ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

### PAST CASES REVIEW ON TRACK

PAST Cases Review 2 is an essential part of the Church of England's approach to safeguarding. Its existence is an acknowledgement that many cases across the Church have been responded to poorly in the past.

The recent report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has made this painfully clear. The IICSA report reminds us, among other things, that we cannot simply consign these failures to "the past". Victims of abuse continue to live with the trauma of what happened and any case that has not been responded to previously may mean an ongoing risk in the present.

The diocese continues to make progress with PCR(2). Four independent reviewers have been recruited to help with this important work. They are Paul Barton, Jane Cryer, Katrina Ugur and Julie Gross. They all come from statutory and legal specialist safeguarding professions.

Colin Perkins, diocesan safeguarding officer, said: "We have had Form 1A returns from nearly 60 per cent of parishes, which is great progress. It is imperative that we receive returns from the remaining parishes as soon as possible, though, so please ensure that the form is completed.

"The diocese is providing full access to all records to ensure that any outstanding safeguarding concerns have been identified and properly responded to and our team of four independent reviewers have now commenced their work of reading every file of every church officer in the diocese, including clergy 'blue' files, safeguarding files and disciplinary files.

"This is why it is so imperative that every parish responds by sending Form 1A to the email address provided, [pcr2@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:pcr2@chichester.anglican.org), by the deadline of November 16. Doing so will continue to help the diocese build confidence that our churches are safe places for all.

"Given the importance of PCR(2) we will continue to provide the diocese with regular progress reports."

The PCR(2) reference group is made up from diocesan representatives and agency partners who work together to ensure the work is on track and is conducted in an open and transparent way. The main responsibility of the group is to ensure the project has the resources it needs to meet its obligations.

Stephen Vinall is a survivor of abuse and is a member of the reference group. He said: "By being transparent and up front and being survivor focused, it will encourage other survivors to have the courage and confidence to come forward and know that their concerns will be listened to and acted upon.

"Things have changed and I would encourage any survivor of sexual abuse in the diocese to contact the police or safeguarding team... you will be listened to."



## BISHOP THANKS PARISHES

RESOURCES including a video have been created for use at the autumn deanery parish finance meetings, thanking parishes for their response to the challenges of 2020 and their generosity. The video, from the Bishop, the Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes, the diocesan secretary and the chairman of the finance committee, explains the key features of diocesan finances and the importance of parish share. The budget booklet, video and audio format can be found [here](#)

## CASH FOR RECOVERY

THE Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage has granted St Mary's in Kemp Town, Brighton, £10,900 to plan and design Covid-secure toilets and kitchen and improve accessibility in the church. Chichester Cathedral has been granted £297,000. The cathedral costs £3,000 a day to maintain. The funds will contribute towards essential existing job roles and operational activity. You can read more about the cathedral's award [here](#)

## YOUTH RETREAT TO CLOSE

THE trustees of St Bartz, a church building used for many years by youth groups for residential and day retreats, have announced its closure due to changing regulations and financial pressures.

A spokesman said: "For many years St Bartz has served thousands of young people at the youth retreat centre near Barcombe. The trustees have made a joint decision with the diocese to close at the end of this year. Sadly Covid restrictions have meant that no bookings have been taken since April and the difficult decision was made."

All future bookings will be offered a full refund. If you have any other questions about St Bartz, contact [stbartz@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:stbartz@chichester.anglican.org)

Dan Jenkins, diocesan youth officer and a trustee of St Bartz, said: "It is very sad to be closing the doors on what has been such a great resource for so many youth groups in our diocese. Our struggle through the last six months in light of Covid has seen a great deal of change but with it a great deal of innovation in the way that we are engaging with young people. You can read about one project in Frant doing exciting things with their outdoor space on page 34



"The Mission Fund is still supporting recruitment of youth and children's workers and the training of new ones."

"Youth activities are going online with youth leaders being more creative sending out craft packs to families and creating video content that walks them through the craft activity while telling a Bible story."

"While we'll be sorry to lose the space at St Bartz, we're really excited about a number of upcoming youth events and the way churches have been adapting to these uncertain times."

Up-to-date information and guidance for youth activities is published on our youth website <https://youth.chichester.anglican.org>



# NEWS

## COOKERY LESSONS

UKHARVEST provides education programmes to groups or individuals, online or face to face, teaching people how to cook healthy nutritious meals.

It will partner with any church or Christian charity interested in online cookery sessions, with cook-a-long videos, teaching young people about nutrition while cooking a meal for their family. Here is the link to the All Churches Fund which is open to all churches to work with young people. If your church, school or group is interested, contact Liz Woodsell. ([Liz.Woodsell@ukharvest.org.uk](mailto:Liz.Woodsell@ukharvest.org.uk))



## ADVENT IN THE DIOCESE

PLANS are under way to bring you Advent reflections through a series of podcasts by clergy around the diocese. Available during the days and weeks of Advent, the readings have been chosen to reflect that Christmas may not be as we hope, but the message of the Gospel remains unchanged. The podcasts will be available on all our usual channels - Chichester Diocese YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, the diocesan website and weekly digital newsletter.



## COMFORT AND JOY

THE Church of England's new Advent theme, to reflect the Covid context, is "comfort and joy". The hope it will better enable churches and individuals to reflect where the country is and will be by the end of this year. This builds on the success of #FollowTheStar, the theme of the 2018 and 2019 campaigns. [Find out more here](#)

# CHRISTINGLE RESOURCES

IT IS never too early to plan Christingle for your church, school or community group. Contact Ruth Andoh Baxter at The Children's Society for more information [here](#)

Links to Christingle resources can be found [here](#)



## LIVING FAITH IN 2021

APPLICATIONS are now open for the Diocesan Living Faith course in 2021. It is for lay Christians to find and develop their gifts and explore what discipleship and calling means for them. It is also part one of the Authorised Lay Ministry training programme and candidates who wish to train as ALMs need first to complete Living Faith.

Covid-19 restrictions mean the course will only be offered online in 2021 on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Applications need to be made by December 1. You can apply and find further information on the diocesan website [www.chichester.anglican.org](http://www.chichester.anglican.org) or call Jane Preston on 01273 421021.



# Living Faith

# Season of Remembrance 2020

**NOVEMBER is a season of remembering, when we give thanks for those who have enlivened and inspired our faith (All Saints, November 1), those who have touched our lives (All Souls, November 2) and Remembrance Sunday (November 8).**

The days are becoming shorter, the nights longer and the weather chillier and more changeable so there seems to be more time to reflect on the past. It can be an especially difficult time for those more

recently bereaved, but many of us find ourselves remembering those who have died even if we do not have personal memories of those lost to war.

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, church communities will be considering new ways of per-forming remembrance activities. The Church of England and the Royal British Legion have both put together a wide range of suggested Covid-safe activities and resources.

On these pages two of our clergy share personal reflections on the season of remembrance. With so many uncertainties ahead we remember what Jesus said in John 8-12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

If you are reading this and need to find a nearby church to pray within, put your postcode in here:

**[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)**

**THROUGHOUT the Covid months, social media has been taken up with some zeal by many who previously thought it had little merit in communicating the mission of the Church.**

Many of our clergy, however, have always understood the gift of this medium and its strength in communicating the gospel to new audiences. Rev Arwen Folkes, rector of East Blatchington and Bishopstone, is one of them. She has a strong profile on Facebook and Twitter and posts regularly reflections about her ministry in the community. Here is one of Arwen's Facebook reflections on the season of remembrance:

It has been a week with much funeral ministry, the immense and extraordinary privilege of walking alongside families as they collect their stories and memories ready to say goodbye, and holding them in prayer as they do so. You learn that grief is a journey, walked differently by every person.

Having such a week at this time of year reminds me that we are about to enter the (annual and yet unnamed) season of grief. The remembrances and themes found around and within All Hallows, All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance ensure that we hold before us the losses of the past. But this year it is likely to be accompanied by the losses (both specified and

ambiguous) of our present times and the fears we carry for any future losses to come. This threefold grief will be difficult to pin down.

For some these weeks will be heavy, especially with the clocks changing, and the fragmentation of our lives so starkly unending. Walking kindly and gently with ourselves and with one another will be really important. But please also remember and know that this season of grief is where the Church has so much to give. Because walking through loss and darkness is what Jesus Christ did and does, and it's where God is found, beckoning, calling and consoling us. Bringing life out of death.





This is why the church prepares to walk with you in all of this, no matter who you are, she holds you and your losses in prayer. It is why the church lights candles (many, many candles!) to symbolise the dispelling of the darkness in the world, why she breaks bread to build and form communities rooted in compassion and love. The faith even offers words when there are none, or silence when even those words run out, and all through the lament, she keeps on trusting and seeking hope as the last word.

John 8-12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

# "We will Remember them!"

By Rev Andrew Birks

Assistant Curate: Sidley, All Saint & Bexhill,  
St Barnabas and chaplain for RAC cadets

**This year has been a difficult one for all of us because of the impact of Covid-19.**

As we approach The Remembrance Services, I am acutely aware that Covid-19 means we need to do things differently. Cadets marching in parades will not happen this year; Remembrance Services in churches and in public places will be scaled back to ensure social distancing, or even cancelled.

