FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



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This edition of Faith in Sussex marks the return to the routines of life and work that follow the holiday season.

It is good to know about the ordinations that have taken place this year, and to give thanks for those who have completed their training as Readers and are to be licensed.

But we also know that things are still not the same. Many of our big summer events, often the source of our renewal as Christians, have had to take place locally or on-line.

And although it is great that churches should now be open for public worship – and we can sing hymns again – the world is a different place.

I was recently in London to meet up for a family birthday, and we were blocked by the Extinction Rebellion demonstration. I thought that the 90 year old with us would complain: instead she simply said, "Well, I have some sympathy with them."

Environmental issues and the evidence of climate change confronts us inescapably.

Similarly, the trauma of the evacuation of those seeking to leave Afghanistan tells us that migration on a huge scale is now part of life across the globe.

Faith in Sussex is about faith in God who looks with mercy on all his children, and who calls us back to wisdom and humility in the way we live. I hope and pray that this call will shape our return from holiday to the routine of life and work ahead.

+Martin













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To subscribe to Faith in Sussex magazine, please contact the communications department: communications@chichester.anglican.org

If you would like to discuss an article for a future issue of Faith in Sussex please contact the editor: lisa.williamson@chichester.anglican.org

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Editor: Lisa Williamson lisa.williamson@chichester.anglican.org

Editorial Support: Kate Parkin, Amber Jackson

Pictures: Thank you for all the photo contributions

Design: kaufcreative.com

Contact us

Diocesan Church House 211 New Church Road Hove, BN3 4ED

Switchboard: 01273 421021 Fax: 01273 421041



www.chichester.anglican.org



Chichester Diocese



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Diocese of Chichester

ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

WELCOMING **NEW DISCIPLES**

As many events were put on hold in 2020, churches have seen an increase in confirmations this year. Four archdeaconry confirmations took place in July with other services going ahead in parishes across the diocese.







AWARD CEREMONY

THE Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, is pleased to announce an award ceremony will now go ahead for The Order of St Richard, at which lay people are recognised for their exceptional contributions to the parish, community or diocese.

The initiative was launched in October 2019 when 40 people received awards in the cathedral. The pandemic meant the 2020 ceremony had to be cancelled.

Nominations are sent in from Anglican parishes across Sussex to a panel of six people, chaired by Sara Stonor. The panel's recommended nominees then go to Bishop Martin for approval.

He said: "I am delighted to announce the names of those from across the diocese this vear who will receive the Order of St Richard. This award is made in recognition of the outstanding and distinguished service the awardees have made to the diocese, their parishes and to their local communities."

The 39 lay people recognised this year will receive their awards at a ceremony in the cathedral on October 9 at 3pm in the context of Choral Evensong.

Read the list of all those receiving awards on the diocesan website here



CELEBRATING OUR HEROES



Churches in Crawley have won a Crawley Community Award. They took the honour in the "Community Group" category for their work in transforming people's lives. Eighteen churches in the town came together as part of a national movement called Love Your Neighbour, which runs hubs throughout the country. Love Your Neighbour aims to equip, empower, and change lives in the aftermath of Covid.

In Crawley it involves a hub of nearly 200 volunteers delivering services to help those most in need. Their efforts cover such things as provision of emergency food, coaching and employment training. An integral part of the project has been building and developing partnerships with other organisations such as The Easter Team (Crawley's food bank), CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and the YMCA.

Laura Sajnog is hub manager and a member of St John's Church. She said: "Crawley has been hit hard economically following Covid-19 and it is the vision of Love Your Neighbour Crawley to support and be the bridge to enable people to get back on their feet.

"This award is for all our amazing volunteers and a reflection of the love and passion they have for our community, following the teachings of Jesus to 'Love Thy Neighbour'. They are the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Receiving this award was an incredible highlight for all of us and I'm extremely proud of what everyone has achieved in a small space of time."

Read all about the community awards, sponsored by Gatwick Airport, <u>here</u>

RURAL SUSSEX ON SHOW

The Church was present at the South of England show again this summer and it was evident that people loved being outdoors after so many weeks of being unable to move freely. Hundreds visited the Sanctuary where they sheltered from the sun and enjoyed refreshments provided by the Salvation Army.



PASTORAL ORDER CHANGES

Following consultation with the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee and the affected parishes, it has been decided that the deaneries of Midhurst, Petworth and Storrington should be transferred from the Archdeaconry of Horsham to the Archdeaconry of Chichester.

It is hoped the changes will create archdeaconries that are more compact and make better sense in terms of geography, and that reducing the number of deaneries in the Archdeaconry of Horsham will make it more feasible for Archdeacon Angela Martin to cover the archdeaconry in addition to her continuing parish role as vicar of Forest Row.

The bishop's pastoral order came into effect on August 13, but it may take a few weeks for diocesan and national systems to reflect the changes.

ROYAL SUPPORT FOR NEW PARISH CENTRE

St Paul's new parish centre building in Chichester was dedicated during a ceremony attended by the Bishop of Horsham and the Duke and Duchess of Richmond. The church received £350,000 in grants and fundraising for the building and an extra £50,000 for new staff. The parish centre will now be used to support children, the homeless, lonely, isolated, disabled and elderly as a place of sanctuary, and hospitality and welcome.



NEW AMBASSADOR FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Lel Hurst, assistant director of education (business development), was commissioned by Bishop Martin as the ambassador for the Children's Society for East Sussex. Lel was joined by members of Children's Society Rev Mike Todd and Ruth Andoh-Baxter and Fiona Mackey, the ambassador for West Sussex. As we anticipate events starting up again in schools and churches, we hope to bring regular news updates on what the Children Society is engaged in. Please pray for this important ministry across the diocese.



LEARNING HUB LAUNCHED

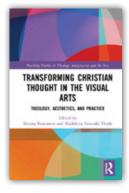
The National Giving Team has launched a "generosity learning hub". Parishes are encouraged to log on to find a wide range of materials including video courses and worship material. Visit the website https://givingtraining.org to see the rich variety of resources available.

NEW BOOK EXPLORES ART & THEOLOGY

A conference organised by Bishop Otter scholar Sheona Beaumont was the catalyst for a new book which includes the work of Beyond, a collaborative and creative art and faith initiative in Brighton.

Rev Martin Poole, vicar of St Luke's Prestonville and curator of Beyond which he founded in 2008, said: "This book came about following a two-day conference in 2018 hosted by the Bishop of Chichester at the palace and organised by the Bishop Otter scholar at the time, Sheona Beaumont. A number of the contributors were invited to develop and write up their presentations to form this book which has been in process since then and was finally published in July of this year.

"It's intended as an academic exploration of the role of art and theology in a number of different contexts. It includes the story of the commissioning of a 'bin bag' artwork in a church in North London, a theological framework for the online Visual Commentary on Scripture, examination of the process and theology of commissioning sacred



art in France and a proposal that the work of Beyond in developing alternative liturgy on the beach and in the Lanes in Brighton could be considered sacramental."

BISHOP'S OFFICERS

Ten church warden swearing-in services have taken place in the diocese this year. Churchwardens are the bishop's officers and are admitted to office each year by the archdeacon, on behalf of the bishop. We thank them for their ministry and commitment.



FREE & ACCESSIBLE THEOLOGY TEACHING

A new platform for online theological teaching has been announced in a collaborative project between Chichester and Lichfield cathedrals. The vision for free, accessible online teaching emerged from the online teaching on the Bible and theology undertaken during the first and second lockdowns.

The Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral, the Reverend Dr Daniel Inman, said: "Cathedrals have been at the heart of the Church of England's mission to educate and evangelise for over a millennium. As the teaching seats of bishops, they are positioned to teach and defend the faith in the public square and, historically, have been important local centres of learning - instrumental in founding many of our oldest schools, theological colleges and indeed universities."

To explore the range of courses and register for courses beginning in October 2021, visit www.cathedraltheology.org

Church House Hove is the administration centre of the diocese, based at 211 New Church Road, and houses several teams that work hard to provide valuable services to parishes. A new series will highlight the roles and services each team offers so parishes can become more familiar with the work and resources at the heart of our mission and ministry. In this issue we focus on the work of the Children, Family and Youth Work Team.

The Children's, Family and Youth Work Team is part of the Department for Apostolic Life.

The youth officer is Dan
Jenkins. Dan's is a full-time
post which supports all youth
workers and clergy within
the diocese, as both mentor
and consultant. Dan offers
a wide range of training and
heads the highly successful
May Camp which gathers over
500 young people annually at
Plumpton Race Course, to help
them discover and explore the
Christian faith.

