

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



MISSION IN BERWICK CHURCH

**AN OASIS OF LEARNING AND COMMUNITY
IS REACHING OUR YOUNGER GENERATION**

/ 40 - 41

**MEET THE NEW
DEACONS**

/ 10 - 15

Eight new candidates
share some of their
journey to ordination

**HOW GREEN IS
YOUR CHURCH?**

/ 24 - 29

Encouraging creation care -
stories from parishes

**A VITAL RESOURCE
FOR CHURCHES**

/ 16 - 17

A new bumper crop of
Lay Ministers authorised
to serve in parishes



THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE



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In this Year of the New Testament, the summer edition of Faith in Sussex reminds us that the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ was very public and very environmental. He was out and about in Galilee, being people-focused and community orientated.

This summer edition will illustrate those themes. It will remind us that today Jesus still calls people to share as deacons and priests in his apostolic work. They will serve as shepherds, teachers, and agents of healing and peace in many different community contexts.

Please pray for them as they respond to his call, 'Follow me'. Perhaps that aspect of the news in this edition will prompt you to ask in what way Jesus is calling you to follow him in a ministry of service, in the Church or the wider field of daily, working life.

The forthcoming flower festival in Chichester is an astonishing celebration of the beauty of creation. It brings the beauty of the environment into the sacred space and invites the Holy Spirit to stir up in us an instinct to give praise and thanks to God our creator.

Here is the invitation to enjoyment of a Sussex summer. It reminds us of the beauty and fragility of this earth, and all its God-given potential, for which we are individually and corporately responsible.

+Martin



COMING SOON

Chichester 950 Celebrating Faith

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ECO CHURCH
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DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER
TO KNOW • LOVE • FOLLOW JESUS



CONTENTS

- 6-9 NEWS
- 10-15 MEET THE ORDINANDS
- 16-17 ALM NEWS
- 18-19 A MILESTONE FOR WOMEN
- 20 REASSURING INSIGHT INTO ORDAINED MINISTRY
- 21 PRAYING FOR THOSE TO BE ORDAINED
- 22-23 GROWING FAITH
- 24-29 ECO NEWS
- 30-35 PARISH NEWS
- 36 LIFESAVERS ON THE CLIFFTOP
- 37 CHAPLAINCY IN ACTION
- 38 CURSILLO
- 39 SCHOOL NEWS
- 40-41 BERWICK CHURCH
- 42 REVIVING HERITAGE
- 43 HYMNS UNPACKED
- 44 GET YOUR CHURCH NOTICED
- 45 BEWARE OF USING COPYRIGHT IMAGES
- 46-47 MOTHERS UNION NEWS
- 48-49 FAMILY SUPPORT WORK NEWS
- 50 SIX STEPS INTO THE BIBLE
- 51 BOOKS AND REVIEWS
- 52-53 CATHEDRAL NEWS

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Chichester Diocese



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Diocese of Chichester

NEWS

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO RYE

Visitors and residents of Rye, in East Sussex, came out to cheer the Queen when she paid a visit to the town and visited St Mary's Church as part of her tour of Sussex on Thursday 16th May.

"She was warm, friendly, and full of good humour"

The town Rector, Paul White greeted the Queen and accompanied her as she met with community groups in St Mary Church.

Bell ringers welcomed the Queen into the church. She specifically asked to hear the bells said Judith Blineow one of the 13 ringers,. "I've never rung the bells so hard or for so long."

Mothers Union, Chichester president Karen Hills was also in attendance and spoke to the Queen about its vital work including Away From It All project (AFIA) and Ministry of Cake before introducing her to other Rye MU members including Chris Emson, a former President of Mothers Union Chichester.

Martin Auton Lloyd, CEO of Family Support Work (FSW) was also introduced to the Queen and spoke about the essential work of the charity supporting families in need.

Revd Paul White looked back on the Queen's visit to St Mary's saying. "It 's a once in a life time occasion. I was delighted to welcome the Queen. She was warm, friendly, and full of good humour. It was a bit daunting with all the etiquette and remembering everyone's names, but it was a real joy to speak to her."



CHURCH BUILDINGS UPDATE EVENINGS

The update evenings are aimed at churchwardens and clergy and will take place on the following four evenings in the autumn:

- **Wednesday, September 18**
Archdeacons of Chichester
- **Wednesday, September 25**
Archdeacons of Hastings
- **Wednesday, October 2**
Archdeacons of Horsham
- **Tuesday, October 8**
Archdeacons of Brighton and Lewes

Further information, including venues, details of the programme and booking information will be available in due course.



NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Lesley Hurst, currently assistant director of education for school organisation and services in the diocese, is the new diocesan director of education. Bishop Martin said: "Lesley Hurst has been a pioneering member of our education team, overseeing details in our engagement with academisation. The Christian faith is her foundation for our commitment to education in the imparting of knowledge and the excellence of delivery in our Church schools.

"We look forward to her contribution as she takes over from Trevor Cristin."

