

# FAITH IN SUSSEX

*The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex*



## THE DIOCESE WELCOMES UKRAINIAN GUESTS

PAGES 20-21

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## This edition of Faith in Sussex is published at a time of unprecedented turmoil.

We see war in Ukraine and the danger of its escalation. Its consequences remind us of the environmental crisis that is also unfolding for us globally. At the same time we face an increase in the cost of living that will push many people, even in this affluent area, into misery and deprivation.

These are serious concerns from which no one is exempt. Wealth will not insulate you from global warming or the social gloom that seeps out of inequality, sapping imagination and creativity.

The Christian Church feels all this. The joy and hope, the grief and sorrow of the human race are ours too. They are the raw material of the work of redemption undertaken by Jesus Christ and witnessed to by those who are his followers today.

One of the signs of hope in a bleak landscape is the celebration of ordination as deacon and priest for those who will serve in our parishes. This is essentially a lay celebration because it is members of the laity who are offering themselves for a work in which they will serve the laity and encourage the growth of new Christians.

The agonising reports and photographs from Ukraine have shown us just how stubborn the practice of Christian faith can be. In bombed out streets, parks, and the wreckage of church buildings, Christians have knelt to pray and gathered to celebrate the paschal mystery of Easter. Priests have stayed to make this happen.

Years ago, in 1985, the Church of England published a report, Faith in the City, which noted that this has happened here as well. In areas of deprivation priests stayed to serve the laity by making Jesus Christ seen, known and felt through word and sacrament.

So let this edition of Faith in Sussex encourage us to make Jesus Christ seen, known and felt today in every community served by this household of faith which is the diocese of Chichester.

+Martin



# Maycamp 2022

# chaos

Maycamp is our Diocese wide annual youth event

Do you have a group but are struggling financially to get them to Maycamp?

Please speak to Dan Jenkins who will make arrangements

May 27th to 30th

Book here

[www.Maycamp.org/booking](http://www.Maycamp.org/booking)

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 Chichester Diocese

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 Diocese of Chichester

# NEWS

## ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

### SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING (SDF)

A message from Stuart Britton, Programme Delivery Manager, Apostolic Life

In the wake of the Covid pandemic, Crawley is a town that has been labelled as the 'UK town worst hit by the pandemic' due to high unemployment, debt, hunger, homelessness and mental ill health. The church is playing a key role in the recovery and healing of communities across Crawley and the surrounding area. To further help Crawley, the diocese has recently submitted an application for Strategic Development Funding (SDF) that aims to show a new generation the diverse beauty of the Church through young leaders who live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We ask for your prayers whilst this application is reviewed by the Strategic Investment Board.

Bishop Ruth joined a team of runners to take part in Run Gatwick 10K in aid of Love Your Neighbour, a local charity, set up during Covid. The charity raises vital funds for those hardest hit by the impact of the pandemic. She joined Vicar at St John's Crawley, Steve Burston and his wife and they helped raise over £3K. Well done a fantastic effort by all.



BISHOP RUTH

### HOW TO GET EXTRA FUNDS FOR YOUR CHURCH



Three churches in the Diocese are taking part in a promotional video campaign to help raise the profile of Easyfundraising, a partnership that could generate extra funds for your church this year.

Bob Oliver is the treasurer at St Andrews Burgess Hill. He said: "Easyfundraising is a very simple and effective way of raising funds. St Andrews Burgess Hill has raised £400 by just reminding people to use Easyfundraising when doing their on line shopping."

Andrew Smith, the generous giving adviser for the Diocese has been promoting Easyfundraising since the partnership began. He said: "We are excited about this new development and to share the positive interest these three churches have experienced since having registered with the scheme. Churches in Falmer, Beeding and Billingshurst are taking part in the videos and we are excited to be sharing these soon."

You can find out more about Easyfundraising [here](#)

### ORDER OF ST RICHARD NOMINATIONS CLOSE SOON

In 2019, we launched the Order of St Richard as an annual award for lay people within the Diocese who have made exceptional contributions to the parish, the local community or the Diocese. We had a wonderful, celebratory award ceremony in October 2019 where 40 people received the Order of St Richard in the Cathedral. Sadly, the pandemic meant plans for an award ceremony in 2020 was postponed until 9 October 2021 at which Bishop Martin welcomed 39 laypeople to the Order of St Richard.

The nominations for this year close on 31 May. The ceremony is due to take place in the Cathedral in October. You can download the nomination form [here](#)



### THERE'S NO 'RIGHT' WAY TO TALK ABOUT DEATH.

The Parish of Chidham and The Parish of Funtington with West Stoke and Sennicotts, have teamed up with Reynolds Funeral Directors to hold an event to discuss funerals. It is hoped that people will get practical advice about planning their own funeral as well as answers to the questions that concern them and may be causing them to worry.

Fr Andrew Birks, parish priest said: "It's never going to be an easy conversation to have when the subject is about death. But I believe that the more we open up about death it will help us confront our own mortality and play a role in how we grieve.

"There's nothing strange about wondering about things like what happens during cremation or what changes might happen to a body. One really common reason for asking these questions is to feel less afraid. When a topic is completely taboo, our imagination fills in the details — and that can make things even worse.

While talking about death can sometimes make it less frightening, this conversation isn't about

controlling emotions. Planning your own funeral can be a powerful parting gift to the people that you love. We know that those who have expressed what they want at their funeral is very comforting for our loved ones who have to experience arranging a funeral in amongst their grief.

We will be discussing practical things such as writing down what you'd like and let other people know where that plan is kept.

Of course, having a funeral plan doesn't mean that grief will be less painful. But it can help make practical things a lot easier. It's really common for the time immediately after someone dies to be exhausting and overwhelming.

We want to encourage people to come along to the evening and chat about what we can do to help them plan what they want for their funeral, to make the process less challenging for those we leave behind."

The event is to be held at St Wilfrid's Hall on the 26th of May 2022 at 7 pm.

## NEWS

## CHILDREN'S CHARITY SEEKS NEW AMBASSADORS

Sophie Samways has recently taken on the role of Community Relationship Manager at The Children's Society for London and the South East and is looking for two new ambassadors to help support the charity's work to our church and school communities in the Diocese.

She has recorded a great video with details of the exciting volunteering opportunity. She said: "Becoming an ambassador is a wonderful opportunity. If you have excellent networking and engagement skills please do get in touch."

Sophie will be covering the Dioceses of Canterbury, Chichester, Guildford, London, Oxford, Rochester and Southwark with a focus on raising awareness of TCS's work and increasing support through time, monies, voice and prayer. Watch the video [here](#)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION SERVICE

A special service will take place this year at the Cathedral to celebrate Black History month. All churches and schools will be invited to register their interest in attending this event on Saturday 29th October. Please keep the date in your diary. Details of the service are being planned but will include special guests and contributions from schools including Steyning Grammar school. Details will be communicated in due course.

## ANNUAL CHURCHWARDENS VISITATIONS

Churchwardens are elected annually as the senior laypeople of the parish and congregation. Their term of office is one year, and they may serve for up to six consecutive terms of office. They are the Bishop's officers, and are admitted to office each year by the Archdeacon, on behalf of the Bishop. These are called Visitations. The dates this year run from 16 – 24 June and can be found on the Diocesan website [here](#)

## LIGHT UP THE WORLD IN PRAYER

Thy Kingdom come - Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. May 26th - 5th June 2022. New resources available this year include A Short Act of Commissioning [here](#)



FIFTY-EIGHT PEOPLE FROM OUR CHURCHES IN THE DIOCESE WERE COMMISSIONED AS AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS BY BISHOP RUTH AT A SPECIAL SERVICE IN CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL ON SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY, THE THIRD YEAR THE EVENT HAS BEEN HELD.



## BECOME A MAY CAMP ANGEL

Maycamp is our diocesan wide annual youth event held at Plumpton racecourse. This year because of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee it takes place from the 27th to 30th May, the first weekend of half term - giving young people a chance to recover after a weekend of camping and high energy activities! Tickets are still available for all or part of the weekend.

What is a Maycamp Angel? In short, Maycamp Angels are sponsors that help us to continue offering this fantastic event.

The impact on young people's lives and their journey with God is massive - focussed on the local church and acting as a catalyst for young people and their faith. The weekend is packed with teaching and worship as well as a huge variety of sports, activities, seminars, games and workshops. At Maycamp young people see they're part of something bigger and we're all there because of the same Jesus.

But, Maycamp costs a lot more to run than we bring in with ticket sales.

