

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



HOW ONE WOMAN'S RESTORATION PROJECT BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO THE CHAPEL ON THE BEACH

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DEVOTION
AND SERVICE
RECOGNISED

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to the Order of St Richard

QUEEN'S
GREEN CANOPY

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Parishes to continue
planting across the county

PROCLAIMING THE
MYSTERY OF FAITH

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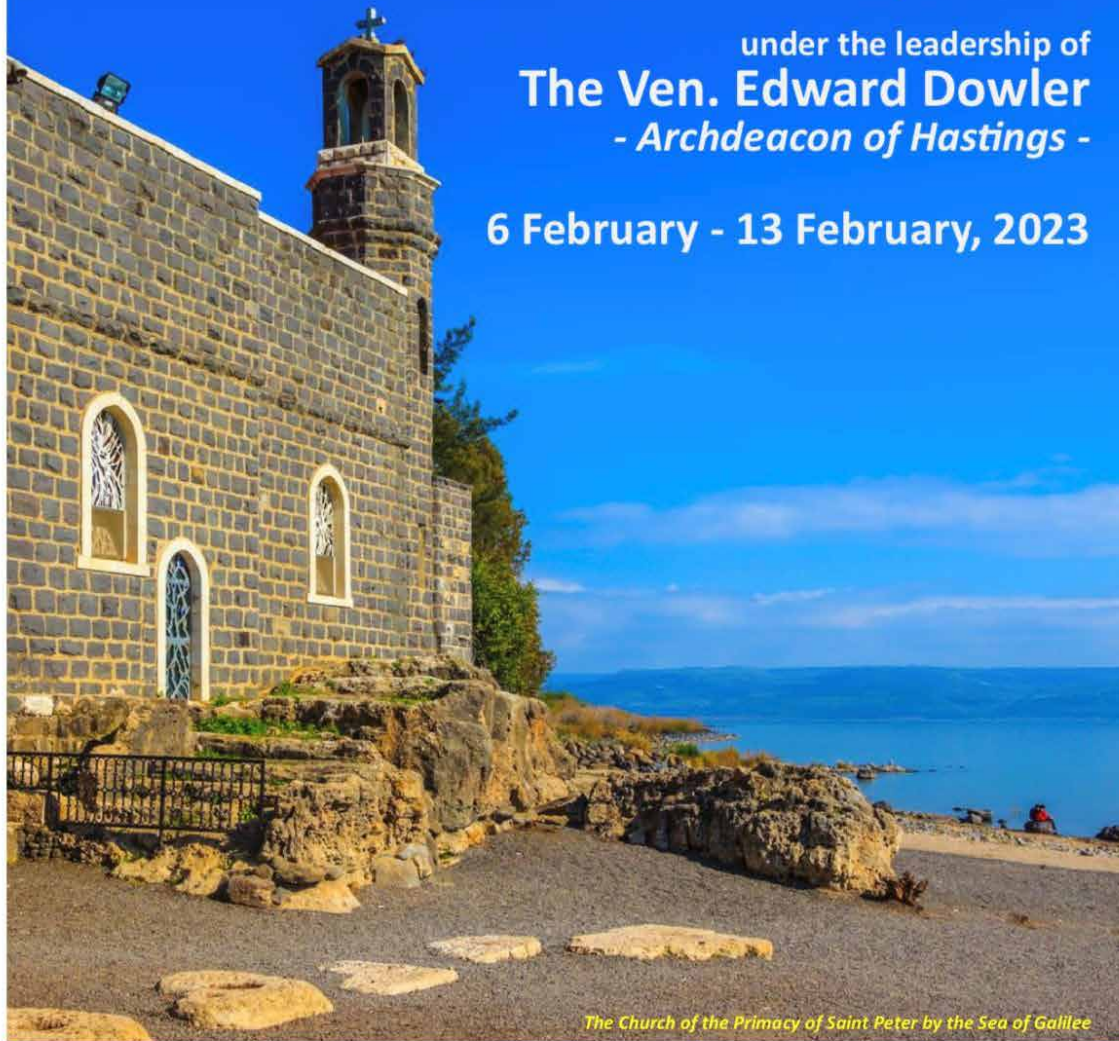
Bishop Martin launches plans
to resource churches over the
next three years

CHICHESTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE THE HOLY LAND

A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Jesus
with an optional visit to
The Rose-Red City of Petra

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This edition of Faith in Sussex brings a collection of features and articles that celebrate recent events and invite us to look forward with hope and determination to the future.

It is published at a time when the national news continues to bewilder us as we assess political and economic uncertainties. As a household of faith, let us remember that our economy is built on the unchanging love of God.

From this we derive the commitment to generosity in our stewardship of the material benefits we have, so that we can face the challenges of the winter ahead. Our diocesan organisations of the Mothers' Union, Family Support Work, and Fellowship of St Nicholas will be banner bearers for the emergency care and hope that we undertake to offer in parishes and schools across the whole of Sussex.

The feature of those newly admitted to the Order of St Richard underlines the huge importance of lay people in our parishes across the Diocese. These award holders are a hidden army of faith and love, helping to sustain our mission.

Alongside this, a celebration in the Cathedral, marking Black History Month, presented us with evidence of how the cold atmosphere of racism can be warmed by Christian faith when it calls us back to the truth of one human dignity, with no difference or inequality.

Looking ahead to the three-year initiative of Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith there are details here about 2023 as the Year of the Old Testament. Our Diocesan Holy Land Pilgrimage will focus very significantly on that theme, and it will now be led by the Archdeacon of Hastings.

Thanks to all who have continued to work so hard to record and share this news that covers our recent celebrations and invites us to know, love and follow Jesus in the days ahead.

+Martin



Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith

2023-2025

We shall shortly be introducing some resources for parishes that will mark the next three years. Find out more on pages 34-35



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Terrys Cross is a small and friendly registered care home providing a high standard of care in stunning surroundings. Established to care for retired clergy and members of the Church of England, we now welcome all other applicants too. We occasionally also have vacancies in Bramwell Lodge, our flats designed for independent living.

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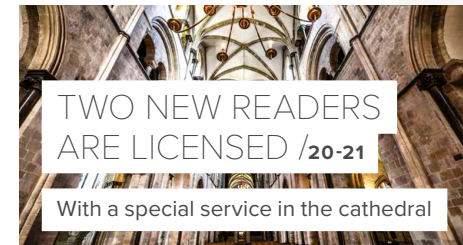
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TWO NEW READERS ARE LICENSED /20-21

With a special service in the cathedral



A SUMMER OF ORDINATIONS /26-29



CHURCH ALLOTMENT PROJECT / 38 - 39

Helping the whole community

SIX NEW ORDINANDS START THEIR TRAINING

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We hear from four of them

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

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NEWS

ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

NEW FACES

Howard Cattermole was appointed as palace manager, overseeing the work of the bishop's office. He will steer new initiatives aimed at developing the recently launched vision of a people's palace for the Bishop's Palace. He will also be a key link between the bishop's office in Chichester and the diocesan office in Hove.

Howard has wide experience of the workings of the Church of England, having previously served in roles at diocesan offices and for the national church. He can be contacted on 01243 782161



HOWARD CATTERMOLE

CAN YOU HELP?

Rev John Clarke, retired priest in Oxford Diocese, is carrying out some research on modern miracles which he hopes will lead to a book and he would be pleased to hear from those who have had such experiences. These could include healings (evidenced by a doctor), premonitions, "words of knowledge", angel encounters or anything else that can only be explained by the hand of God. John's email is jphclarke@gmail.com

PAST CASES REVIEW 2

Along with every diocese in the Church of England, the diocese took part in the Past cases Review 2 (PCR2), a thorough review of the files of all clergy and others who worked with children or vulnerable adults and of all known cases of abuse in all our parishes, involving all forms of abuse of both children and vulnerable adults.

Bishop Ruth, diocesan safeguarding lead, said: "As with all dioceses, we have received a number of recommendations from the independent reviewers, which we have already been working to implement since the submission of our report.

"We would like to place on record our thanks to all those who made the process possible in and on behalf of the Diocese of Chichester, in particular our parishes who worked hard to identify all matters of concern, the safeguarding team, and the reviewers themselves.

"Our commitment to building safe communities remains as strong as ever, along with our sense of deep regret to all victims and survivors of abuse".

You can read all the reports on the diocesan website [here](#)

NEW RURAL DEANS

Paul Seaman was appointed the rural dean of Storrington, Christopher Powell was appointed rural dean of Cuckfield and David Nason was appointed rural dean of Westbourne.

HELP WITH ENERGY BILLS

Parishes will soon be able to apply for additional grants to assist with spiralling energy bills after the Church of England announced a new £15 million energy costs grant fund. The portion allocated to Chichester is £357,000.

The money will help churches with the increased costs of heating and lighting church buildings this winter.

Diocesan secretary Gabrielle Higgins said: "In addition to the ministry hardship funding for clergy made available earlier this year, this is much-needed and welcome additional support for parishes.

"I will be working with colleagues to plan the most effective way to ensure a fair distribution of the funding across the diocese, getting the money to where it is most needed. The process of how parishes will be able to apply for this support will be shared with PCCs as soon as we can."

For further information aimed at helping churches to become more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint, [click here](#)

TIME FOR TRAINING

The Developing Ministries programme offers training and resources that will appeal to those in every kind of ministry in the Diocese of Chichester. The training brochure contains some of the opportunities coming up soon. You can also check it out online on our website [here](#):



BISHOP'S THANKS

Bishop Martin welcomed hundreds of people from a wide range of community and church groups to thank them for their work and to foster an even greater degree of working together. The gatherings took place in the Bishop's Palace gardens this summer with Bishop Martin and his staff welcoming education leaders, followed by an event for representatives from charities, sports, the arts and the emergency services.

During the week, another reception was held for civic leaders, followed by a clergy family fun day. Other receptions were held for churchwardens and retired clergy and local refugee charity The Sanctuary. The events formed part of a new vision for the Bishop's Palace. Bishop Martin said: "My vision is for a church that continues to partner with other organisations to look after the marginalised, elderly, refugees, poor families, youths, and young people, especially those struggling with mental health issues due to the pandemic, thereby playing our part in community development where sustainable communities are created and supported, and rural poverty is eradicated."

NEWS

£10K TO PROVIDE WARM SPACES

Chichester Deanery Synod is celebrating after receiving £10,000 in National Lottery funding to look after communities during these hard times and specifically to fund activities in warm spaces in our churches.

The money will ensure we continue to work together to look after the marginalised, elderly, refugees, poor families and young people, especially those struggling with their wellbeing and mental health issues due to the pandemic and rising costs of living, thereby playing our part in community development where sustainable communities are created and supported, and rural poverty is eradicated.

This project will be for all the community. It will offer residents an improved mental health and boost the morale of both residents and volunteers.

Rev Martha Weatherill, rural dean of Chichester, said: "Chichester Deanery churches are working in partnership with Chichester Churches Together to ensure there are enough warm spaces for people to come together in the colder months.

"Churches across Chichester will be able to continue to offer hot food and activities thanks to this grant. It means we can provide a much-needed service and make a big difference to people's lives."

PICTURED: SUSSEX YOUNG RINGERS AFTER THEIR TEST PIECE. FROM LEFT: KATHERINE, JONATHAN, FRANCESCO, LUCA (RESERVE), MICHAEL, KYE, SAMUEL (KNEELING) RECEIVING THE WHITECHAPEL TROPHY FROM ALAN HUGHES, MASTER BELLFOUNDER, WHITECHAPEL BELL FOUNDRY AND SPONSOR

CREDIT: JAMES WRAY FOR THE RINGING WORLD

BELL RINGERS' SUCCESS

Sussex Young Ringers returned from a national bellringing competition with the Whitechapel Trophy, having beaten six other teams in the Method Ringing competition.