We live in challenging, and uncharted times, but, the time when the country comes together to Remember, must never be forgotten, and just because we can't do what we usually do, we must never give up the call to Remember.

Wherever we are this year, whether at church, or at home; at work or elsewhere, we must ensure that we stop, reflect, remember and give thanks for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice; those who were wounded; those who were scarred for life having witnessed and experienced the trauma of war. Whilst we dedicate, annually, the 11th of November (and the closest Sunday to it), to come together as a nation to remember, this pandemic has taught us that we can still do many of the things we always did, just in a different way.

The cadets of today, may very well be the men and women sent to conflicts in the future; a future in which we hope and pray that love and respect will triumph over acts of aggression and war; a time when we can live in a world where differences are seen as strengths not subjects for division and pain. It is important to recognise that Remembrance Day is not just about giving thanks, but also gives us the opportunity to be educated about how wars and conflicts bring destruction, and pain and suffering to many, especially the innocent caught up in acts of aggression. It helps us to realise why we must always strive for peace and love.

Wherever you are this year please stop, (perhaps light a candle), reflect, give thanks and Remember.

---

Let us remember before God,  
and command to his safe  
keeping,

those who have died for their  
country in war;

and all who have lived and  
died

in the service of the peoples  
of the world"

---

**At the going down of the  
sun, and in the morning,  
we will remember them.**

---

# Rising to the challenge...

## UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY IN A PANDEMIC

By Father Chris McDermot  
lead chaplain, University of Sussex

OUR lives have been challenged over the past months as we have lived with the fallout from the Covid 19 pandemic around the globe. Recently at the University of Sussex we marked the experience of so many members of our wider campus community with a brief online memorial event that acknowledged the losses we have sustained (<https://vimeo.com/465674348>): the loss of loved ones, friends and colleagues, familiar routines, physical connection with others and, in too many cases, the loss of work and having to live with the economic consequences of changes we did not anticipate at the beginning of the year.

The ministry of university chaplaincy has certainly had to adapt to the new circumstances. Our services had, for the most part, gone online by way of Zoom or Facebook. Meetings with students and staff likewise were conducted online and staff meetings took on the aspect of “the Brady Bunch” where faces appeared in rows of boxes. One upside of the period was the discovery of online resources I did not know existed: Zoom, Microsoft Teams and various apps allowing a form of service and wider connection to keep us connected with the wider campus community.

Space had somehow collapsed, thanks to these technologies, and I found myself chatting and offering pastoral support to students who had returned to their home nations and those living in the UK. In some cases anxiety has been enhanced by enforced separation from family and lonely isolation in a room or flat. In one case the wife of student had to self-isolate on campus with her newborn child while her husband was back in Africa and unable to return to the UK. During the height of the pandemic we had a sizeable contingent of students – international and UK – secluding in campus housing as members of staff, for the most part, were compelled to work from home. Fortunately, the chaplaincy





## I am privileged to support and be supported by a multi faith team of chaplains at the university. We look ahead in hope, even amid all the uncertainty of the times

managed to keep our food bank project running during this time and offer access to supplies twice a week for students in need.

The pervasive sense of uncertainty and anxiety seem to add an exponential boost to the experiences of isolation and other pastoral issues faced by people. Because of my own background in community and workplace mediation work prior to coming to the University of Sussex seven years ago, I have often been asked to support staff across academic and professional services when issues of conflict arose. During the pandemic I have been asked to intervene in a few situations on and beyond campus where workplace conflicts have affected relationships. I observed across the board in each of the situations, however different, that the conflicts had been enhanced by anxieties created by the strange new world we had entered.

Now the new term has begun. Freshers' week felt very odd indeed as the usual throngs of students arriving was significantly muted and the customary events around the first week were held online. Uncertainty still hangs in the air and the campus is considerably more sedate as many students are attending lectures online or in some cases have deferred starting their university careers until next year. But it is still a pleasure to see a student presence at the university.

The Meeting House, the base for chaplaincy at Sussex, has been turned into a Covid-safe space with kitchen facilities closed, social distancing, the wearing of masks, various stations for sanitising hands and other safety protocols put in place. It has also become a quieter place with very few students or staff casually dropping by as would happen normally. But an almost daily Mass is offered throughout the week and on weekends under strict safety guidelines

and other online sessions such as different meditation programmes continue to be on offer.

Alongside the meditation sessions I have also delivered two of the annual lectures online for years 1 and 2 medical students on the theme of wellbeing and mindfulness practice. I also get to experience university life during this time of Covid as a student as I have to meet with my own PhD supervisors remotely and receive the regular emails for students from the Students Union and senior members of staff at Sussex.

Challenging as the times are for chaplaincy, I am privileged to support and be supported by a multi faith team of chaplains at the university. We look ahead in hope, even amid all the uncertainty of the times, aggravated by the current unsettling politics around the globe, as we continue to do our best by way of supporting the entire campus community.



# NEW DEACONS AND PRIESTS



**THIS** year's celebrations for the new deacons and priests was rather different to usual - because of Covid, the candidates were welcomed in a series of videos ahead of their services.

There were 17 parish-wide services as each new deacon was ordained followed by 14 more as all the candidates ordained deacon last year were priested in churches across the diocese. The services were led by Bishop Martin, Bishop Ruth and Bishop Will.

## WE WELCOMED AS DEACON:

**James Bailey** to St Peter's, Brighton

**Jon Harley** to St Matthias, Brighton

**Steven Emerson** to St Mary de Haura, Shoreham

**Heather Wilkin** to Henfield

**Patrick Pearson-Miles** to Chanctonbury Churches

**Richard Merrick** to St Cuthman's, Whitehawk, Brighton

**Trevor Harrison** to Groombridge

**Anthony Goddard** to West Wittering and Birdham with Itchenor

**William (Josh) Delia** to St John the Divine, West Worthing and St Andrew's Worthing

**Sarah Van den Driessche** to St Mary's, Kemp Town, Brighton

**Hannah Milne** to St Peter's, Brighton

**Samuel Buck** to St John's, Crawley

**Greta Sawyer** to Worth with Maidenbower

**Mark Rodger** to All Saints, Wick, Littlehampton

**Benjamin Lucas** to St Margaret's, Angmering

**David Griffin** to Hailsham

**Benjamin Martin** to Bishop Hannington, Hove



## THE NEW PRIESTS ARE:

**Neill Stannard**, St Mary's  
and St Lawrence, Goring

**Elizabeth Green**,  
St Alban's Gossops Green

**Thomas Crowley**,  
St Saviour's Eastbourne

**Elizabeth Jinks**,  
St Mark's Holbrook

**Sally Mitchell**,  
West Grinstead

**Dominik Chmielewski**,  
St Nicholas, Arundel

**Alexandra Wheeler**, St John  
the Evangelist, Copthorne

**Michael Milmine**,  
St Pancras, Chichester

**Shirley Tupper**, Beeding and  
Bramber with Botolphs

**Sandra Wickens**, Rotherfield

**Torhild Fikseanet**,  
Heathfield

**Alistair Marshall**,  
St Peter's, Brighton

**Thomas Fink-Jensen**,  
St Michael and All Angels,  
Lancing

**Emma Ham-Riche**,  
ast Preston

Director for apostolic life Rev  
Canon Rebecca Swyer said:  
"We were delighted to be able  
to share personal vocational  
stories in videos that were  
produced to introduce each  
candidate to the wider diocese  
ahead of their ordination.

**"While numbers  
attending the services  
have had to be limited,  
every candidate has  
benefited from the  
supportive presence  
of family, friends  
and those who have  
supported them in their  
journey of vocational  
discernment as well as  
their training incumbent  
and representatives of  
the parish in which they  
serve. Please continue  
to pray for all our new  
deacons and priests  
as they start this new  
stage in their Christian  
journey."**

Live-streaming of the services  
and the gallery of photos on  
Facebook have enabled others  
to join in the celebrations.  
View our Facebook gallery  
page [here](#).

## NEW READERS

WE HAVE also welcomed three  
new readers into the diocese.  
They were each licensed  
in their own church after  
many months of study and  
preparation.

Peter Shears was licensed  
at St Anne's, Lewes, Claire  
Levin was licensed at Holy  
Trinity, Hurstpierpoint, and  
Victoria Larley at St Wilfrid's,  
Chichester.

Readers, also often called  
licensed lay ministers, have  
a leadership role serving  
alongside clergy to support  
people in faith and enable  
mission. They are lay people  
who are trained and licensed  
by their bishop.

Many readers teach, preach,  
lead worship and are involved  
in mission. Some also take  
funerals after additional  
training. Many carry out their  
church ministry at the same  
time as having another job.

We join with them, their  
families, friends and parishes  
in rejoicing at their calling as  
they begin this new chapter in  
their lives.

For more information about  
reader training, [click here](#)



# Funds for priests of the future

**THE diocese had been awarded £600,000 to train the priests of tomorrow and the cash, from the Church of England's sustainability fund, has not come a moment too soon.**

The fund was set up to help dioceses cope with the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and avoid damaging cuts.