BECOME A VOICE FOR CHANGE

Christian Aid is offering an opportunity for people to put their faith into action and become voices for change.

The organisation is recruiting for volunteer speakers passionate about making a difference and championing global justice by speaking to church congregations and community groups. Anyone interested in applying can email volunteering@christian-aid.org.



NEW DIOCESAN DISABILITY ADVISERS APPOINTED

Bishop Martin has appointed and commissioned two parish clergy as Diocesan Disability Advisers.

The new officers, Revd Jo King, vicar at Holy Cross Bersted in West Sussex, and Revd Annette Hawkins, vicar at St Mary Salehurst, in East Sussex will play a vital role in ensuring churches are accessible to all. The focus will be on welcoming all people and creating an inclusive community where everyone can fully participate in the life of the Church.

Jo, and Annette both have personal interest in advocating change in the way the diocese takes forward this important ministry. Alongside their parish ministry they will begin to assess the needs of the diocese with education, training and pastoral care being priority areas.

It is anticipated that collaboration will be crucial to the success of this ministry and Jo and Annette are keen to hear from anyone with an interest, experience or skills in this area.

You can contact them at Disability.Adviser@Chichester.Anglican.Org

NEW CANONS

Bishop Martin has appointed six new honorary canons of Chichester Cathedral in recognition of the contributions they make to the apostolic life of the diocese.

Each is given a designated stall, which is theirs to occupy for the duration of their canonry.

**ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16, AT 3PM,
THE FOLLOWING WILL BE INSTALLED:**

Rev Dr Earl Collins, vicar of St John's Hove and diocesan continual ministerial development officer, will take the Stall of Bursalis Prebendary.

Rev Andrew Woodward, vicar of St Mary's, Kemp Town and bishop's liaison officer for the LGBTQI communities, will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Thorney.

Rev Julie Sear, rector of Hartfield with Coleman's Hatch, (soon to be also priest in charge of Cowden) and rural dean of Rotherfield, will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Somerley.

**ON SUNDAY, JUNE 23, AT 3PM,
THE FOLLOWING WILL BE INSTALLED:**

Rev Dr Godfrey Kesari, vicar of Southwater, diocesan racial justice officer and diocesan interfaith adviser, will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Selsey.

Rev Peter Blee, rector of Arlington, Berwick, Selmeaton with Alciston and Wilmington, will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Sidlesham.

Rev Justin White, senior provost of Woodard Schools, will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Seaford.

The installations will take place at the cathedral in the context of Evensong:

DIOCESAN AMBASSADOR FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITY.

Kate Henwood, from Chichester has taken on the role of diocesan ambassador for The Children's Society, a national charity which "fights for the hope and happiness of young people when it is threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect".

Kate has already made good contact with schools and the cathedral and is keen to hear from other schools and parishes to arrange visits and activities. She said: "It means I get to give talks and assemblies around the diocese. Earlier this year I was invited to St Joseph's Academy in Chichester, talking about Christingles and Epiphany.

"If you'd like a talk or some more information do get in touch with me. I'd love to hear from you."

Kate is on 07818691922 and Kate.Henwood@icloud.com

CUSTOS FOR HOUSING CHARITY

A special service was held to welcome the 63rd custos - or chaplain - to serve at St Mary's Hospital, a Christian foundation which provides social housing to those in need.

Rev Brian Cunningham was welcomed into the role in a service in its 13th century chapel, led by Bishop Martin.



REVEREND REJI RAJ SINGH, REVEREND BRIAN CUNNINGHAM,
BISHOP MARTIN AND DR JACK DUNN.

RIDE AND STRIDE 2024



Get ready to pedal, stroll or stride through glorious Sussex this September with ride and stride, the fundraising event organised by the Sussex Historic Churches Trust (SHCT).

In a letter sent to all parishes earlier this year, Christopher Whittick and Sara Stonor, two of the passionate trustees of SHCT, expressed their hopes for a remarkable turnout. With only 69 out of 550 churches participating in 2023, they're aiming for a significant increase in participation in 2024.

SHCT, an ecumenical trust, works tirelessly to raise funds for the restoration of historic church buildings. Ride and stride, its most anticipated event, is an outdoor adventure where hundreds of enthusiasts traverse through the picturesque landscapes, visiting as many churches as they can while raising vital funds.

Christopher Whittick said: "Last year, our neighbours in Kent raised an astounding £135,000 from ride and stride, while Sussex gathered only £23,000. There's immense potential for us to elevate our performance, making a tangible impact on our ability to aid parishes directly.

"As a testament to the impact of our collective efforts, recent SHCT grants, totalling over £60K have been awarded to churches, from Aldingbourne to Wadhurst in the Diocese."

You can mark your calendars for September 14 and support this event by opening your church doors, or link it to other activities happening in the church.