There is already a huge amount of good will towards the event with over 50 volunteers each year, discounts from suppliers and loads of free resources given. There are clergy and youth leaders in our diocese still loving the event having grown up coming to Maycamp at some point in the last 40 years.

Even with all this generosity Maycamp is still a large financial commitment and to continue to run for the next 40 years we need some extra help covering our costs. We have increased ticket prices, but don't want to 'price out' those that would love and benefit from the event.

Whether you're a church or an individual any small donation will help us to balance budgets and continue to make this event affordable and available to young people in our diocese.

**Please consider being a Maycamp Angel.**



# MEET THE ORDINANDS

The thirteen men and woman on these pages will be ordained deacon this summer, then they will begin their public ministry in various churches across the Diocese. Parishes across East and West Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove will benefit from their ministry.

The services will place a seal on the calling they have received from God to serve the Church. We asked them to share a little of themselves so that we might call them, their families and parishes to mind in prayer ahead of their ordination service.



**James Roe**  
St Matthias Brighton

The call to ordination has simmered in the background for almost 20 years.

After spending five years in overseas missions, I felt strongly that God was leading me back to the local church to throw myself wholeheartedly into incarnational, local mission and ministry.

As a family we are excited to be able to serve in such a vibrant city as Brighton and can't wait to move South to join in with the work God and the church have been doing for hundreds of years in this place.

While the Covid pandemic has thrown up many challenges, I am certain, through talking to numerous people, that there is an openness to the things of faith and people asking the big questions of life.

**Emily Roe**  
Brighton Saint Peter

My journey began in 2012. As a family we were preparing to head to China with a mission organisation for a few years, but before we left we attended a Christian conference called Focus. It was there that I asked the then Bishop of Durham, Justin Welby, if it was possible for husbands and wives to be ordained and serve together. He said it was, so I held that in my heart and thought maybe, just maybe.

The process of discernment officially began after our return from China. Attending a friend's ordination, the bishop asked if anyone was hearing the echo of a whisper. This is what it was, no megaphone, just the tiny barely discernible echo of a whisper. Even though it made little sense and I couldn't see where I would fit into ordained ministry I pursued it knowing I was called to those on the margins, the least, the lost and lonely. With a lot of help and encouragement I was accepted for ordination training and am now looking forward to serving in Brighton.



**Damian Brennan**  
Alfriston with Lullington,  
Litlington, West Dean and  
Folkington

I am really looking forward to being ordained deacon and serving my curacy in the Cuckmere Valley Churches. The road to this point seems to have been a long one.

I began my mental health nursing career 35 years ago and work in the local NHS Trust as a mental health lead.

I have long been aware of a sense of calling to ordained ministry and this has increased over the past five years. I feel confident the skills and knowledge I have acquired over my life are always going to be valuable.

For me, the challenges of the recent restrictions have been extraordinary but amidst the difficulty there have been many encounters with God in instances of growth and blessing. These have been experienced at work, home, church and during training.



**Caroline Armitage**  
West Grinstead

My journey to ordination has been a long one with a call first felt over 20 years ago. But that was not God's timing so I carried on living in the intervening years. I've lived my calling as a Christian in the workplace and in civic life and became a Reader.

I thought the time for ordained ministry was past but God found a way, so I find myself on the threshold of being ordained deacon.

I trained with St Augustine's College and have been placed at Steyning Parish church during my training. Covid hasn't been easy for training but God has blessed the time and has broadened my understanding of the Church and deepened my faith.

As a self-supporting minister I will continue to follow my calling to bridge my working and church work, looking to help people navigate their journeys of life and faith.



**Janice Bartholomew**  
Saint Luke Stone Cross with  
North Langney, Pevensey

I have been a maths teacher throughout my working life. James and I have three adult children. I very much enjoy choral singing and like to be outside with others for a little very gentle running and plenty of conversation.

My journey to ordination has been slow but steady. Over several years, I had been unsuccessfully ignoring a call to ordained ministry, but in September 2019, after a period of formal discernment, I started training at St Augustine's College.

Six months later, as we entered the first lockdown, all teaching was transferred online. There were many challenges but I found the greatest to be the lack of in-person contact with others who were going through the same process.

Despite the pandemic, my training provided opportunities to discuss theology with others across the broad spectrum of Anglican tradition. Discovering more of how others relate to their faith has broadened my own understanding and helped me to observe ways in which my own faith is growing.



**Peter Leith**  
Hove, All Saints

Studying philosophy and theology at university reignited my faith after I had drifted away. It introduced me to the riches of the Christian tradition - when I found myself writing about the eucharist as a Christian response to the problem of evil, I realised my opinions might have changed.

Originally from Bristol, I began exploring a possible call to ordained ministry when I was living and working in London. While studying, I met my now wife, Jenny, who is an academic theologian.

I've had a great four years in Cambridge at Westcott House, and I'm excited to be curate at All Saints, Hove. Neither Jenny nor I have had the privilege of living in Sussex before, so we look forward to being introduced to all it has to offer.



**Charlotte White**  
Crawley, Saint John the  
Baptist

I grew up in Essex in a Christian family and had a faith of sorts for as long as I can remember. It was the move to university which helped me to discover an excitement for the transformative power of faith in the work of the church in communities.

After university I spent three years as a student pastor on the team of a city centre resource church plant in Portsmouth and it was during this time I felt God calling me to ordained ministry.

My three years of training with St Mellitus College London have been hugely challenging, due to the pandemic, and deeply formative. I'm grateful for the rich opportunities the community, teaching and placement have given me.

Alongside preparing for ordination this summer, I'm also preparing to get marry my fiancé Pete.



**Peter Sutton**  
Horsted Keynes

My adult working life has been spent in agriculture, especially sheep farming, after feeling a call to that vocation while growing up in Mid Sussex. Having worked all over the UK, I settled back in Mid Sussex managing a sheep farm with my wife and daughter and am now estate manager on the same estate.

It was here, while serving as a school governor and being involved at the parish church that I felt a second call, this time towards ordained ministry. I hope to combine my experiences and joy of working on the land with a call to serve rural communities as a self-supporting minister.

Studying through the pandemic brought many challenges but it has been a privilege to work, witness, and reflect through these times, and now be able to work with the Church as we emerge from the shadow of coronavirus.



**Maria Sadler**  
Holy Trinity Bosham

As a family we have lived and worshipped in the Octagon parish for 25 years. I became a Reader in 2018.

During training, I increasingly became aware of a deep desire to offer God all I had but this was always in tandem with a sense of "Could God really want to use me"? At our vicar's installation service, Bishop Martin talked about calling and this gave me the encouragement I needed.

I began my training on the Portsmouth Pathway, which is linked to Cuddesdon College. It has been such an incredible privilege to continue studying and learning for ministry and I am thankful for all the support I received.

I have found it is certainly true that if we step out in faith, our God is faithful, and will lead us and equip one step at a time.

I am excited to be ordained deacon in July and to join Bosham Holy Trinity Church where I look forward to continuing my training and serving a new community.



**Peter Winstone**  
Crowborough, All Saints

I grew up in West Sussex and became a Christian in my late teens. My journey to ordination took me to London where I studied nursing. During a gap in my studies, I volunteered for a church in Dagenham.

Living in the vicarage I saw first-hand both the hardship but the immense privilege of pastoral ministry. I finished my course and then worked in intensive care where I came face to face with the reality of life and death.

During this time God helped me to realise that although caring for people physically was a wonderful, he was calling me to the cure of souls.

After 16 years in London, I'm coming back to Sussex. As a family we look forward to getting to know the people of Crowborough and sharing with them the love of God and the true hope of eternal life found in Jesus.



**Will Kane**  
Crawley, Saint John the Baptist

I was attending and serving at a church in Guildford while at university studying business management when I felt called back into the Church of England where I grew up.

So much of the Christian journey is surrender. I was very reluctant at first, I loved serving at Church, but to become a minister and to do this full time, no chance. However, after ignoring it for a long time, I accepted and did a ministry experience scheme in Hereford.

Although it was a massive change, I loved it and got accepted for training.

I have learnt and grown so much as a person. I have learnt to worship God through learning more about him through theological reflection and grown deeper in my faith. I can't wait to see where God takes me into ordination and beyond.



**Elizabeth Yonge** -  
Easebourne, Lodsworth  
and Selham

My parents have faith but weren't church-goers so it was the social opportunities that drew me to church, originating from a truly ecumenical childhood.

Having drifted away after university, distracted by my financial career, an unmistakable encounter with God when my twins were in neonatal ICU brought me back. Now I knew God was there, I wanted to find out more and St Paul's, Chichester, nurtured my curiosity.