**“We are delighted to have been awarded this funding, which will enable us to ordain more curates than we felt able to budget for from existing resources.”**

Parishes can hardly escape the pressure on diocesan funds. Presentations to the

autumn deanery meetings thanked them for all they are doing in these difficult times and outlined the burden of Covid-19 on finances. The deficit for 2020 was expected to be about £1.3 million more than budgeted.

The pressures include the costs of training new priests and as a result, the budget for 2021 provides for only four stipendiary curates to start their training posts in 2021, down from an average of ten a year. This is only half the eight we wanted after seeing 12 candidates ordained in 2020.

But the diocese bid for £600,000, the cost of training three curates throughout the whole of their curacy, was successful and now work is continuing to place additional curates, safe in the knowledge this funding can be put aside to ensure the costs can be met for all their training.

Diocesan secretary Gabrielle Higgins said: “Like so many, the diocese has been hard hit by the pandemic and has been forced to make unwelcome cuts and savings, including reducing the number of stipendiary curates to be ordained in 2021. We are delighted to have been awarded this funding, which will enable us to ordain more curates than we felt able to budget for from existing resources.”

A detailed account of the current financial position was submitted alongside a summary of developments and plans to lead our churches into growth.

For further information about leading our churches into growth contact Rob Dillingham, parish development officer and deputy director for apostolic life, on 01273 421021.





# A new approach to fundraising

**CHURCHES are being encouraged to make the most of free fundraising through online shopping.**

Sellers of online goods such as Amazon.co.uk offer people the chance to donate a small proportion of the price to charity.

Buyers only have to go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> where their chosen charity, which could be their parish church, can be designated to receive Amazon's generosity. Note that the address is changed to "smile" rather than the standard "www".

**amazonsmile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Likewise the easyfundraising website <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause> enables our churches to be named as

the recipients of donations for fundraising. Parishioners can then donate to their parish church.

Parish Buying also has plenty of resources to enable online giving on its website <https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/giving-and-payments/online-giving> as well as videos to help users set this up.

There are other fundraising ideas on the official Church of England parish resources website <https://www.parishresources.org.uk/growing-income/>.

Contactless giving devices are now a vital tool for churches, especially those on the tourist trail. Many shops now carry contactless giving units for local and national charities too so donation boxes could become things of the past.

Bishop of Lewes Will Hazlewood said introducing contactless facilities into churches was the way to go. His own experience as incumbent of Dartmouth and Dittisham, a market town and village in the South Hams, Devon, saw donations grow disproportionately once contactless facilities were introduced into the churches.

Donations increased by much more than anyone thought possible and the technology paid for itself in record time. His observation was that smartphone carriers rarely carry cash, especially in the current pandemic, and only needed to be directed to the churches' contactless facilities for them to willingly use the technology to donate.

If you would like help choosing the right contactless giving device for your church, contact [John.kemp@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:John.kemp@chichester.anglican.org)

# Autumn cheer from the Mission Fund

**PARISHES have something to celebrate this autumn with grants from the Mission Fund awarded on three proposals. The meeting to assess bids and allocate funds was in October.**

All Saints Danehill with Chelwood Gate receives funds for a children's (and families') worker. The church was awarded £21,000 over three years. Vicar and rural dean Paddy MacBain said: "We are hugely thankful for this grant.

"We pray that the new worker will help us to share the love of Christ with children and their families, supporting them and helping them to find strength in God in these challenging times.

"There are exciting opportunities for the worker to deliver new programmes as well as developing the role of the current volunteers and ministries. We are delighted

and would value your prayers as we seek to serve children and families in this area."

Father Felix Smith, vicar of Lancing and Sompting churches, receives £1,000 towards audio-visual (AV) equipment to support its outreach project.

He said: "This grant allows us to introduce much-needed audio-visual equipment into two churches, which will be used regularly for worship and other outreach events.

This comes as part of a programme of encouraging lay leadership in our churches and allowing people to engage with the gospel in new and exciting ways. Lockdown has taught us a lot in terms of the opportunities presented through the use of AV and we hope to take that learning further, to continue to grow these parishes and to reach out to our community".

St Mary's Church, Horsham receives funds to support Ruby Brunsdon-Lloyd with the costs of her Christian youth ministry training. Ruby, a university graduate, is currently on a one-year placement with the parish and studying youth ministry and mission in Oxford. Lisa Barnett, vicar of St Mary's said the £1,000 award will be a big help with resources and living costs. She said: "We are really grateful for this gift from the mission fund to support Ruby's gap year with us, which we



RUBY BRUNSDON-LOYD





CHURCH FAMILY AT ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

know will help Ruby to grow as a youth minister and will be a blessing to the young people in our parish and in the wider town.”

The autumn meeting also approved the minutes from the last Mission Fund meeting in November 2019 when grants were awarded to St Paul’s Chichester, Wadhurst and Warnham. Updates were also heard from previous Mission Fund recipients, including Family Support Work. FSW had received funding for a family support practitioner

Becky Long, who is based at Broadfield Community Centre in Crawley.

Rob Dillingham, who chairs the Mission Fund meeting said: “We were very pleased to be able to make these awards. We are aware how much detailed work goes into these submissions but it is essential to see how these projects are sustainable – this is to demonstrate good stewardship of our finances as much as it is about supporting the parish in mission and any individuals supported through funding.

“I’m pleased to announce that due to good stewardship, we have funds available for small and medium grants and encourage parishes to consider applications for 2021.

**“There are exciting opportunities for the worker to deliver new programmes as well as developing the role of the current volunteers and ministries.”**

## NEXT SUBMISSION DATES:

### Spring

March 12, 2021, and the Mission Fund committee meets on March 23.

### Autumn

October 8, 2021, and the Mission Fund committee meets on October 19.

You can find out how to apply for the Mission Fund [here](#)



# Finding faith online

By Amber Jackson



**WITHIN** days of the Government restrictions being imposed at the height of lockdown, many of our churches put their services and events, including Sunday services, Bible studies and morning or night prayer, online.

A video called Faith In Action was released which captured a flavour of some of the activity across the Diocese of Chichester.

Despite lockdown restrictions being eased and physical services resuming, many online services continue to take place regularly and have welcomed many new people to the Christian family, people who have found faith through these online services.

We were delighted to hear that when Revd Arwen Folkes from St Peter's, East Blatchington and Bishopstone started filming evening compline, she saw the numbers of followers on St Peter's Facebook page jump from 50 to 235. She now calls St Peter's a "hybrid" church.

Arwen said: "This is our future. I do not think we will be going back to what we were. This experience has changed us. I feel so humbled because through us being a little brave with online services, the Holy Spirit has been alive in people."

The diocese has had more than 40,726 views on its YouTube channel since March and there have been nearly 10,000 views on its Sunday services contributed by a range of parishes in-cluded All Saints Highbrook and St Margaret's West Hoathly, Broadwater Parish and All Saints Church, Sidley, to name a few.

Diocesan social platforms continue to grow and currently have a following of 7,655 across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Nationally, The Church of England reported that the national online services have had nearly three million views.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "At a time when many have felt isolated and fearful, Church

of England parishes and clergy have broadcast thousands of online church services and events, seeking to bring comfort and hope to their communities. We know that tens of thousands of those tuning in will never have had contact with their local Church of England parish before and may never have heard the Christian message. Their welcome presence is a sign of the great hunger we all have for spiritual meaning in our lives."

Should you need help with your online presence or advice on live streaming, contact communications assistant Amber Jackson at [amber.jackson@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:amber.jackson@chichester.anglican.org).



# New initiative to help attract more visitors to your church



**Whether they are having a day out, on holiday or coming from further afield, today's tourists and visitors want something really special. They want to feel part of the place they are visiting. They are seeking an Experience.**

Oozing with heritage and full of stories, as well as being great venues for all sorts of activities, the UK's churches are packed with Experiences. Which is why the National Churches Trust has developed this exciting initiative to help churches create new ways to encourage visitors to their buildings.

COVID19 is re-shaping tourism. Although many things have changed, church tourism continues to have great potential. VisitEngland says that 55% of day trips include a visit to church or cathedral and 83% of people in the UK believe churches are an important part of the UK's history and heritage. And we want churches to be ready in 2021 when hopefully the

tourism industry will be able to open up fully once again, able to welcome more and more visitors.

The National Churches Trust will deliver its 'Experiences' project through its tourism website [Explorechurches.org](https://explorechurches.org), which is widely becoming recognized as the go to place for church tourism. It will promote the Experiences and help to bring new visitors and extra income for your church.

## What is an experience?

Experiences are exciting and immersive activities that make a great day out. They include discovering and exploring fascinating places and hands on activities that make for really memorable visits. They can be as simple as a guided walk between two churches, or more complex, all we stipulate is that the experience must include at least one church, chapel or meeting house. For example:

A guided cycle ride visiting three churches and sampling the best of local produce

An afternoon tea party in a church with live music

Church tower visit and see the sights on guided town tour

Adventure activities like coasteering or climbing, with a tasty lunch in a churchyard

Artistic workshops or classes, inside or outside a church

We now invite churches within the Diocese to get creative and develop some exciting days out. Perhaps working together in a group of churches to come up with some wonderful tours. If you have an idea, then we would love to know about it. And, if churches already have existing tourism activities such as tower tours or adventure days, please let us know as we could include those also.