If you have ideas or questions about fundraising for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust? Please contact SHCT at whittickpalmer@gmail.com



DEAN OF CHICHESTER APPOINTED

The King approved the nomination of The Venerable Dr Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings and Priest-in-Charge of St John the Evangelist, Crowborough to be appointed Dean of Chichester.

Bishop Martin welcomed the appointment. He said: "Edward Dowler's appointment as Dean of Chichester brings to the cathedral the experience of parochial life and mission in rural, urban and coastal towns in the east of the diocese. This will forge a link that has not always been easy to maintain.

"But Edward brings other gifts and experience that will strengthen the able, imaginative and energetic chapter and their colleagues in Chichester. His priestly ministry is primarily defined by pastoral care and thoughtful teaching that makes accessible the whole span of the Christian tradition.

I look forward to welcoming Edward, his wife Anna and their two children to life in Chichester."

MEET THE ORDINANDS

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

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



Nat Gillett to serve at St Margaret's, Angmering

I'm married to Connie and together we have three young children. My passions include football, reading and indulging in Jaffa Cakes. Prior to pursuing ordination training, I spent 17 years working as a graphic designer. Alongside my professional career, I've been deeply engaged in volunteering and leadership roles within the church since my student days.

Initially I resisted a pathway towards ordination whenever it was suggested to me by others. However, a pivotal moment came when a friend asked me about my aspirations for the future. I realised that if I didn't explore the possibility of ordination I might regret it. So I took the leap, albeit hesitantly. With each step, the path felt increasingly right, affirmed by my wife and many others I met on this journey.

My time at St Mellitus College has been enriching, filled with learning and new friendships. I eagerly anticipate beginning my curacy at St Margaret's, Angmering, where I'm excited to continue contributing to spreading the message of Jesus, nurturing Christians in all aspects of life and strengthening the church community.



Quin Delpert to serve at St Matthias

I'm originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, and now residing in the UK since 2001 with my wife, Maleni, and our three children Maxwell, Finley and Lola.

My journey to ordination began in Ibiza where four years of mission work with 24-7 Prayer International sparked a deep calling within me. After returning to the UK in 2020, I engaged in the discernment process with the Chichester Diocese.

In 2021, my wife and I became community pastors at St Richard's Hollingdean under Rev Tom Holbird's guidance. Our mission was to revitalise the church and nurture faith and community connections. This role continued during my placement as an ordinand in 2022.

Through leading worship and community initiatives I've witnessed the transformative power of Christ's love. Training at St Mellitus College alongside ministry at St Richard's has shaped my vision of ordained service.

Our goal for St Matthias and St Richard's is to radiate hospitality, creativity, prayer, mission and worship. I'm honoured to serve my curacy in the Diocese of Chichester, striving to see communities flourish and lives transformed by Christ's love.



Zoë Eborn to serve at St Peter's in Bexhill

During my studies in the Netherlands, I had my first encounter with Christ, prompting me to briefly pause my career as a violinist to serve as a musical director at a church in Amsterdam. After a fulfilling decade there, my husband and I returned to the UK, remaining active in church ministry.

In 2019, upon settling in Horsham, my calling to ordination became clear. Serving as an Ordinand at St Mary's Horsham has been a privilege. The past few years of discernment and training have been remarkable, and I am incredibly grateful to so many people for their time, encouragement. .

Now, as my family and I prepare to embark on the next chapter at St Peter's in Bexhill, we're filled with excitement and gratitude. Your prayers as we enter this new season of our journey with God would be greatly appreciated.



Scott Canadas to serve in the Horsham parish

Some years ago, during a pilgrimage at the Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham, I felt the call to become a priest. Since then my path to ordination has been supported by dedicated clergy in the parishes of St Mary's and St James in Littlehampton, where I was nurtured in the Catholic tradition. Additionally, I've had the privilege of serving in various placement parishes across Bournemouth, Southampton, Croydon and Yorkshire.

For three years, I trained for ordination at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield. Alongside my fellow ordinands and under the guidance of the monastic community, I immersed myself in studies and cultivated a deep commitment to prayer. My formation extended beyond the academic realm. I have gained chaplaincy experiences, including serving in the Navy, a hospice, a university and a high-security prison. More recently, I embarked on a mission in Zimbabwe where I had the humbling opportunity to share the gospel with children in several orphanages.

Now, as I anticipate my role in Horsham, I eagerly await the opportunities to serve and minister, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Matt Porter to serve at All Saints Lindfield

During my time at university I had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable transformation that occurred when some of my non-Christian friends encountered Jesus. The way their lives changed inspired me to consider a future in Christian ministry.

After graduation, I took on a role as ministry assistant at a church in Cambridge, later working with Christian students in Manchester and subsequently serving children and youth in Angmering.

Reflecting on these experiences, I can see how God has helped to strengthen my calling to ordained ministry. Along the way, I've been blessed to walk alongside supportive Christians, nurturing my desire to care for God's people and share the incredible good news with others.