The children's and family work adviser is Irene Smale. Irene works three days a week and runs the successful authorised lay ministry course on parish children's work and heads eight resource hubs across the diocese to support more than 400 children's leaders. She sends out a monthly mailing to some 500 leaders and clergy with information on training courses, events, and resources.

The team is supported by a PA, Sam Grennan. Sam keeps on top of the administration which includes the smooth running of communications and paperwork and activities diary.

Dan explains some of the challenges facing the team. "Youth and children's work is a tough area across the whole spectrum of the church, with many seeing decline in the numbers coming to church on a Sunday." He said:

"This is due to a number of factors including sports clubs for children and youth running at the same time as our morning services and the erosion of Sunday as a family day. This results in churches having to think creatively about how they engage with families, children and young people.

"The department offers a free resource for all parishes to help them think through their options. Irene and I have extensive experience as practitioners and network nationally so that we can offer the best advice in a tough area of ministry."

Dan and Irene support all parishes who, in turn, work with more than 3,500 children across the diocese. The cost of these services is £102,000 a year.

Dan added: "Our support is crucial to enabling volunteers in many parishes to offer high quality youth and children's work and the cost to parishes works out approximately less than £375 per benefice."





Gary Pickett is a Youth Worker from the Parish of Clayton with Keymer & The Beacon Parish. HE said: "The support from the Diocese Youth team is great. They offer mail out, WhatsApp resource sharing, training opportunities, link ups, retreats, coffee catch ups and the Diocesan May Camp.

"May Camp challenges the young people to explore their faith and have loads of fun with new friends they get to know. On the back of May Camp ideas the parish now offer more exciting activities.

"The coffee catch up's are really helpful. If you ever need advice, help or just need someone to chat to outside of the Parish, Dan is always there and happy to chat and give great advice. This is such an awesome support."

THE RANGE OF SERVICES COVERED BY THIS TEAM:

Advice to parishes wanting to start youth, children's or family work within their churches

Consultancy to parishes who wish to employ youth or children's workers, including job establishment and design, job description and person specification development, advice on recruitment and interviewing and help with induction and management of the individual

Support of the youth work link-up, a quarterly meeting connecting more than 50 professional youth workers across the diocese

One-to-one coaching and support of more than 50 children's volunteer leaders and professional youth workers

Resourcing of the eight diocesan children and youth work hubs established across the diocese, providing advice and support to the hub leaders. There are plans to increase the number to 12 over 2021/22

An authorised lay ministry course on youth, children's and family work as well as a range of bespoke courses for some 500 clergy, youth and children's leaders a year, both paid and volunteer

Advice on Messy Church and Godly Play based on experience in a variety of settings

Lent course materials for children and young people in line with diocesan Lent courses

A biannual children's and family work conference for the diocese, drawing on experience of best practice practitioners from across the theological spectrum, attracting over 100 delegates

May Camp and its followup Mini May Camp. This attracts some 500 young people, is a key event for many churches and is a vital tool in their youth work provision. We are one of the few dioceses that still run an event like this

Providing bronze Duke of Edinburgh award as a diocese for young people in our churches

Delivering retreats for youth, children's and family work leaders

Acting as champions for the Mission Fund committee, offering support and advice for any application related to youth and children's work.

The next issue will focus on another aspect of Apostolic Life – stewardship.

Revitalising the church. Renewing the city.



THE Diocese of Chichester was awarded £2.5 million by the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) board for a collection of exciting projects in Brighton and Hove. The initiative will work with churches across the two deaneries to encourage and stimulate further church growth - in numbers of new Christians, in depth of discipleship and in the transformation of the city.

To achieve this, the projects centre around accelerating the development of two resource churches from different traditions, All Saints Hove (modern catholic) and St Peter's Brighton (charismatic evangelical).

Through partnership with other parishes, both churches will focus on:

Outreach to children and young people

Evangelistic and catechetical courses

Leadership training

Social justice and serving the marginalised.

Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham, said: "We are delighted at the news of our successful application for the Strategic Development Funding. This money will be used to help revitalise the mission and ministry of a number of churches in Brighton and Hove as we work and pray for the growth of the Kingdom of God in this vibrant and creative city."



This project will see All Saints Hove grow, and help others to grow, through becoming a centre for developing confident leaders in mission and seconding teams of apostolic workers to other catholic parishes across the city. Father Ryan Green, vicar of All Saints, said: "This investment will enable All Saints to come into new and creative partnerships with other parishes in Brighton and Hove as we join in God's inclusive embrace of the diversity of people who are part of this colourful and challenging city. It will help us as we generate new projects that challenge and disrupt the injustices and inequalities that are all around us."

St Peter's in central Brighton is one of the largest churches in the Church of England and has a track record of growth, which includes five successful previous church partnerships and an exceptionally strong pipeline of young vocations. During this project St Peter's will concentrate on launching a further four new church partnerships by releasing ordained and lay members from St Peter's. Vicar Archie Coates said: "We are delighted about the opportunity this funding will give the church across Brighton and Hove, and in particular my prayer is for an increase in the number of young people putting their faith in Jesus, and more missional partnerships that will be a springboard to transform our city with the love of Jesus."

With the combination of strategic investment in both evangelical and catholic traditions, the impact will be widespread across the spectrum of the Anglican churches in the deaneries of Brighton and Hove, which is the only urban area in the diocese that meets the criteria for SDF funding.

The collection of projects will be managed by Stuart Britton, who joined the diocesan department of Apostolic Life 12 months ago to lead the application process and to be responsible for the delivery of these exciting new projects. Stuart is an experienced programme delivery manager who has spent the past 20 years with a global engineering consultancy company before God called him into this role. Stuart said: "This is an incredibly exciting project, and I am certain that God will use this project to advance His kingdom within the deaneries over the next five years and beyond."

Please pray that through this project, more people will discover the glorious grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the fullness of life found in Him and our different traditions may become a source of inspiration, creativity and collaboration in all our missional endeavours.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Stuart Britton at stuart.britton@chichester.anglican.org.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DEACONS AND PRIESTS



THE DIOCESE WELCOMED EIGHT NEW DEACONS THIS SUMMER.

THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER DR MARTIN WARNER ORDAINED THEM IN

THE CATHEDRAL AFTER A MORNING OF PREPARATION AND PRAYER AND

A PICNIC LUNCH WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Before the taking of the declaration and oaths in the Bishop's Chapel they spent some time in prayer ahead of the service.

Family, friends and parish supporters were welcomed by the dean of the cathedral, the Very Rev Stephen Waine and special thanks were given to the various training colleges who had supported, nurtured and prepared the candidates for ordination.

The Old Testament reading was by Darren Oliver, diocesan registrar and the New Testament reading was by Rev Natalie Loveless, vicar of Rustington.

The new deacons will now go on to serve in parishes across East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Please pray for the candidates and the parishes in which they serve:

ANNA BOUCH

(Holy Cross, Woodingdean)

JAN BUTTER

(St Peter's, West Blatchington)

LAURA DARRALL

(St Peter and St Paul, Rustington)

PATRICK DONOVAN

(Chanctonbury churches)

SIMON EARNSHAW

(Clayton with Keymer)

TOBY LANCASTER

(Holy Trinity, Hastings)

JOE PADFIELD

(East Blatchington and Bishopstone)

KIZZY PENFOLD

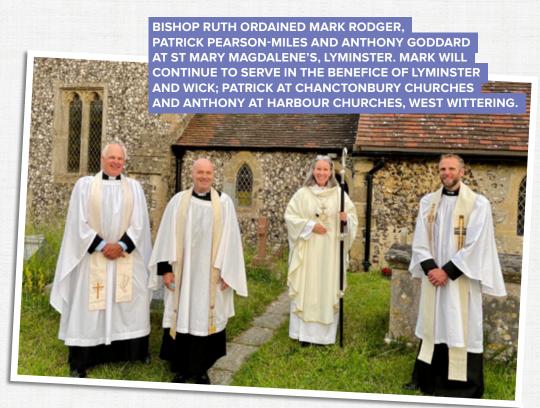
(St Helen's, Ore).

WELCOMING THE NEW PRIESTS. THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER CELEBRATED THE ORDINATION OF ITS NEW PRIESTS IN SIX ORDINATION CEREMONIES ACROSS THE DIOCESE



BISHOP RUTH ORDAINED STEVE EMERSON AND HEATHER WILKIN AS PRIEST AT ST PETER'S, HENFIELD. STEVE EMERSON WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE AT ST MARY'S, SHOREHAM AND HEATHER WILKIN AT ST PETER'S, HENFIELD.