# PARISH NEWS

## JACKANORY ILLUSTRATOR CREATES ALTARPIECE

**CHILDREN'S book illustrator Gavin Rowe has created a new altarpiece for the tiny church of St Francis of Assisi in Barcombe, where he lives.**

Now in his nineties, Gavin worked on many illustrations for the popular BBC children's show Jackanory, which ran for 30 years from its first broadcast in 1965. He also illustrated a broad range of books including history novels and children's stories including those by Enid Blyton.

He moved to Barcombe in 1964 with his wife Jean, having studied at the School of Art in Croydon, the Royal College of Arts and enjoying an early career in advertising before finding further success in the world of illustration.

As a regular churchgoer at St Mary's in Barcombe, Gavin was encouraged by fellow church member Roger Homan to produce a lasting piece for the altar of nearby St Francis of Assisi.

Roger Homan, emeritus professor of religious studies at the University of Brighton, said: "There is a long tradition in English churches of conveying the Incarnation in the immediate neighbourhood. Gavin Rowe is a well-known illustrator of children's books and his colourful treatment is pitched to engage the younger members of the parish."

Gavin said: "I have a daughter living in Heathfield, who I speak to often on the phone. I enjoy regular walks and attending my local church when I can. Since my wife has been admitted to a care home, it does get a little lonely sometimes but I am very grateful for the church and living in a community where people are very kind and helpful to one another.

"I've lived a good life but I look back in wonder. I was rather lost when I was younger and didn't know what I would do. I left art school in 1948 and here I am. I never imagined I would spend my whole life illustrating."

Gavin's altarpiece sets the witness and mission of St Francis in the local environment and celebrates familiar flora and fauna. The saint is remembered for his concern for the poor. He appears in the company of St Clare who founded the Franciscan order of nuns known as the poor Clares and affectionately as "the Little Geese".

St Francis's affinity to animals is evident - he is shown up a tree attending an injured bird. The Evangelist John, who in tradition survived three attempts to poison him, is shown with the adder, a local source of venom.

The horizon of the South Downs is recognisable by its signature chalkpit while the solitary oak distinguishes the Barcombe fields. Here too are the Canada geese which annually come to the river and reservoir.

St Francis of Assisi is part of the Church of St Mary's Barcombe. The church's vision is to make an impact for God in Barcombe Cross by helping people understand the enriching messages of eternal hope given to us by Jesus Christ through His words and deeds. There are currently limited opening hours due to the Covid restrictions so please check times before you visit.





# CHURCHWARDEN HONOURED

**A CHURCHWARDEN renowned for her charity work was among those named in the Queen's Birthday Honours.**

Barbara Bush, who recently retired from her job as an HR director, was surprised and delighted to be awarded an OBE for her services to her community.

She said the honour was “a tribute to all those working to support others”.

Barbara has been a churchwarden at St John the Baptist in Hove for six years. She was warmly welcomed by the then vicar Rev Paul Doick who lost no time in involving her in the church.

This was timely because he was transferring to Henfield parish and Barbara was key in supporting the church through the subsequent vacancy and recruitment.

Barbara has worked in HR in the public sector in Sussex and in London for most of her career, at the universities of Brighton and Sussex, SOAS and LSE as well as at HM Treasury, Sussex Police and Adur and Worthing Councils. Most recently she worked at the Pensions Regulator, which is based in Brighton.

Alongside her work, Barbara has supported several charities. She was a trustee for the Gardner Arts Centre at Sussex university and worked with Brighton and Hove Arts Council to develop its biannual poetry competition.

**“I feel that the award is a tribute to all of those working to support others in the community.”**

Following a cancer diagnosis and surgery in 2007, Barbara became involved with Brighton and Hove Albion's Be Cancer Aware campaign to promote early reporting of cancer symptoms, the biggest barrier to successful outcomes in the UK.

Barbara has three children and seven grandchildren, who are spread across the UK. She said they have made a major contribution to keeping her alert to change and new ways of thinking and working - and provided hands-on support and sanity when times were tough.

Barbara was pleased and humbled to find the OBE recognised not only her work in the public sector, but also her contribution to diversity and charity.



She said: “This recognises the many other inspiring people I have learnt from, been inspired by and who have made it possible in so many ways to me receiving this honour. I feel that the award is a tribute to all of those working to support others in the community.”

Rev Earl Colins, vicar of St John the Baptist, was delighted for Barbara. He said: “Barbara is one of a team of three, which includes our other wonderful church warden Mary Thomas and equally wonderful mental health representative and PCC member Sue Davidson. Mary and Barbara carry out all the responsibilities of the wardens to the highest level of efficiency, while Sue works with them to create the hospitable and welcoming atmosphere that visitors to our church always acknowledge.

“They are a team of friends and co-workers dedicated to the Kingdom of God and our parishioners. For me as a newcomer to the Church of England it has been a blessing and a real support to have them at the heart of the parish. I know our parishioners echo those sentiments.”

# PARISH NEWS

## COMMUNAL HOUSING INITIATIVE IN BID FOR FUNDS

**FIVE projects tackling the housing crisis have been shortlisted in a bid for grants.**

The initiative is being run by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community and the Cinnamon Network, the charity providing support for church social action.

St Peter's Church in Brighton is one of the five selected and will be pitching for funds this month. St Peter's plans to help churches across the country set up projects to support vulnerably housed women.

It started Safehaven Women a decade ago and now works with more than 100 women a week through weekly drop-in sessions and a mother and baby group. St Peter's has 80 volunteers who helped provide food and support for 1,000 people living in hostels in the Brighton area at the height of the Covid restrictions.

Sam Coates, founder and director of Safehaven and senior pastor at St Peter's, hopes Safehaven Women will be able to set up communal housing where volunteers live alongside vulnerable women.

She said: "We are hoping that we will be able to house, for example, mothers and babies who have come out of refuges or hostels in communal houses alongside volunteers and we will be able to work to support the women at the same time. Our vision is that the houses would provide security and stability and a sense of family life and community for women who might not have had positive family experiences in the past."

The other shortlisted projects are: New Meaning Foundation in Cambridge where people living in hostels can learn practical construction skills by building a 'microhome.' Hope4All Housing Surgery, London, which gives training on housing issues, and Radiant Cleaners, Northampton, which provides jobs and one-to-one support for people who have faced barriers to work, including homelessness. Street Connect, Glasgow, which supports recovery from addiction and tackling associated issues including homelessness and poor mental health, is also shortlisted.

Bishop of Kensington Graham Tomlin, vice-chairman of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community, said: "The commission seeks to enable churches to play their part in responding to the housing crisis, while asking the government and others to work with us to create real change.

**"We are hoping that we will be able to house mothers and babies who have come out of refuges or hostels"**

"Churches have been involved with housing for centuries. We now need new approaches to meet changing needs. The five finalists will act as blueprints to show other churches across the country how they can help people find housing security at this crucial time."

# 'I COULD NOT WISH FOR A LOVELIER GIFT'

THE STORY OF RINGMER PRAYER RUGS  
BY ANN STAMPER CHURCH MEMBER OF  
ST MARY RINGMER

I FIRST heard about prayer rug ministry from a priest in Canterbury Diocese. The prayer rug movement started in 2013 when a small group started to gather together to knit and to pray. They do this at home and also meet from time to time to pray and knit and enjoy a cup of tea together.

At St Mary's in Ringmer we have developed our own version of a small knee rug made up of knitted squares stitched together and edged with crochet. It is important to us that the squares in a rug will have been knitted, prayerfully, by several different people. The rug is stitched by someone else and finished with a crochet border by another person. We also give out a few scarves.

Each item is blessed in a church service for a named person and delivered to them by a person who knows them, not always by the vicar. They are given to anyone known to us in need of comfort - for someone in hospital or recuperating from an illness, a bereaved person or to welcome a new baby into the church family. Some have been taken abroad by members of our congregation to give to contacts there. We have made and given more than 100 rugs so far.



MUM ELIZABETH WITH MAYA AND BIG BROTHER  
ALONGSIDE ARCHDEACON OF BRIGHTON AND LEWES,  
REV MARTIN LLOYD WILLIAMS AND ANNE STAMPER

The faithful work has continued in lockdown as people continue to knit squares individually and others gather them together and crochet the edges. We have been greatly blessed by the skills of these eight people and our prayer ministry will continue to be a blessing to people in Ringmer and further afield. We would welcome more people to join us.

The 112th prayer blanket was received by our churchwarden's new granddaughter Maya.

Here are some of the appreciative notes we have received:

"I was very touched to receive the little knee rug which I have found most comforting. I shall think of you when I use it and welcome your prayers."

"It gives warmth and comfort. Knowing that it has been lovingly made with prayer I could not wish for a lovelier gift."

"I hope you appreciate how much the prayer shawl will always be treasured."



# PARISH NEWS

## EXCHANGING PEWS FOR VIEWS

REV Sara-Jane Stevens, priest in charge at Sullington and Thakeham with Warminghurst parishes, challenged herself to cycle the South Downs Way to raise funds for the building work needed in her church. It happily coincided with the awakening prayer walk that was organised by Chanctonbury churches.