My family and I have been blessed with three wonderful years living and studying at Oak Hill in London. As we transition into this new stage of life at All Saints Lindfield we trust that God will continue to guide us, opening doors for us to deepen our love and service to Him.



Tom Dare
to serve at St Andrew's,
Furnace Green in Crawley

The journey from first hearing a call to ordination at the age of 16 to now approaching it at 48 has been quite a stretch. It's been filled with highs and lows – at the first advisory panel the answer was a firm “no”, leading to significant periods of reflection.

The joys of selection and training at St Mellitus (2020–2023) have been profound but they've been matched by the experience of witnessing our new congregation at Holy Trinity, Hurstpierpoint, begin, thrive and grow through lockdown and vacancy. I deferred ordination for a year to help hand this congregation over to our new rector and I'm deeply grateful for being granted a lay licence to continue working at Holy Trinity during this later-life gap year.

I'm incredibly excited about starting curacy at St Andrew's, Furnace Green in Crawley. They are a wonderfully welcoming, faith-filled congregation. I have much to learn and, with the strength of the Spirit, some to offer as well.



Timothy Newton
to serve at St Nicholas
Arundel

My journey to ordination has been quite diverse. Originally from Queensland, Australia, my discernment began amid the warm, tropical climate of Brisbane.

Though raised in the church, it wasn't until university that I discovered how much I valued my faith and desired to take it more seriously. However, the allure of the stage momentarily diverted my focus.

Transitioning from church choirs to the opera, I found myself in Berlin, Germany, performing at the renowned Deutsche Oper as a young artist. Despite this detour, my path ultimately led me back to my calling, prompting a move to Oxford with my wife and two children, where I trained for the priesthood at St Stephen's House.

I consider it a great privilege indeed and I am ready to serve in the parish of Arundel.



**Carol Darling
to serve at Seaford**

I'm married to Brian and we have four children. After a history degree, I served with Greater Manchester Police for 12 years. During a career break, my husband and I were missionaries in Nepal, driven by our shared passion for mission.

The call to ordination came as a surprise for me because I had always engaged in work outside of church. On two separate occasions, during church services at Trinity Lewes, God gave me specific pictures relating to preaching. I had never preached a sermon in my life but I knew that God was calling me to preach. At the same time, I had just started working for a Christian charity and in this capacity I would occasionally preach and lead services.

During this time, various people suggested to me that God may be calling me to ordination. I then started a slow journey of discovery.

Upon entering the discernment process, I had a sense of peace. Now, as I prepare for curacy in Seaford, I am looking forward to serving Christ and his Church.

The Bishop of Horsham will ordain as deacon, the following candidates in the cathedral at 3.00pm on Saturday 22nd June

Tom Dare

Carole Darling

Matt Porter

Nat Gillett

Quin Delpert

Scott Canadas

Zoe Eborn

The Bishop of Lewes will ordain as deacon, the following candidate in St Nicholas, Arundel at 11.am on Sunday 23rd June.

Timothy Newton

ALM NEWS

A NEW COHORT OF LAY MINISTRY TO SERVE PARISHES

Fifty-three men and women from Anglican churches across Sussex were commissioned by Bishop Ruth during a special service, marking one of the largest year groups to complete their skills-based training since the program's inception in 2019.

The cathedral overflowed with family, friends, and church members, all joining in the celebrations.

Authorised Lay Ministers play a vital role in the public ministry of their local churches, serving their parishes with dedication.

Revd Jayne Prestwood, Officer for Lay Vocation and Ministry, oversees the lay ministry training program. She remarked, "Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) is now recognized across the Church of England as a vibrant and growing expression of lay ministry. It offers flexible and affordable skills-based training in various ministries. This year, we introduced two new electives: Care of Creation and Eco Church, and Rural Ministry."



Candidates choose from a number of elective groups – these are:

- Care of Creation and Eco Church
- Rural Ministry
- Chaplaincy
- Pastoral
- Preaching
- The Mission Enabler

We hear from some of them.

CARE OF CREATION & ECO CHURCH ELECTIVE

Chris O’Riordan, lives in Horsham, and worships at St Mary’s Church, Horsham. She said: “The course consisted of three Study Saturdays in three different churches. There was plenty to reflect on bringing the Biblical references to move us to all act responsibly to protect our planet and one another as we cope with loss of biodiversity, climate change and other environmental matters bearing down on us. There were excellent presentations interspersed with time for us to chat, share our own views and reflect on the matters being covered.

“Now I have completed the course, the work begins.”

Liesl Garry, lives in Horsham, and worships at St John’s Church, Broadbridge Heath. She said: “It was a privilege to be a part of the first cohort of the ‘Care for Creation & Eco Church’ elective ALM. I owe a debt of gratitude to the guest speakers, for sharing their knowledge and experience with us all. To my fellow ALMs, thank you for sharing your own experiences, for your support and for doing the journey together. God bless you all.”