A band of six young ringers from Billingshurst, Crawley, Easebourne, Fairwarp, Hailsham and Hurstpierpoint joined 200 young ringers from across the country in Exeter in the summer.

As well as the competition, the team rang at Exeter Cathedral, with the second heaviest ring of 12 in the world and rang their way around the city and surrounding villages. They plan to defend the title at the Ringing World National Youth Striking Competition at York in July 2023.

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Sussex Young Ringers meet regularly during the year and welcome new members. More details about learning to ring can be found on www.scacr.org



LAMBETH 2022 WORDWIDE ANGLICAN BISHOPS VISIT



Eight bishops and their wives from our overseas African linked partners took a day out of their busy Lambeth Conference in Canterbury to visit Chichester. Bishop Martin invited them to a reception, Evensong and dinner at the Bishop's Palace. They were greeted by members of the Diocesan Overseas Committee and Mothers' Union.

POWERING UP TO REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

As PCCs are now looking carefully into projected energy costs and plans, two churches have already made the first steps to ensuring lower bills in the future while keeping their churches warm and welcoming places of worship and mission.

St Matthew's in Worthing has secured the go ahead by the council for solar panels. Being an eco church (bronze award) it strives to be as energy efficient as possible.

The installation of solar panels will enable the church and its adjacent church hall to be largely self-sufficient in electricity.

The installation, together with the scaffolding needed, will cost approximately £15,000. The project should pay for

itself in about eight years and will thus save the church a considerable amount of money in future, money that can be used to support the running costs of the church and its many activities in the community. The church will seek contributions from donors and grants to enable the works to go ahead once the application for a faculty from the diocese is granted.

At St Giles Graffham, a new eco-friendly, cost-effective heating system is to be installed soon. The PCC selected pew heating and gave a final thumbs-up to the move after its "rosy cheeks" appeal exceeded its £12,000 target just a few months after it was launched in May.



Generous donations from local people plus a grant from the Beatrice Laing Trust have enabled the go ahead for the works to create the church's new source of heat. It works by fitting padded cushions that have electric elements within them, a bit like heated seats in cars, or electric blankets.

Churchwarden Ginny Barrett said: "Advice from the diocese and all other experts is that the best approach for rural churches like ours is to provide heating for people rather than the entire building. We are also being encouraged to be carbon neutral as soon as possible."



Devotion and service is recognised

HUNDREDS of family members, friends and parishioners gathered in the cathedral to witness the special occasion of 26 lay people admitted to the Order of St Richard by Bishop Martin.

The Order was founded in 2019 and the award is made in recognition of exceptional Christian service in their deanery, parish and community.

The lay people from all four archdeaconries (Horsham, Brighton and Lewes, Hastings, and Chichester) each received a certificate signed by the bishop, and a collarette/lanyard.

We spoke to five of the recipients after the service:

Vikki Cook is from St Mary the Virgin Church in Battle. She was nominated for her exceptional and faithful service to her church and community, all done with modesty and generosity. Vikki is involved with all aspects of church life, as sacristan, Sunday School teacher, Mother's Union chairwoman, and running St

Mary's Busy Bees parent and toddlers' outreach. She is mayor of Battle, a Brown Owl and Guide leader. Vikki said it was a great honour to receive the order of St Richard, adding: "If I can make life better for just one person it would all be worth it."

John Philips, from St Mary Magdalen in Coldean, Brighton, was chosen for his work with youth in the parish and diocese. He was surprised when he got the letter saying he had been nominated. He said: "I don't think I've been awarded anything since I left university. I've been helping with the youth camp for 30 years since the early 1990s when my daughter took part. It was clear the vicar needed some help cooking and that is when my wife and I stepped in. I still get involved today although we don't camp any more. I now run the information office."

Penny Burton is a member of St Edward the Confessor Church in Burgess Hill. She was nominated by her vicar Jules Middleton for being a key

person in her church's life for over 30 years and serving on the Deanery Synod. She said: "It was really great day. I think the thing that stands out for me is the personal touch Bishop Martin brought to the whole occasion. Thank you."

Felicity Furnee is a member of St John's Burgess Hill and was nominated by her vicar David Charles. He said: "The way Felicity spent the day of the service itself epitomises why she was nominated. She spent the entire morning running her monthly church stall, on the street outside the church. After an hour's break for lunch she travelled to the cathedral for the service. After a similarly short break she was at church all evening to support a concert we were hosting. Even in her eighties her energy knows no bounds."

Sheila Ryan from Bepton Church, was commended for her long and distinguished service to the Church of England and her parish. She has been described as the glue that holds the parish together. Like

many, Sheila was held up by traffic in Chichester on the day of the celebration. She said: "It was calming and reassuring to be greeted kindly when shown to my place for the investiture. Bishop Martin started the service of choral evensong with a warm commendation and then each of us in turn received our Badge of St Richard on its ribbon plus a certificate signed by him."

"That was moving in itself, but when we processed to the shrine of St Richard at the end of the service we found Bishop Martin in sparkling form for our group photograph and then, as he said, 'acting as a cardboard backdrop' for those having an individual photograph taken with him."

Order of St Richard full list of recipients and citation:

Brighton and Lewes

Malcolm Anderson – for enabling the parish to use modern technology and his work in the wider community

Gill Evans – for her support of the musical life of the church and for her community

Susan Richardson – for outstanding dedication to her church as churchwarden

Mary Wyn Thomas – for her exceptional and modest support for her church and community performed with devotion and a wonderful sense of humour

Diana Woodcock – for faithful and pastoral care of her church congregation

John Phillips – for his work with youth in the parish and diocese

Hastings

Carol Brown – for her work as a devoted churchwarden who has brought her Christian faith into her many years of service to her church and community

Caryl Victoria Cook – for exceptional and faithful service to her church and community, all done with modesty and generosity.

Ron and Ruth Harrington – for their devotion to the church, described as a vision of hope for the community

Jane Overall – for her support to three incumbents and for being a good listener and encourager

Tessa Potts – for serving her parish as a devoted sacristan for 26 years and supporting all areas of parish work

Frances Rogers – for turning her small local beachside church into a dynamic community centre space that nourishes and brings strength to many thousands of visitors each year.

Horsham

Penny Burton – for being a key person in her church's life for over 30 years and serving on the Deanery Synod

Sandra and Michael Cook – for their devoted work for their church particularly with children and young people

Felicity Fernce – for her contribution to both the

spiritual life of the parish but also outreach into the wider community

Mavis Marwood – for her service to her church and community

Peter Vince – for his exceptional devotion to his church and his fundraising skills

Chichester

Richard Archer – for his work reviving his local church, ensuring its financial security and his work in the wider community.

Commander Harry Campbell Bates and Nina Bates – for their service to their church, particularly looking after the fabric of the building and churchyard

Sheila Ryan – for her long and distinguished service to the Church of England and her local parish. She has been described as the glue that holds the parish together

Nicholas Le Hive – for his support for his priest and his work keeping the parish going in difficult times

Evelyn Stanford – for her quiet devotion to her parish church and community

Sheelagh Ann Underwood – for her faithful and outstanding service as sacristan and the many jobs she does for the parish.

Nominations for 2023 are now open. Clergy can nominate one person per parish. The deadline is May 12. The new nomination form can be found [here](#)



BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE CHAPEL ON THE BEACH

ST NICHOLAS, (Chapel of Ease to St Mary and St Peter in Pett) is just ten metres from the beach at Pett Level. Prior to April 1935 the building was a life-saving rocket apparatus station for the coastguard. It seats 25 to 30 people and is not consecrated, but was dedicated by the Bishop of Lewes in 1935.

Fran Rogers arrived in Pett ten years ago. She was immediately drawn to the funny little fading “shed” on the beach and discovered it was a small chapel which held monthly services but was closed the rest of the time. With surrounding buildings receiving facelifts, her mind quickly turned to a restoration project. It proved a great way to contribute and meet new people.

Fran left the UK when she was 19 and spent many years working in Canada and volunteering in Singapore and Atlanta, so this type of project was second nature to her and she didn’t hesitate to offer her time and energy. She set about getting started on the restoration in 2015 after joining the PCC (Parochial Church Council) in 2013.

Over the last seven years Fran has, with the help of locals, transformed St Nicholas into a welcoming and thriving hub welcoming residents and tourists. After a decline, the monthly services are back up to 18, helped in no small measure by the appointment of Rev Jonathan Meyer, the priest in charge. An annual carol service was also reinstated in 2017, which has become very popular,

with the chapel decorated with trees and lights. It now spills outdoors.

Fran is not your usual church member. She has been on and off the PCC over the last ten years but has been one of the most ardent supporters of the two Pett churches. She does not consider herself particularly churchy or religious. She said: “I have a faith, but I am not a regular churchgoer. I believe churches need to be open for people who don’t go to church and be used as a community hub.”

When Fran first arrived, she set about sprucing up the outside of the chapel. Many people thought it was a shed and had never been inside. The porch, added in the 50s, was pressure cleaned and painted.

With the help of two local people, another Fran and her husband Ray, all the church chairs were restored. Each was rubbed down and waxed. The stained-glass window was repaired, the floor sanded and waxed, and a new metal beach-themed cross, made by local artist Leigh Dyer, was installed and dedicated.

Fran said: “We installed new lighting and once the place looked inviting, I then obtained bookshelves and approached people for books. A local well-known artist, Annie Soudain, donated cards to supplement my homemade cards, and we made teas and biscuits available.

“We’ve had a card reader for almost three years now which is great but about two thirds of the money donated is cash. We have raised well over £3,000 in donations each year since 2017.

“Not just the books attract people, the prayer tree is very popular. We read the prayers out at a service but they are then kept in the chapel, in a basket, once read. In the summer there is a beach treasure hunt to keep children occupied. People come from all over. Some are regular holiday visitors and many others are

very surprised when they discover us. We are now on our third visitor book since 2017.

“After designing a leaflet guide on the chapel’s history, there is now also a walking guide to Pett Level, and binder full of old photos of the area. What astonishes many people is that we rely on the honesty of visitors and only suggest a donation amount and, amazingly, it seems to work.

“Over the years school groups have asked to use the church in case of bad weather, and filming companies, using the beach for music videos, short films or commercials, have also made use of the chapel.

“This year we installed a sink, which meant Barbara Martin, who lives next door in the Old Coastguard Cottage, no longer needed to take mugs home to wash. The sink was made possible through the new owners of The Smuggler pub joining up their water and sewage supply to us for free and locals donating the sink and cupboard.”

Fran and Barbara keep the church open for as long as they can each day. Fran said: “I could not have done any of this without Barbara’s support.”

“Earlier this year we welcomed our new priest in charge Jonathan Meyer. He also looks after the churches Winchelsea and Icklesham. He leads a 30-minute services at St Nicholas on the second Sunday of every month at 8.30am.