WE ARE HERE FOR EVERYONE

by Martin Auton-Lloyd, CEO

What is it that you know FSW for? Food bank, family activity days, after-school clubs, toys at Christmas and family holidays?

For so many people that support our work they think of the list above and for our long-term members there is always the mention of Knowles Tooth, but there is so much more to FSW than what you see on the surface.

It is now five years since we left Knowles Tooth and so much has changed for us in that time. When we moved our office in to Garton House in Brighton in 2016, we had six practitioners working in eight of the deaneries in the diocese. In 2021 FSW has 15 practitioners working in 16 of the deaneries. Ten of our practitioners are registered social workers and the rest all have professional qualifications that empower them to support families.

In the last year we worked with almost 400 families and 1,300 children and that was with only 11 practitioners, as four new team members joined us in the spring of 2021

The changes we have been able to make because of the sale of Knowles Tooth means FSW can support many more families in their own homes and engage with long-term practical support. The food bank and the toys are still all very important but the practitioners are at the centre of what we do.

We will reach out and help anyone who needs our support, we won't walk past but we will stay and help.

The core of the work now is focused on the families and how we can help them develop coping methods and strategies to deal with the issues they are facing. That may be low income, poor housing, special educational needs, physical or mental health issues and employment. As we have seen over the last year, all these challenges can hit anyone regardless of where they live, what they have or where they work and the changes can literally come overnight.

The fact life can change so quickly is why FSW wants to continue to grow. A team of professional practitioners, who are free of the time constraints

placed on other support services, can spend time listening and developing longterm strategies with the family. This service has so much to offer the families in Sussex and we are here for everyone, regardless of faith.

As a charity our principles are set out by the parable of the Good Samaritan - we will reach out and help anyone who needs our support, we won't walk past but we will stay and help.

During the last 18 months many new faces have appeared in the diocese and we very much hope that as we move forward you will join with us in enabling the work to continue to grow. If you need to know more about FSW or indeed just a refresher on what we do please contact me on martin@familysupportwork. org.uk or the office on admin@ familysupportwork.org.uk or call 01273 832963. Together we can really make a difference to the lives of families across the diocese.



The Sussex Charity for Children Since 1890

NEW APPOINTMENTS ANGELA MARTIN WAS LICENSED AS ARCHDEACON OF HORSHAM AT THE CATHEDRAL WITH THE NEW HONORARY CANONS

Bishop martin appointed 3 new Honorary Canons of the Cathedral in recognition of the contribution that they make to the apostolic life of the diocese.

The Revd Rob Dillingham (Prebendary of Firle) The Revd Canon Stephen Ferns (Prebendary of Selsey) and The Revd Derek Welsman (Prebendary of Middleton) were all installed in the Cathedral on 4th July.

Reverend Canon Gary Cregeen was appointed Rural Officer for East Sussex and Priest-in-Charge of Ashburnham and Penhurst.

As priest-in-charge, Gary will have principal pastoral responsibility for the worshipping community at St Peter's Ashburnham, and as Rural Officer, he will serve the rural community within the diocese and beyond, offer a rural voice within the diocese, and resource parishes and senior staff in the diocese on rural issues.

Archdeacon of Hastings, Edward Dowlier said: "This is a really innovative partnership between the Diocese and the Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust, who are part sponsoring this post. We look forward to welcoming Gary into his new full-time role.'

He will be licensed to his new role on September 15th.

Laura Steven has been appointed as the new Head of Wellbeing for Clergy and their Families (WCF) She will support clergy and members of their household within the Diocese of Chichester.

Angela Martin was appointed the new archdeacon of Horsham and took up her new responsibilities in July alongside continueing in her role as vicar of Forest Row.

Martha Weatherill, currently Associate Vicar of St Paul Chichester with Westampnett, was appointed as Rural Dean of Chichester. Martha, who succeeds Revd David Jarrett, took up her new appointment on August 1st. She also takse up a new post as Interim Priest-in-charge of Lavant and will be licensed in September.

Julie Sear Rector of Hartfield and Coleman's Hatch, becomes the new Rural Dean for Rotherfield. Julie succeeds the Revd Sharon Francis, vicar of New Groombridge.

Please pray for Angela, Martha and Julie and the deaneries they serve.

New clergy appointments are published regularly on our Facebook and Twitter platforms and a list of all appointment from May

- August can be found here









School news

VIDEO SERVICE

For the second year running, due to the cancellation of the traditional Year 6 leaver services, the diocese put together an online service that could be shown at services held in schools. In addition. Bishop Ruth, the Bishop of Horsham and Bishop Will, the Bishop of Lewes, and various members of clergy went into schools to deliver the service. It was well received and the opportunity to include a wide range of schools sharing in songs, reading and prayers helped to create a sense of the diocesan family, despite this time of separation.

EXAM RESULTS

Churches across the diocese prayed for all young people and their teachers as A-level, BTEC and GCSE results were published in August.

Following the cancellation of exams for the second year running, this summer pupils were awarded teacher assessed grades in line with government guidance.

Trevor Cristin, diocesan director of education, said: "After a challenging year we want to thank all the hardworking staff and let all the students know that you are valued and loved whatever the outcome."

Church of England schools across Sussex performed well including students at Bishop Luffa School in Chichester. Bishop Luffa Headteacher Austen Hindman said:

"This group of students have shown good humour and resilience. They have not let the pandemic throw them off course or dampen their spirits. We are very proud of them all."

A HOST OF BUTTERFLIES

THE cathedral hosted a beautiful installation of colourful butterflies to mark Year 6 pupils' transition from primary to secondary school.

More than 1,400 butterflies, sent in from schools in both East and West Sussex, were of every colour and made from many types of recycled materials including paper, card and wire. They were displayed across the Arundel Screen in the cathedral nave during the summer.

Canon Chancellor Daniel Inman said: "In a year of enormous disruption for school pupils, we were obviously very sorry not to host schools in person at the cathedral, but we joined with the whole diocese in praying for pupils as they embark upon the next stage of their education - that they would know the

- that they would know the protection and strength of God who always goes before us."

GOVERNOR TRAINING POST-COVID

All governor training is currently online and the education team is developing its training package to be able to support governors while ensuring government and local authority requirements continue to be followed.

Being a school governor is an immensely rewarding role and is an opportunity to make a significant impact on the life and work of the school and the community.

All governors have three key roles:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

If you would be interested in serving as a school governor in your area, email michelle. perry@chichester.anglican. org.

We are currently seeking a school governance officer. Details on how to apply for this part-time role can be found on the diocesan website here

Top tips for keeping and engaging with new digital audiences



By Amber Jackson – Digital Media Co-ordinator for the Diocese

One of the great successes of lockdown was the way in which our churches adapted to using new technology to reach their congregations. As our church communities make sense of life after lockdown Amber Jackson has put together some top tips, designed to assist all to keep in touch with any new and/or existing digital audiences.

1.Get strategic. Do you have a digital strategy in place? When mapping your strategy out, spend time reviewing the following points:

- Over the past year, what has worked and what hasn't?
- Is your communications plan based around the 4 M's:

Message
What do you need to say?

Market (audience)
Who do you need to reach?

Media
Where can you find them?

MomentWhen is it best to find them?

 If you need communication or technical support, can you recruit from your community?

Further information on developing an effective church digital strategy can be found here.

2. Find out who has been accessing your online services and contact them (ensure you follow GDPR). Remember: some will wish to remain anonymous, but some will not. Can you ask them for feedback by sending out a brief survey?

Here are tips to create your survey.

3.Ensure that your homepage is continually up to date.

<u>Learn how to create an</u> <u>effective home page here.</u>

It's always helpful to remember that the people visiting your parish homepage may not have the inside knowledge on what is going on and when! It's also important to note that many web users access the internet from their mobile phones. Are your webpages mobile device friendly?

4.Consider gathering creative members of your community to question how you might improve on your 2020 digital content, so it may further help share the good news of Jesus Christ. Ask yourself: 'How can we make this better for people who don't know Jesus?'.

Here are resources and ideas to support the re-imagining of your digital content:

Youthscape Resource Hub

How to build a community while worshiping online

Minecraft Youth Group

The Sofa Singers

5. Keep going hybrid. Formulate a plan that works both for people in Church and online. It's vital that we include all audiences including children and young people and those not online. Consider running classes, when it is safe to do so, to help connect those not yet on the internet in your communities. It's important to remember that online Church is just as important as Church in a Church building for many, many people!