Karen Park, lives in Holbrook, worships at St Mark’s Church, Holbrook. She said: “The Care for Creation and Eco Church elective was excellent, I learnt so much from it and from the Mission elective which I did last year, as Creation Care was postponed. These courses complement each other well and I am thankful to be so well equipped for ministry by our Diocese.

“Now I have completed the course, the work begins.”

We were delighted that our tutor Rev Debbie Beer, and the new Diocesan Environment Officer, Rev Buff Forbes Stone, attended the commissioning service. We look forward to learning more and supporting each other as our Eco Church and Eco Diocese journeys continue.”

THE MISSION ENABLER ELECTIVE

Jaclyne (Jax) Colbert worships at St Peter’s Church in Brighton. She said: “With a heart dedicated to serving and reimagining church, God has blessed me with the ministry of recovery, lifting individuals out of addiction’s darkness. The Mission Enabler ALM module was inspiring and perfectly aligned with my calling. It humbles me to pioneer new ideas, envisioning a church suited to a changing world, and I am privileged to see this ministry acknowledged and valued.”

THE PREACHING ELECTIVE

Sheila Smith from St Andrew’s Church in Burgess Hill chose to do the Preaching elective because she wanted to share her knowledge and



Candidates from the Care for Creation and Eco Church with tutor Rev Debbie Beer and Bishop Ruth. From left to right: Karen Park, Liesl Garry, Bishop Ruth, Chris O’Riordan, Katy Trigg, Nicola Ferguson and Rev Debbie Beer.



Sheila and her fellow church members, Julia Brackenbury and Sue Gumbrell, all completed the Preaching electives.

understanding of Him with others. She said. “I love Jesus. He has always been faithful to me, especially through the difficult times.”

Sheila said, “For anyone wanting to start out in preaching, this module gives you some excellent guidance as well as an opportunity to meet and discuss things with people from a variety of different churchmanships.

“I, and I am sure my colleagues too, are looking forward to more opportunities to preach at church and to lead services. Hopefully, we will be able to help lighten the load of our new vicar who is navigating

the blending of two churches together – St Andrew’s and The Point. It is such an exciting time for us all as a new church family and we are looking forward to seeing what God will be doing in our lives.

“The service in the Cathedral was wonderful. We were supported by our clergy, family and members of our congregation. Bishop Ruth led a moving service and was very encouraging to us all in our new ministries.”

A full list of candidates and the electives they took have been posted on the Diocesan website news.



A milestone for women

THE 1994 FIVE PICTURED ABOVE WITH VANESSA BARON AND BISHOP RUTH ARE, LTOR: ERIKA HOWARD FROM SHOREHAM, AND SERVING AT SOUTHWICK CHURCH; DORIS STANIFORD, RETIRED AND SERVING AT EAST GRINSTEAD, SARAH CHAPMAN, NOW SERVING IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE; SHIRLEY FORD, RETIRED AND SERVING AT ST LUKE'S BRIGHTON; AND CAROLE WILLIAMS, RETIRED AND SERVING AT WESTHAM PARISH.

A moving service at Chichester Cathedral marked the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood.

The Bishop of Horsham Ruth Bushyager presided and the dean of women's ministry Helen Garratt preached the sermon.

She thanked the clergy for their partnership in the gospel, for encouragement and for championing the ministry of women.

She said: "The first witnesses of the resurrection were women. The right people at that time, entrusted with the news of that vital moment in history. Certainly not what was expected at the time, but just the right people at that particular time.

"Of course, the diverse communities that make up this diocese need different people for them so be encouraged. God is calling us with all our differences of backgrounds, gifts, race and age for those very diverse communities. Because the mission of God needs a diverse people of God in order to reach the people that he loves. And in fact, even greater diversity is still needed in the ministry of men and women in the church."

The Bishop of Chichester Dr Martin Warner thanked all the women clergy for their ministry, saying: "On behalf of the three bishop, - we love you and we are grateful to you for all that you bring to enrich the life of this diocese. For all that you bring to the people that you serve and all that you teach

us about knowing, loving and following Jesus Christ in the 21st century."

The first ordination of women in Chichester took place in East Grinstead. Five women who were ordained in 1994 formed a key part of the service and were applauded by the clergy who attended.

They were Erika Howard from Shoreham, serving at Southwick church; Sarah Chapman, now serving in Portsmouth Diocese; Shirley Ford, retired and serving at St Luke's Brighton; Doris Staniford, retired and serving at East Grinstead; and Carole Williams, retired and serving at Westham parish.

“The first witnesses of the resurrection were women. The right people at that time.

Doris celebrated 40 years in ministry in 2019. She said: “My parish priest told me women couldn’t be priests but he was sure God had something special for me. My father also said I could not be a priest as woman were not permitted to be a priest, but he encouraged me to go into nursing, which I did.”

Doris was licensed as a deaconess in 1979 in St Martin’s Brighton after four years of training by Bishop Eric Kemp. Because of her nursing background, in her last year she trained as a chaplain at St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London.