The call to ordained ministry was hugely surprising and a great privilege. Moving from a busy role to solitary study over Zoom was challenging, but I loved my time at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, deepening both theologically and spiritually and making life-long friends.

I am delighted to be serving alongside Canon Derek Welsman, joining the community, and learning all I can, grateful for the support of my husband Alan and our four amazing kids, who teach me more about love each day.



**Thomas Cotterill**  
Brighton, St Bartholomews  
and St Pauls

Having grown up in the West Midlands, studied in Oxford, and served as a pastoral assistant in London, I have not yet lived by the coast, so am very much looking forward to living as well as ministering in Brighton.

As with other ordinands, Covid brought disruption to training, though I have been impressed with how quickly adaptation was made to the virtual world into which we were thrust. Having first heard God's call to the priesthood at the age of 17, eight years on, I am excited to be entrusted with the ministry of shepherding and serving his people, knowing he is beside us as our beginning and end.

Being new to the diocese as well as to my title parish, I am looking forward to getting to know colleagues across Sussex, as together we serve Christ, supported by the prayers of Our Lady, St Richard and all the Saints. As they pray for me and all of us, I ask that you too would pray for me and all to be ordained.



The venues, dates and times of the services can be found on the diocesan events page  
<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/events/>

## Ordination of priests 2022

This year the ordination of priests will take place in two services at All Saints Hove in June.

**The Bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager, will be ordaining as Priest at All Saints, Hove on Saturday 11th June 4.00pm**

Jan Hendrik Butter – West Blatchington

Laura Elizabeth Darrall - Rustington

Joseph Michael Padfield – East Blatchington and Bishopstone

**The Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood, will be ordaining as Priest at St Cosmas and St Damian Keymer on Saturday 11 June at 4.00pm:**

Simon James Earnshaw - Clayton with Keymer

**The Bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager, will be ordaining as Priest at All Saints, Hove on Sunday 12th June 4.00pm**

Patrick James Donovan – Chanctonbury

Tobias Joseph Lancaster – Hastings, Holy Trinity

Anna Bouch – Woodingdean

Please pray for the candidates and the parishes they continue to serve



## Bunting and scones at the ready as churches set to celebrate HM The Queen's platinum jubilee in style

**From tree planting to garden fetes, our church communities will be celebrating HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style across the long Bank Holiday weekend 2nd- 5th June.**

The Queen's Green Canopy is an exciting project encouraging church communities to plant trees to enhance the country's environment and landscape in honour of HM The Queen's long and faithful service to the country.

All Bishops in the Church of England were given a tree sapling to plant as part of the initiative. Bishop Martin has arranged a community tree planting ceremony in the Palace gardens for May 30. The tree will be planted by the Duchess of Richmond and a person at the other end of the age range, William Harrison, who is not

yet 1 year old and is the son of the Cathedral's Director of Music.

The Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff and local MP (Gillian Keegan) have been invited to attend, together with the Vice-Chancellor and President of the Students' Union of the University of Chichester as well as other members of the Dean and Chapter and the local community.

Churches, too, have seized the opportunity to plant a tree for jubilee through the scheme. Richard Thompson, Church Warden of St Peter's Church, Sompting, came up with the idea of planting an 'Amelanchier Canadensis' donated by the Sompting Estate. Members of the church gathered for the planting on Mothering Sunday as the Archdeacon of Chichester offered a blessing.

Curate, Thomas Fink-Jensen, said: "Not only is it a sturdy and lovely tree throughout the seasons, but it is known colloquially as a 'serviceberry' - which is a rather lovely name in honour of Her Majesty's 70 years of service this year."

At St Mary's Battle, parishioners gathered at the planting of the Rowan tree in March. Revd Lee Duckett said: "Eco-Church initiative through A Rocha has taken off with our church and the wider community getting involved and we are working towards our Gold Award in the churchyard."

"We also have Bishop Will conducting a civic service here at St Mary's for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 5th June and this will be followed by a blessing of the tree."



### Services of thanksgiving

Whilst churches across the Diocese will be holding services of thanksgiving on Sunday 5th June, many communities will be preparing for a big celebration throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.

Streets, local parks, churchyards, and all manner of spaces will be decked out in bunting to mark the occasion. Volunteers will be baking and preparing activities for all ages.

Fr Stephen Mills of St Wildrid's, Parklands in Chichester is marking the 70 year anniversary with a Prom style sing-a-long cream tea party on Saturday June 4th and everyone is welcome.

He said: "This is such a great opportunity for the church to engage with its neighbours, many who may not have been through the church doors before. Her Majesty has great faith which has been a strength



### The Queen's Green Canopy is an exciting project encouraging church communities to plant trees

to her during some difficult times. We hope that this will shine through to others when we all come together for a common purpose.

St Andrew and St Mary the Virgin in Fletching will be celebrating as a community with beacon lighting with Pipers, bugler and a choir on the 2nd June and a street party in the Hight Street with fireworks is to be held on the 5 June from 12 noon until 9pm.

St Mary's Battle are hosting a Celebration in Flowers on from 2nd June with a churches together service on Sunday 5th with the Bishop of Lewes.

St Mary East Preston with Kingston held a book story session after its family service earlier this month. The Queen who chose to serve by Alison Mitchell tells the story of the incredible life and faith of Britain's longest-serving monarch. Listeners were inspired about the great things they can do for God. There was a book giveaway afterwards.

We look forward to all churches sharing their celebrations and many activities on their social networks. If you tag in The Diocese of Chichester, we can like and share your posts.

Have a great weekend celebrating.



# Archbishop Justin's *Visit to the Diocese*

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, visited Sussex on a three-day tour of the Diocese of Chichester where he was welcomed at many venues across the county and met hundreds of people



CHAPLAIN OF CHRIST'S CHURCH HOSPITAL, CRAIG HUXLEY-JONES SCP WITH PUPILS AND THE ARCHBISHOP



AT ST PETER'S BRIGHTON



NIKKI KERR FROM FSW WITH ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN



THE ARCHBISHOP AT THE LEWES VIGIL FOR UKRAINE



ALL SAINTS HOVE - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

He engaged with students, community and church leaders, refugees and prisoners as well as connecting with clergy from rural churches.

Over the weekend the archbishop shared his views on many issues facing local communities including Ukraine, refugees, homelessness, the current state of the housing market and how parishes are responding to local needs.

In the Q&A sessions held at the schools he visited, Holy Trinity Crawley and Christ's Hospital Horsham, he responded to their questions and talked about his own faith journey.

In Hastings, hundreds of people attended an event to hear the archbishop speak and respond to questions.

In Lewes, the mayor and other civic and community leaders attended a reception with the archbishop where questions were asked about the needs of the community and the importance of working in partnership.

Archbishop Welby also visited inmates at Ford Open Prison and led a service in the chapel. He was able to see first-hand the work of the chaplaincy team and how it supports prisoners.

At Chichester Cathedral, after Evensong, the Dean of Chichester held a reception at which everyone was invited, and the archbishop was able to meet many local people.

In attendance at the Cathedral was Jo Shiner, Chief Constable of Sussex. She said: "It was amazing and a really inspirational sermon at a time when the world absolutely needs it."

The Bishop of Chichester gave his thanks for the archbishop's time and for sharing something of his faith to the people of Sussex. He said 'What a wonderful weekend it has been. Archbishop Justin said how much he has discovered that is good and beautiful and wonderful in the Diocese of Chichester. He has shown us how faith can be nurtured in other people. He has also encouraged us in our faith. Thank you, we are so encouraged.'

# Welcoming our Ukrainian guests

**When the Government opened the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme in mid-March many parishes responded and signed up on the government's site to welcome Ukrainians into their homes.**

Whilst the long wait for visas continued churches got on with arranging practical support such as making welcome boxes, collecting donations of clothes and items for getting spare rooms ready. Some linked up with other agencies, such as Refugee Support groups, and together they have been helping in a myriad of practical ways providing opportunities for newly arrived Ukrainians to build friendships and to settle as easy as possible here in the UK.

Lisa Barnett, has been the Team Rector of Horsham parish for the past two years and moved into the vicarage just before the pandemic. Her family recently welcomed Shushik and her daughter Arevik from Kyiv into their spare annex which had not been in practical use for 25 years.

"As our children heard of the suffering in Ukraine, they designed and sold Ukraine bookmarks at school and church, to raise money for the DEC appeal. We decided together that we had space in our Vicarage, and that we wanted to welcome some Ukrainian guests into our home. Both my husband and I have lived abroad and been hosted by families, so we felt that this was an opportunity for us to offer the same generous welcome, albeit in very different circumstances.