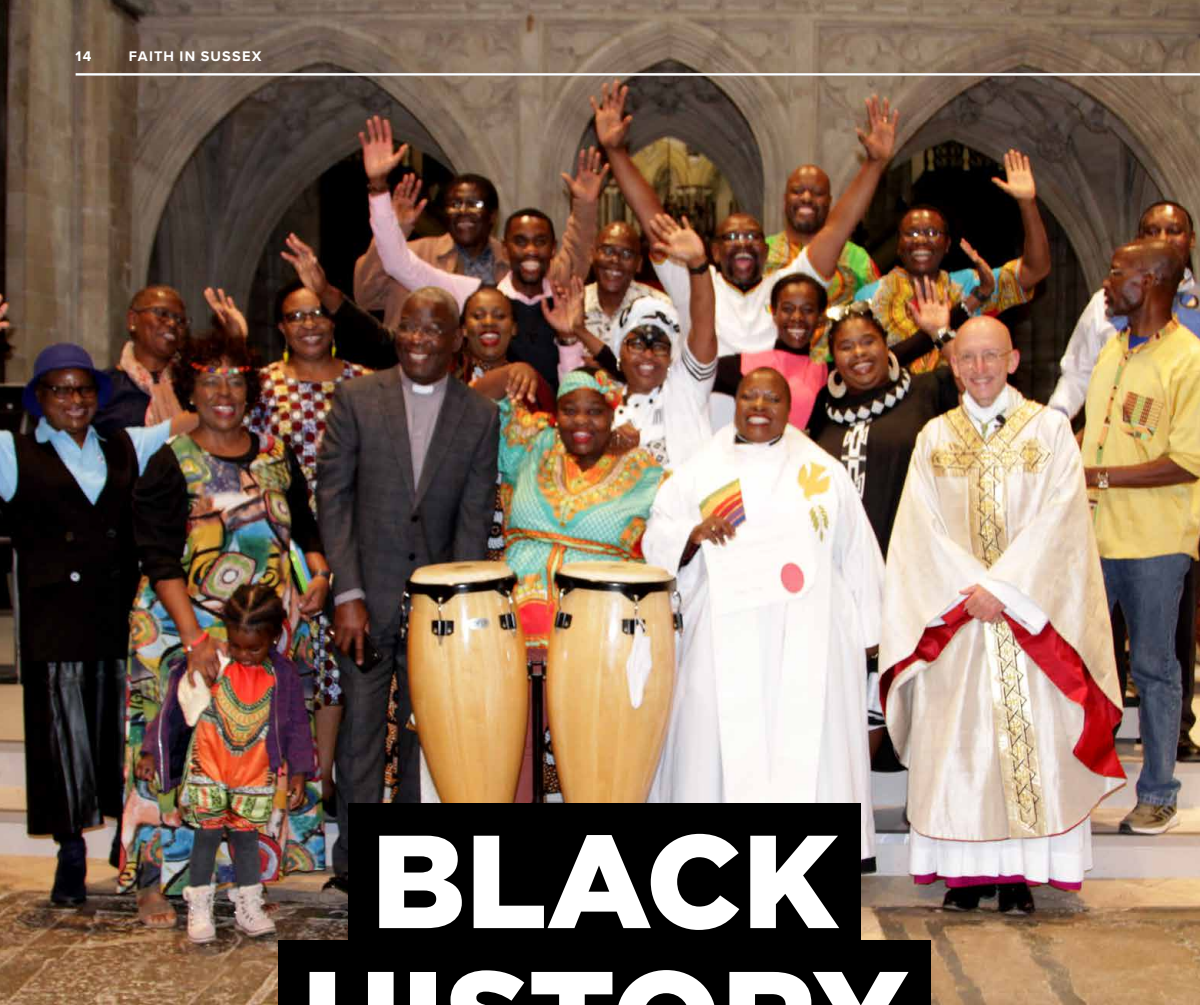
“You will meet a friendly laid-back bunch. If you haven’t been to church before or in a long while, we’ll help you through as we fumble to find the right pages in the Book of Common Prayer. Best of all, no hymn singing.”

Fran Rogers was awarded the Order of St Richard on October 8 by Bishop Martin for turning her small local beachside church into a dynamic community centre space that nourishes and brings strength to many thousands of visitors each year.

She said: “I was truly surprised to be told that I had been awarded the Order of St Richard. Attending the service itself in Chichester Cathedral was very moving, especially with the magnificent choir, it was such an honour. It felt very special and humbling to be among people whose many years of contribution had been recognised. Working at St Nicholas in Pett Level is a privilege, not a burden, and the feedback we receive from visitors is its own reward. This recognition will be shared with all the people who have helped me with St Nicholas, and all those visitors who support it. Congratulations to all the other very deserving recipients.”



FRAN WITH BISHOP MARTIN BEING ADMITTED TO THE ORDER OF ST RICHARD



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

An uplifting and empowering event

THE diocese has held its first Black History Month celebrations. Martha Mutikani, the newly appointed lead racial justice officer and chairwoman of the Diocesan Racial Justice Committee, reports on the event.

IT WAS wonderful to see so many people from across the diocese at the Black History Month celebrations in Chichester Cathedral on October 8. This is the first time we have held such an event so it seemed an appropriate occasion for the commissioning of our two new racial justice officers, myself and my colleague Rev Godfrey Kesaris. It also marked the commissioning of two junior ambassadors from Steyning Grammar school, Billy Wheals and Demi Alao.

Billy and Demi were buzzing from the event and they wrote to say: “We are uplifted from the Eucharist where the Holy Spirit was tangible; we go forward with courage to spread the Gospel and engage the community to celebrate diversity in all its forms. Our plan is to hold a youth conference for local primary Schools later this year.”

“It is sad that people of God have been discriminated against - in many levels - just because of their skin colour.”

We want to extend grateful thanks to our key speaker Rev Les Isaacs OBE, to Bola and Rosemarie for their thoughtful personal accounts and to Holy Trinity School and Steyning Grammar School for their contributions. We wish to thank all the parishes, The Zinafe Choir, racial justice committee, and Rev Godfrey for their contributions and hard work to make this special day happen.

Thanks also to the cathedral’s unsung heroes who pulled out all the stops. Richard Patterson, the liturgical officer, and his great team went above and beyond, ensuring the smooth running of everything so our guests could enjoy the occasion. A big thank you also to Lisa Williamson, our diocesan communications officer, for networking with us and enabling the service to happen. And, of course, we are

grateful to Bishop Martin for his enthusiastic support and for leading the service.

Godfrey said: “It is sad that people of God have been discriminated against - in many levels - just because of their skin colour. Obviously, millions of people have experienced racial injustice throughout centuries. However, we pray and hope that the Black History Month celebratory service at Chichester Cathedral, which is the first of its kind in our diocese, will mark our work for racial equity within the diocese. It was an absolute delight and joy to come together to celebrate and to give thanks for the diversity of God’s creation. I felt deeply the presence of God with us: I believe we all brought a smile on God’s face. I hope we can come together again before too long.”



Billy Wheals and Demi Alao with Bishop Martin

“Justice for black people will not flow into this society merely from court decisions nor from fountains of political oratory... each individual must recognise that justice for black people cannot be achieved without radical changes in the structure of our society.”

True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.”

Where do we go from here? Although we were sad not to see many parishes attend, we were mindful that another diocesan-wide event was taking place later in the day and the logistics were complicated. However, the committee will now focus on its plans for next year and concentrating resources to encourage schools and parishes in addressing the issues of racial justice in their communities.

Martin Luther King Jr often spoke about institutional and systemic racism, saying that true racial equality cannot be reached without “radical” structural changes in society.

“Justice for black people will not flow into this society merely from court decisions nor from fountains of political oratory... each individual must recognise that justice for black people cannot be achieved without radical changes in the structure of our society. True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.”

We are called together to create an environment where we can speak freely about race, seek ways to increase people of different ethnicities in our churches. Together we can.

We would like to hear from you. If you have any ideas you think could help us discern our path in future please do get in contact with either Rev Godfrey, revdgodfrey@yahoo.co.uk, or me, Rev Martha, isfield.vicar@gmail.com.

Rev Martha is also diocesan deputy dean of women's ministry and associate vicar at Isfield church St Margaret of Antioch.

PREPARING FOR MINISTRY

SIX disciples have started their training in theological colleges this autumn. Each was called to train for ordained ministry and they have all undergone a rigorous process to ensure they are prepared for this concentrated stage of training.

Keir Shreeves, diocesan director of ordinands, said: "We are very pleased to have sent six disciples of Christ to prepare for ordination at theological education institutions. These candidates have been through a new two-stage national process of preparation and discernment. Their training takes place in community and will help deepen their theological understanding, spirituality and practical skills."

For information about ordained ministry, take a look at our website page [here](#)

Please remember all our new ordinands in your prayers:

Zoe Eborn from St Mary's Horsham, training through St Mellitus.

Nat Gillett from All Saints, Wick, training through St Mellitus.

Rachel Clark from St Andrew's, Furnace Green, training through St Mellitus.

Quin Delpert from St Richard's Hollingdean, training through St Mellitus.

Paul Nelson from St Peter's Brighton, training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

Pete Dobson from St John's Crawley, training through St Mellitus.



Nathanael (Nat) Gillett grew up in West Sussex before moving to south London in 2001 to study and work. He moved back to the South Coast in 2016 with his family. Nat has worked as a graphic designer for 17 years, but has been involved in lay leadership for some time. He is now training at St Mellitus and based at All Saints, Wick in Littlehampton. He said: "We are excited, and daunted, by the prospect of the next two years but we are confident that God has led us on this journey. I am constantly interested in how to connect the gospel with those outside of church or on the margins."



Zoe Eborn is studying at St Mellitus College in London having previously had a career as a violinist and music teacher. She said: "It has been really encouraging starting college and meeting people doing the same thing as me and I find that, like many of my peers, I have found getting to grips with the academic work fascinating and challenging in equal measure. I am truly excited about the time spent in my placement too. I've enjoyed learning to work alongside new people and dipping my toe into new areas of ministry, as well as having the opportunity to watch and learn from some really experienced priests."



Rachel Clark begins her theological training at St Mellitus College in London and her placement is at St John's Church in Broadbridge Heath. She said: "St John's is a church seeking to share God's love in the local community and already I've enjoyed being involved in school assemblies, community events and visiting the care home in the village, as well as the preaching and teaching ministry on a Sunday. Picking up studying again has been a bit of a challenge after so many years, but I am excited about learning and growing with God's help as I prepare for ordained ministry."



Paul Nelson was worship pastor of St Peter's, Brighton, for 13 years and recently moved to Oxford to start training for ordination at Wycliffe Hall. He said: "I am married to Sarah and we have three young daughters, so life is full and fun. I have just begun a master's in applied theology, which will be full time for two years. It's a privilege to have the chance to study, worship, ride my bike around Oxford and let God speak into the future."



AWE INSPIRING, TERRIFYING AND INSPIRING'

Two new Readers are welcomed to new ministries in their parishes at a special service in the cathedral

AFTER many months of study and preparation, Jane Garland from St Thomas the Apostle, Groombridge, and Lesley Curtis from St Mary's, Udimore, were licensed by Bishop Ruth.

The day was shared with family, friends and of course members of their churches who have supported them throughout.

Bishop Ruth said: "It was a great privilege to license Lesley and Jane as Readers in the diocese, and a joyful occasion. At the service we reflected on the example set for us by Queen Elizabeth II who was of course an outstanding exemplar of dedicated lay ministry and discipleship in action.

"Our prayers and blessing go with Jane and Lesley as they begin this new chapter in their parishes."

The two have now started their ministries, supporting the wider ministries of the parish. We join with them, their families, friends and parishes in rejoicing at their calling as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Jane Garland

Jane worked for many years in the careers service but also as a dementia adviser and youth worker.

She said of her call to ministry:

"I was not brought up in the Church and I feel I am a most unlikely Reader."

"I had been a PCC (Parochial Church Council) member and held a variety of other roles within the church over the years but then I found myself participating in and leading a variety of small study groups together with meditation and contemplative gatherings. I found the discussions fascinating and challenging and felt led to gain some measure of theological understanding of the faith I had half taken for granted and half assumed was based on concepts above my head. When it was suggested to me, I train as a Reader I laughed, and carried on laughing each time the suggestion was made until one day I twigged that maybe God was trying to tell me something."