Doris has worked in many parishes across the Diocese of Chichester and held key roles in her career. Her first parish

was St Helen’s Hangleton where she played the organ and led Evensong as well. Three years later she was licensed to Durrington. While there she was one of the first women ordained priest at St Swithun’s church in East Grinstead by Bishop David Wilcox of Dorking.

While at Durrington Doris was appointed to the staff at Chichester Theological College. She held key roles across the diocese including as adviser for lay ministry which was then women’s ministry. She held that role until 2004.

Doris played a key role in the governance of the diocese and was a member of General Synod for 15 years. She was appointed by General Synod as a governor of St Stephen’s

House, Oxford. She was also on the committee of Church House Westminster and an Advisory Board for Ministry selector now known as BAP – Bishop’s Advisory Panel.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, it was no surprise that Doris took up flying and gained her pilot’s licence at Goodwood Airfield.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary, the cathedral is hosting a photographic exhibition of more than 30 self-portraits of the women who have served the diocese and continue to do so today.

The portraits will be on display alongside a booklet containing short reflections provided by the women on their ministry, daily life and guidance for those seeking to be part of the life of a church.

The exhibition will be on display until May 31 and is in the cathedral’s North Chapels.



A REASSURING INSIGHT INTO *Ordained Ministry*

EXPERT advice and encouragement was on hand at a vocation day for people to explore ordained ministry.

The event was hosted by the Diocese of Chichester in St Nicholas Church, Brighton, to help people from all traditions consider the privilege and demands of a calling to ordained ministry and to hear about the different contexts in which to serve.

Clergy were there to share their insights and experience. Rev Canon Rebecca Swyer spoke on wellbeing for clergy and their households and Rev Michael Turnbull spoke about hospital chaplaincy.

The audience also heard from Martha Mutikani, a self-supporting parish priest, Charlotte Dobson, a newly ordained priest, and Robert Norbury, an experienced parish priest. Those attending shared the Eucharist together and had lunch, where there was the opportunity to meet others in discernment and ask questions.

The event coincided with Vocations Sunday on April 21, an annual event intended to encourage individuals to consider what God might be calling them to.

The day was led by Father Robert Norbury, deputy diocesan director of ordinands, who said: "A vocation day was held at St Nicholas of Myra in Brighton for those exploring a possible calling to ordained ministry. Appropriately this was the day before Good Shepherd Sunday which has long been set apart by the Church as a particular time to pray for vocations and it was good to see nearly 30 people from across the diocese and from a breadth of ages, backgrounds and

traditions attend. It was encouraging to see how people were clearly engaged and encouraged by the talks."

Michelle Jordan, who attended from St John's Crawley, said: "I had a fantastic time at a vocations day. A range of speakers shared their journeys and offered personal advice based on their experiences. I've been grappling with the idea of balancing family life and ordination training but hearing about various paths and possibilities was incredibly reassuring. The friendly atmosphere and meeting others in a similar position to me made the experience even more enjoyable."

Claire Withams, from Holy Cross, Woodingdean, Brighton, also found it encouraging. She said: "I found all the speakers realistic and positive and they gave reassuring insights into different areas of ordained ministry."

"I left having made good connections with others and feeling excited about the next steps of the journey as I respond to God's call."

"It felt like the day came at exactly the right time and I am grateful for everyone who organised it, it has been so helpful."

Video stories of those recently ordained can be watched [here](#)



Praying for those to be ordained

THE BISHOP OF HORSHAM WILL BE ORDAINING THE FOLLOWING AS PRIEST
ON SATURDAY 8TH JUNE AT 3.00PM AT ST MARY'S, HORSHAM:

Susannah Anson

Clayton with Keymer

Dominic Desouza-Campbell

Ifield

Dave Green

St Wilfrid's Bognor

Tracey Flitcroft

Felpham

THE BISHOP OF HORSHAM WILL BE ORDAINING THE FOLLOWING AS PRIEST
ON SUNDAY 9TH JUNE AT 5.00PM AT ST JOHN'S MEADS, EASTBOURNE

Levison Kandi

Moulsecoomb with Bevendean and Coldean

James Lashwood

St Michael's, Eastbourne

Elly McKay-Smith

Hellingly & Upper Dicker and Brightling, Mountfield & Netherfield

Kate Middleton

St Matthias, Brighton

THE BISHOP OF LEWES WILL BE ORDAINING THE FOLLOWING AS PRIEST
ON SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 5.00PM AT ST SAVIOUR'S, EASTBOURNE

Richard Keeble

St Saviours and St Peter Eastbourne

Ben Scott

South Lancing & Sompting and Lancing with Coombes

Christopher Webster

All Saints, Eastbourn



Growing Faith

In order to support the strategic priorities of the Church of England, the Church Commissioners have made funds available to aid dioceses in their own strategic planning.

With this capacity funding, The Rev'd Jamie Gater was appointed to lead on the strategic development of children, youth and families ministry in the Diocese.