### Why did you do it?

I have always loved cycling. In my previous parish, carrying out my parish duties, I averaged 40 miles each week. It gave me the opportunity to chill between appointments so when the idea came to me to ride the length of the South Downs Way to raise funds for our building work, I was keen to do it. I wanted to demonstrate my commitment to the building project and show some leadership. It also enabled me to take part in the South Downs Awakening prayer walk.

### How challenging was it?

Being unfit and overweight made it physically very hard for me. There was also the mental challenge of being by myself although occasionally I met a few people along the way who were very friendly. They were

curious to find out why I was challenging myself in this way and I was able to talk about the fundraising and what it was for. The route from Winchester to Eastbourne is very beautiful. The terrain changes from flint to sand, some tarmacked roads and then clay and chalk which makes it very challenging technically. I was helped by knowing that Bob, my husband, had completed the ride seven times.

### Did you ever feel you would give up?

Yes. On day one as I began to struggle up Old Winchester Hill, I heard myself say “you are too unfit to do this, what are you doing?” but I was determined to complete the ride. On day three, the route was steep and I was wet and cold and tired. It was raining so hard the rain was hurting my face. I could have given up then, too, but I was only two miles from the end of the section, I just had to finish it.

### What was your favourite part of the route?

On day four, I rode the shortest stretch from Devil's Dyke to Southease. I rode it very slowly because I felt very drawn to prayer and praise. The weather was beautiful, a complete contrast to day three when it had rained heavily and endlessly, and I could see open views and endless vistas. It was a perfect cycling experience. Throughout, I chose to ride in silence. I wanted to hear the sounds of the South Downs, the wind, the rain, the birds, the clamour of noisy, friendly

cows obstructing my passage through a gate somewhere north of Seaford, the puffing of other cyclists.

I had time to think and to pray about my vision for Thakeham and Sullington, especially at this time when Covid is dominating our daily lives and the Thakeham family has left the church building and moved into the new village hall. I long for people to be strong in their own spiritual growth through prayer, Bible study, discussions and worship. How will Thakeham cope with “no building”? I see clearly the opportunity to meet in the centre of the village, in a public place, as a God-given opportunity to attract others to who we are and what we are doing. Ultimately, I want it to lead to spiritual growth in the Thakeham congregation and to church growth.

Once back in our much-loved, newly refurbished, more functional building, I want to see a larger, more inclusive congregation that live out their Christianity in their daily lives and exhibit this to others so that their faith is practical. I also want to continue to use our new skills with Zoom and other technology to ensure services remain accessible online in some format.

The bike ride has raised £4,676 to date. Please consult the church website if you would like to make a donation.

Interview by churchwarden  
Alison Goodfellow

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**IN 2017 St Matthias at Fiveways in Brighton became one of three churches in the diocese to be part of the Strategic Development Fund aimed at helping these churches increase their missional impact.**

A small team from St Peter's Brighton joined the congregation at St Matthias and together they launched a new Sunday service designed to appeal to the many young families in the community.

Since the launch of the SDF project at St Matthias the church has grown from 25 to about 200 people including 60 children. Many, like Alex, had not been to church before.

Alex, who started attending this service with his family, said: "St Matthias welcomed our family with serenity, reflection, thankfulness, care, music, friendliness and peace. Coming to church on Sunday has been an opportunity to find peace and tranquillity in a hectic life. The atmosphere is one of friendship, openness, welcoming, love and that is a lovely place to be."

In 2018 St Matthias launched its first Alpha, a course designed to help people explore the Christian faith and to ask questions of life. It has welcomed 52 guests, many of whom had no previous connection to church, including Flo.

She said: "Until attending Alpha, I had a limited understanding of Christianity and nowhere to explore it as faith rather than 'religion'. Alpha was an important step in my journey as my faith in Jesus brings me joy and strength. I see things differently, sometimes in quite subtle and small ways, but it has had a big impact. I react to things differently, my inner life is transformed and so I make better choices and when I get things wrong, or things go wrong around me, I'm more able to deal with it."

Alongside Alpha, St Matthias has piloted new initiatives to appeal to people who don't normally attend church.

Vicar Tom Holbird said: "We want to create every opportunity to invite our community to church, to get to know people and to express God's love.

"We've discovered people love a community party and hundreds of people attend these events so in the last two years, in addition to our Christmas and Easter services we have run a royal wedding party and several school disco events where we raised thousands of pounds for our local schools, couples' evenings, a World Cup final party, a pub quiz to raise funds for a mental health charity and a beautiful Remembrance Sunday event.

"We launched the night shelter for those experiencing homelessness and welcomed over 1,200 guests to our amazing 'Tots and Toddlers' group, as well as starting our rewilding group 'Dadventure' which helps us connect with dads in the community. As people start to feel at home at St Matthias, it becomes much easier for them to embark on their own journey of faith."

As the SDF project comes to an end at St Matthias, please do pray that God's love would continue to impact the people of Brighton and that St Matthias will reach those who are most vulnerable at this time. Please pray:

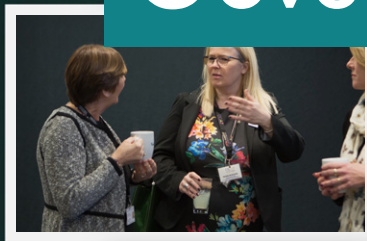
- For the new St Matthias Café opening in the church creating a hub for future events and courses.
- For Alpha Online starting in November.
- For a new Foodbank being launched in Hollingdean in December to provide for the many who are struggling financially.



FLO SPARHAM



# Foundation Governors Needed



**CHURCH schools across the diocese need foundation governors. The diocesan education team has produced a short film showing how this role makes a particular contribution to the effectiveness of our schools.**

Thanks to St Martin's School in Brighton for allowing us to film and for demonstrating the many aspects of being a governor and the importance schools place on this role. We encourage you to share this engaging video with your congregations. There is a PDF leaflet to accompany the video [here](#)

You can watch the video [here](#)

If you are interested in becoming a school governor, look at the helpful information on our website [here](#)





## School joins Bishop Luffa Academy Trust

**BISHOP Luffa School in Chichester has officially welcomed Rumboldswyke Infant School into its academy trust.**

It was announced in June that the Department for Education supported the proposal to expand Bishop Luffa Academy Trust and sponsor Rumboldswyke as an academy within it to create the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership.

Bishop Luffa headteacher Austen Hindman, said: "The partnership is about bringing students and staff together. The Year Twos loved seeing the older students and our school captains, Ethan Storey and Freya Jones, were talking afterwards about how much fun it was working with six-year-olds. We all have a lot to learn from each other."

Mr Hindman will be chief executive of the new venture. He added: "The aim of the learning partnership is to provide support for church primary schools in our community. A big school like ours can provide resources that are not affordable to small primary schools.



"We want primary headteachers to be concentrating on the learning going on in their schools and not having to worry about the budget or infrastructure. We hope that families at Rumboldswyke will see very quickly the advantages of partnership."

## Three new "bishops"

**THE Bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager visited St Giles School in Horsted Keynes to welcome the new school bishop team.**

Headteacher Hilary Douch said: "The school had a long tradition of appointing a school bishop and St Lucia from among the oldest pupils. Nobody seemed to know where or when this tradition started but it had clearly been taking place for many years. Traditionally, a boy was voted in to be the boy bishop and a girl for the role of St Lucia.

"We decided, in the name of equality, to modernise the roles. We listened to our children's views and decided to have a bishop team comprising three pupils, boys or girls, working together to lead in various ways across the school.

"In the run up to the first elections for the team we explored the concept of leadership in different contexts. So at a school and community level, within the Bible we thought about Jesus as a leader, and more widely learned about famous leaders, considering what inspired them to lead as well as the ethics of leadership.

"Three years on and the bishop team is now embedded and having a very positive impact both within the school and at a



PICTURED WITH BISHOP RUTH IS EMILIA TEESDALE, HAMISH HERRIDGE AND MAY CATLEY

personal level for our children. I am delighted to welcome Emilia, Hamish and May to the team.

"It was uplifting listening to Bishop Ruth. She is also new to her role so understood just how our children were feeling. She explained to the children the symbolism of the bishop robes and regalia, helping our children really understand the concept of service in the light of God's love."



# On the path to zero carbon church

REV Debbie Beer is the diocesan environment officer and she has been looking out for resources to help parishes on the path to becoming a zero-carbon church.

If you are concerned about climate change but don't know what your church can do, here are some great resources to help you get started.

Why not start with "A vision of zero-carbon church building", a practical and informative video by Catherine Ross, the Church of England's open and sustainable churches officer. Find it at: <https://www.facebook.com/ecochurchcon/videos/635384680457764/> or on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/kpmHCFqgcXI>

For more inspiration visit the public Facebook page of the October online EcoChurch Conference Working Together For NetZero, videos exploring a host of approaches. Find it at: <https://www.facebook.com/ecochurchcon/>

**If you are concerned about climate change but don't know what your church can do, here are some great resources to help you get started.**

Up-to-date practical written guidance from the Church of England can be found on its website, including a short guide on how churches can reduce their energy use and associated carbon emissions here. You can find out more about energy efficiency measures with relatively easy steps which will cut your church's use of electricity and gas/oil, and your utility bills here.