6. Finally, don't forget resources to <u>encourage</u> giving and try to signpost how people can get involved in your church.

If you are interested in learning more about communicating in the digital pace, consider reading: "So Everyone Can Hear: Communicating Church In A Digital Culture. Available here. Please do share your plans, ideas and tips for engaging with your digital audiences with the Diocesan Communication Team as we emerge from lockdown. amber.jackson@chichester.anglican.org



PARISHIONERS from Eastbourne Deanery churches have been following in the footsteps of saints.

A group of them completed a ten-mile pilgrimage from Chidham to Chichester, following part of the journey St Cuthman would have made in the early 700s.

He pushed his mother in a barrow from Chidham, his birth town, until it came to rest at what is now the town of Stevning, where he built a church.

The modern-day pilgrims were led by Father Danny Pegg, assistant curate at St Luke's Stone Cross, and included people from St Luke's and St Richard's Languey along with clergy about to begin serving in St Nicolas' Pevensey and St Wilfrid's Pevensey Bay.

The Sussex Camino Pilgrims set off from St Mary's Church, Chidham, after a blessing from Father Andrew Birks, vicar of Chidham.

They crossed coastal and rural paths, seeing abundant wildlife on the way, to arrive at Holy Trinity Bosham, the oldest known place of worship in Sussex and mentioned by the Venerable Bede. It has a Saxon font and a stone memorial to King Canut's daughter, purportedly interred in the church. The church is also depicted in the Bayeaux tapestry, installed in Normandy France.

The pilgrims then followed the path around Bosham Harbour wall and along public pathways through golden fields, across streams and bridges towards St Peter and St Mary Church

in Fishbourne. There they saw the pilgrim marks etched into the outer walls of the church.

One of the group, Joseph Lambert, said: "It struck me as especially powerful that the one church we couldn't enter bore on its outside the marks of hundreds of years of pilgrims. We reached back through the centuries to those that walked before us as they, in their simple carved crosses, reached centuries before them to Christ himself. It gives me hope that 500 or 1,000 years from now, some future pilgrims may be just as connected to us."

They continued to Chichester Cathedral where they were welcomed by staff for Evensong where the parishes were prayed for.

Dawn Morgan, who has only been attending St Luke's for the past couple of months, said: "The pilgrimage was a very humbling experience and has brought me so much closer to God. I am feeling changed already in ways I could never have imagined possible. I know now there is no going back in my walk with God and Jesus."

Rev Clive Woodward, a retired priest about to begin serving in Pevensey, said: "It was a great opportunity to meet with fellow pilgrims and hear about their journeys in faith. I found the enthusiasm really uplifting."

Helen Hart, from St Richard's, said: "As we followed in St Cuthman's footsteps to those special places, I couldn't help but admire the courage, faith and conviction that he had and the many challenges that he probably met along the way.

"I take heart that through small steps I am on that same journey in growing my faith."

David Hanraty, from St Luke's, said he felt the presence of God and the presence of history, but as ever with pilgrimage, it is the interaction with others that makes it all so worthwhile.

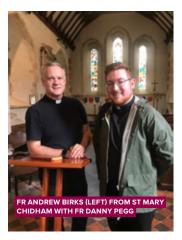
Fr Pegg said: "We made our pilgrimage now it was safe to do so, all too aware of the past 18 months. Going on this journey together, representative in miniature

of the Christian journey of our lives, we were able to give thanks and lament. We were able to pray with words and through our bodies, with those Christians all through the ages who walked the same path as us. And if that wasn't enough, it is a really good way for us as brothers and sisters in Christ to bond and grow in fellowship together."

Sussex Camino Pilgrimages is a new project aiming to promote pilgrimages to places in Sussex made holy by the lives of the Sussex Saints and the many generations of worship by the people of Sussex, initiated by Maria and Dominic Whitehouse, proprietors of Sussex Heritage Centre, a retreat house near Arundel.

Their aim is to highlight the routes taken by the known Saints of Sussex, notably St Cuthman, St Wilfrid and St Richard. Their hope is that groups and individuals will come to explore places of spiritual and historical interest and find wellbeing and fellowship among other pilgrims.

Initially Maria and Dominic are focusing on the pilgrim pathways of West Sussex but are keen to link up to other routes across Sussex. The trustees, who are Christians from the Catholic and Anglican diocese, include Maggie and Patrick Burgess, Paul Walker, Fr Birks and Lisa Williamson, the communications and engagement officer in the Diocese of Chichester. They



have been busy test walking the routes so they can share their experiences with others.

Fr Birks said: "Pilgrimages are journeys of religious significance. The Old Pilgrim Way links Southampton with Chichester and is one of the oldest pilgrim walks. Pilgrims walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us. Countless Christians, some of whom, like St Cuthman, went on to be saints over centuries, have walked these same steps and paths, being drawn closer to God.

"In Chidham, with our 810-year-old church on this route, I often think of all those who have entered the church over the last near millennia with the changes in society we have seen, yet the church remains central, prominent and a ready place to stop, rest, pray, and be at one with God."

If you want to find out more about Sussex Camino Pilgrimages contact Maria Whitehouse on mawhitho@aol.com



ST MARY'S Sompting is a beautiful church, more than 1,000 years old, with links to The Knights Templar. It is Grade I listed and famous for its Rhenish Helm spire, one of only a handful in the country. Though loved by the community, it had not held regular services for some time and had begun to deteriorate. There was no heating, paintwork was crumbling, the organ broken and a lych-gate in disrepair. It was closed for most of the week. But thanks to a church partnership programme and great community spirit, it has been undergoing a quiet transformation over the past few months and its future is bright. The partnership was forged by Father Felix Smith, vicar of St Michaels and All Angels in Lancing, who took on the care of the parish of Sompting last year. He tells us the story.





For us as Christians, three main concepts lead people to faith: beauty, goodness and truth. People are attracted to the church through beauty, the wonder of the building, the glory of the music, or the poetry of the liturgy.

They then come to see the goodness of the faith, through the welcome they receive, the preaching they hear, and the connections they make with other Christians.

Finally, through regular engagement with the Mass, they engage with the truth of the Gospel, and the impact that this must have on their life.

This has been our model in establishing a new church congregation at St Mary's Sompting. We've engaged with community groups, schools and other parties keen to see the church flourish. This has highlighted the "goodness" of the faith: friendships, love, and community spirit.

Our prayer then is that, as we engage individuals, groups and the community in this wonderful building, we will begin to see people move from beauty to goodness and finally to embrace the truth of the Gospel.

Linked to all this has been a programme of improving the building with the support of the Friends of Sompting Church.

A key part that allowed the church to reopen was the introduction of new heating. This was paid for with a mixture of a generous legacy and money from the Friends of Sompting Church.

Our next project, just about to start, is the fixing of the lych-gate which has been paid for by two grants from the War Memorials Trust and the Sompting Big Local Project respectively.

We are about to start work on its restoration, including plans for putting right the paintwork inside the church.

The aim is to further enhance the beauty of this church, and thus demonstrate that these efforts are key factors in advancing mission in the community.

On August 15 we started a celebration week full of free events to draw people to the church.

We kicked off with Evensong, followed by Morris dancing and free beer. Other events during the week included concerts, talks on the history of the church, a retreat day, and a tour of a local microvineyard, among others.

We advertised all this through a mail drop to the whole community with stories in the local papers, banners and posters, alongside other methods of digital communication using social media and our website.

This sense of the beauty of the church, its history and surroundings, has drawn people in numbers not seen for many years.

Following on from the week we will begin a monthly Sunday morning Mass, and occasional Evensongs. The hope is that the number of services increases as the congregation does.

So, in Sompting we give thanks for our beautiful building, a building that has attracted people to worship for over 1,000 years, and a building that is once again calling people to the goodness of Christian community, and the truth of the Gospel, through its glorious beauty.

Mike Tristram, chairman of the Friends of Sompting Church charity, said: "We were delighted that thanks to the efforts of friends past and present, we were able to give the PCC the funds they needed to get the heating running again. It's essential to conserve the fabric of the church from damp and make it habitable for worship.

"We are also looking forward to working with the PCC on a programme of regular events which can generate income to support further restoration works, so this lovely building can go on to serve and inspire our community."