Jane said the Reader ceremony was awe inspiring, terrifying and inspiring all rolled into one. She said: "It also felt like a real moment of commitment to God and I felt more emotional than I expected to given that the last two years have all been about making that commitment. It was wonderful to see so many fellow Readers there and feel so welcomed by them into the community of Chichester Readers. I am looking forward to getting to know more of them over time.

Jane completed her study for training at St Augustine's College in Kent.

Lesley Curtis

Lesley worked for the family accountancy firm after a serious illness forced her to retire from her former career in general nursing, midwifery and theatre nursing.

Her parents were missionaries, so Lesley became a Christian at a very early age.

She and her husband Harry have been involved in missionary work themselves, serving overseas, including in the Philippines where she was called to preach the gospel every week in a conglomerate of small churches from different streams of the Christian faith in a squatter resettlement area. She fell into the role of supporting women with practical health and nutrition advice.

After settling in the small village of Udimore and attending the Parish Church of St Mary's, Udimore, she said:

"It was as if God just spoke to me through the liturgy. It simply came alive."

She is committed to supporting young mothers and children and has experience in running the local Messy Church. Lesley has a passion to see people of all ages engage personally with the Bible on a daily basis to grow more deeply in their faith and the love of Christ.

Readers, also often called licensed lay ministers, have a leadership role serving alongside clergy to support people in faith and enable mission. Many Readers teach, preach, lead worship and are involved in mission. Some also take funerals after additional training. Many Readers carry out their church ministry at the same time as having another job.

ECO CHURCH NEWS

By Debbie Beer, diocesan environmental officer

How climate resilient are your church & community?

We've known for some time that communities and churches in other regions of the world are already suffering badly from the impacts of climate change, which hits the poor hardest. But this summer has seen temperatures up to 40C across England in late July and horrific resulting fire damage, with 15 fire services declaring major incidents.

The extreme heat at times this summer and the frightening destructive fires are surely a wake-up call that climate change is happening here and now. It's not just a case of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to help stop the continuing rise in average global temperature, but we also urgently need to adapt our church and community life to be resilient to more extreme weather.

Find out more about how to protect your church building from harm and how it might be a sanctuary for the community in times of extreme weather by exploring the Church of England's climate resilient church guide which includes details of two free webinars in November. Visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/climate-resilient-church>

Great Big Green Week

As well as the eco conference in St John's Holbrook, two churches held eco festivals where they teamed up with organisations, charities and individuals to welcome hundreds of visitors throughout the week-long events.

First, at Scaynes Hill hundreds of visitors took part, listening to talks, finding out about sustainable living, sampling goods made locally and taking time to enjoy lunch and teas with friends in a supportive and friendly environment.

There were bee-keeping demonstrations and information on meadow flowers, apples and sustainable gifts using reclaimed wood and people selling hand-made arts and crafts.

There were prayer spaces giving people opportunities to reflect upon the spiritual as well as the economic, political and social aspects of climate change. There were also sermons at our worship from me as diocesan environmental officer and Jeremy Burdett, a Reader from Chailey, on regeneration and farming.



The nearby St Peter and St James Hospice ran a pop-up charity shop and visitors were able to talk to Bryan McAllen from the popular repair café that operates in St Peter's Church Chailey Green. More than 30 people are stationed there every fortnight to repair a range of items from toasters to sewing machines. All free but donations are encouraged.

There was plenty for children to get involved with too. Mollie Hainge, ten, from St Augustine's Primary school, needed little assistance when making an owl from bits of recycled paper and a cardboard roll. She said she really enjoyed making the owl, following

instructions, and although she said some bits were trickier to cut than others, we think she did a pretty neat job.

The church's eco team, set up in 2021 worked with the local sustainability group and the idea of the eco festival was born. They have worked tirelessly over the past year to get the support needed, relying on a wonderful bank of helpers from inside and outside the church.

Vicar Bev Miles said: "The group's key message is to live sustainably and to promote the circular economy - to think local.



"We hope this festival has inspired all who visited to consider using local organisations, producers, and shops."

"There are lots of wonderful businesses locally and we have had an excellent response with many being involved in the festival. We have produced a booklet that lists all the businesses that took part. With support from the Lindfield Rural Parish Council, we were able to offer free bike security marking and promote safer cycling with a display about the cycle path project into Haywards Heath and Lindfield. On the first weekend everyone had fun pressing local apples into fruit juice. Mims Davies, our MP, came along to show her support and was very happy to answer questions on environmental matters."



St Mary's Ticehurst, holder of a gold Eco Church Award, created a diverse programme of activities throughout the week to celebrate nature and climate action. A tour of rewilded land with the option to take part in a badger watch was so oversubscribed that it is considering putting on more.

The programme included activities for children, talks on bees and on swifts (of particular interest as it is about to install swift boxes in the church tower) and an informative workshop on plant medicine which helped people realise what a treasure trove of beneficial plants there are in the churchyard. There were opportunities to discuss green issues, including a workshop delivered by local MP Huw Merriman, who helped to create a stimulating and wide-ranging discussion. The swap shop and plant swap held in the village centre summed up the ethos of the week – no money was exchanged, the aim being to share and reuse unwanted items, reducing waste. Above all the week was



a chance to make new friends and to collaborate with the wider community on issues that are urgent and affect us all. Businesses, community groups and the primary school played their part by sharing publicity, putting on promotions or planning their own events. The week came to an end with the church's annual pet service, providing a final chance to reflect on our interconnectedness with the natural world and our duty of care towards the planet and its creatures.

St Mark's Church, Holbrook, held a "treasure, safeguard and care for creation" conference as part of Great Big Green Week on October 1.

MANY congratulations to Holy Trinity Church Rudgwick, our most recent Eco Church Award winner, achieving bronze in July. Our community is continuing to grow - in the first six months of 2022 the number of registered churches increased by ten per cent, bronze award churches by 25 per cent and silver by 66 per cent. And congratulations again to St Mary's Ticehurst for the wonderful achievement of a gold award – the first in our diocese.

Whether you know nothing or a lot about Eco Church – and however involved your church is – you can now find a wealth of clear and helpful resources, including webinar recordings and stories from churches across the country, on the Church of England website at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/eco-church>

Karen Park, eco church champion at St Mark's, said: "We were delighted that the 35 attendees represented more than 14 churches and included people from our community. It was great to hear the buzz of conversations and people leaving inspired to take more action to care for God's wonderful world. We had lots of positive comments."

Rev Richard Coldicott, vicar of St. Mark's, Holbrook, said: "As churches work towards the Church of England's target to become carbon net zero by 2030, it was so exciting to hear about the various initiatives churches and individuals are undertaking to care for the natural world. I hope all that has been shared here and at other similar events will encourage us all to live out the 5th Mark of Mission "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

Will your church be taking part in the next Great Big Green Week? We would love to hear about and share your plans. Email communications@chichester.anglican.org

Desert Island Discs (without the music)

STAUNCH environmentalists Dr Ruth Valerio and Rev Peter Owen-Jones, from the Diocese of Chichester, feature in an innovative social media project that records the life histories of prominent Christians in the public square, including former Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams



ExtraECC.com has been produced, researched and scripted by Simon Machin in association with his wife Helen and freelance BBC radio producer Sarah Tombling. The two families worship at Anglican churches in Warnham and Broadbridge Heath.

The life histories use the long format approach, pioneered successfully by American podcaster Joe Rogan. The project's presenter, Jason Clark, is a long-standing friend.

Simon was delighted at the willingness of well-known Christians to participate. "We simply pitched our idea as a sort of long Desert Island Discs without the music," he said. "Each participant knew that we would be engaging in a conversation about their life which might take up to two hours to complete."

Coinciding with the pandemic, the ExtraECC experiment was one of the few community projects that in retrospect can

be seen to have benefited from lockdown.

Coronavirus intervened dramatically in March 2020 to prevent the third in the series being recorded in Oxford. All subsequent recordings (there are 24 in the series) have been conducted online.

Simon said: "As producer of the series, I have sometimes wondered whether the disordering of time which was the inevitable product of lockdown has intensified the intimacy and introspection of the interviews."

The interviews with Ruth and Peter reflect a growing interest not only in creation care but also in a more contemplative spirituality. In fact, the two seem linked. Ruth of course spearheaded Eco-Church before moving to her current role as global advocacy and influencing director at the NGO, Tearfund. Peter, the vicar of Firlie, has lived the life

of a desert father in the BBC TV Series *Extreme Pilgrim* and, like St Francis, without money in *How To Live A Simple Life*, and also presents nature programmes about Sussex.

"The interviews with environmentalists or advocates of simple living such as the Quaker Dr Ben Pink Dandelion are proving popular. Are they striking a chord?" said Simon.

"Perhaps the interviews could be viewed as the green shoots of lockdown."

The interviews with Ruth and Peter are just two in a fascinating series in which major thought leaders from many different backgrounds tell their own moving life stories, illuminating Christian belief in the public square in modern times. They are freely available online. Find the full list for video [here](#) or audio [here](#).

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

Peter Leith, Hove, All Saints

Maria Sadler, Bosham

Emily Roe, Brighton St Peter

James Roe, Brighton, St. Matthias

Peter Sutton, Horsted Keynes

ORDINATIONS 2022

The ordinations of our new deacons took place earlier this year. The services were held in three venues across the Diocese.

Caroline Armitage, West Grinstead

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

William Kane Crawley, Saint John the Baptist

Charlotte White, Crawley, Saint John the Baptist

Elizabeth Yonge, Easebourne, Lodsworth and Selham

**Bishop Ruth ordained the following as Deacon
at St Mary's Kempton, Brighton**



Bishop Martin ordained Pete Winstone, Crowborough as Deacon at All Saints' Crowborough and Thomas Cotterill, Brighton, St Bartholomew and St Paul at St Paul's Brighton.



↑
Peter Winstone
(second from right) pictured with
Bishop Martin,
Revd Steve Rees,
Revd Rob Dillingham and
Archdeacon Edward.

↗
Thomas Cotterill pictured with
Revd Canon Rebecca Swyer
and **Bishop Martin.**



The Diocese of Chichester celebrated the ordination of seven new priests this year.



Our seven new priests pictured with **Bishop Martin.**

Left to right:

Patrick Donovan – Chanctonbury;

Joe Padfield – East Blatchington and Bishopstone

Laura Darrall – Rustington

Anna Bouch – Woodingdean

Toby Lancaster – Hastings, Holy Trinity

Jan Butter – West Blatchington

Simon Earnshaw – St Cosmas and St Damian Keymer

Maycamp

Back with a bang!

By Dan Jenkins
Diocesan youth officer

AFTER two years of running online and in small groups, Maycamp returned this year in person at Plumpton Racecourse.

The diocese-wide annual youth event is targeted at school years 7 to 10 (ages 11 to 15) with a leadership stream for school years 11 to 13 (ages 16 to 18).

Every year hundreds of young people from across Sussex meet at the racecourse over the bank holiday weekend at the end of May for a weekend of worship, teaching, discipleship, sports, games, music and more.

The event is focused on the local church and the discipleship experience of the young people. This year it welcomed back youth groups from across the diocese and new churches that had never been before.

Food and fellowship

Friday night kicked off with a hog roast before

drawing everyone together with worship in the main marquee. The weekend was packed with games, sports and workshops including giant inflatables, carpentry, graffiti, festival hair and makeup, capture the flag, prayer hike, and a giant football tournament.