A Horsham English teacher alerted us that she was trying to encourage one of her former pupils from Kyiv to seek safety in Horsham, together with her mum, and we quickly felt that this was a family that we would be pleased to welcome into the Vicarage. And so began the process of getting to know Shushik and Arevik.

As we talked with them about their situation and circumstances, we were so aware of the enormity of their decision; leaving Shushik's husband, Arevik's Father, in Ukraine, to seek safety in England. Having submitted the visa applications on 26th March, we waited through 3 long weeks of Lent, until at Easter we heard that the visas had been granted.



There was so much generosity from friends, family, and the local community. It's been moving helping the children to consider how best we can support our Ukrainian guests in feeling welcomed in Horsham and in our home. We are learning together how to shape our international household and Google translate is our new best friend!"

Families in the parish of Barlavington, Burton w Coates, Sutton w Bignor have recently opened their homes to welcome their Ukrainian guests.

One of the three hosting families are the Greenhalghs. Caroline Greenhalgh collected Olena, her mother Liudmay and Olena's ten-year-old son Voldymyr from Luton Airport

and said the first meeting was 'tinged with more than a little emotion'. She said: "I can only imagine how anxious and nervous they must have felt as they came through into the arrival hall as we had only met once over Zoom and all other communication had been via text/google translate as they don't speak any English.

"We settled our three exhausted travellers into their new home just before midnight."

Neighbours, Sophie and Mark Woods' have also sponsored Ukrainian refugees.

"I am delighted to say that the support in our community is both practical and very warm.

"We arranged an afternoon tea in the garden and a welcome coffee in Fittleworth village hall for newly arrived Ukrainians, said Sophie.

My Ukrainian friend Mariya Dykalo Burton also came to visit on Friday along with her Ukrainian sister-in-law (they live in Midhurst); they brought a huge vat of borsch. In addition to the simple fact that having bi-lingual Ukrainians in our midst helped us to iron out some communication problems particularly in relation to the multiple forms that we must fill in to enable them to access benefits and medical care.

"Next week we will endeavour to secure a school place at either Fittleworth or Bury primary school and to enrol them with the Petworth Surgery and finally to open a bank account".

Sarah Chappatte's family welcomed sisters, Kateryna who is 25 and her 33-year-old sister, Zehnia with her 2 little boys, Yaroslav (10) and Semen (3).

**"I am delighted to say that the support in our community is both practical and very warm.**

She said: "They were exhausted after their journey from Poland. It has taken five weeks for visas but now they are here.

"We spent time getting to know each other over long meals, showing them around the village and introducing the boys to the lambs. Now, we have the practical things to sort out like schools, SIM cards, bank accounts etc. But one day at a time."

Jenny Brown is a licensed lay reader at Holy Trinity Hurstperipoint and is involved with welcoming Ukrainians to the area.

"Everyone has been sharing information and experiences as everyone is learning as we go.

"We have recently welcomed Rita, her sister Natasha and her two daughters, Dariia and Maria.

Continued over the page...



“Different people are contributing in different ways: a local English teacher has offered free lessons in the Guide HQ each week, Hurst Community Charity shop is giving start-up gift vouchers for food or clothes, St Lawrence families have donated school uniforms, Hurst College has gifted a violin to a young musician who was unable to bring her instrument with her.

“We are planning to host a safe-space coffee time for the Ukrainian guests in the church regularly.”

Joe Padfield is a curate at East Blatchington and Bishopstone, Seaford.

He and his wife Imogen have been closely involved with helping to house families fleeing the Ukraine.

“Taking a family into your home is never something to be taken lightly, especially a young family displaced by war and probably suffering significant trauma. Moved by what we were seeing on the television we sat and discussed the potential to welcome a family, and it soon became

clear we were of like mind, that it was something we both felt compelled to do.

“Collecting grandmother, mother and two children aged 6 and 4 from the airport early in the morning was a moving and humbling experience. Smiles, frowns, confusion, stilted communication, but an understanding that this was a moment of love and friendship. Arriving in Seaford, the little boy saw the Ukrainian flags flying and smiled.

“Seaford For Ukraine, set up by our Rector, Arwen Folkes, has been invaluable in setting up support networks in Seaford for Ukrainian families, run by local volunteers - a community café, English classes, free SIM cards, etc - everything needed to enable a family to settle in an unfamiliar country. Similarly, members of our church have donated toys and games, conscious of how much this family had to leave behind. As the mother said to us last night: “I am impressed by how much people want to help us. We have landed in the right place”.

### “We pray for an end to this conflict”

“The family have been with us for a week now and are settling well. We share fun and laughter, as well as moments of sadness; our understanding of the war and the cost of such conflict has deepened through our relationship with this family. Our lives are being enriched by this experience - new foods to try, a new language and culture to explore, remembering that little children of all cultures laugh at the same things, and cry the same. There is of course a far deeper story here around unconditional love, around grief and around the visible but unspoken impact of a trauma caused by such barbarism - but that is the family’s story, for them to tell in their own time, but which is being lived within our home.

“We pray for an end to this conflict, to the survival of a democratic and free Ukraine and that one day we will see this family return to their beloved homeland.



PHOTOGRAPH OF EASTER DAY AWARDS (L-R): PARISH PRIEST PAUL HUNT, PROBATIONERS TWINKLE AND LILY, PENELOPE, SHEA, BEAU, MALCOLM LOCK, SHOLTO AND WILLEMINA.

**A grant from a local music charity has enabled seven young recruits to join the new Junior Choir at St Clement’s and All Saints in Hastings Old Town.**

The Royal School of Church Music has highlighted the importance of Junior Choirs for the Church’s mission in providing a route into church life for young people that is different from Sunday Schools which are more likely to draw children from existing church families.

In the parish of Hastings Old Town they are singing the same tune and getting paid for it. “We were fortunate in obtaining a three-year grant from a local music charity endowed by two former parishioners,” explains the Priest-in-Charge, Revd Paul Hunt. “The choristers are paid £5 for attending a rehearsal and another £5 for singing at a service.

The Junior Choir has brought a wonderful sense of energy and joy to our church life. Two siblings are now part of the rejuvenated team of servers, parents have been brought into church and the average age of our regular congregation has been lowered as a result.”

“Singing makes me feel closer to God.” Says Sholto, aged eleven and a pupil at Ark Alexandra, the Church of England secondary school in Hastings. Sholto is one of the seven members of the junior choir.

The choristers follow the RSCM Voice for Life scheme and there is a lot of research to show that singing and the study of music have a positive impact on school studies, especially languages and mathematics. “Learning music helps me to concentrate,” says probationer Lily, aged twelve.

“The formation of the Junior Choir is a real boost to our church,” says Malcolm Lock, the Director of Music. “We haven’t had children in the choir for the past twenty years

and we now have the wonderful problem of having an over crowded choir vestry!” Mr Lock emphasises the importance of musical tuition and its wider benefits. “We are competing with a lot of rival secular activities and so it’s not simply a case of paying children to sing. One parent has already commented on the benefit to his daughter’s performance in musical theatre at school.”

For Beau aged ten and his older brother Shea, being part of a community is important and they are looking forward to the choir outing to Canterbury Cathedral at the end of June when they will sit in on a rehearsal for the Cathedral Choir.

At a time when young people are conspicuous by their absence in so many of our parish churches – as had been the case in Hastings Old Town – setting up a Junior Choir should be well worth consideration as part of a serious Mission Action Plan.

# PARISH NEWS

## BLESSING THE LAMBS



**During Lent, a parishioner of mine, Jenny Flake, who with her husband and children run Coombes Farm, asked if I would come and bless their new crop of lambs at the end of the lambing season.**

Jenny's family for many generations have been a part of the community that worships at the ancient Coombes farm. In September of 2021, the parish of Coombes and the parish of St James the Less Lancing were reorganised to form one new parish, Lancing with Coombes. Fr Felix Smith was appointed vicar of this new parish (Fr Felix is also the vicar of the newly created parish of South Lancing and Sompting) and me as associate vicar. As I am based and have primary pastoral responsibility for Lancing with Coombes parish, I'd gotten to know this beautiful, ancient Coombes Church and the community

there, as I have the joy of celebrating the Holy Eucharist there each month.

The parish of Lancing with Coombes is unique in that it is both suburban and rural. Within a 25-minute walk (depending on your briskness) you can be at the edge of the often very busy A27, and also be in the midst of the South Downs surrounded by beautiful views of rolling green fields, sheep, horses and cattle – not to mention Red Kites soaring overhead on occasion.