THE ancient church of St Michael's, Amberley, lies in the heart of the South Downs National Park. People who live and worship there, inspired by their stunning surroundings, have a well-developed sense of the need for greener living. Environmentally friendly initiatives such as litterpicking and single-use plastic recycling are already established in the parish.

Rev Gerry Burgess, priest-incharge, and the PCC are keen to demonstrate commitment to living sustainably and with respect for the natural world, as Christ would have us do.

They aim to become an accredited Eco Church via the A Rocha UK project and are completing a questionnaire to find out how their green credentials stack up.

The annual churchyard biodiversity count, run by the Caring For God's Acre charity, fitted well with St Michael's green ambitions, especially as over the past few years, swathes of the churchyard have been given over to wildflower planting and bloomed into a riot of colour and diversity.

It was the perfect moment to find out how many species have now made God's Acre in Amberley their home. The answer was an amazing 147 at the last count.

Professor Richard Robinson, local amateur botanist, and Grahame and Michael Joseph, twins who are wildflower enthusiasts, were responsible for planting and nurturing the flowers in the churchyard.

Michael, a lecturer and adviser on meadow creation for the Sussex Wildlife Trust, said: "Our aim was to create a visually more exciting and beautiful churchyard that changes with the seasons and engages the community, while providing a diverse and wildlife-friendly habitat."

The total of 147 species will now be added to the National Biodiversity Network list, a UK-wide database of wildlife.

This is something to celebrate, especially at a time of habitat and species loss, and so we did. As part of Love Your Burial Ground Week in June, St Michael's held its first "Churchyard Weekend" on June 1 and 13.

The Saturday was packed with activities, giving grown-ups and children the chance to listen to the wildflower experts detailing the wonders of the churchyard's myriad plants. Who knew, for example, that





the ivy-leaved toadflax always grows away from the light? Or that ladies' bedstraw was used to stuff mattresses in the belief that it would deter bedbugs and fleas?

A team from the Sussex Wildlife Trust helped children find and identify minibeasts that have made their homes among the flowers. There were shield bugs, a juvenile lesser stag beetle and a tiny cucumber spider, so called for its luminous green abdomen. The children of some picnicking families said they looked radioactive.

There was a children's photography competition, a flower-pressing masterclass and guides to some of the graves and cremation plots, a potent reminder that the churchyard is a rich repository of village history.

Members of folk group Cotillion played some beautiful music and hosted poetry reading and storytelling, all with a floral or wildlife theme. For many, the churchyard is, above all, a place of peace for reflection and prayer, a cherished corner of the village where swifts swoop and oxeye daisies delight.

A prayer trail was devised around the churchyard, each of its 12 "stations" drawing prayerful attention to an aspect of its natural environs - the lichen on a tombstone, a rowan tree, a view of the South Downs, the ancient walls.

"St Michael's can seem tucked away in the village, so this weekend was a wonderful opportunity for villagers and visitors of all ages to discover the ancient church and enjoy its beautiful churchyard, a prayerful haven with a large area now devoted to wildlife," said Rev Gerry.

"We were able to make contact with a number of families through this day which we hope may become an annual event. "The trail has remained in place, inviting visitors to reflect on and experience the beauty of God's creation.

The following morning that atmosphere of peace and thanksgiving carried over into our informal open-air service with poetry and hymns in praise of God's glory in creation.

"It happened also to be the occasion for interring the ashes of a much-loved friend of us all. Her family prayed and her grandchildren decorated her little plot with a few churchyard flowers. And so the life of St Michael's churchyard continues in its principal purpose of laying to rest in tranquillity those who have lived in and loved Amberley."

Eco Church

BY REVD DEBBIE BEER, DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the UK to "plant a tree for the jubilee."

Rev Debbie Beer, diocesan environment officer said:

"The psalms call on the trees of the forest to sing for joy to God (Psalm 96.12), and the fruit trees to praise God (Psalm 148.9)" "So in our poor stewardship of our country's trees and forests we've not only damaged the health of the natural systems on which all human health depends, but we've also damaged the praise of our Creator.

"The Queen's Green Canopy gives us a unique opportunity to reverse that and also create a wonderful legacy to honour our Queen. We can all join in – individuals, schools, churches, groups, communities, businesses. Do start by looking at the **queensgreencanopy.org** website. It gives very helpful information on choosing what and where and when to plant – but do also get some local advice as well, so that you plant the right trees in the right places and give them the best chance of thriving and of enhancing the environment."



News

PRAYER AND ACTION FOR THE CLIMATE

Why not commit to praying the Church's prayer for COP26 (the UN Climate Change Conference) every day – and encourage all your church to join in?

Here it is:

"Creator God, giver of life, you sustain the earth and direct the nations. In this time of climate crisis grant us clarity to hear the groaning of creation and the cries of the poor; challenge us to change our lifestyles; guide our leaders to take courageous action; enable your church to be a beacon of hope; and foster within us a renewed vision of your purposes for your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by and for whom all things were made. Amen."

It's not too late to join in with Climate Sunday on September 5 or to pray and take action for the COP26 Climate Summit. Find out more at www.climatesunday.org

FUNDRAISING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Fundraising for your church's environmental project and not sure where to start? Try these two new one-hour webinars from the Church of England environment team - on September 7 it is "Environmental opportunities, an introduction to the funding landscape" and on September 9, "How to start fundraising".

The speaker is Andrew Evans, an experienced fundraising director and consultant who has secured seven-figure donations from both individual donors and grant-makers in areas including churches, arts and heritage, health and community development. He also brings strong credentials and personal commitment to environmental sustainability projects, including working pro bono to help his own church secure its Gold EcoChurch award. Book here



RESIDENTS at a clergy and church workers' care home were delighted to receive a visit from the Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood.

He visited Terrys Cross in Henfield to meet staff and residents. He spent time speaking to everyone and found time to drop in to the room of Bill Ritson, a former Canon of St Albans, who was confined to bed but had been looking forward to meeting him and was delighted to see him.

Bishop Will asked Stephen, a long-time resident, what he liked most about the home, and was told: "It's the next best thing to having your own home."

Bishop Will also spoke about his own ministry and shared anecdotes.

Rev Paul Doick, rector of Henfield with Shermanbury and Woodmancote, is the vice chairman of the Terrys Cross Trustees. He said: "Bishop Will's role in the diocese includes care for retired clergy so it seemed a good idea to invite him along to visit the facility and meet with the staff and residents.

"Everyone was
delighted to meet
the bishop and he
took great care to
speak to everyone
and hear their own
stories.

"We gave him a tour of the house and the maintained garden and grounds and he viewed the new walk-in wet room shower that has been installed in one of the rooms.

"We are constantly upgrading rooms and facilities at the home as funds allow. We recently received a legacy which will enable us to purchase new furniture for the dining room. We now have new welcome signs installed and we've recently upgraded our website."

Lynn Knowelden, the home's manager for the past three years, said: "I'm so pleased for the staff because they have worked so incredibly hard during the past 18 months throughout Covid, in difficult conditions, and we have had a shortage of staff at times. So, the bishop's visit was really appreciated, we know how busy he is."

Terrys Cross House was given to the Diocese of Chichester in the early 1950s to provide a residential home for retired clergy and their dependants. In 1992 a charitable trust was formed to take over the management of the house which, in 2015, was registered as a care home with the Care Ouality Commission. The trust is now a charitable company and would welcome additional trustees, especially those with experience of property maintenance and/or lettings.

There is more information on the trust website www.terryscross.co.uk



The Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) in the Diocese of Chichester has helped to ensure that survivor voices have been heard and is on track ahead of deadlines set nationally.

CR2 was launched in the diocese in January 2020. PCR2 is a thorough and independent review into the handling of all safeguarding cases to ensure they have been dealt with appropriately and that the support needs of survivors have been responded to.

Four independent reviewers were recruited and they started their work in October last year. They have now reviewed over 1,100 clergy files.

Paul Barton, lead reviewer, said this had been achieved due to the "pragmatism and flexibility" shown by Bishop Martin regarding the rules around clergy files, making exceptions to the general rules as a result of the pandemic.

He said: "This has placed the diocese in a strong position to complete PCR2 ahead of the end of year deadline set nationally.

"One of the key objectives for PCR2 was ensuring survivors were at the heart of the matter"

"As a result we have engaged with a small number of survivors who have requested to speak with us. This has proved useful in capturing their thoughts and feelings and hopefully offering them reassurance that they are being heard and action is being taken."