Prayer

Maycamp is always looking to expand its offering and we had a site chaplains' team for the first time this year. It was led by Fr Danny Pegg, assistant vicar at Willingdon, Eastbourne. The chaplains, mostly curates, were available to talk and even give challenges to spur young people on in their faith. They were based in the chapel venue which was also a 24/7 prayer space.

Another first for Maycamp was to go off site and meet with Christ in nature. Steve Emerson, curate at St Mary De Haura Shoreham, led two groups of young people on a hike up to the Downs with reflections read on the way.

Giving thanks

Maycamp continues to bring back leaders that have grown up through the event and are now bringing back young people from their own churches. Our film team, headed by Ben Collins who grew up coming to Maycamp with his own youth group, led a team to capture the event and produce a fantastic highlights reel which you can see [here](#)

Next year

Tickets for Maycamp 2023 (May 26 to 29) are already on sale at www.maycamp.org/booking where you can see prices and book tickets.

Steve Emerson is helping to lead the diocesan Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award scheme, an expanding initiative now in its third year. We are looking for young people and even new groups to join us for the bronze award. If your church (minimum of five young people) would be interested in forming a team, or if you have a young person that might be interested in joining an already established team, get in touch: youth@chichester.anglican.org

Growing Faith

By Irene Smale
Diocesan children's officer

THE Church of England recently launched the Growing Faith Foundation which seeks to develop innovative partnerships between schools, churches and households. In response, the Apostolic Life Team organised the Growing Faith Conference in collaboration with Chichester Cathedral.

The conference was launched by keynote speaker Rev Nigel Genders. As chief education officer, Nigel leads the work of the Church of England Education Office which serves the church's ministry with children and young people in churches, schools, colleges, and universities.

The Church of England provides 4,700 schools educating more than a million children and is committed to a vision for education which is deeply Christian, serving the common good. More than 100 delegates attended the conference and the programme offered keynote lectures led by Professor Janet Walker, chairwoman of the Archbishops Commission on Families and Households, and Mary Hawes, national adviser for children and youth.

The lectures were interspersed with a variety of seminars on subjects relating to growing faith in different aspects of children's and family ministry.

These included children with additional needs; chaplaincy in schools; parent and toddler groups; growing faith champions; growing faith with parents; sustaining children through stages of transition; children in a sacramental setting; bringing the Bible to life for children; Godly play; and leading worship in all-age services.

Encouraging feedback from delegates shows this was a great success and many found it extremely helpful. These are some of the lovely comments we received:

"It was really helpful to have an overview of the church schools situation and the context. It was great to hear what the growing faith foundation aims and vision is."

"I thought it was a very informative and interesting day, with excellent keynote addresses and seminars. The breaks were useful opportunities to chat to new people and also learn from them. I intend to write an article on it for our parish magazine and also to hold a discussion session with people interested in the children and youth activities to decide how we might take some of the ideas forward. Thank you for an inspiring day."

"Brilliant session that achieved exactly what I was hoping for in tying together the knowledge I have from my day job into my



Rev Nigel Genders

role at church. It confirmed lots of my thinking, giving me more confidence to know what I am suggesting is the correct idea and support the children in that way I hoped. It was great to hear of new ideas and see some resources that I hadn't seen before."

"So helpful, will be able to use many of these ideas for our special needs children."

"Such a rich and stimulating workshop. Reflecting back on the Church's historical role in education and considering the huge numbers of children in Church schools today, we were encouraged and inspired to be part of the formation of today's children for the adventure of life."

"One of the best conferences I have ever been to. Well organised, well presented, great venue. May it lead to great things – with God's blessing."

Irene Smale has now retired from her role as diocesan children's officer. Any enquiries please email Dan Jenkins.



Rev Nicolas Haigh, with some of his congregation in the churchyard at Fernhurst

The Queen's Green Canopy is growing



THE diocese encouraged parishes to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy, a project aiming to enhance the country's environment and landscapes to give thanks for the service of Queen Elizabeth II.

Following her death and based on the wishes of our patron, His Majesty the King, the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative will be extended. As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the Queen's Green Canopy was to conclude in December, the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the UK is from October to March, it will now run until March 2023.

The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to be creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted across the nation during the first season, October 2021 to March 2022.

The extension of the initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to the late Queen's extraordinary service to her country and her people.

The interactive map created by the Queen's Green Canopy to showcase the planting projects across the UK will also continue to the end of March 2023, giving people an opportunity to be part of this special legacy.

Mark Whitaker, project administrator for the Queen's Green Canopy in East Sussex, has been encouraged by the positive participation in the diocese so far. He said: "With the arrival of autumn, the conditions are right for tree planting and we would be delighted to hear of any trees planted in memory of the Queen up to March 2023. Please do register your project by adding a photo of your



tree to the digital record of trees planted in the Queen's name across the country at [queensgreencanopy.org/qgc-map/](https://www.queensgreencanopy.org/qgc-map/) and by emailing me at mark.whitaker@ruralsussex.org.uk to add your tree to the East Sussex database."

Throughout the year all the bishops and many parishes in the diocese have fully embraced this initiative and we have shared some of those activities in the summer issue of Faith In Sussex. We highlight more here on these pages.

Fernhurst's tribute

In September the vicar of St Margaret's Church, Rev Nicolas Haigh, planted a Scarlet Hawthorn (May) tree in the churchyard in Church Road, Fernhurst, near the war memorial.

The planting took place after the annual harvest festival service and Heather Bicknell, chairwoman of Fernhurst Parish Council, and Millie Owles, the 2022 May Queen, took part.

In bright sunshine some 30 people gathered to watch the blessing of the tree, which was bought from local supplier Griffin Nurseries and, at nearly 3m high, is a welcome addition to the churchyard.

The Remembrance Sunday service on November 13 will be a moving occasion which will once again remind so many people of the late Queen's 70 years of dedicated service to this nation. <https://www.flicchurches.org.uk/services.htm> (see details on the church's website)

Laughton's tribute

On November 9 Bishop Martin will be joined by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Andrew Blackman, and guests for a tree planting ceremony on land next to the church in Laughton near Ringmer.

Parishes with trees planted

Two crab apple trees were planted in the churchyard at Warbleton

St Bartholomews Church, Cross in Hand - a flowering cherry in the church grounds

All Saints, Waldron - an oak tree planted in the nearby recreation ground

The Bishop's Palace gardens - a tree was planted by the Duchess of Richmond

St Peter's Church, Sompting, planted an Amelanchier Canadensis donated by the Sompting Estate

St Mary's Battle planted a rowan tree in March

The Church of The Ascension, Telham, planted a rowan tree

A rowan was planted in both **Clapham and Patching churchyards** earlier this year

St Nicholas' Worth parish planted a row of 12 yews along the east edge of the new garden of remembrance

St Barnabas Worth parish planted a tree

Immanuel Church planted 100 trees in Madgwick Park

St John the Evangelist, Piddinghoe, has a walnut planned for planting and is waiting for the right time and some rain

St Mary Magdalene, Cowden, was presented with a tree from Bishop Ruth which has been planted in a new wood on the Eden Valley estate.

The following parishes have also confirmed participation in QGC:

**Eastbourne, All Saints
Sompting, St Peter
Ticehurst, St Mary
Patching, St John
Clapham, St Mary
Fernhurst, St Mary**

Faith In Sussex would like to share your QGC news and photos. Please email the communications team on communications@chichester.anglican.org

I would like to invite everyone in the diocese to keep 2023 as a year of the Old Testament. Next year is the first of two special years [2024 will be the Year of the New Testament] leading up to the 2025 which we will keep as a special Year of Faith.

2025 celebrates 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea which gave us what became the Nicene Creed. It also marks 950 years of Christian mission in a diocese based in Chichester. Hence why the three-year programme is known as Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith.

The Year of the Old Testament will reflect on the Hebrew Scriptures. We will seek to understand the Law, the Prophets and the Writings in their original context, and see more clearly how they point us towards Jesus Christ and the gospel, and to our own knowledge of him in the history of his body, the Church.

The Old Testament speaks repeatedly of God as One and as Holy. So we hope that this Year will help us to understand how the Old Testament guides the Church to be 'one' and 'holy': the first two of the 'marks of the Church' and part of our diocesan strategy.

+ Martin



Further details of resources for the Year of the Old Testament will be available soon.
www.chichester.anglican.org

Who then is this?

Lent Course 2023

In the diocesan Lent course, several different authors will share perspectives on the Old Testament. Each session will pay close attention to the relevant biblical passages, accompanied by exploration of its use within the Christian tradition. The sessions will be resourced with reference to relevant art and music and explore the passages contributions to devotional and Christian life. There will be questions for further reflection and suggestions for prayer.

A five week course for the season of Lent

The New Eve
Mary of Nazareth

Melchizedek
The eternal priesthood of Christ

Joseph
Betrayed, sold, hidden in plain sight

Moses
The Guide, Shepherd, and Law-giver

The Queen of Sheba
"Something greater here"

The Lent Course will be available from the Feast of the Epiphany
 - Jan 6th 2023

Raise funds for your church, it's easy

WHETHER you are looking to start your Christmas shopping, do some DIY or treat yourself to a new autumn wardrobe, your church could benefit thanks to a simple fundraising tool that works while you shop.

You can have an even greater impact on funds if you also involve family and friends of your congregation and local businesses.

Since starting our relationship with Easyfundraising in 2021 we have been delighted with how many of our parishes are now signed up to the programme and benefiting from the additional revenue it creates.

One question that often arises when churches sign up is "how do we now make more of this?". It is often the impact of one or two people who participate that is the catalyst for success.



Frequently they are involving friends and family in support of their home church and engaging the wider community – local businesses, shopkeepers and service providers.

These people may not be regular members of the church congregation but value the presence of the church community and the buildings themselves as a vital community resource. Often, in many rural areas, the church building is the only community hub, a sign of community presence stretching back many centuries.

We've been working with the Easyfundraising team to assist parishes in reaching outside the congregational membership. Together we have created personalised A4 flyers and postcards in pdf format which churches can hand out or signpost people to. These can be ordered free by emailing your church name and an image of your choice to assets@easyfundraising.org.uk

We have been talking to several churches who are already benefiting from the Easyfundraising programme and asking them to share how and why they signed up and their top tips for success. You can see their responses on two videos: [here](#) and [here](#).

We are in the process of filming more videos to share and these will be added to the page soon as we continue to capture and share what works well.

If you have not yet signed up to the programme or are not sure how it works, go to <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/easyfundraising/> on the diocesan website to see how easy it is.

For more details contact me at andrew.smith@chichester.anglican.org or our easyfundraising account manager Roisin Lyons at roisin@easyfundraising.org.uk

Easyfundraising has just welcomed St John's Church Meads and St Mary Magdalene Church Lyminster as new signs-up.

Historic church goes solar



A VILLAGE church secured planning permission to repair its roof using some of the latest eco solar systems on the market.

The move will enable the parish to generate its own electricity, with the surplus going to the National Grid.

The work at St Mary's in Funtington, near Chichester, will mean the Grade II* listed building joins a growing list of churches in the diocese becoming more environmentally sustainable and aiming to reach the net zero by 2030 target by set by the Church of England.

Fr Andrew Birks, vicar of St Mary's said: "Increasing the sustainability of our unique and valuable historic church while reducing its future running cost is a major consideration and the PCC are very excited to see our church becoming a local flagship of this ethos.

"This balance of conservation and evolution is something that the Church of England is very aware of in setting the challenge for churches to incorporate sustainable technologies."

Almost ten years ago the PCC was notified that the church roof was suffering from broken and slipped tiles plus severe "nail rot" and areas of infestation and rot in the underlying roof timbers. At the

time adequate local funds were not available and two repeated applications were made without success for assistance from government cash.