Finally, for wider perspectives on climate change, the UK Climate Assembly website has a wealth of material at [www.climateassembly.uk](http://www.climateassembly.uk) and Carbon Brief has authoritative and excellently presented global information at [www.carbonbrief.org](http://www.carbonbrief.org)

## FOCUS ON CREATION

The Liturgical Commission of the Church of England has published *A Time for Creation: Liturgical Resources for Creation and the Environment*, with resources for the whole year. You can read a review of this publication in our book review pages 42-43.

In a very different style, ReSound Worship has released *Doxecology*, an album of 13 new worship songs on themes of creation, ecology and Christian hope, with accompanying music book, scores, backing tracks, videos, and study guide. The album, recorded during lockdown and produced by Matt Weeks, features guest vocal contributions. Take a look here: [www.resoundworship.org/projects/doxecology](http://www.resoundworship.org/projects/doxecology)



PICTURED RECEIVING THEIR LAPTOPS FROM BISHOP ERNEST ARE REVD JOHN KIRUI, THE VICAR OF KERICHO PARISH IN KERICHO DIOCESE AND REVD WILLIAM BETT, THE VICAR OF LONDIANI PARISH, DIOCESE OF KERICHO

# Thanks from overseas

by Rev Christine Keyte, vicar at All Saints Crawley Down and diocesan overseas officer

**FUNDS from Chichester Diocesan Harvest Appeal have helped pay for equipment to enable sponsored priests to complete their studies during the Covid pandemic.**

The council has received pictures and an update from Bishop Ernest Ngeno of Kericho Diocese. He wanted to share his gratitude for the support from Chichester Diocesan Overseas Council which financially supported the costs of ministry training and equipment to enable the priests to complete their studies via virtual online learning.

Rev John Kirui and Rev William Bett are being sponsored for further study towards bachelor of divinity degrees at the recommendation of Bishop Ernest.

Both have completed diplomas in theology for their pre-ordination training and are currently part-time students at St Pauls University in Limuru, Kenya.

Bishop Ernest said: "On behalf of our two students Reverends John and William, I thank you for supporting them to buy laptops to help them carry on with their studies through virtual platforms.

"Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the university changed to an online platform for teaching and the Chichester Diocesan Overseas Council approved grants for laptop computers to be obtained for both priests.

"With the availability of the computer and internet connectivity, they managed to finalise the semester well and did their examination without challenge.

**I thank you for supporting them to buy laptops to help them carry on with their studies through virtual platforms.**

"Our sincere regards and appreciation to you and all who supported this venture.

"We praise the Lord almighty for graciously looking upon us at such unprecedented times of the pandemic. All is well in the diocese and we look forward to better days ahead."



# MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

## Stars come out

MOTHERS' Union members have been busy making thousands of stars for Advent. They have knitted, crocheted and sewn, and used all kinds of cards and bits of fabric.

They were inspired by a prayer by 99-year-old Lily Tomlinson, an indoor MU member from Den-ton, to look outside their branches and into their communities, recognising families need to see a light in the darkness – and what better way to do this than with a star.

Now members are contacting schools and nurseries to explain that each star will have a label and will be placed for children to find as they walk home from school or nursery. Look out for the stars in your area. They will be out and ready for you to find from December 10.

Lily's prayer:

Dear Lord, this is hard but we are in Your hands. We accept it and with Your help we will get through it. After all, what is the problem? We know that one day you will take us home to be with You and always protect us while we are here. Thank you, Lord. Amen

## Spotlight on violence against women

KAREN Hill, MU Chichester president, and MU trustees will be supporting the 16 Days of Activ-ism Against

Gender-Based Violence. This annual international campaign kicks off on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until December 10, Human Rights Day.

Karen said her members were doing "all kind of things" for the event. She said: "Domestic violence during lockdown soared and with the Domestic Abuse Bill soon to get its second reading in the House of Lords, Mothers' Union members and all Christians should be standing up and saying enough is enough.

"We'll be focusing most of our activity on Saturday, December 5.

"Rev Helen Rose, our MU chaplain, has worked with us to support our parishes with information, services and how to protest against domestic violence. There will be prayers for six people and bookmarks for MU members to give to anyone.

"One in three women suffer from domestic abuse. Our social media protest will "Say NO to the 1 in 3". Please share with your congregations so they support us where they can by using the resources being developed by Rev Helen and sharing our social media posts."

Follow Mothers' Union using the social media Twitter tag @MUChichester and on the MU Face-book page.

## Honour for a force of nature

CHRIS Emson, a former Chichester Mothers' Union president, has been honoured as a Freeman of Rye in recognition of her many years of service to the community.

Chris has been closely involved in the life of St Mary's Church in Rye for a long time. She started the Rye branch of MU and it was her enthusiasm for the MU holiday scheme Away From It All that influenced the fundraising for a caravan for much-needed holidays for the families it works with.

She has given her time and energy to improve her community for decades. She helped establish Rye Food Bank and has helped transform a low-key support service into the well-organised operation it is today.

Karen Hill said: "Chris is a force of nature. No one can refuse her anything when she smiles, showing all that love. She has over the years brought many families much-needed time together. She certainly deserves this recognition and award."



# SUPPORT IN A CRISIS

Martin Auton Lloyd CEO of Family Support Work

**THE last few months have been extremely challenging for Family Support Work as the coronavirus pandemic has affected our work in so many ways.**

The families we support across the diocese have been disproportionately affected by the virus and lockdown and in many cases this has resulted in increased mental health problems and financial worries.

Once lockdown was announced in March we knew it would be vital for us to continue providing our service to families and with some quick adaptations we were able to do so, providing remote support and socially distanced visits as well as taking some of our group activities online.

Our food bank became an even more important part of our service in the early weeks and we made sure that as well as food, we also provided activity packs and games for children to help keep them occupied during their enforced time indoors.

As a charity relying purely on voluntary income to fund our work we were worried our inability to hold fundraising events would hit our finances. But we have been blessed with some extremely generous donations from individuals,

churches and community groups throughout the diocese over the last few months.

We were able to hold our first fundraising event of the year in September when 11 supporters aged from ten to 75 joined us for an abseil at Peacehaven cliffs. Hennie Sleeman from St Mary's, Horsham, decided to cycle 150 miles throughout October to raise funds for us and Maggi Pratt from St John's, Eastbourne, set herself the incredible challenge of running the distance from Land's End to John O'Groats over the course of the next year.

We are now looking ahead to Christmas and beyond.

Although our normal family activities will not be able to take place, we will ensure all the families we support will receive Christmas hampers and gifts for the children.

In normal years we receive wonderful donations from many churches who provide Christmas food and gifts for us to distribute. If any of those can do so this year we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact our office on 01273 832963 or email [admin@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@familysupportwork.org.uk). Thank you to all across the diocese for helping us sustain our vital work with families in crisis.



SUPPORTERS TAKING PART IN THE ABSEIL AT PEACEHAVEN CLIFFS.



# Youth ministry

## outside the box

By Rev Brendan, vicar, and Ed Pascoe,  
youth worker, Frant with Eridge



COVID has of course changed many of the ways we have been able to do ministry and at Frant with Eridge we have had to think “outside the box” to be able to continue to grow as churches.

Covid has unexpectedly created an opportunity to try a new vision for ministry that we had started to think about before the pandemic.

Rev Brendan Martin joined the church last year. During an early staff meeting he shared his vision involving outdoor services and worshipping the God of creation IN creation.

Ministry assistant Ed Pascoe, who co-ordinates our children’s work, then shared his vision for outdoor ministry. Ed completed his Forest School instructor training and another Forest School instructor happened to join the church.

Then Covid came along. We realised in our church questionnaire that a good number of people were more inclined to meet outside than inside because of Covid. This presented a natural way into starting a new outdoors ministry... we even had the perfect place.

We are blessed to have an overgrown paddock next to our rectory, along with a small woodland. During the lockdown, Rev Brendan and his family spent hours

cutting, chopping and hacking away at this jungle and Ed worked on preparing the woodland site for the young people.

Fast forward to today and it is now set up as “festival church” with a large open marquee for those inevitable rainy days, a big screen TV, live music, talk, discussion and prayers with mini fire pits for groups of six adults to sit around, socially distanced with their own chairs. In the woods with the children, each group has their own big fire pit, logs to sit on and parachute canopies. The children enjoy a Sunday School of sitting around a warming campfire, with bible stories and talking about Jesus, playing woodland games, climbing trees, making bows and arrows and bird feeders, building dens... loving Jesus in his creation.

It was so popular that after three weeks we had 29 children signed up. Our primary school has now become aware of what we can do and has asked for us to lead Forest School lessons for them.

This whole venture has so much scope for sharing Jesus in a fresh way to the church family, school and wider community, all to glorify Jesus. Covid opened people up to trying something different and new, despite the fact it was more complicated.



**Rev Brendan and his family spent hours cutting, chopping and hacking away at this jungle and Ed worked on preparing the woodland site for the young people.**

Our vision is to create a new and distinctive rural ministry for the 21st century and hopefully inspire others in how we can engage our rural communities to become who we were made to be.

If you would like to know more about youth ministry in your church, contact Dan Jenkins, diocesan youth officer, by emailing [dan.jenkins@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:dan.jenkins@chichester.anglican.org).