In addition to survivors, the reviewers have also spoken to diocesan leads for race, LGBTQI and disability. They will also be speaking to the dean of women's ministry.

While the outcome of the review cannot be predicted, the independent reviewers have reported considerable improvements in the way the diocese deals with safeguarding in recent years.

When the full report is finalised it will be submitted to the national safeguarding team responsible for collating all the data on PCR2. The diocese will comment in due course.

Help for parishes

In the last issue of Faith in Sussex we introduced Andrew Smith, generous giving advisor for parishes. Since his appointment, Helen James has joined the Apostolic Life Team. She has responsibility for advising parishes on finance, stewardship and governance.

We caught up with them both to ask how they are getting along.

One of Andrew Smith's first tasks has been to introduce a new partnership with fundraising website easyfundraising to parishes in our diocese. He said:

"Since introducing this new initiative 39 churches in the diocese have registered to raise free funds using this online fundraiser. They join many more who had already implemented this into their fundraising strategies. 1000's of churches across the UK use the site which has been running since 2007 and they have raised more than £2m! Churches use their funding to help with building maintenance, running costs, pilgrimages and much more.

"We've had lots of great feedback from our churches about easyfundraising. St Leonard and St Ethelburga PCC has raised an amazing £2317.16! Treasurer Janet told us "We have been promoting easyfundraising for some time and have really benefitted from the donations. It's good to be able to get something for the church when shopping online and at no extra cost."

How does easyfundraising work?

It's simple, free and easy to set up – you register your church as a good cause and then anyone who wants to support you uses the website or app to do their normal online shopping with over 5000 well-known retailers. The retailer they shop with donates a percentage of the spend back to your church.

What's more, your congregation don't need to change where they shop as all their favourites are on the site including Amazon, eBay, M&S, Eden, Argos, John Lewis, Dobies, Sainsbury's, Holland & Barrett, Boots and lots more.

Ready to get started?

Just visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/diocese-of-chichester
to join and if you'd like to find out more come along to one of our online 'users and improvers' sessions in October.



Tuesday 5th October at 11.00am register <u>here</u>

Wednesday 6th October at 7.00pm register **here**

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

Helen James shares a day in the life of a parish advisor

As I start the day, I review my inbox, and see emails from a parish I visited last month. I call back and we review the situation there, discussing various aspects of law and guidance from the charity commission. The parish is not entirely sure of the legalities but feeling more confident about the decision-making needed after our chat.

I set off to visit a churchwarden in a Brighton parish. She's been updating the bookkeeping for the previous year, transcribing the handwritten double-entry ledger into a spreadsheet. I help her correct the date formatting and the formulae that have gone awry within Excel. We identify the next steps forward to finalise the bookkeeping, discuss Gift Aid, and spend a while liaising with HMRC.

Back at my desk, I browse some resources explaining contactless giving devices. I extract some useful powerpoint slides to add to my own presentation for the training I am running. I want to showcase a range of giving devices, with pictures of them in use and all relevant information. I analyse whether the presentation achieves the aim, that attendees will have a clear idea of the systems available, what they do, how to choose and implement one. I think it does. Around 130 people have booked on to the training sessions. This is promising - we want to enable as many parishes as possible to begin using this tech to build up their funds and community engagement.

I take a call from a treasurer in a nearby parish. She asks for a re-stock of PGS forms "not too many, or I might lose them!" she laughs. I pack up the giver forms and the information booklets and set the package up for posting. It is great that she is out of stock – this means new people have come forward

and decided to make a regular gift to God's church. I hope she runs out again soon.

I look through our archive material on PCC Training, beginning to plan for the autumn, the time of year when the Treasurers can see the financial year end looming in the horizon, and are making plans to put together their annual accounts. Some of them are new to this and will need good and thorough training on how to do the reporting without undue headaches or sleepless nights. All may well need some refreshing on basic pointers - having a well-considered reserves policy, for example. October and November will be the right season for this training - I'll keep my circulation list updated with when and where this will all take place.

<u>Click here for PCC</u> Treasurers Guidance

Finally, I read various newsletters. I consider whether parishes would like to know the implications of Brexit for charities, and I think they probably don't. The Charities Commission reports on a spectacular case of fraud, where one trustee had entered themselves as another trustee on the same charity, using a pseudonym, forged the independent examiner



signature, and not used the charity funds on the charitable purposes. I muse on this. People lose sight sometimes of why all the red-tape and the regulations on charity activities are there. Naturally none of our parishes will be fraudulent in that way. But if we all respect the rules that are there to prevent ANY charity from mismanaging their endeavours, then we remain transparent and retain the trust of our donors.

There is time for tea at three, which includes an in-person get-together in the sunshine at the front of Church House to say farewell to a retiring staff member and share cake. It is a great team I work with and a real pleasure to be doing what I can to assist, support and advise our parishes across the Diocese.

BY REV NEVILLE MANNING

NEW EUERY MORNING

THE STEADFAST

LOVE OF THE LORD NEVER CEASES, HIS MERCIES NEVER ceflection and hymn which I his way is New

WORDS of hymns can sometimes be a useful aid to personal reflection and prayer. One hymn which I often use in this way is New Every Morning, the second in our series of three hymns written by a John.

The author of the hymn New Every Morning, John Keble (1792-1866), was taught at home by his clergyman father before going on a scholarship to Corpus Christi College Oxford. There he excelled in his studies, winning coveted prizes, becoming a Fellow of Oriel College and a tutor and examiner for the university, later becoming professor of poetry at Oxford. Keble was ordained in 1816.

In 1833 in the University
Church in Oxford he preached
a sermon on National Apostasy,
arguing that the Church of
England needed to go back to
the Church's historic roots. It
was a sermon which led to the
start of the Oxford Movement
in the Church of England.
Some of Keble's companions,
such as John Henry Newman,
left the Church of England
for Rome, but Keble remained
loyal to the Anglican Church

for the rest of his days, including 27 years as vicar of Hursley in Hampshire, where he exercised a very Christ-like ministry in his care for the congregation and community

One of Keble's lasting achievements was the publication of The Christian Year, a book of devotional poetry meant to be used alongside the Prayer Book. It was used by many people and was seen as a major contribution also to English literature. Several hymns came from the poetry in that volume, including Blest Are The Pure In Heart and New Every Morning.

This latter hymn begins by seeing each new day as God's gift: "New every morning is the love, Our wakening and uprising prove". Of the five verses normally found v2 ("New mercies each returning day") reflects words from the book of Lamentations 3 v22/23 about a time of national disaster:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."

Verses three and four are about the hallowing of daily life ("The trivial round, the common task, will furnish all we ought to ask"), thinking about the value of the ordinary and more humdrum parts of our lives. Its tone is similar to George Herbert's Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see. Keble's final verse reminds us that all we do is a preparation for eternity ("Only, O Lord, in thy dear love Fit us for perfect rest above") and ends with a desire for consistency between both our praying and our living ("And help us this and every day to live more nearly as we pray").

The hymn is usually sung to the tune Melcombe by S Webbe. Keble is remembered in a Lesser Festival on July 14 the day on which in 1833 he preached his historically significant sermon on National Apostasy. There is also a lasting physical memorial to him in Keble College Oxford.

Maycamp 2021, a roaring success

Dan Jenkins was appointed diocesan youth officer in 2015 and has overseen the running of the successful May Camp youth event ever since.

He has increased attendance each year, with 2019 achieving the highest engagement yet - a 58 per cent increase since 2009.

The responsibility for running May Camp during Covid has been a challenge and last year it was wholly online. This year, May Camp was unable to run at Plumpton racecourse due to Covid restrictions — but youth groups could now meet in smaller groups, so Dan and his team came up with a plan.

Youth groups were invited to run their own May Camps and churches were provided with lots of resources to help make it happen. Packs went to 18 church youth groups and more than 200 young people took part.

Dan said: "We wanted activities that the kids would engage with, so the packs included an escape room game, Lego, crafts, group games and challenges, prizes, craft activities, Nerf guns, the drink puppet and a quiz.

"We also produced five prerecorded seminar videos with discussion questions and two main meeting videos with worship and a talk. These videos are all still on YouTube and can be watched again at any time.

"The feedback we got was amazing and so positive."

Comments included:
"Twenty one young people
now home, exhausted,
loved the day. Their biggest
highlights were the drink
puppet and the escape
room and once again the
Lego workshop was a
roaring success. All the mini
games were a perfect finish
to our extremely packed
nine-hour day."

