



CULTIVATE

A Newsletter for rural
parishes across East Sussex

SPRING 2023

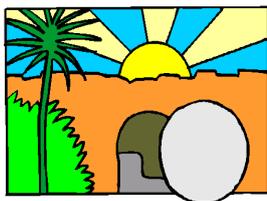


Welcome to this SPRING 2023 edition of CULTIVATE!

As we progress towards longer days and rising temperatures, nature's barrenness is transformed as leaves unfurl, flowers bloom and new life is welcomed in a chorus of bird song. This time of year invites us to pause and give thanks for the gift of hope and new life, both to ourselves and our hurting world, made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection. It was Walter Brueggemann who wrote: "*We do not live by what is possessed, but by what is promised*"

Therefore, as we approach Easter let us not forget that the message of triumph of life over death, light over darkness, love over hatred, peace over anxiety and joy over grief remains unchanged. Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again! Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you (1 Peter 1:3-4)



Wishing you a happy and joyous Easter, Gary Cregeen

SAVE THE DATE!

'RENEWING HOPE IN RURAL MISSION & MINISTRY'

**RURAL CONFERENCE - Monday 18 September
between 10.30 am and 3.30 pm
at Vicar's Hall, Chichester Cathedral**

This Conference, open to all who are interested in rural mission and ministry (lay or ordained), will provide both encouragement and inspiration, as well as practical ideas and advice, on how the churches and communities we represent can thrive. If travelling a distance why not consider a stopover in Chichester - limited accommodation is available at the Cathedral (to be arranged and booked directly) - visit:

www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/accommodation

Further details about the Rural Conference, and how to register, will feature after Easter via the Diocesan eNews or 'Sussex Rural' WhatsApp (to join text mobile no. below)

If you have news items, photos or adverts which could inspire and encourage those in rural communities please forward these to: Revd Gary Cregeen, Rural Officer for East Sussex.

Email: Gary.Cregeen@chichester.anglican.org
or phone: 07749 904887

RURAL CLERGY RETREAT DAY

The first Rural Clergy Retreat Day took place at Penhurst Retreat Centre in February. The day was led by Bishop Will Hazlewood on the theme: '*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*'. These informal days offer encouragement, space and refreshment to clergy serving in rural communities. The next Rural Clergy Retreat Day will be on:

**MONDAY 30 OCTOBER between
10 am and 3.30 pm, and will be led
by the Ven. Martin Lloyd Williams,
at Penhurst Retreat Centre.**

For more information please
contact Revd Gary Cregeen

To book please call: 01424 892088
or visit: www.penhurst.org.uk



PLUMPTON COLLEGE

It has been a great encouragement to witness the emerging partnership between the College and the Diocese of Chichester in recent months. Every Wednesday a team of laity and clergy, from churches in East Sussex, volunteer on a rota basis to offer hospitality and chaplaincy to students and staff, using St Michael & All Angel's Church, Plumpton, (which lies at the heart of the Campus), as a base. If you would like to find out more, not least about volunteering, please contact the Revd Anne Dunlop (who is the local Incumbent and oversees the team) via:

revannedunlop@gmail.com



AGRICULTURAL SHOWS & EVENTS IN EAST SUSSEX

22nd/23rd April – Spring Live, South of England Showground
14th May – Southern Shears, Copford Sawmill, Heathfield
27th May – Heathfield Show (www.heathfieldshow.org)
9th, 10th, 11th June – South of England Show*, at Ardingly
Please check websites for details and why not go along!