Having previously lived in rural southwestern Ontario, Canada, my family and I enjoy living in Lancing for just that reason. Likewise, I was also very glad to be asked by Jenny to come and bless their lambs as the very busy and often stressful lambing season was coming to an end. I had lived on a (much smaller) farm in

Ontario and my wife and I had raised (a much smaller) flock of sheep, so can well understand the stresses and strains of lambing time, along with all the uncertainties of the season following.

We are also aware that over the past century both the UK and Canada have seen a depopulation of the countryside, and with that a fading awareness and understanding of the cycles of agriculture and animal husbandry. We've even gotten to the point that some well-meaning people are suggesting that the keeping of livestock such as sheep and cattle, which have grazed the South Downs for over 5,000 years is somehow "not sustainable". When we pause to think that our forebears grazed livestock for 5,000 years just here in England, never mind the close to 12,000 year history

of domesticated sheep, goats and cattle – it seems we might have something to learn about sustainability from the wisdom of our ancestors! As Christians in England, we can also look at the Book of Common Prayer which, amidst all the upheavals of the various phases of the Reformation preserved and encouraged the observance of Rogationtide in the week before Ascension Day, and also contains prayers and thanksgiving for fair weather, for rain and for plenty. The truth is that God is Lord of all Creation, and our lives are bound up with all living things on this earth!

Jenny explained to me that a service of blessing the lambs had taken place some years ago, when the previous vicar was in post, and had featured on an episode of Songs of Praise on television. There is no set liturgy for blessing of livestock in any Church of England liturgical resource, but we followed the basic and ancient pattern of praying with Psalms (traditionally called the Psalms of David, who was himself a shepherd) and reading the Holy Scriptures before asking for God to hear our prayers and bless the lambs. As we use traditional language for services at Coombes, for the service in the lambing barn we turned to the Book of Common Prayer as a resource to pray through Psalm 100 "we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture" and read Isaiah 40:10-11 "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather

**"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm"**



the lambs with his arm" and St John 10:14-18 "I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me".

We then prayed for God's blessing upon the lambs, for farmers across our country, for seasonable weather and for all who work for the common good of our land.

After the service, we enjoyed a wagon ride courtesy of Jenny where we could see the sheep and cattle on the beautiful hills of the South Downs. Many first-time visitors also took the time to go into Coombes Church. Overall, we had about 35 people join us, along with staff and volunteers. On our return from the tractor drawn wagon ride, we discovered that another ewe had safely delivered a lamb!

We had a wonderful time together and I for one felt very blessed to have been asked to

bless the lambs of Coombes Farm. It would be good to make this an annual occasion, and I hope that across our diocese we can continue to re-engage with communities that are so foundational to our country's health and sustainability, such as blessing of ploughs as Fr Andrew Birks, Vicar at St Mary's Chidham, in West Sussex has done, or the blessing of fishing boats Fr Felix will be leading in South Lancing and Sompting parish in June.

We are truly blessed to live in such a rich agricultural country as England, and it was a true joy to be able to share and celebrate that blessing with others. I look forward to seeing how these lambs grow and will continue to pray for a good season ahead!

## PARISH NEWS



### 'THIS TRULY SHOWED GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION'

**A VICAR who helped feed needy families during the pandemic has been given an award.**

Rev Jules Middleton was presented with a Covid Hero accolade for her work in co-ordinating a food bank in Lewes in lockdown.

It served more than 100 families in 2020.

Jules, who was then associate vicar at Trinity church in Lewes, received the award on behalf of all those involved in helping with the food hub run from Trinity.

She said: "It was a huge community team effort.

"It was humbling but lovely to be nominated and to be given this award because often the work of the church in the community goes unnoticed.

"So many wonderful people from the town got involved that at its busiest we served 100 families locally, and in addition some further afield too.

"There were those who gave up huge amounts of time volunteering and taking a risk when the pandemic was rampant and without vaccines; those who gathered neighbours to donate food and brought it to our door; amazing food bank teams we worked alongside to make sure no one went without; the street community who came to help shift boxes and sometimes serenaded us with guitars; the organisations who provided funding, meals, expertise and more; the fabulous supermarket collections teams; those who cleaned on an almost hourly basis; those who lugged boxes and trolleys; our local social prescribers who alerted us to those in need and gave so much of their time; the local gin supplier who gave us hand sanitiser when it was not available anywhere; those who made masks by the bucket load and so many others.

"There were so many who helped out, donated or dropped by. We were indebted

to the many businesses and organisations that gave their support - Lewes Coronavirus Volunteers, Lewes town and district councils, East Sussex County Council, Neighbourhood First, Landport, Fitzjohn's and Malling food banks, Seaford food bank, Ringmer food bank, Lewes Open Door, Wybourns pharmacy, Waitrose, Generation distillers, Cook, Cafe Ganges, Soul Soup and food hub managers Dave, Georgia, Emma and Richard.

**"This was the most amazing community project that truly showed God's love in action. I am so proud to have been part of it. Lewes you are an amazing community. Thank you all**

Rev Jules has since been licensed as priest-in-charge of Edward the Confessor Church in Burgess Hill.

## FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

**Ambitious development plans at All Saints Hove are moving forward, and the Victorian Grade I Gothic church is looking to the future, with new building developments and a new role as a Resource Church for Brighton and Hove.**

### 'HERITAGE AT RISK' - URGENT RESTORATIONS

The first stage of development at All Saints was a series of urgent repairs to the church building, which is currently on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register. Positioned right on the pavement, falling masonry was a major risk that needed to be urgently addressed. In 2019-20, significant repairs were carried out on the east end towers and some of the windows, as well as a number of roof repairs. With support from a number of charitable trusts including the National Churches Trust, Headley Trust and the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, the most urgent repairs were completed and it is hoped that All Saints will soon be removed from the 'at risk' list.

### ONE BREAD CAFÉ - OPENING UP ALL SAINTS

The next stage of development at All Saints was the creation of One Bread Café, designed by architects Purcell and constructed in the South West corner of the church itself. The vision for One Bread is to be a welcoming space for the

whole community, opening up the church building during the week where it had previously been closed, and using it as a base for a range of hospitality and community outreach projects.

Officially opened in November 2021, One Bread has since become a thriving hub for the local community. Currently open Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 2.30pm, One Bread serves locally roasted coffee, cakes and pastries and also has a lunch menu. As far as possible, produce is sourced locally, and the café has also created training and employment opportunities for three local people. On Fridays, the café closes to the public and hosts community outreach projects such as The Friday Sanctuary, a social space for refugees and asylum seekers, with refreshments, games and activities and signposting to services and support. This is just one example of how the café is enabling All Saints to be a place of hospitality and welcome to a diverse range of people, and has transformed visibility and access to the church during the week.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - A RESOURCE CHURCH FOR BRIGHTON AND HOVE

With these first stages complete, All Saints is now looking towards more major development of its site, continuing heritage

restorations and transforming its community facilities. Funding is currently being sought to make this work possible.

These physical redevelopments will happen alongside All Saints' new role as a Resource Church. Along with St Peters Church in Brighton, All Saints successfully applied to the Church of England for Strategic Development funding, which began in summer 2021. This funded the majority of the café build, as well as staffing costs for a number of key roles including a Hospitality Minister, Children and Families Minister and a new Associate Vicar, Fr Lee Chantler, whose role is to lead apostolic partnerships with other churches in Brighton and Hove.

At the core of All Saints' role as a Resource Church is a vision to partner with and equip other local churches in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, working alongside them to develop new ministries and creative projects. The All Saints team will work with partner churches to build capacity and strengthen existing teams, and Pastoral Assistants from All Saints will be deployed across the city to support this work. The vision for these apostolic partnerships is that new developments at All Saints will have a ripple effect, positively impacting churches across Brighton and Hove.



# Maycamp 2022

**Maycamp the Diocese wide annual youth event – access for all regardless of cost**

*So go into the highways and byways, and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast. And those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all they found, both bad and good; and the wedding was filled with guests.*

Matthew 22.9-11

Every year hundreds of young people from across Sussex meet for a weekend of worship, teaching, discipleship, sports, games, music and more at Plumpton Racecourse.

In previous years the event has been at the end of the May half term but because of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee it will now take place from the 27th to 30th May instead.

Dan Jenkins, Diocesan Youth Officer is co-ordinating the event and is keen to speak to any parish who would

**We have set aside funds to make sure that no child is left out because of the cost.**

like to bring a group but are struggling with the costs.