Another group said: "We had our first ever May Camp at St Andrew's Moulsecoomb and had a wonderful day. We had Seventeen young people including two who had never done church events before. They already want to sign up for the actual May Camp next year!

Dan is now preparing for the biggest challenge yet, which is the 40-year anniversary of May Camp in 2022. He'll be working with a dedicated team of volunteers and staff to provide a full and exciting programme which will revisit some of the past glories of the long-running event.

He said: "The 40-year anniversary presents us with a unique opportunity to look at the how far May Camp has come over the past four decades and how many young people we have reached. We will look at the activities then and now and find out who was involved in the early days and see what they are doing now. Some of the early helpers are now ministering in this diocese – but who are they?

"The bank holiday is being moved next year, but we're still meeting the first weekend of half term, May 27 to 30. Tickets will be on sale soon so keep an eye out for the early bird rate."





WE WERE placed on this earth to care for all of God's creation, not just each other but the life we see around us. From the sea we swim in to the fields we walk in, the birds in the sky to the pigs in the paddock, our relationship with animals and the environment are vital as they are a reflection of our relationship with God.

When animal welfare charities and campaigners tell us all is not well with the farm animals we share our world with, it's worrying news.
But, as we stroll through the Sussex countryside on a sunny day and see cows and sheep happily grazing in the fields, do we really have anything to be concerned about? We caught up with Joe Bailey, head of farming at Horsham-based charity RSPCA Assured and a fellow Christian, to find out.

WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT FARM ANIMAL WELFARE AND WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM?

Sadly, looks can often be deceiving. Contrary to the popular picture-book image of farm animals frolicking in meadows, the reality for the vast majority of farm animals couldn't be more different. About 1.2 billion animals are farmed for their food each year in the UK. That's nearly 50 times the number of pet dogs and cats*. But most of these animals are kept in conditions which the RSPCA doesn't believe meet their welfare needs. For example, nearly half of all egg laying hens are still kept in cages, pregnant pigs (sows) are still kept in farrowing crates and most meat chickens are bred to grow so fast they can have severe heart defects. These are just a small handful of the many

welfare concerns the charity has. But it doesn't have to be this way and it's why 21 years ago, in 1994, the RSPCA set up RSPCA Assured - previously called Freedom Food - in a bid to improve farm animal welfare.

WHAT IS RSPCA ASSURED?

It is the RSPCA's farm assurance and food labelling scheme. It's unique in being the only scheme dedicated to improving the lives of animals farmed for our food. We assess farms, hauliers and abattoirs to the RSPCA's strict welfare standards. If they meet every standard, the RSPCA Assured label can be used on their product. We allow organic, free range, cage-free indoor and outdoor farms to join, as long as the RSPCA's standards can be met.

"Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel."

(Proverbs 12:10)

ARE THERE ANY RSPCA ASSURED CERTIFIED FARMS IN SUSSEX?

Yes, we are proud to have 24 fantastic RSPCA Assured farms in Sussex. But as such an agriculturally rich county, we'd love there to be more.

WHAT CAN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITIES DO TO HELP IMPROVE FARM ANIMAL WELFARE?

We're asking people to eat less and eat better, a message which is shared by the Church of England. By cutting back on buying cheaper, lower welfare products and choosing higher welfare labels like RSPCA Assured, free range and organic when you do buy meat, fish, eggs and dairy, you can really help improve farm animal welfare. And not only that, it's also better for the environment. But don't forget to think about where your food comes from when eating out too. There are lots of cafes, pubs and restaurants in Sussex that are sourcing more ethical, higher welfare food and shout about it on their websites. So don't leave your ethics behind when eating out, do your homework first. The more we demand higher welfare food, the more supermarkets and restaurants will offer it and

the more farmers will raise their animals to higher welfare standards.

One of the barriers to choosing higher welfare food is often the cost. What would you say about that?

Unfortunately, it can often be more expensive but higher welfare food at an affordable price is becoming more widely available. Sainsbury's Basics salmon and egg ranges, for example, are RSPCA Assured and discounters like Aldi and Lidl offer a range of higher welfare products. And if you eat less but eat better, it should also help offset any extra costs of buying higher welfare products.

HOW DOES YOUR FAITH HELP YOU IN YOUR ROLE AS HEAD OF FARMING FOR AN ANIMAL WELFARE CHARITY?

I believe wholeheartedly that we are all here for a purpose. Mine is to protect animals from unnecessary suffering and fear, to promote kindness to all God's creatures and to help people appreciate the interconnection between welfare and wellbeing. My faith gives me the courage and strength I need to fulfil my purpose, and I trust in God to guide me when I lose direction.

IF YOU COULD CHOOSE
ONE BIBLICAL QUOTE TO
SUM UP HOW CHRISTIANS
SHOULD TREAT ANIMALS,
WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?"

Job 35:11

I love this quote and often reflect on it for inspiration and guidance, especially during the challenges of Covid during the last 18 months.

You can read the full version of our interview with Joe here and follow us on Facebook to hear more from Joe when Rev Dr Mark Betson, the National Rural Officer for the Archbishops' Council, catches up with her on a Sussex dairy farm next month.

*<u>https://www.pfma.org.uk/</u> <u>pet-population-2021</u>



Welcome, new Readers

SIX new readers will be welcomed into the diocese on September 18 in a service at Chichester Cathedral. Readers are licensed to ministry and assist priests in tasks including leading worship, preaching and pastoral ministry.



Elisabeth (Lis) Telcs to serve at St Nicholas in

Saltdean

Lis's journey towards becoming a Reader started years ago when she felt a call to ministry.

Just before Christmas 2018, her priest asked whether she had considered putting herself forward for Reader ministry. He asked her to think about it, to which she replied: "I don't need to, the answer is yes."

Lis is a part-time pupil premium teacher and believes this brings her faith, her values around social justice and 30 years' experience as a primary teacher together into a role serving God's people.

She enjoyed her time at St Augustine's College of Theology, although the pandemic meant she could not physically be with her peers. Lis felt her parish placement at St Luke's, Prestonville, helped her see herself as a minister.



Miriam Owen
to serve at Trinity Church
Lewes

Miriam worked in mental health for ten years, supporting those with mental health issues. She is creative and looks for new ways to express her faith in God, including musically.

Miriam saw a role for herself in her church and prayed to Jesus about it. When she felt his blessing to become a Reader, she approached her rector. Miriam hopes to apply her affinity for older people by sharing her love of God and to continue with her creative studies which she feels will inform her preaching.

She said: "Readership training has stretched me, but I now feel I can apply what I've learnt to life and ministry."



Andy Delves
to serve at Waldron

Andy is a livestock farmer specialising in milk production and has lived in Waldron all his life. He is the cheese maker for the family-run cheese business. He grew up in the Open Brethren denomination, becoming a Christian in his teens.

Andy said: "I felt the call to ministry early on in my spiritual journey. For 25 years I served in the leadership team of Kings Church, Heathfield, part of the New Frontiers movement.

"Since 2017 I have worshipped in and become part of our Anglican community where I have served as a bell ringer, choir member and more recently a lay Reader in training.

"It is a joy to be released into serving my local church as a Lay Reader"



Martin Hennock

to serve at St Mark's Holbrook

Martin became a Christian as a teenager. He is married to Chris and they have two grown-up sons. He is an enthusiastic cricketer and an active member of his village community.

He said: "I was active as a Christian at university and first preached in village Baptist chapels nearby.

"After university I lived in Norwich and worshipped in an independent church, where I led a home group and was involved with the mission focus. I moved to Horsham and started going to St Mark's Holbrook and supported the village church in Itchingfield.

"I preached at St Mark's about ten years ago in the informal evening service and received positive feedback. As I stopped working full-time, I felt I should be preaching more and so learnt more about being a Reader. I was confirmed in 2018 and accepted on the training course in 2019.

"I enjoyed the course, both learning more of the history and ways of the Church as well as approaching the Bible and theology in a more structured and broader way."



Elaine Corbett

to serve at the Wildbrooks group of churches

Elaine works in clinical research, analysing treatment for serious diseases. She is married to Colin. In the early 2000s she attended an Alpha course and her relationship with God started to grow.

Elaine said: "It was at Spring Harvest in 2016 that I felt called to study theology and perhaps enter into ministry.

"As part of my discernment process, I was on placement with All Saints in Findon Valley, and met two lovely Readers. The vicar gave me lots of opportunities to preach, lead services and get involved with pastoral ministry and I really enjoyed my time there.