*Have you considered being part of **The Sanctuary** at the South of England Show? For more information about **The Sanctuary**, or how you could volunteer, please contact co-ordinator, Revd Sue Wilkinson, on 07713 097661



Celebrating Creation Flower Festival at St. Thomas's Church, Winchelsea 19-22 May 2023

A wildflower circle project, started in the Autumn of 2021, has flourished and caught the interest of the local community and many visitors to Winchelsea. Building on this project a programme of events celebrating nature and creation is planned. As well as Bishop Will Hazlewood and Revd Dr Mark Betson giving talks during the weekend; there will be churchyard walks, talks & activities for all ages; a special market with plants, cards, prints & lots of culinary delights; plus, the Hastings Philharmonic will be performing Beethoven's 'The Pastoral Symphony' in association with Winchelsea Arts; and to round off events there will be a Pet Service on the Sunday afternoon! For more details please visit:

www.winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk

Rural Church and Community Online Forum

A FREE resource for all Rural Churches

When: Wednesday 19th April 2023 (10am – Midday)

Where: Online via ZOOM

What: Rural Mission Solutions will be hosting an online forum which will explore how small and simple steps can move rural churches forward in mission, and offers participants the opportunity to share what they have done and learned.

Who: Open to all interested in reaching their community, both Lay and Ordained.

How: Book your place NOW using the following link:

<https://subscribepage.io/4IMHlr>

"Rural Missions Solutions experience is invaluable, but our services and advice are given free."



How to successfully fundraise in rural areas

Living in such a beautiful part of the country, we have an abundance of picturesque views, peace and serenity, but often a scarcity of opportunities to fundraise. With fundraising hugely necessary in keeping our churches thriving, Chichester Diocese has partnered with **easyfundraising** to enable local churches go from strength to strength. Making fundraising easy & inclusive, **easyfundraising** partners with big brands like eBay, Morrisons, Eden, M&S, Argos, and 7,000 others to offer unrestricted funding for free when an online shopper shops with them. It's the brand's way of giving back to communities and making positive change.

To date over 100 churches in our Diocese have signed up to **easyfundraising**, creating much-needed income to support themselves and the wider community. For more information or to hear from churches who have made **easyfundraising** a success please visit:

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/easyfundraising/>



Rogationtide

'Rogation' is an ancient church festival which seeks God's blessing on the local community. This year, Rogation Sunday falls on the 14th May, being the Sixth Sunday of Easter. While celebrated mainly in rural communities, Rogationtide can be adapted in any context, and is a great opportunity for the local Church to serve and reach out to the wider community, not least those who would not ordinarily attend a church service. This is because Rogation Services tend to be outdoors and, therefore, more visible and accessible, and less intimidating than going into an unfamiliar building.

The word rogation comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning "to ask" and involves making supplication to God for protection, to provide & to bless, while acknowledging His goodness and our dependency on Him. A Rogation Service can 'move around' the 'key' locations within a village, town or local farm, and prayers offered accordingly - outside the village school, overlooking livestock or ploughed fields, beside the village pond, hall or local pub, as well as the church. Prayers and readings can involve people of all ages from the wider community and enable the local church to get alongside those it serves.

The three days immediately after Rogation Sunday, are called 'Rogation Days', leading up to Ascension Day. These three days sometimes involve 'beating the bounds' of a parish and, again, can be used to pray for the well-being of a local community and to ask God's blessing on agriculture and industry particularly. These 'processions', along with the Rogation Service, are a wonderful opportunity to share our hope in God's goodness and to 'tell and show the people of Sussex that God loves them and wants the best for their lives, not just now, but for eternity', as stated in our diocesan vision.

Walking around our villages and towns and praying at various points is a positive way of supporting those communities, and a good way of connecting with them. Rogationtide also provides us with the opportunity to praise the Creator God, give thanks for our food and those who produce it; to pray a blessing on the communities in which we live and share together. Therefore, let us celebrate in thankfulness for all the Lord's amazing provision.

For a Rogation Service Outline and other ideas on how to celebrate Rogationtide visit: www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk and search 'Rogation'. If you celebrate Rogationtide do please send any photos to the Rural Officer for East Sussex - these could feature in future editions of Cultivate! Thank you!

Check out this video of last year's Rogation Service at Rotherfield (thanks to Revd Nigel Mason for sharing this) :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_82taRXQcE&t=1883s