He said: "The reason for choosing this weekend is that it's the first weekend of half term - giving young people a chance to recover after a weekend of camping and high energy activities!

"It is understandable that during these challenging times there will be families that may feel locked out of children's activities in the holiday half term because of cost. I want to say to anyone in contact with families that we welcome interest from everyone and we have set aside funds for this to make sure that no child is left out because of the cost. This includes those children of the

families that have arrived from Ukraine. Please speak to me and I can make sure that they will be provided for.

"We have some helpful tips for bringing groups away and resources which can be downloaded to help with the whole process."

The event is focused on the local church and the discipleship journey of the young people. There are seminars on subjects including social action, overseas mission, spiritual disciplines, money, worship, vocations, leadership, tough questions and much more. On a weekend away like Maycamp leaders have the opportunity to develop deeper relationships with their groups that you just can't in the every day back at home.

Contact:  
youth@chichester.Anglican.org



*When is a bench, not a bench?*

**When it's a safe space where tea, coffee and home-made cakes abound!**

A very simple idea is at the heart of an outreach project set up by St Richard's Church in Haywards Heath to help people in the community who are feeling lonely or anxious.

The project, called 'Ric's Bench', is based at St Richard's Hall. It is open for three, two-hour, sessions each week, one of which is specifically aimed at young adults. The drop-in sessions offer a warm welcome, friendly company, refreshments, and provide a safe environment for people to be themselves. Volunteers, who are drawn from members of the church and the local community, are there to listen to guests' issues and concerns. To quote one now regular visitor, "It is a godsend and has really helped me over the last four months."

As word spreads the number of people attending Ric's Bench sessions is steadily increasing and doctors' surgeries and

other social prescribers are beginning to recommend that their patients try it.

Fr Chris Brading, Vicar at St Richard's, said: "Ric's Bench is not rocket science. As Covid restrictions eased and much of society returned to some sense of normality, it was clear that a good number of folk were being left behind, people who were lonely but apprehensive about going out. We simply asked ourselves how we could bring Jesus' love to the situation and help using the people and resources we had. It is wonderful to see new friendships being forged and the confidence of regular guests growing, it has also brought members of our congregation closer together."

'Ric's Bench' received a grant from the diocesan Mission Fund which is being used to further develop the scope and offering of Ric's Bench. The facilities in and around St Richard's hall are being enhanced and the range of activities available to visitors, for example crafts and gardening, are being expanded.



## Diocesan Mission Fund

The overall aim of the Mission Fund is to help more people in Sussex develop Christian faith and commitment to worship. Its grants aim to support imaginative new forms of local mission or new developments of current mission. The Committee meets twice a year to administer the grants.

The deadline for applications is Monday 3rd October 2022. The next Mission Fund meeting is Tuesday 18th October 2022.

If you have any questions about applying for a mission fund please take a look at the website page [here](#) or contact Rob Dillingham at [rob.dillingham@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:rob.dillingham@chichester.anglican.org)

# UNFORGETTABLE DAY FOR FOUR DEVOTED STALWARTS

FOUR people from Chichester Diocese were nominated by the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, to receive Royal Maundy Gifts from the Queen in recognition of their exemplary Christian service to church and community over many years.

Bishop Martin said:

**“The distribution of the Royal Maundy Gifts is an ancient ceremony that reveals the Christian character of the monarchy in this land.”**

“It is a ceremony that honours those who do hidden service. By doing so very publicly it reminds us that the greatest among us, Jesus Christ, is one who serves.

“We applaud Margaret, Marilyn Ann, William and Michael, from this diocese, and congratulate them on the recognition of their work of service.”

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall attended the annual Maundy service in St George’s Chapel in Windsor on behalf of the Queen, where they distributed the traditional Maundy money. Michael Wake, William Holden, Margaret Lumley and Marilyn Ann Morris from our diocese were among those to receive their “purses”.

The service dates back to 600AD and the special coins have retained much the same form since 1670. This year, Maundy money has been newly minted to portray the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word meaning “commandment”. It was on this Thursday, the day before he died, that Jesus gave his disciples what he described as a new commandment, “That you should love one another as I have loved you”.



**Margaret Lumley** (Tangmere) has served with distinction across the life of her parish, Chichester Deanery and the wider diocese over many years. Since 2005 she has been secretary for the Chichester Deanery Synod, from 2011 the PCC secretary in Tangmere and from 2016 she has served on the Diocesan Overseas Council. She is the organist in her parish church and a Lay Minister of Holy Communion. In 2017 she was appointed a trustee of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership, an outstanding Church of England secondary academy in Chichester.

She said: “I was really shocked to be told I had been chosen to receive the Royal Maundy and am still humbled that my work for the church and community is thought to be worthy of recognition. The events of the day will stay in my mind for the rest of my life.”



**Michael Wake** (Pagham) has given so much of himself to the life of the parish, not least in overseeing significant restoration to the church, including the re-roofing during the vacancy. He said: “I was very surprised that my name was put forward to be a recipient at the Royal Maundy Service. It was a huge honour and very humbling. My memories of the day will remain with me always.”



**Marilyn Ann Morris** (Forest Row) has worked quietly behind the scenes for years as a sacristan and in particular as a gifted Sunday School teacher, following in the footsteps of her parents who led the Sunday School in Forest Row Parish for many years. This intergenerational ministry has changed the lives of many who have had the privilege to encounter it.

She said: “I feel very honoured and humble that I have been a recipient of the Royal Maundy money, which came as a great surprise to me. I found the whole experience very emotional and something which will stay with me for ever.”



**William Holden** (West Blatchington) has served so faithfully in many roles over the years including on Diocesan Synod. He said: “The most emotional moment for me came during the second distribution when the final anthem began. It was Handel’s Zadok the Priest with its slow dramatic build up and the vibrant “Alleluia, Amen” at the end, sung by the combined choirs of St George’s Chapel and the Chapel Royal. I had to restrain myself from joining in and trembled with emotion.

“How privileged to be part of a tradition that can be dated back without a break to King John in 1210.”



# Make the most of your churchyard

**‘Help to Make the Most of Your Churchyard’ is now available on video.**

The support is the result of a free resource session, held at the beautiful Ashburnham Place in Battle, which was led by Gary Cregeen, Rural Officer for East Sussex.

It was attended by people from across the diocese and was fully booked within hours of the tickets being made available.

There was a talk from one of the country’s leading experts on churchyards, Rev Mark Betson, and sessions from parish clergy.

Edward Dowler, archdeacon of Hastings, Arwen Folkes, rector of East Blatchington and Bishopstone, and Brendan Martin, rector of Frant with Eridge, have all pioneered recent missional projects in their churchyards and were keen to share resources and reflection on what they have learned.

Gary, who is also priest in charge at St Peter’s Ashburnham, said: “The resource morning was intended to help clergy, churchwardens and all who have care for churchyards to consider their wider purpose within the mission of the Church.

“The feedback has been really positive – clearly ‘making churchyards a resource for the living as well as a resting place for the dead’ really connected with and engaged people.”

Five videos of the event have been produced and are now available for parishes to use.

Gary said: “We are grateful to Richard Bickersteth, trustee of the Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust, who has kindly produced this video resource to inform, inspire and encourage Parochial Church Councils, small groups, and individuals to glean the benefits of what was an instructive and encouraging rural resource event.

“The format enables viewers to watch it either as a whole (perhaps as a resource morning) or in sections/ sessions, as a series. It can be tailored to different contexts which, experience tells us, is really important. This resource will enable and inspire little, local and rural churches to consider how their churchyards, which can often be more accessible than our church buildings, can be a means of engaging with God and to enabling others to do the same.”

**You can download all five of the YouTube videos here:**



**Session 1**  
[Welcome and keynote with Rev Mark Betson](#)

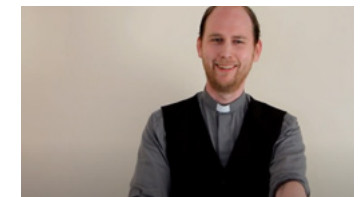
**“The feedback has been really positive”**



**Session 2**  
[Education initiatives in the churchyard with Edward Dowler](#)



**Session 3 -**  
[Stepping outside in faith with Rev Arwen Folkes](#)



**Session 4 -**  
[Creating a forest church with Rev Brendan Martin](#)



**Session 5 -**  
[Using your churchyard for mission - final comments](#)

# News from overseas

## Last year the Diocesan Overseas Committee (DOC) worked to review and refine our work with our overseas partners.

The Diocese of Chichester has companion links with six dioceses covering nine countries. Our links in West Africa began in 1965 and Kenya in 1967. You can read more about these links [here](#)

## WHAT ARE THE LINKS ABOUT?

They are about companionship across the Anglican Communion, praying for and learning from each other and meeting each other when possible.