"Colin and I moved to nearby
Amberley and as the world
battled Covid, switched parishes
to the one in our new village,
St Michael. I asked Rev Gerry
Burgess whether she could use a
trainee Reader and she was very
enthusiastic. We have worked
well together and I cannot wait
to serve."



Katherine Wydra

to serve at St George's, West Grinstead

Katherine is a primary school teacher. She is married to Steve and they have two adult children and two black labradors.

She said: "My church is a beautiful 11th century church in the middle of fields and farmland. We use the Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible and have, when we are allowed to sing, a strong musical tradition.

"I sing in the choir, read the lessons, lead intercessions and am the church sacristan, so becoming a Reader seemed to be the next logical step.

"Although completing my second year on Zoom was not without its challenges, lockdown meant I could concentrate on my studies. I have been lucky to have had tremendous support and encouragement from everyone including my vicar and our curate."



WHEN the Mothers' Union found it needed £60,000 to fund two caravans it uses for its "Away From It All" holiday projects, it wasn't sure what to do. Then, with a flash of hope, members remembered the verse Matthew 7: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." What happened next was heartwarming.

Mothers' Union projects in the diocese are varied and include "Away From It All" (AFIA) holidays for families in need in Chichester and Rye.

MU owns two caravans, one on a quiet family run site at Rye Bay, Winchelsea, and the other at Bunn Leisure, Selsey. Both were due under contract to be renewed by 2023. The caravan in Winchelsea looked good on the outside but was in desperate need of refurbishment. The site owners agreed to allow MU another ten years if it refurbished the inside – at a cost of £10,000. The Bunn Leisure caravan needed to be bought ¬– for £50,000.

"We didn't have a spare £60,000," said MU's Diocesan President Chichester, Karen Hill.

"We prayed and asked 'is this the way forward, was the AFIA project what we were meant to be doing?". The answer came simply as yes, so we took the verse Matthew 7 and last December we came to you, the parishes in our diocese and asked, can you help us."

First to respond was St Giles, in Graffham and Woolavington. Rev Vivien Turner said she received the request on the day she found an old MU banner in the loft and she knew the collection from the family carol service should go to the cause.

Izzy Barrett from the parish then drew a thank you poster for the cover of the parish magazine, which she agreed the MU could use on its thank you letters during the appeal.



"At the beginning of August we were contacted by a supporter and asked what the outstanding balance was - we advised them and two days later the balance had been paid into our account."

Another parish sent a letter with a donation from the church warden who said: "As a boy there was no money for anything. In the summer holidays we might get a day out to the coast, we'd be all ready to go at the crack of dawn, but if there was a cloud in the sky Mum wouldn't take us, so we didn't go. Families need fun times together, your appeal took me back, what you are doing is right."

Cash poured in but MU knew it had to find other ways of fundraising. It approached charities, large and small – Worthing Lions was among those to respond – and members found unique ways of getting money, from putting from 10p in a jam jar every time they had a cup of tea, to selling a photocopied MU word search sheets for £20 each.



Members knocked on tradesmen's doors in the Rye area and asked if they would be involved in the refurbishment. Many were glad to get on board, giving their time freely and advising where to get the best quality for the cheapest price.

The MU learnt new skills, and the price of the refurbishment fell from £10,000 to £3,500.

The Bunn Leisure site, home to the other caravan, added its support, giving MU a great part-exchange deal and allowing it to fundraise on site.

"We have run three events with Bunn Leisure – two high teas and a ploughman's. Bunn Leisure give us all the raffle prizes and any help we needed. We used pretty china and vintage table cloths from St Andrew West Tarring, Turning Tides supplied us with their transit van to transport everything and the Cream Tea Society provided jams and clotted creams.

"At the beginning of August we were contacted by a supporter and asked what the outstanding balance was - we advised them and two days later the balance had been paid into our account."

Karen said: "We completely emptied our piggy bank and our new caravan arrived on Saturday, May 22. We unpacked it and our chaplain Rev Helen Rose, Vicar in Woodingdean, blessed it. The first family arrived on Saturday, May 29.

"Our AFIA project is an important way of showing our Christian faith in action. Particularly for those who have no Christian faith, our wonderful project reaches families who often would not come into contact with Christians. It allows them to see Christ's love in action."





RESIDENTIARY CANONS APPOINTED

THE Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, has announced the names of two new residentiary canons to serve at Chichester Cathedral.

The Reverend Vanessa Baron is to be the new canon treasurer and the Reverend Dr Jack Dunn will serve as canon precentor.

Vanessa will have strategic responsibility for the care and interpretation of the cathedral's fabric and treasures. Jack will be responsible for reimagining this historic role in a manner that seeks to resource, in substantive new ways, the wider diocese in its ministry and mission from the cathedral.

The Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Stephen Waine, said: "We warmly welcome both Vanessa and Jack to the cathedral community. We look forward to working closely with them, especially at this exciting time as we prepare to share our proposed new vision leading to our 950th anniversary."

Vanessa and Jack will be installed at the cathedral at Evensong at 3pm on Sunday, September 26.

CATHEDRAL INVITES YOU TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The year 2025 will mark 950 years since the cathedral was moved from Selsey to Chichester. It is an anniversary that is significant not only for the cathedral, but for the life of the whole diocese and for the Christian faith in Sussex.

Taking inspiration from Dominican life in the so-called "Four Pillars" - prayer, study, community and mission, the cathedral invites visitors to consider these, learn more about the proposed new vision and share their thoughts by completing an online survey.

The feedback will inform the publication of the cathedral's new vision in January 2022. Find out more on the cathedral website here

WE'RE ON THE CATHEDRALS CYCLE ROUTE

A new cycle route will link all 42 Church of England cathedrals in a new initiative to promote greener travel and mental and physical wellbeing. The 2,000-mile Cathedrals Cycle Route is supported by a new partnership between cycling charity Sustrans, Cycling UK, the British Pilgrimage Trust and the Association of English Cathedrals.

Each cathedral will also have a dedicated cycle champion to improve the cycle-readiness of their buildings, ensure a warm welcome for visiting cyclists and increase the number that arrive on two wheels – currently around five per cent. You can read more here



BOOKS AND REVIEWS

BY REVD JOHN TWISLETON

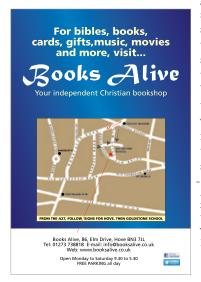


THE ONE THING: A REFLECTION ON THE STORY OF MARY AND MARTHA

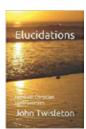
by Carl Smith

THIS is a short reflection on the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42. In this reflection Carl, the rector at Slaugham and Staplefield Common, looks at this wellknown story to see what it could be teaching us today about what truly matters most.

Paperback, available from Amazon £2.99







STILL LOVE LEFT: FAITH AND HOPE IN LATER LIFE

by Michael Jackson

FRAMED by three obvious perspectives - our past, present and future - this book on ageing draws on the author's experience serving the elderly as a priest in Hampshire and Yorkshire. I was struck by examples of people growing patience, resilience and humility through hardship and the call to build gratitude for life's blessings. "The practice of gratitude provides the nursery slopes for contemplative agein" (Ann Morisy). Taking the rough with the smooth is a grace, especially the need to depend on others. Ageing brings the spiritual challenge to tackle fear of death in which putting faith in Christ's resurrection is key. "The timeless - if only we can let go, and open ourselves to receive - can heal our past, make our present rich and full, and give hope for what is to come."

Youcaxton 2021 £9.99 ISBN 978-1913425685 155pp

ELUCIDATIONS -LIGHT ON CHRISTIAN CONTROVERSIES

by John Twisleton

ELUCIDATIONS is about clearing misconceptions of the truth that is in Jesus, the authority of the Bible and the trustworthiness of the Church in a society with increased religious illiteracy. Former diocesan mission adviser John Twisleton condenses thinking on controversial topics ranging from self-love to unanswered prayer, Mary to antisemitism, suffering to same sex unions, charismatic experience to the ordination of women, hell to ecology and trusting the Church, a total of 25 essays. Christianity being less fashionable and church membership more decided links to a rise in unthinking fundamentalism and the seeming necessity of religious experience. As an Anglocatholic priest who experienced a faith crisis enlarging God for him, John, a former scientist, sheds light on thoughtful allegiance to Christianity in the 21st century. The book has a foreword by the Bishop of Lewes and a commendation from Premier Christian Radio.

Amazon 2021 £4.99 ISBN 9798718788198 132pp



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