# The changing face of giving

**JULIE Churcher chairs The Children's Society Rustington Support Group at St Peter and St Paul's Church, which has been raising funds for the society for many years.**

Julie spoke to Faith In Sussex about why The Children's Society remains important to the church and how during these last few months she has been reflecting on how to sustain the fundraising until times are better.

Until the early 1980s there were two children's homes in Rustington, both supported by The Children's Society (TCS). At that time the parish

Church of St Peter and St Paul formed house committees and regularly visited the homes and raised funds to provide treats for the children. The homes closed in the early 1980s and the Church Appeals Committee continued to support The Children's Society. That relationship has endured to the current day, raising in excess of £60,000 for the society over the years.

TCS remains a much loved and well supported part of the life of our church, involving all age groups in fundraising.

As the current chairwoman of our support group, I work closely with the church to

promote the work of TCS. We have a core group of four members including myself, Dot Mitcham, Joanne Hanson and Kate Eckersley, and a dozen working supporters who generously give their time at fundraising events.

Our work has always predominantly been to raise much-needed funds and cake and food has always seemed to play a large part, but that, of course, is what brings people together.

I have seen fashion shows involving local shops, drink and canapé parties at private houses and gardens, pancake and toasted teacake events,

cake stalls, table sales and raffles, often all at the same time. Until 2020 two bake and brew events were held every year, with tables rented out to crafters and a family run plant nursery. Afternoon vintage tea parties in the church hall were well supported, as was an indulgent Italian feast held on a summer's evening. All ticketed events sell out. Going back some years, wonderful pantomimes were performed, with all ages from the church family taking part. Our re-ordered church has given us so much more scope for fundraising events.

During 2020 I have had to reflect upon change. I hope to have one small socially distanced Christingle in December which will be streamed online and children who are unable to attend will be given TCS Christingle gift bags which will include everything to enable them to make their own Christingle at home.

In September I started a doorstep cake delivery scheme. The idea was to have a choice of home baked cookies and cakes, all to be ordered at £5 per bake with collection or home delivery. I was the sole baker and In September I received ten orders. In October I devised a slightly different menu to give more choice and by October 20 had received 30 orders (14 of them for ginger

## Our work has always predominantly been to raise much-needed funds and cake and food has always seemed to play a large part

cake) and generous donations from those not wanting cake. At that date we had raised nearly £300, with gifts of flour now being received. I have now "recruited" two more bakers to keep up with demand and already I have received orders for Christmas bakes.

The only requirement of the bakers is that they hold a Stage 2 Kitchen Hygiene Certificate and have a love of the craft of patisserie and for the work of The Children's Society. The scheme will continue until the spring when work on the church allotment will start again.

Given that church was closed for a lengthy period and the blooms were not required for church decoration, the flowers this year have been given away free as bouquets to the church family, particularly those shielding or poorly. I have nearly reached my target of 100 bouquets. If any other support groups have members with allotments this would be a fine fundraising initiative.

I am currently looking at the possibility of a major outdoor concert fundraising event when times are better.

This year has required charity fundraising to look outside the box, and I hope that different initiatives and schemes will have gone some way to provide for those in desperate need. We are blessed with generous and warm-hearted supporters, and this year, through the bakes and flowers it is a privilege to give something back in return.

**The  
Children's  
Society**



JULIE CHURCHER



# United in the fight against modern slavery

**TOGETHER In Sussex has been working with Chichester Diocesan Mothers' Union to raise awareness of modern slavery.**

TIS helps churches connect with vulnerable people. Elle Weaver, from the network, said: "Working with the Mothers' Union is a great opportunity to spread awareness about modern Slavery, which covers a wide range of abuse, including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting."

Karen Hill, president of Chichester Diocese Mothers' Union, said: "To be able to spread the word with Together In Sussex, is incredible. The more people who know about the signs of modern slavery the more we can stamp out this offence against humanity. The Mothers Union is asking all its members to tell one other person about modern slavery and ask that person to also tell one person."

Victims can be any age, gender, nationality and ethnicity. Tricked or threatened into work, they feel unable to leave or report the crime through fear or intimidation. They may not even recognise themselves as a victim.

Modern slavery is largely invisible unless you know what you are looking for. Information, resources and tools can be found on the Together In Sussex website.

The MU and TIS want to raise awareness and counter myths about modern slavery.

Karen said: "The Mothers' Union membership in Chichester Diocese is following a programme to heighten the awareness to this problem - to take our blinkers off.

"Every branch is being asked to get members into groups of six and to work through a short 20-minute talk to get the necessary information to recognise the signs of slavery. Each one of us will then tell one other person of the signs

to watch out for. This might be a grandchild who uses a nail bar, a friend who is visiting a relative in a care home and so on.

"Members already have a card with how to report anything they see or hear, and we have already enfolded this in prayer."

The message is:

**You can help**  
tackle modern slavery

**You can help**  
catch those responsible

**You can help**  
safeguard victims.

Mothers' Union has produced a "we see you" poster. Click on the link to download, print and display it in your church and home: [\*\*We See You poster\*\*](#). You can find out more by emailing [elle.weaver@togetherinsussex.org.uk](mailto:elle.weaver@togetherinsussex.org.uk)

**TOGETHER  
IN SUSSEX** 

 **WE SEE YOU.**  
THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

# MA In Christian Ministry

By Rev Paul Collins, Minister of Immanuel Church Chichester

**MY PERSONALITY type likes setting challenges, which in 2010 led me to run the London Marathon. Little did I know that moving into Chichester Diocese would allow another bucket list challenge to be ticked off.**

Having left school and decided to join the police rather than go to university I have always wondered how I would cope with the challenge of a degree. Being over 30 when enrolling at St John's Nottingham I was unable to pursue the full degree and so I had this unfulfilled challenge in my life. Moving to Chichester Diocese and seeing the MA being delivered locally sparked my interest again. Like many clergy, my time at theological college was my last experience of formal study. It was not without some degree of trepidation, therefore, that I enrolled for the MA in Christian ministry at Chichester University.

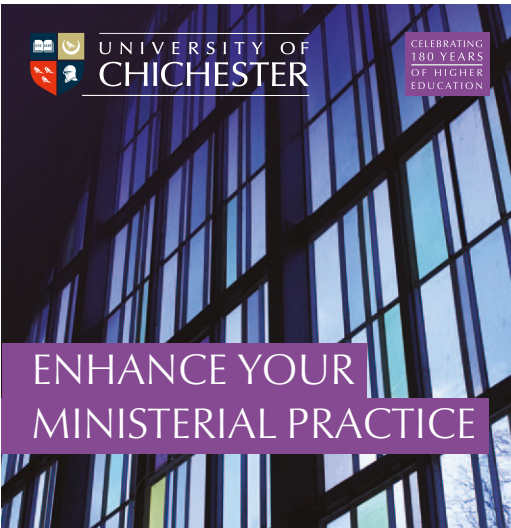
Before enrolling I met course leader Professor Graeme Smith, who allayed any concerns and answered my questions. He assured me the course was theologically contextual, which has certainly been the case so far. The modules are selected so they are relevant for those in ordained or lay ministry. The teaching has helped me think about my own practice both on an individual level and also as a church leader. As a practitioner it has given me the tools to reflect on my ministry from a range of theological disciplines. I like to think this has equipped me to be a better disciple of Jesus as well as a church leader.

Any fears I had about the academic demands have been helped by the constant encouragement of the teaching staff. The course requires attendance at three modules each academic year followed by written assessments. While the reading is substantial, it has been

achievable within the time constraints of full-time ministry and a busy home life. The lecturers give plenty of support and are available to answer questions promptly when you return home. Chichester University has a substantial theological section in the library with access for all students to e-books and journals for those who are not able to attend in person.

The course has been taught by a combination of staff from the university and the diocese and I have found them engaging. The lectures have plenty of opportunity for discussion to allow a variety of views to be heard and appreciated.

To find out more about the MA in Christian Ministry, visit: [chi.ac.uk/ma-christian-ministry](http://chi.ac.uk/ma-christian-ministry)









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## HYMNS UNPACKED

BY REV NEVILLE MANNING

# AND DID THOSE FEET *In Ancient Time*

**IT IS very strange putting this article together at a time when, because of Covid restrictions, we are not allowed congregational singing of hymns, something many of you will be missing.**

Whether these restrictions remain when you read this article remains to be seen. However, even if we cannot sing together we can read and reflect on the words of a hymn.

It is certainly worth doing that where William Blake's Jerusalem is concerned. Until recently I was not aware that Felpham, close to Bognor Regis, may have provided inspiration for this well-loved hymn as although Blake spent most of his life in London, he was living in a cottage at Felpham during the time he wrote the words.

Blake (1757-1827) came from a humble background and had little in the way of formal education. Nonetheless he became a poet, painter and printmaker. It was only after his life that he received the recognition he deserved. Blake regarded himself as a committed Christian, though his relationship with the Church of England and other religious groups or

denominations was ambivalent and often very critical of them. Certainly the Bible was an influence on his own life and his works reflect that influence, especially his final work Milton.