Over the years, funding from the DOC has supported a wide variety of ministry, development and mission needs. It has received a wide range of other requests, including for building and income-supporting projects, or the costs of enthronements.

The DOC agreed to concentrate our financial support on the needs of training priests and supporting Anglican theological colleges in our link dioceses.

The DOC has access to four funds, some of which are restricted to particular areas or type of support. In addition, there is usually an annual Harvest Appeal.

Currently six young men and women are being supported in their theological ministerial training at three Anglican training colleges in Kenya. One student from this diocese is being supported in his mission training with Crosslinks in South Africa.

Other requests may be considered, for instance, in 2021 theological books were sent to a college in Nairobi.

If your parish would like to consider supporting a parish or school in one of our link dioceses, please let us know via Rev James Campbell, companion links officer. Email James at [withyhamrector@gmail.com](mailto:withyhamrector@gmail.com)

## DONATIONS

In 2021 the diocese made donations to three partner charities to support their work in Africa. Mothers' Union, Tearfund and USPG (United Society Partners in Gospel) all received funds.



USPG told us about its latest appeal and how it transforms lives through education, health care and justice for all.

In 2021 USPG's harvest appeal raised money for HIV wellness gardens. People living with HIV are facing the problem of food shortages during the coronavirus pandemic. Food insecurity brings additional negative effects as good nutrition is a key factor for adherence to therapy.

Women suffer the most in many communities worldwide. The appeal supports people, particularly women, via HIV stigma reduction programmes which train church leaders on issues of HIV and create wellness groups.

The pandemic has affected the entire world and had catastrophic impacts on people's lives, families and communities. The Covid-19 vaccination is the most powerful tool to stop the

## The pandemic has affected the entire world and had catastrophic impacts on people's lives, families and communities.

virus in its tracks and USPG's church partners across the globe have sought financial support for their community schemes to encourage uptake of the jab. There is a spread of misinformation that the vaccine causes infertility, disrupted menstrual cycles and, in some cases, death. The myths and fears have led to a lack of confidence in the jab and an uptake rate of perhaps just ten per cent. This also has the knock-on effect of people refusing all routine vaccinations due to Covid job fears, the impact of which may be felt for years to come.

The Church is mobilising to respond to misinformation and generate more vaccine confidence in their communities. USPG works with churches on their vaccine hesitancy campaigns. In 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, Chichester DOC, together with USPG, sent funds to the Anglican Diocese of Guinea, one of our link dioceses, to help start infection control.

## LAMBETH CONFERENCE 2022

At the time of writing, we are excited to have heard from eight of our 11 link bishops and their spouses who have committed to attend this historic conference: Guinea, Freetown and Bo and Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cameroon from West Africa, together with Nakuru, Nyahururu and Baringo from Kenya.

Under the revised plans, all the bishops from the Anglican Communion will spend almost all their time at the conference at Kent University in Canterbury, but we are hopeful that our link bishops will be able to visit Chichester for a day of hospitality and worship together.

Most of the bishops will be arriving in the UK on Tuesday, July 26 Please email Bishop Ruth if you would like to form part of the meet and greet team at Gatwick.

<mailto:Bishop.Horsham@chichester.anglican.org>

LAMBETH  
CONFERENCE  
God's Church for God's world



HYMNS WITH REV NEVILLE MANNING

# THERE'S A WIDENESS *in God's mercy*

SOME of the hymns we sing are only truncated versions of the originals. Probably the lengthier originals would be too long for use these days. One slightly truncated hymn that many of us know is "There's a wideness in God's mercy". In some hymnals it begins as "Souls of men, why will ye scattter", though in many it now begins with the title above.

The writer was Frederick William Faber (1814-1863). Originally brought up in a strict Evangelical and Calvinist tradition, under the influence of John Henry Newman he later became a Roman Catholic. As a Roman Catholic priest he wrote many hymns which had a popular appeal, among them the one on which we are focusing.

As the line "There's a wideness in God's mercy" suggests, this is a hymn about the expansiveness and inclusiveness of God's love for all of us. The comparison with the wideness of the sea is very compelling. One verse, sadly omitted in some hymn books, warns us against our often narrow understandings

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## THERE IS GRACE ENOUGH FOR THOUSANDS OF NEW WORLDS AS GREAT AS THIS

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of that love: "But we make his love too narrow, by false limits of our own; and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own".

Some marginalised groups not always welcome in churches and society might well nod in agreement. The one, Jesus, whose blood has been shed, is one whose love does not have that narrowness. That wide vision of God's love for all his creatures may have been fired by Faber's own work as a priest among poverty-stricken communities in London and Birmingham and the need for people not to feel rejected and judged by others but rather to be valued and welcomed.

In the past the hymn was usually sung to the tune Gott Will's Machen by J L Steiner. More recently it is to a tune called Corvedale composed by

Maurice Bevan, once a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Its name comes from villages in Shropshire close to the River Corve and near to Stanton Lacey where Bevan's father had once been vicar for many years.

Some of us might have reservations about the final verse which suggests that if our love were more simple and if we lived taking God at his word "our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord". Jesus never suggested that following him would be a walk in the park, let alone a walk in the sunshine. The revised wording in some hymn books which substitutes "gladness" for "sunshine" may have more biblical precedent as we are called to rejoice in the Lord always.

As a hymn it encourages us to ask whether we are creating circles to include people rather than to exclude them. We are reminded that God's grace is not rationed: "There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this".



## Countdown to the South of England Show

**THE diocese will once again be hosting a Sanctuary at the South of England Show in Ardingly in June.**

Rev Sue Wilkinson is the co-ordinator of the space, which will be staffed by Christians from churches across Sussex.

Sue said: "We are delighted to welcome you back to the showground again this year. The Sanctuary is a relaxed area staffed by a small team. Visitors and the showground staff have appreciated the presence of the Sanctuary space and we consistently get positive feedback.

"This year, as well as operating a safe space for any lost people, we will be welcoming back the Salvation Army refreshments van and other charity partners.

"Together we will be providing hospitality and an area for baby changing so that families can find a relaxed place to rest their weary feet and enjoy a refreshing drink and a sweet treat.

"Mothers' Union will be joining us this year for the first time. One of the things that they are well known for, apart from their vital work with families, is cake. Please do come and join us for conversation, cake and a chance to meet some of the volunteers and hear about the great work they do across Sussex. We ask for a small donation for tea and cake.

"The Sanctuary in its current set-up has been going for six years now but the Church has always had a presence at the show from the very beginning. It celebrated 50 years in 2017.

"The show has always been an excellent opportunity for outreach, to both visitors and stall holders. Visiting clergy come along to help take the Church out into the wider community by being present and often being asked to judge a competition, get involved in the education hub or to simply respond to questions on faith and farming.

"Be assured you will receive a warm welcome from the team."

**"The show has always been an excellent opportunity for outreach, to both visitors and stall holders."**

The show will run from June 10 to June 12. For more details, call Sue on 07713 097661. We are still looking for volunteers so if you are interested in helping on any of the days please contact Lisa.williamson@chichester.anglican.org

Tickets cost £21.60 for adults, £19.80 for senior citizens/students (inclusive of 10% online discount until 2.06.22) – under 16s go free Book here: <https://www.seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/>





## This is why I write and preach much better sermons

JUDITH MILLS is a hospice chaplain who began her Christian life and ministry in Chichester Diocese before moving to be chaplain to Hospice in the Weald in Pembury and licensed lay worker to the Diocese of Rochester, in July 2021. She tells how she combined her writing skills with her theological learning.

### It is the spiritual power of “presence” and of the narrative encounter that I am most keen to capture as a theologian.

I am one of those people who thrives on learning. I don't think there has ever been a point in my life where I haven't been in the middle of studying something. I have keen and intense interests in all sorts of subjects from writing, art and music to science and health.

But it has always been the study of spirituality and belief that has most held my interest. When I heard about the MA at the University of Chichester, I had no hesitation in applying. One of the options was public theology, which immediately captured my imagination. Until that point, I had been working towards an MA in creative writing, where I had been writing more about God than anything else. Public theology seemed to be offering the opportunity to use my creative skill and narrative voice to write and talk about God (and not annoy my tutors in the process).