Jamie sat down with the editor to talk about his exciting new role, and his passion to see children and young people come to know, love and follow Jesus.

Ed: Jamie, welcome to your new role and thank you for finding time in your busy schedule to talk to me for Faith in Sussex

Jamie: Thank you for having me!

Ed: So, you're starting in a completely new job here at church house, how does that feel?

Jamie: It feels really exciting actually; the church commissioners and the diocese have identified this priority together, and it feels like this new role is really going to help us make a difference as we look towards the next diocesan strategy.

Ed: That's great to hear. To help our readers, could you explain what exactly is your job? Maybe let's start with your job title.

Jamie: Sure, I'm the Children, Youth and Families Strategy Officer, it's a half time post, fixed for three years, and funded by the central church.

Ed: Thank you for that, could you explain what you'll be doing?

Jamie: It's a really varied job, which I like. It's main purpose is to support the bishops in writing the youth, children and family strand of the next diocesan strategy. To do that, I'm tasked with finding out what works, considering the potential impact of various choices we might make, and then presenting that to the senior staff to help in their decision making.

Ed: I imagine that first bit, finding out what works, will be quite a big job; how do you think you'll go about that?

Jamie: I think you're right and ours is a large diocese. It's going to be important that we know exactly where we are now, so that we can effectively think about how we get to where we want to be. So my job is going to involve both looking at statistics, as well as talking with people across the diocese. There is lots we know about what's going on, but also plenty we want to find out. As one example, we know quite a bit about what partnership working is taking place between parishes and out 155 schools, but we don't have a good sense of what work our parishes are doing in county schools, independent schools and academies, simply because no one is asking. We're

"The senior leadership of the diocese have a big vision for children and youth work."

also aware that the Church of England's statistics aren't as detailed as we'd like, so we're working on ways to work with parishes to get some of that detail.

Ed: I would find it daunting, to do all that work and to try and present it in a sensible way to the bishops, I imagine that's quite unnerving?

Jamie: I can honestly say that it's a privilege to work with the teams that support the bishops, they really do have a passion to see our work with children and young people grow, which I also have, so that helps. But also, there is so much good work happening across the diocese, and so finding out the success stories that are out there, and reflecting on what works... I really enjoy that.

Ed: So, this is a half time post. Are you still in parish ministry?

Jamie: No, I'm also in parish ministry, about to be licensed as the new vicar of Forest Row, one of the few parishes which includes parts of both East and West Sussex. I'm really fortunate that the people there really support my diocesan role, so that's helpful.

Ed: Do you think that your parish job will help with your diocesan job?

Jamie: I think so. It helps to be able to go and talk with other clergy, and colleagues in youth work, children's work and schools from a place of genuine experience. My new parish doesn't yet have tonnes of youth work going on, so I'm on a journey of growth with other church leaders, I think that authenticity of experience helps.

Ed: Before we finish, is there anything else you wanted to say?

Jamie: I suppose the thing I would want people to know is that the senior leadership of the diocese have a big vision for children and youth work. There will soon be another round of funds being made available by the church commissioners and we have a desire to secure a good amount of that strategic funding, to be used to fund exciting growth projects across the diocese. It's a really exciting phase in the life of our household of faith, and I just feel very thankful for God's calling to serve in this way.

Towards Net Zero Carbon by 2030

Embracing the Fifth Mark of Mission

In November 2023, the Chichester Diocesan Synod voted to support the Church of England's milestone objectives for achieving net carbon zero by 2030. Since then, we have secured restricted funds from the National Church office to provide several part-time posts to enable us to do our part in working towards this national goal.

But why are we doing this? Steve Collins, our NZC Programme Manager, explains:

The fifth mark of mission states that as Christians, we are 'to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth', recognising that environmental issues and the state of the earth are not just the responsibility of scientists, ecologists, conservationists or so-called 'eco-warriors'. They are an integral part of what it means to live as followers of Christ, bearing witness to our belief that we are intertwined with one another, and the world God has created.

As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. To love God is to love all that he has made and created, and to love our neighbours as ourselves is to ensure that our actions and decisions are a force for good, not harm.

We cannot show love to God and neighbour without acting for the good of creation

Overview of Diocesan Approach to NZC

Our Diocesan NZC Action Plan broadly follows the approach of the National Church Route Map to NZC. During 2024 and 2025, this means that we will:

Communicate clearly, explaining the reasons for action, increasing awareness, knowledge, enthusiasm, and encouragement that reaching NZC is possible. Our communications will include signposting to sources of specialist advice and potential funding.

Gather good data to base decisions on how to best use our limited resources, and so we can track progress towards our target. We will be strategic, using data to focus efforts especially on the large, busy buildings such as schools and our busiest churches.

Implement pilots and quick wins. With funding from the National Church, we will be undertaking significant pilot projects with several church buildings and a vicarage. These will generate useful learning for future projects. We have also secured a significant government grant for decarbonization projects in three of our Voluntary Aided Schools.