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**I WILL NOT CEASE  
FROM MENTAL FIGHT,  
NOR SHALL MY SWORD  
SLEEP IN MY HAND**

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Like some other items in our hymn books, such as J G Whittier's Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind", Jerusalem began as a poem. Eventually it was set to the tune most of us know, composed by Sir Hubert Parry, and found its way into a number of hymn books. Although some have understood the hymn in purely mystical and poetic ways it seems on balance that "And did those feet in ancient time" may have at its heart a call for social justice.

The hymn begins by picking up on an old legend about Christ visiting England as a young man, together with Joseph of Arimathea: "And was the holy Lamb of God on England's pleasant pastures seen". It then

goes on to visualise "Jerusalem builded here among those dark satanic mills". That phrase about dark Satanic mills may not be just vivid poetic imagery but a cry for social justice in the darker aspects of the Industrial Revolution.

Blake had friends with radical social views, such as Tom Paine, and also those, like William Wordsworth, who saw the French Revolution in 1789 as the dawn of a better society, even though their views were less optimistic as that revolution developed. The latter part of the hymn expresses a resolve to fight for a better world: "I will not cease from mental fight, Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand, Till we have built Jerusalem In England's green and pleasant land". Interestingly the hymn was used by the movement which worked to gain the vote for women, a development which Parry the composer of the music was heartily pleased about.

It is said that when Blake was dying he sang of things he saw in heaven. After his death a memorial to Blake and his wife Catherine was erected in Westminster Abbey.



# CATHEDRAL NEWS

## Carols for all

CHICHESTER Cathedral will be marking Advent and Christmas in a new way this year. On top of a schedule of services and carol services, it will offer a programme of visual art exhibitions and experiences.

The cathedral will also be developing new digital resources, accessed online, alongside live-streamed services and events.

Under the direction of Charles Harrison, organist and master of the choristers, the Cathedral's choir will be producing a pre-recorded carol service which can be accessed throughout the diocese and beyond. The service will include subtitles to enable you to join in from the comfort and safety of your own home.

The choir has long been admired for the exceptional quality and beauty of its singing. It is at the heart of the cathedral's pattern of daily worship and it looks forward to sharing its passion with you at this joyous time of year. The service will be available from the beginning of December through the Cathedral website.

A link and QR code will be also distributed for churches and parishes to include on their newsletters and orders of service. [www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/carol-service-2020](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/carol-service-2020)

### FESTIVAL CELEBRATES COMMUNITY SPIRIT

A FESTIVAL celebrating the spirit of togetherness of people across West and East Sussex is to open at Chichester Cathedral. It will feature successful entries to the #SussexTogether Festival of the Arts, which was launched in the summer by the cathedral and Sussex Newspapers to showcase creative efforts in visual arts, creative writing or poetry, with the aim of capturing the spirit of togetherness which has seen us through the coronavirus pandemic.

The festival will open following All Souls on Monday, November 2, when we remember those we have lost. The Cathedral bells will chime in remembrance and ring in the festival on November 3. It will be an opportunity for reflection and a celebration

of how the people of Sussex responded to the pandemic.

The Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral, the Reverend Canon Dan Inman, was instrumental in setting up the festival along with Sussex Newspapers' Phil Hewitt.

The Chancellor said: "The festival is a celebration of all that is good and hopeful and beautiful, which speaks to us of how we have endured through a challenging year in 2020. We look forward to welcoming everyone to enjoy the works on display."

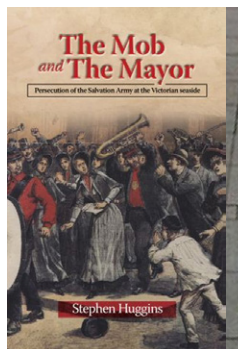
The work featured will also be presented as a virtual festival online via the cathedral website.

The festival will be open to the public until Tuesday, November 17, from 10am to 4pm, excluding Sundays. It will be in the South Transept. Entry to the cathedral is free, however donations are welcome.

To find out more, including guidance on visiting the cathedral, visit the website [www.chichestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk)

# BOOKS AND REVIEWS

BY REVD JOHN TWISLETON



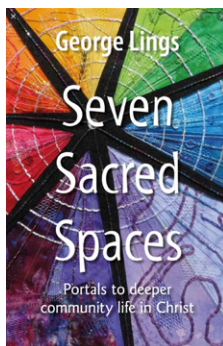
## THE MOB AND THE MAYOR, PERSECUTION OF THE SALVATION ARMY AT THE VICTORIAN SEASIDE

REV STEPHEN HUGGINS

THE Salvation Army is well known for its work with the poor and disadvantaged. There is, however, much more to the story of the Salvation Army than its highly commendable good works. It has been so closely identified with a programme of social action that its wider history has been marginalised. This history includes a period of astonishing levels of opposition and religious persecution which the Army faced in its early years. Many Salvationists were badly injured in violent street riots against them while at the same time facing imprisonment as the force of the law was brought to bear on their evangelism. Among all those places in Britain where the Salvation Army was persecuted, Eastbourne during the 1880s and 1890s stands out as worthy of attention. The narrative of *The Mob And The Mayor* is chronological and entirely evidence based. It includes witness accounts, newspaper reports, Parliamentary papers, Eastbourne Council and Watch Committee meetings minutes and Salvation Army documents.

Britain was at times at war with itself as the country came to terms with urban poverty resulting from the Industrial Revolution. The persecution of the Salvation Army at the Victorian seaside sheds a wider light on the struggles to promote social betterment for all.

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## SEVEN SACRED SPACES: PORTALS TO DEEPER COMMUNITY LIFE IN CHRIST

GEORGE LINGS

Reviewed By Rev John Twisleton

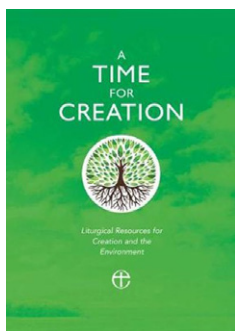
IN A lively, thought-provoking and, for some, prophetic Fresh Expressions Facebook Live session, George Lings talked to Tim Lea and Lizzie Lowrie about his new book (BRF, 2020)

Extensive personal experience, research and reflection have convinced George that the cell, chapel, chapter, cloister, garden, refectory and scriptorium all have a distinctive and important contribution to make in the creation of vibrant Christian discipleship and community. Challenged to say why cell could be even more important than chapel, he replied: "Let me put it this way: our very long, over-investment in chapel simply has not worked. The enormous resources that are put into clergy, training them and paying them, our expensive buildings, the creativity lavished on worship, have frankly not delivered quality Christian community or convincing disciples of Christ. Rather in the west, what we've lived through is a century of declining attendance. We've managed to acquire for ourselves a pretty distinguished tar-nished image and until we are changed inside by encounter with God, no investment in public worship is actually going to deliver the goods."

Watch the video here. For more information about the book and to order, click here.

Reviewed By Rev John Twisleton

BRF, 2020



## A TIME FOR CREATION: LITURGICAL RESOURCES FOR CREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**CROBERT ATWELL, GILL AMBROSE,  
CHRISTOPHER IRVINE AND SUE MOOREE**

Review by Rev Earl Collins

THIS offers exactly what it promises: prayer resources for celebrating creation. Some of it is drawn from *Common Worship: Times And Seasons*, *Daily Prayer*, *Services And Prayers For The Church Of England* and *New Patterns For Worship*. The editors are to be commended for having extracted the relevant texts from the vast uncharted regions of *Common Worship*'s seemingly limitless resources. They have also done much more by commissioning new prayers and blessings, including texts for the "Season of Creation" (stretching from September to the annual Harvest Festival and/or the Feast of St Francis of Assisi). There are services of the Word, prayers for the environment, the celebration of the Eucharist, and the seasons and festivals of the agricultural year.

It is good to see we are encouraged to bless things (both natural and manufactured) since refusal to do so already suggests a de-spirited, mechanistic view of the world and failure to see that though already "charged with the grandeur of God", it needs lifting up in Christ if it is to reach fulfilment. The blessing formulas are carefully phrased to respect theological differences between church parties, though one might hope that given the seriousness of what we are doing to creation we might all band together and transcend theological differences in agreeing to ask God's blessing on the world.

As Orthodox theologians insist, creation is suffused with the hidden energies of God: the act of blessing explicitly acknowledges that and reveals its God-bearing possibilities. Everything is on the way to the ultimate blessing of the Eucharist, to the praise and glory of God.

To say *A Time For Creation* is timely is an understatement, it is long overdue. Unfortunately, we required the now blatantly obvious effects of climate change to alert us fully to the truth of what David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg have been warning us about: we are systematically destroying the world. As Attenborough insists, in the course of this we are of course destroying ourselves. All the churches have been rather slow to acknowledge these disastrous facts, though Bishop Robert Atwell's excellent introduction draws attention to the Orthodox Church's warnings since 1989. The Anglican Communion has begun to acknowledge the problem and we also have Pope Francis' inspiring encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

This is an excellent production. Like everything else in *Common Worship*, it is a resource offering rich materials enabling us to construct services. I hope parishes will use it wisely to keep this burning issue at the forefront of prayer, communal and personal. It is surely the key theological issue of our time since it is about survival. Blessing and thanksgiving for creation redeemed and restored, and not just our own salvation as individuals but that of the universe, is the very purpose of Christ's incarnation, passion, death and resurrection.



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