Public theology is essentially theology that engages with society. If this sounds like a potentially huge area of study, it's because it is. And there are as many ideas of how it should be defined as there are theologies. It can encompass the ways in which theology engages with the written and spoken word, broadcasting, film, entertainment, politics,

social media, religious institutions, academia, the environment, even advertising. I have a particular interest in how theology intersects with narrative and storytelling, with poetry, performance, and with the “ordinary” stories we don't always get to hear.

Having worked in cancer care for many years, and now as a chaplain with people who are at the end of life, I have heard many stories. I have the enormous privilege of hearing things that may not have been spoken out loud for a very long time, or that may never have been said to anyone at all.

There is perhaps no more of an “edge state” than the process of dying, a space of liminality where we all - those who are dying and those who are privileged to share the journey - encounter the deepest reality of who we are. And it is often said that chaplains are most comfortable on the margins of faith, which is perhaps why I find my home here.

As someone who is on the autistic spectrum, I suppose I have always been more comfortable on the edges. I would say it really took me until my diagnosis of ASD in my forties to find a spiritual home. When I moved to Brighton in 2017 and found

a church, I was baptised and confirmed in quick succession, and duly discovered a vocation to ministry, a new career and a passion for theology.

It is the spiritual power of “presence” and of the narrative encounter that I am most keen to capture as a theologian. In practice, this is what emerges as “Theopoetics”, a genre that, as a writer, I have embraced most warmly. In this respect, the MA has opened my mind to what theology is, and how expansive it can be. It has taken me out of a few comfort zones, making me more able and confident in discussing theological ideas. As a side effect of this, I write and preach much better sermons. It has additionally honed my critical thinking skills and my ability to construct reasoned arguments, skills that are useful beyond the field of academia.

I have found the process of learning, researching, and writing about theology, deeply engaging, and fulfilling in ways that have deepened my own spiritual life, and continue to inform my work as a hospice chaplain.

I also seem to be rather good at it, which is both a discovery and a delight.

Judith Mills is currently studying for an MA in Public Theology at the University of Chichester. If you wish to apply for a place on the MA Christian Ministry course, please speak to Graham Smith Professor of Public Theology [g.smith@chi.ac.uk](mailto:g.smith@chi.ac.uk)

# SUPPORT IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

By Martin Auton Lloyd -CEO of Family Support Work (FSW)

LAST year was one of the most challenging for Family Support Work as the impact of the Covid pandemic on our families as well as our organisation became apparent.

The families we support were in more need than ever and competition for funding to maintain our work was intense as so many charities were looking to replace income lost during the lockdowns. Thankfully we were able to continue our work at full capacity, enabling us to help nearly 400 Sussex families.

The service we provide would not be possible without the vast numbers of volunteers who get involved in many ways, both behind the scenes and directly with our families. Over 180 individuals across the diocese provide vital (and priceless) practical support which enables us to offer the best possible service.

Our family support volunteers undergo specialist training and safeguarding checks which enable them to give one-to-one support to specific families.

## The service we provide would not be possible without the vast numbers of volunteers who get involved in many ways, both behind the scenes and directly with our families

Working closely with the local practitioner to identify a particular need, the volunteer's involvement with a family frees up the practitioner to carry out work with others.

Over the last year some of the projects carried out by our volunteers include supporting a child with their reading homework, teaching English to a mother who came to the UK only able to speak Arabic, driving families to a holiday in the Mothers' Union caravan at Selsey and taking children out of the home for extra-curricular activities as the parents are disabled. At the Contact Centre in Eastbourne, the project we run jointly with the Mothers' Union, volunteers spend time supporting and assisting visiting families.

Other volunteers help our practitioners at group events – everything from drop-in coffee mornings to after-school clubs and summer outings. It's always a great help to have extra pairs of hands.

More than 150 of our volunteers are members of local deanery committees. They support their local practitioner practically but also promote FSW's work within their parish and get involved with fundraising events. You will see many of them at our open garden events later in the year. Their role is vital, maintaining the longstanding connection between FSW and the diocese and encouraging new support.

# PETER'S CATHEDRAL PILGRIMAGE

2022 marks the 70th birthday of Angmering resident and Family Support Work supporter Peter Gayler, and Peter has set himself a fascinating and unique challenge to usher in this landmark birthday and raise funds for FSW at the same time.

Over the course of the year, Peter is going to visit every mainland English cathedral and attend a service in each one. From the northernmost in Newcastle to Truro in the south, Peter's pilgrimage will take in all 42 cathedrals plus Westminster Abbey (known as a Royal Peculiar). During his journey, Peter will be documenting his trip with photos and historical information, which he hopes will make his challenge interesting and engaging to many others. Peter says:

"I really want to do something memorable in my 70th year. From time to time, I have worshipped in a number of Cathedrals over the years, but there are many that I have never visited and very much want this to be a pilgrimage. I will join in a range of services, whether it is all age worship on a Sunday morning, early morning Holy Communion, Matins or a Choral Evensong. I will enjoy the worship, history, the amazing cathedral buildings and meeting people as I travel around. To help focus and raise some funds for FSW throughout 2022 will be an added bonus. I would also like to thank those that have already given me the encouragement to do this, not least Helen my wife who will accompany me on many of my visits."

Peter is raising funds for Family Support Work (FSW) during the course of his challenge. FSW provides practical and emotional support to families across Sussex who are experiencing challenging situations and helps them to build resilience and grow stronger together. Peter's Justgiving page can be found here, where he will also be posting updates on the progress of his pilgrimage. You can also follow his progress on FSW's social media pages @FswFamilySupportWork (Facebook) and @FSWSussex (Twitter).

Peter's challenge will finish at Chichester Cathedral, his home cathedral, in November 2022.



Last but by no means least are those volunteers who help behind the scenes. From the wonderful people who come regularly to our food bank in Brighton, sorting donations and putting together deliveries to our families, to those who help in the garden at Garton House or provide administrative support or specialist skills to the office team, there really is something for everybody who has a desire to help.

As we look to establishing an FSW service in more areas of the diocese this year, maybe volunteering is something you feel called to do in 2022. If so we would love to hear from you and let you know more about how your interest and skills could support our crucial work.

**You can get in touch by emailing [admin@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@familysupportwork.org.uk) or calling 01273 832963.**



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## Why we do what we do

**Chichester Diocesan President of Mothers' Union Karen Hill talks about the role of Mothers' Union in the citizen ceremonies.**

For several years Mothers' Union (MU) have provided a welcome for new citizens at the ceremonies that take place regularly in Lewes, Crowborough and Brighton.

The ceremonies follow a strict protocol but the MU welcome afterwards with tea and cakes is fun, touching, family oriented and multicultural, as people from a great variety of origins and cultures get together to celebrate an important rite of passage in their lives.

Whether the group of new citizens and their families is big or small, whether the ceremonies happen regularly every month or just when they are needed, we have a chance to meet new people often from countries where they know MU, share in their joy and above all listen to their stories.

They often tell us, "You are a little bit of our old family life, coming with us and celebrating our new family life."

MU often gives continuity to new citizens lives. Before the COVID-19 interval, MU members were in the neonatal unit at Worthing Hospital, there they met a young couple from Nigeria who had just had an early delivery of a little girl. Her father was delighted, he said, "Mothers' Union, we know you. Please pray with us and for us. We did not like to ask the nurses if there was a priest, they are so busy."

They prayed with them and got them in contact with the Hospital Chaplaincy.

Some weeks later at a Citizenship Ceremony in Brighton, the same family came up to the MU members and said, "Mothers' Union, here too! You were with us when we needed you in hospital with prayers and cake; and again you are with us on our special day to celebrate with congratulations and cake."

We act as a physical link to local Churches, but our purpose varies slightly from country to country, so we give out leaflets at these Citizenship Ceremonies, to explain a little about who we are and what we do.

You can find out more about the work of Mothers' Union Chichester here: [www.chichestermu.org/welcome.htm](http://www.chichestermu.org/welcome.htm)

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

# BOOKS AND REVIEWS

BY REVD JOHN TWISLETON



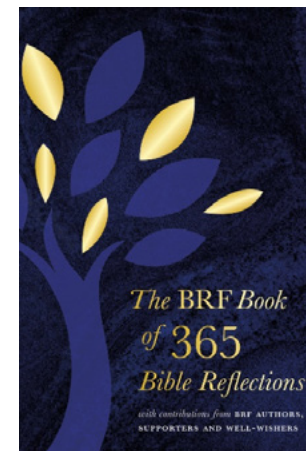
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By Esther de Waal

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