Subsequent quinquennial inspections increased the priority of these essential roof repairs and therefore funds had to be made available by the sale of a property owned on behalf of the PCC.

New tiles would be needed to replace those already broken, plus more that were likely to break during their removal. It was decided to reduce this number by the insertion of solar panels into the roof on the southern slopes above the main and north aisles, where they would be much less visually intrusive.

This was considered to be a contribution towards meeting both government encouragement and important directives within the Church of England to improve energy sustainability and generation from non-polluting sources.

Gaining consent for these works has been protracted because of the many consents needed and the necessary sequencing of their submission. Not only was a faculty required from the diocese but also, because of the building's Grade II* listing, local authority planning consent was necessary.

In turn each of these required concurrence of other specialist bodies. Additionally, because bats were known to roost in the roof spaces, a licence from Natural England had to be obtained. The latter entailed repeated prior site monitoring surveys, special measures and supervision by an ecologist throughout the works.

The solar power system has been designed to provide a high proportion of the church's electricity, although slightly reduced from the maximum possible to meet aesthetic concerns. The generated power will be used to support the electric heating in the Church Room and the recently installed new LED lighting scheme.

The design has been carefully planned by the church's inspecting architect Richard Meynell to ensure the panels should be virtually invisible from the ground and thus not cause any visual harm to the heritage asset and its setting. There will be slightly fewer panels than initially considered as some were removed from the early plan to meet these aesthetic considerations on a listed building. The PCC is pleased to have finally gained the consents and have engaged T J Couzens & Son to lead the work.

You can watch drone footage [here](#) The Church of England's net zero by 2030 information can be found [here](#)

ALLOTMENT PROJECT GROWS AND GROWS

KEEN horticulturalist Julie Churcher is a member of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Rustington. In 2014 we told how she obtained a tenancy agreement of an allotment in the village for the church, a project she hoped would involve all the church family. One aim was to grow flowers – usually too expensive to buy – for use in church and to produce flowers, fruit and vegetables for sale after the main service on Sundays. Julie is still involved in running the allotment and reports on the highlights and challenges of the past few years.

IN THE first year we received approval and some funding from the PCC which was used to set up and to buy a shed.

We grow a wide range of flowers including peonies, roses, sweet peas, rudbeckia, lime green gladioli, cosmos, sunflowers, foxgloves, herbs and a large bed of mixed dahlias and other perennials and greenery, plus, rhubarb which is a best seller.

We are organic. We use no fungicides or herbicides, there are no air miles, no packaging waste and the plot is within walking distance of the church. We have also decided to stop ordering plants by mail order from catalogues. From this year we have purchased from local, preferably family run, nurseries and garden centres or raised the plants ourselves.

The flowers are cut on a Friday afternoon or evening for the arrangers to use on Saturday morning. All excess flowers are sold to the church family by donation during coffee after church, and we supply celebration bouquets and weddings and funerals, and have supplied other churches.



It is a small, beautiful site, very spiritual, particularly at sunset.

The site is used as a tool for our church youth group called Bolders. We hold horticultural sessions with the children who are also able to visit the plot. We show them veg and fruit identification and put together posies for them to take home.

There is lots of wildlife including a naughty destructive fox who digs things up and leaves us all sorts of odd gifts including golf balls, nesting wrens (a fledgling wren is a very noisy incredibly tiny bird of beauty), breeding frogs and a multitude of insects and a somewhat tame crow who bathes in the large water dish we leave out for him, plus the cat who investigates the shed so we have to make sure we don't lock it in.

During lockdown allotments remained open but churches were closed so we had to decide about the flowers and therefore operated a "doorstep

delivery scheme" keeping to the lockdown rules. We delivered over 125 large mixed bouquets free to parishioners, particularly those who were shielding or poorly.

During the drought of this summer the bindweed romped away but typically some of the church blooms had a shorter life span on the plot. We have mains water and watering cans but hosepipes are not allowed. We have supplied at least two buckets of flowers each week to church since the season started plus the orders for other celebrations and events. We are now self-funding and hold the occasional small fundraiser and we have benefactors. We are asking people this autumn to sponsor mulch so that we can suppress weeds and conserve moisture.

We now have seven volunteers including me. The church family and our vicar Natalie Loveless and curate Laura Darrall are very supportive and the flowers are much loved and appreciated. Thanks must go to



Rev Natalie and Rev Laura

our church florists who arrange them so beautifully. There has been a very good monetary saving to church.

Our ethos is "local flowers for local people."

We enter the flowers in the Rustington Flower Show and have won prizes and trophies, as have the children from church. The Children from Bolders made an Easter garden for outside the church hall and this has now morphed into the summer garden and will soon be the harvest garden. It was only supposed to last for about two weeks. It will be a permanent feature from Easter next year for six months of the year and we are having a proper planter made especially for us.

We have an amazing allotment team who work so hard weeding, planting, mowing the paths, pruning, and cutting the blooms, and very talented flower arrangers.



Catalyst for growth

Jane Willis has been the vicar of Holy Trinity Hurstpierpoint for five years. She reflects on the activities which helped to lead her church into growth.

THE last few years for most churches have been a time of significant change and that's certainly been the case for Holy Trinity Hurstpierpoint.

Essentially three things came together which for us have been a catalyst for growth: participating in the Leading Your Church into Growth process (LYCiG), reordering our church building, and the Covid pandemic. It's hard to separate the three in telling the story.

For several years as a church we had been focusing on developing our ministry with children and families, and had reached the point when we knew a fresh initiative was needed. Our regular Sunday Sung Eucharist had become family-friendly with children's activities every week, but we

were reaching capacity in terms of our small meeting rooms for Kids@HT, and in terms of the integrity of an essentially traditional service.

In a village with lots of young families, many still chose to travel out of the parish seeking a more contemporary style of worship.

In 2019 we were invited by the diocese to participate in Leading Your Church into Growth workshop – out of this we discovered far more openness to change among our congregation than we had realised and identified two short term and two medium term priorities.


The short term were worship for all: diversifying our worship; children and youth. The long term were welcome and belonging, and developing

connections beyond Holy Trinity.

Concurrent with this we had begun a faculty process to reorder our church building. It's a wonderful Grade II* listed Victorian building, which had been partially reordered a few years ago with the introduction of a gallery at the west end, with small meeting rooms under.

But the worship space was still full of very uncomfortable pews and with no church hall we desperately needed flexible space.

Providentially for this season, our churchwardens were an architect and a chartered surveyor. Working with our inspecting architect we drew up plans to open up the worship space, retaining and re-siting some of the pews in



the transepts and at the rear of the nave, preserving historical features of interest.

Our plans included the installation of a glass door in an archway between our inner and outer foyer, enabling us to keep the heat in while looking welcoming, and a new AV system which includes a switchable smart glass screen set back from the chancel arch. The screen is permanently in place, but when not in use appears clear. When in use it becomes opaque and we can project on to it.

The height of our chancel arch had offered a particular challenge to installing a drop-down screen, so we were delighted with this solution. The consultation process for the reordering was of course a very long one.

Then Covid happened. Like everyone we then completely reconfigured church life, including taking worship online in various ways and setting up a pastoral network. We had no idea we were so agile. Returning to gathered worship was of course wonderful but while children were always welcome, the restrictions made our past children's work impossible.

We stayed online for a while but realised the "new service"

we had been imagining needed to start right away.

So we started a new service, or planted a new congregation, whatever we might call it. It's been the most unusual way of planting a new ministry – essentially beginning with what we were permitted to do in Covid times and growing from that.

We couldn't sing but we could do the actions for songs and to start with families sat in bubbles in pre-booked seats and were given a quarantined party bag with everything they needed for the service – service sheets, children's craft etc.

Then the second lockdown happened and we simply rode the coronacoaster, returning online for a while. During this lockdown our consistory court hearing was held, the first to be heard via Zoom. The Victorian Society had chosen to be parties opponent, a key issue being the heritage value of the pews. Though our expert report had indicated otherwise, we chose not to contest their assessment of them as being of high value, but rather to make the necessary strong missional case for the reordering.

The toughest times in the faculty process came at a time when we weren't even permitted to use the building.

I had moments when I really questioned what we were putting ourselves through but we were delighted when the chancellor granted our faculty. We were able to complete the pew reconfiguration/removal before we returned to gathered worship, with the AV installation completed a few months later.

Plans for the new AV system grew somewhat in Covid times and the need for cameras and the capacity to live-stream became apparent.

So where are we now? Worshipping back in our building, with three regular services. We are seeking to recruit a children and families leader which will enable us to reinstate children's ministry at our 9.30am as well as at our 11am services.

Our new AV and flexible and comfortable seating contribute significantly to our welcome and accessibility. One of transepts has become a side chapel with pews relocated to it and this has now become a prayer space for the many Ukrainian guests in our community.

As well as for worship, our new flexible space is proving wonderful for cafes, concerts and other community events. A children's theatre company and a Pilates class are now among our regular hirers. We know we are still very much a work in progress – but amazingly we are finding the priorities we identified in the LYCiG process coming to birth in ways we could never have imagined.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land *In the footsteps of Jesus*

6 - 13 February 2023

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with an optional visit to The Rose-Red City of Petra, will now be under the leadership of The Ven. Edward Dowler, the Archdeacon of Hastings.

Bishop Martin comments:

This pilgrimage will help us to prepare for keeping Lent as a time in which we seek to draw closer to Jesus Christ. We shall hear his words with greater clarity and so be able to enter more fully into the mystery of his death and resurrection.

The encounter with him in word and sacrament will shape each day of this pilgrimage, as

we celebrate the Eucharist in one of the holy sites and align ourselves with the ancient Christian community that still lives where he taught and ministered.

The journey will be undertaken with the advantages of modern travel and communication. But the purpose of our journeying has motivated Christians across nearly two thousand years: it is an encounter with the living God, seen in the face of Jesus of Nazareth.

This pilgrimage offers us an opportunity to let the pages of scripture come alive, as we sit where the crowds listened to Jesus preaching and witnessed his healing miracles, as we trace the steps of shepherds who sought the new-born prince of Peace, and as we walk the ancient streets of Jerusalem, the setting of his passion, his resurrection and the empowering gift of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, it is also important to remember that a pilgrimage is not a private thing. We undertake it with others from this household of faith in the diocese of Chichester, and as part of the universal Church.

We also undertake it for others; for those persecuted for faith, for the poor and the dispossessed, for those who have no faith, and for those who cannot accompany us but who ask us to pray for them in the places where Jesus prayed.

My hope and prayer is that this preparatory pilgrimage will not only transform your celebration of Christmas; it will also transform the way you share your experience of faith with others.

+Martin

A brochure is available from Lightline Pilgrimages which offers an early outline of the pilgrimage journey to prepare for the celebration of faith.
mailto:info@lightline.org.uk
Tel: 01992 576 065 or Email:
www.lightline.org.uk

News from overseas

By Rev James Campbell
Diocesan overseas links officer

THE Diocesan Overseas Council (DOC) sponsors three students at Carlile College, Nairobi, the Church Army College in Kenya - Michael, Haizel and Paul. Michael and Haizel have been in touch to let us know how they are getting on.

Michael said he and his family are doing well and that the recent election was peaceful. This semester he is studying six units: Old Testament books, New Testament books, homiletics, survey of the world of religions, introduction to missions and English and writing skills.

As part of his training Michael is going on missions and has so far conducted ten in different dioceses. On Sundays he has a church placement where he preaches, leads and assists the parish priest.

Michael is married to Emily and they have three boys, two at school. Balancing life between studies and taking care of a family is a challenge with very limited finances. He really appreciates the support he receives from Chichester Diocese and promises to devote himself in his studies so as to be more effective in ministry.

Haizel became an active Christian as a teenager and was involved in the Children's and youth ministry in her church. She is married to a vicar in the Anglican Church of Kenya serving in a missionary area. They have two children and a small farm.

She is currently studying: moral theology, transformational leadership, theology of urban mission, ministry in context of Islam, research and mapping, and systematic theology. Haizel said the studies have enabled her to grow deeper in her faith and in the word of God. They

have also given her better ideas on how to evangelise in different cross-cultural mission fields.

She too is grateful to the Diocese of Chichester for the support. After graduation, she intends to serve fully in ministry and even in community development.



Michael Ole Lemie



Haizel Lemli Ngetuny



The Ven. Edward Dowler
Archdeacon of Hastings

HYMNS WITH REV NEVILLE MANNING

ALL CREATURES *of our God and King*

In a time when as human beings, in the light of climate change, we are being forced to think about the planet earth on which we live and the need to care for it is good to think about a hymn focussing on Creation. The hymn “All creatures of our God and King” certainly fits the bill. Its origins lie with Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). He was the son of a wealthy clothing merchant but chose to renounce earthly wealth to embrace a simple lifestyle. He founded a religious community of brothers which was eventually recognised as the Franciscan Order. The community took on board Francis’s concern for poor people and lepers, undertook preaching tours, lived very simply and with loyalty to the Church.

The original version of the hymn, part of his Canticle of the Sun, was written towards the end of Francis’s life, at a time when health was deteriorating, eyesight failing, and pain increasing. In it he expressed his love for all creation, especially animals. It is consistent with what we have in the Psalms, especially Psalm 148 which envisages the whole

YE WHO LONG PAIN AND SORROW BEAR, PRAISE GOD AND ON HIM CAST YOUR CARE

creation joining in a great hymn of praise. It may also reflect the way Jesus himself pointed to lessons to be drawn from the creation around us, such as his references to the birds of the air and the flowers of the field in Matthew 6. It may also tie in with what St. Paul said about God’s power and nature being seen in what has been made (Romans 2 v20), even though, as Paul himself realised, we human beings often fail to take note.

The hymn is wide-ranging, with references to sun and moon, winds and clouds, morning and evening, water and fire, flowers and fruits, men of tender heart (today we would add women), ending as it began with all things blessing and worshipping their Creator.

V6 “And thou, most kind and gentle death, Waiting to hush our latest breath” may have been written as Francis faced his own approaching death. The previous verse reflects the sternness of Francis’ outlook, which involved identification with Christ in his sufferings: “Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, Praise God and on him cast your care”, which is very different from the sometimes sentimental pictures of Francis that have been held.

The version of the hymn which most of us know in our hymnals is a translation by William Draper (1855-1933), Rector of a Yorkshire parish, who translated several hymns from the original Greek or Latin, and who wrote this one for a Sunday School festival held in Leeds one Whitsuntide. Draper’s hymn is usually sung to a tune of German origin, often referred to as Easter Song. Some will be familiar with the tune as the one often used for the hymn “Ye watchers and ye holy ones”. Whether we use Francis’s hymn as part of Harvest celebrations or at some other time it is good to be mindful of the wonderful creation of which we are part.

CURSILLO

A living relationship with Jesus Christ

By Judy Short
Cursillo lay director

IN 1998 Lindsay Urwin, then Bishop of Horsham, encouraged the late Bishop Eric to ask Canterbury Diocese to “gift” Cursillo to Chichester. The 20 or so Cursillistas living in the Chichester Diocese were called together, along with Canterbury Cursillistas, to begin the work of establishing Chichester Cursillo. The first Chichester weekend was held in Wychcroft Christian Retreat Centre, Bletchingly, in March 2000. We have now held 32 Cursillo weekends. The movement originated in Spain, hence the name - Cursillo means “a short course” in Spanish.

In 2019 Southwark Cursillo asked if we could hold joint weekends, so the planning for this began and continued during lockdown. We have now held two joint weekends. The weekends are led alternately by each diocese and we have learnt so much from each other. Being on the team for Southwark’s first weekend for a few years was a huge privilege and it was a very joy-filled occasion. The weekends are predominantly lay led, which I am sure encourages our pilgrims to see themselves as potential leaders in their own churches.

Until quite recently all weekends were over three days but some dioceses have introduced a two-day Cursillo, making it easier for working people to attend, and Chichester plans to host a two-day course in the next couple of years.



There is a flow to the whole weekend which is centred around 15 short talks given by clergy and laity, five reflections given by clergy and a daily Eucharist. It must be pointed out that this is not a quiet retreat but a time during which we learn, chat, eat, laugh and worship together. It offers time for our pilgrims to step away from everyday life for a short time. Our pilgrims are already on their Christian journey and attending their own church. Cursillo gives us the opportunity to reconnect with Christ and God – to be refuelled and reignited.

The heart of Cursillo is clergy and laity working together and many have found that making their Cursillo has been a springboard to a fresh and renewed view. After the weekend our pilgrims are encouraged to join a prayer group, called group reunions. These groups are designed to encourage, support, and help each Christian in their ongoing journey with Christ and to discover the plans God has for them.

There are also local get togethers, called Camino, where we sing, share our stories and encourage each other and extend a welcome to those who are thinking about attending a weekend and would like to know more.

Diocesan “get togethers” (known as ultreyas) occur three times a year and these are wonderful opportunities to meet up with

fellow pilgrims from your weekend, the staff who helped on the weekend and for the wider Cursillo community to meet our new Cursillistas. Once a year we hold a national ultreya when Cursillistas from every diocese in the UK where Cursillo is active come together for worship and fellowship.

Bishop Martin said: “Many people have discovered that Cursillo opens their faith in God and their living relationship with Jesus Christ”

If you would like to know more, contact me, Judy Short, at lay.director@chichestercursillo.co.uk or Rev Helena Buque at spiritual.director@chichestercursillo.co.uk

Future events:

November 2022

Ultreya at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield, on Saturday November 19 (Cursillistas from Chichester diocese plus guests). All are welcome - we usually gather late morning, Eucharist at noon, bring your own lunch, then a witness talk and time for group prayer before tea and cake.

2023

Ultreya on Saturday, January 25, at my church, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach.

Ultreya on Saturday, June 3, at St John the Baptist, Kirdford.

United in prayer & worship

EVERY three years, Mothers' Union members come together for a festival service and the commissioning of the trustee board by a bishop. It is a wonderful opportunity for members and patrons and MU presidents from neighbouring dioceses as well as clergy from our own diocese to meet together, pray together and of course eat together.

By Karen Hill
President, Chichester Mothers' Union

These services have in the past been in our cathedral in Chichester, but if you are travelling from Rye that is a 3.5-hour journey each way. We can't move the cathedral but felt, after requests from a number of members, that we could move the festival.



On September 3 we came together for midday prayers in the beautiful St Mary Church, Horsham. The prayers were led by Maria Greco, our faith and policy co-ordinator. The flower ladies had worked their magic. We then had lunch and were joined by the Bishop of Lewes Will Hazlewood and the Archdeacon of Horsham Angela Martin.

At 2.30pm, joined by two of our patrons, the Lord Lieutenant for West Sussex Lady Emma Barnard and the Vice Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex Sara Stonor, we paraded our Mothers' Union banners,

including our diocesan one by Sir John Ninian Comper.

It is always good to remember where we come from and Mothers' Union has banners because as its name implies it was formed originally as a union. It was part of the trade union movement. That is also why each member is given a card. We have a voice because we came together, united, and stayed together because we are united in prayer and worship.

At the heart of this union sits prayer, so these festival services are highlights, as we worship together, with the St

Mary choir leading us in our singing. Bishop Will's homily was ideal for the membership as he spoke to us of looking back with rose-tinted glasses and how easy that is. However as a union of men and women we need to look forward and adapt to life as it now, with all its challenges for our faith and family life.

Trustees were commissioned by Bishop Will, as was our new chaplain Reverend Margaret Constable and we all came together through the Eucharist.

At the end we all had cake, made by the members and non-alcoholic fizz. Members shared their family joys and sorrows. We all live in our parishes and too easily we could just look inwards. A festival service forces us to look outwards, and to gather strength from each other for the future, whatever it will bring.

Two neighbouring dioceses sent representatives. Jenny Searle, fundraising and communications unit co-ordinator, Oxford Diocese, said: "We have a large and growing number of diocesan members and this is an opportunity for them to gather together in worship and fellowship and to meet with MU leaders. It is one of the few occasions when branch banners are paraded, and everyone gets a real feel for the scope of MU within the diocese."

Mary Margaret Yates, MU president in Rochester Diocese, said: "I really enjoy going to the various festival services, it is good to get together for worship and to support each other. I enjoy seeing how other dioceses do things slightly different and I have 'borrowed' some ideas."

We need more members to fulfil our vision

Has anyone ever asked you to become a member of Mothers Union? It is a grassroots movement, and members lobby locally, nationally, and



internationally on issues that affect family life. In helping to build confident people and resilient communities we can help to bring about change. We need you to be part of it so if you feel called and have gifts and talents to offer, please get in touch with me or an MU representative. You can find out about joining and the small subscription fees that help to fund some of the activities and projects here

Belonging

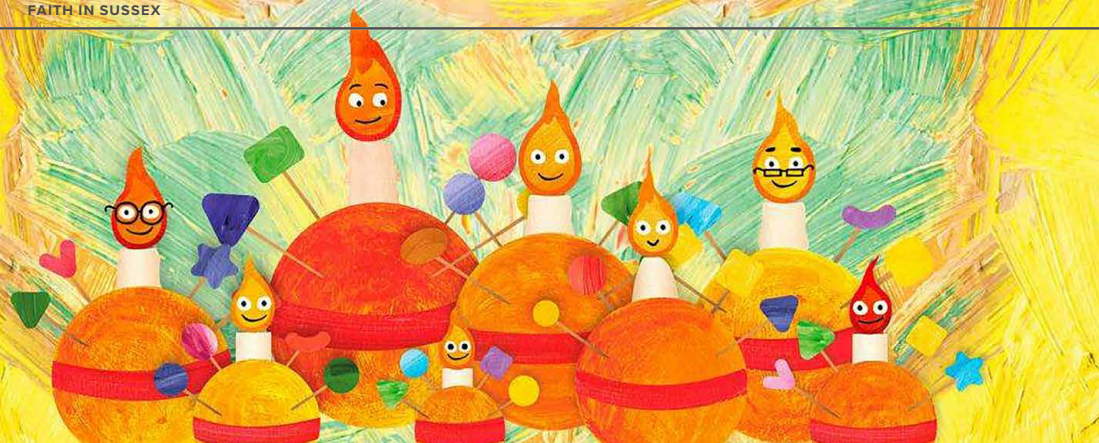
For me belonging means being comfortable in the environments I find myself in, the feeling you get of "home". Throughout my life I have found myself not belonging, being an outsider, actively disliked. It has made me embrace situations and appreciate the importance of the feeling of belonging. I am at "home" within Mothers' Union.

On October 8, the cathedral held a service of thanksgiving in celebration of black history themed "What it means to

belong". The speakers were wonderful, the commissioning of the racial justice officers and junior ambassadors was special. Our singing was led by the Zinafe choir, which has members of the Zimbabwe Mothers Union in it.

There were refreshments after the service, and as we mingled I met Gladys who is the South East Regions chairwoman for the Zimbabwe Mothers Union. We immediately hit it off and in the space of a few minutes we knew we needed to bring the Mothers Union in Chichester together with our Zimbabwe Mothers Union in prayer.

The sheer joy of meeting Gladys lifted the spirits of us both because we instantly recognised the sister in Christ in each other. We belonged.



Will you be 'Christingling' this year?

THE Children's Society has been celebrating Christingle with churches for over 50 years. It's a chance to come together to have fun, celebrate and support young people. This year, as the aftermath of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis continue to put pressure on families, these Christingles mean more than ever.

The last few years have been difficult for all of us and children across the country have been pushed to their limits. Now, they need our community's support more than ever as rising costs put families under pressure.

The Children's Society is a national charity fighting for the hope and happiness of young people when they are threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. It is looking forward to celebrating this year's Christingle with

you. Lots of churches and community groups already have their date in the calendar. When will you hold yours?

Why not talk to your local clergy to talk about Christingle opportunities for this year? Whether you are planning a traditional service or an outdoor "muddy" Christingle, now is the time to start planning and looking forward to welcoming new faces into your church.

Visit christingle.org to get started, order resources and register your event.

If you need support, get in touch with The Children's Society's dedicated Supporter Care Team at supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk or call 0300 303 7000. Join the organisers' group on Facebook (facebook.com/groups/christingle) to chat with other Christinglers and share ideas and advice.

The Children's Society

Our shop needs you

Chichester Children's Society need volunteers to help at its charity shop in South Street.

It raises vital funds for and awareness of the society's work with young people.

This is an excellent opportunity to get experience for your CV, help you complete a Duke of Edinburgh Award, or use your free time to make a difference to young lives. Find out more from shop manager Sharon on 01243 839625 or drop into the shop. It is open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday, at 48 South Street, Chichester, PO19 1DS.

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS BEGINS TO BITE

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

AT CHICHESTER Diocesan Association for Family Support Work (FSW) we help families who are struggling with daily life.

There are many reasons that lead someone to turn to us for support but recently the most common one is the impact of the cost-of-living increase on daily life.

Families who were managing their household budgets a year ago are now seeing the effect of soaring energy prices, the increase in fuel costs and general rise in the cost of living which is affecting their ability to buy essentials such as food, clothes and shoes.

This in turn has had an impact on family dynamics, relationships and the mental health of adults and children alike. We have witnessed family units rapidly deteriorating as the stress has become too much, parents' relationships have broken down and children have begun to exhibit worrying behaviour.

One client told us: "I found myself in a situation where I had money problems, bad

anxiety and my world had literally become a stressful mess."

In these circumstances it is FSW's core work which is so important – the intensive, home-based and personal support which means a programme uniquely tailored to each family. Over the last few months this has been crucial to helping families survive, as they have all welcomed the presence of a friendly and non-judgemental professional who is able to guide and advise them to tackle each issue at a time.

One said: "I'm so glad I have met you. You have so much empathy and are so caring and make a huge difference to us."

As we approach autumn, with another rise in the cost of energy on the way and Christmas and all its added pressures not too far in the future, we are anticipating an even greater need for our

additional support services – our food bank, access to our winter fuel fund and emergency grants for essential items such as winter coats, school uniforms and energy-efficient white goods.

Churches across the diocese are always generous at this time of year, with harvest festival gifts of food and money. This year, more than ever, all these contributions are going to be vital to sustain the families FSW supports. So as we work on your behalf across the diocese, please remember FSW and our families in your prayers.

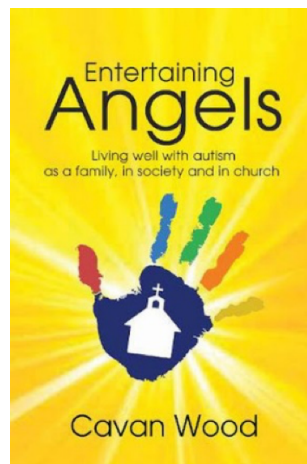
For more information about Family Support Work, visit our website www.familysupportwork.org.



The Sussex Charity for Children
Since 1890

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

BY REVD JOHN TWISLETON



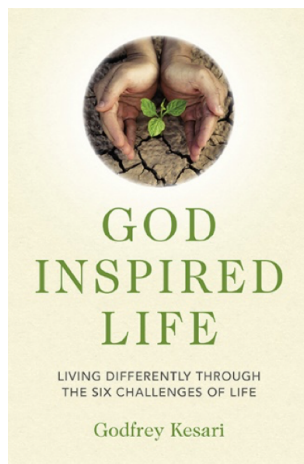
ENTERTAINING ANGELS

Living well with autism as a family, in society and in church

By Cavan Wood

Deepening understanding of a condition that affects over a million people in the UK is Cavan Wood's brief taking us through the experience of his son's autism and family journey. Cavan is Reader at All Saints in Lindfield. With sensitivity he charts difficulties faced by autistic people and their circle sharing wisdom on working through difficulties. The book celebrates the strengths and joys of autism, referencing the focus and truth telling of Greta Thunberg. The idea of God's image inside each human being is presented as a clue to affirming our individual uniqueness and overall diversity, challenging hurtful views of what is normal. Entertaining Angels is an easy read with insights showing how schools, workplaces and churches can be made friendlier to autistic people.

Authentic, £14.99 ISBN 978-1788930734 176pp



GOD INSPIRED LIFE

Living differently through the six challenges of life

By Godfrey Kesari

Some people have an infectious joy and on occasion that spills successfully into print. Diocesan priest Godfrey Kisari is such a person and his new book is captivating. 'God Inspired Life' sets forth a life of contentment rooted in maintaining our relationship with God and one another, understanding God's call, overcoming temptations, enduring suffering and preparing for heaven. His earlier life in India equips him with powerful illustrations about deepening discipleship, confident in God yet with humility to recognise the good in others of whatever creed. 'Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real' (Merton). As we struggle in life, the author reminds us, 'it is not your success that God wants but you'. Christianity is described as construction of inner beauty and Kisari's book is beauty therapy.

John Hunt Publishing £15.99 ISBN 9781785359439 240pp



LOVED

By Jonny Gumbel

THE phrase "God loves you" is so common it can leave little impact. Yet, God's love is the reason for existence. There is nothing more important than knowing and experiencing God's love. Loved draws the reader into an empowering understanding of the loving character of God with humour, care and cultural analysis.

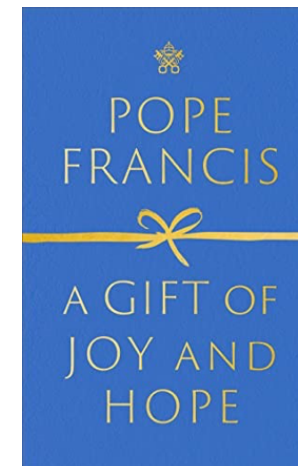
Through 22 meditations, Jonny Gumbel explores the love of God in the letter to the Romans. He tackles themes such as identity, power and freedom using scripture, poetry, film, sport, theology and current affairs to help explain what God's love means.

The germ of the book was Jonny's own experience of chronic fatigue at university. Faced with everyday activities being stripped away, he was left with the existential question we all face: who am I? He came to realise his identity hung on one thing: he was loved by God.

The love of God is the dynamic communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit resonating throughout history and demonstrated supremely on the cross. Loved shows that the Church in Rome was defined by being loved by God rather than anything else. This book will help you live God's love in our fragmented world.

Reviewed by Revd Keir Shreeves September 2022

Muddy Pearl, paperback, £14.99 ISBN 9781914553127.



A GIFT OF JOY AND HOPE

By Pope Francis

What I found striking about this book was its heart for the suffering yoked to the joy of God's presence alleviating anguish. A Gift Of Joy And Hope describes the Christian good news in six words. Its 209 pages represent Francis's reflections over the isolating Covid lockdown. As Christians we are never isolated from God's love, presented here in tandem with God's joy as the heart of the Christian message. It is a message inviting us to shake off unnecessary burdens and look to an awesome horizon. "This is our certainty. Jesus is eternally alive. If we hold fast to Him, we will have life and be protected from the death and violence that lie in wait for us along the way. All other solutions will prove to be inadequate and temporary."

Hodder & Stoughton, £9.99, eBook ISBN 978 1 399 80283 3 209pp



Cathedral News

NEW VERGERS

TWO new additions have been made to the cathedral's verging team. It has welcomed Benedict Loveless, who joined as verger support assistant, and Dominic Ward as an assistant verger, working alongside Tim Morris. Many of our readers will already know Benedict, the son of Rev Natalie Loveless, vicar of Rustington.

NEW CAFE

A new café will soon open in the cathedral's 600-year-old cloisters, replacing the much-missed former venue which closed two years ago as a result of the pandemic.

It will be working with local suppliers and using ethically sourced ingredients. The décor and design have been inspired by the cathedral and its surroundings and there will be tables indoors and outside with parasols.

The Cloisters Cafe and Garden will offer the opportunity to "grab and go" as well as table service, where diners can enjoy fresh and seasonal food. The opening will also provide employment.

ROOF RESTORATION

Chichester Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust is delighted to have completed five years of fundraising for the project, raising the full £5 million

needed to complete the work in the face of some of the most challenging times the cathedral has ever faced.

This has enabled the final, and largest, phase of the work to get under way – the nave.

The roofs had been leaking for many years, creating a damp environment and causing the ancient timbers to rot, with water penetrating the interior plasterwork.

The new roof uses grey lead coverings of the thickest type available – each panel weighs around 75kg (12 stone). Unlike the copper coverings, these will give better protection from the coastal weather, and our experts have advised us they should last for the next 200 years.

BE A LAY MEMBER

The cathedral is inviting applicants to be an important part of its thriving community as a lay member of chapter.

You will assist with delivering the cathedral's new vision and strategic plan, which seeks to renew the cathedral's life in worship and evangelism, fellowship and outreach.

Lay members should be people of a lively faith and attentive to their own spiritual life. You should be a confident team player who can speak independently and engage effectively with a wide range of people. You will need to provide strategic leadership, good governance, consider financial stability and actively commit to the chapter's role in setting overall policy and direction, as detailed in the Cathedrals Measure 2021.

Chapter members are required to be communicant members of the Church of England. Appropriate training and support will be offered.

If you are interested, the full application pack can be downloaded from the cathedral website chichestercathedral.org.uk/vacancies.

MOSAIC UNVEILED

A mosaic of Saint Dominic (1170 – 1221) was unveiled at the cathedral, where it was blessed by Bishop Martin.

The artwork, 50cm by 140cm, was produced by liturgical artist James Blackstone and is the outcome of "the art of worship", a three-month residency that took place in the cathedral earlier this year.

During the residency, James worked alongside fellow liturgical artist Martin Earle in a custom-built studio. The project was developed with celebrated liturgical artist Aidan Hart. All three draw on the same spiritual wells as the cathedral's first builders and employ the same techniques that defined Christian art prior to the Renaissance, including egg tempera, fresco, water

gilding, carving and hand-cut glass mosaic.

The Saint Dominic mosaic is made of glass from Murano, Venice. The glass tesserae are cut and set into wet lime plaster as a working surface, before being set permanently into mortar.

Saint Dominic is shown with bare feet, carrying a crossed staff, signifying his itinerant life. He also carries a copy of the gospels from which he preached. The vestments he wears, for the Dominican order, were developed in his own lifetime.

DID YOU KNOW...

New toilets have now opened in the North Transept.

The nine cubicles, including an accessible one, are unisex and each includes a wash basin and hand-drier. They replace the old "treasury toilets" off the South West Lawn.

The project has been made possible through support of the Chichester Cathedral Friends, the Restoration and Development Trust and the government's Culture Recovery Fund for Major Works Programme.



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