What Can You Do as a Parish? Five Simple, Achievable Things

1. Register for A Rocha's Eco Church initiative. Eco Church provides a proven methodology and resources to enable your church to engage with the care of God's creation. Currently, 55 churches in our diocese have an Eco Church 'bronze award' or higher.
2. Encourage Eco and NZC enthusiasts in your church to join networks the diocese is developing that aim to provide encouragement and share information and learning between parishes.
3. Complete your Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) so you can track your carbon footprint and position yourself for accessing grant support.
4. Use the simple 'Practical Pathway to NZC for Churches' tool to help you identify small actions to help reduce your church's carbon footprint.
5. Commission an energy audit to equip your PCC to make informed decisions on your specific church's NZC journey.

Key Points of Contact in the Diocesan Team

Steve Collins, NZC

Programme Manager (shared with the dioceses of Guildford and Portsmouth)

Buff Stone, Diocesan Environmental Officer

Sarah Rogers (for support on completing EFTs)

Property Team (for Clergy Property)

Lisa Williamson, Diocesan Communications and Engagement Officer

On these pages, we share stories from our parishes and schools around the Diocese for useful learning and encouragement.

Stories from Parishes involved in Creation Care and NZC work....

West Grinstead

WEST GRINSTEAD: Revitalizing St. George's Church: A Model of Sustainable Partnership and Increased Community Engagement

St. George's Church in West Grinstead is a building of high architectural, archaeological, and historical significance, boasting fabric from every century of the Middle Ages, spanning from the eleventh to the sixteenth.

The church has coexisted with its roosting bats for many generations. However, bats became a particular nuisance following the reroofing of the church in the 1990s, presenting a problem in maintaining cleanliness and creating a welcoming atmosphere for the congregation and visitors.

A survey was conducted, identifying multiple species of bats including Natterer's, Noctule, Serotine, Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, and Brown Long-eared bats. To mitigate further damage,

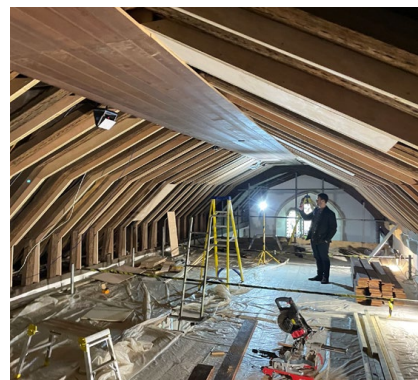
the church needed to find a satisfactory long-term solution. A proposal was developed with specialists appointed by the organization Bats in Churches, a partnership between Natural England, the Church of England, Historic England, and the Bat Conservation Trust. St. George's was fortunate to be selected as one of its major funding projects that year.

The solution involved an ingenious modification of the building. A timber ceiling of cedar was reinstated into the south transept, creating a spacious void for the Natterer's maternity roost. Despite an interruption due to COVID, the work was completed in 2022.

The outcome was a wildlife-friendly, environmentally conscious project that not only improved the habitat of the bats but also aided in the preservation of the church for future community use. Bats can no longer access the interior of the church, which is now free from bat mess, allowing the monuments to be fully visible.

Rev. Alison Letschka, the Rector of St. George's, commented, "The church is now more welcoming, warmer, and the lighting is improved, which has had a very positive impact on the number of visitors to the church and grounds, with many more groups, including the local primary school, now utilizing the church."

Although the project has concluded, the National Bat Helpline continues to offer free advice to places of worship. Additionally, the Bats in Churches Project website provides ongoing support and advice to churches in need of assistance regarding bats. For more information, visit www.batsinchurches.org.uk.



Brighton

How to Be Eco-Friendly in an Urban Church

Buff Stone the Diocesan Environment Officer was invited along to St Peter's Church Brighton, often referred to as Brighton's Cathedral, to talk about what the church is doing to be eco-friendly.

The church, and especially its tower, is an important part of

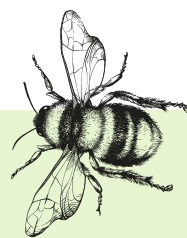
the city's architectural skyline, and this year it is planning celebrations for its 200 year anniversary.

Stuart, the buildings manager at St Peter's knows, as an ecologist, that using our buildings sustainably for the long term is part of living out our faith. He said: "Having an inviting and welcoming outdoor space, speaks to the

multitudes of people who pass by this iconic building. The visibility and status of St Peter's in the Brighton landscape also tells the story that the church is living and vibrant; facing the challenge of the environmental crisis is central to our faith and witnesses to all those in central Brighton who share this."



Who knew?



The wildlife around the church includes fox, peregrine and seagull!

There are bee hives on the roof. The honey is harvested and sold. Encouraging bees is vital to our food security and plans for more hives are in the pipeline.

Native hedgerow species are planted around the building. This increases habitat and improves damp problems in the building as well as improving the view of church grounds.

In connecting with the local environs the church has improved the way it now manages its biodiversity – this can be seen in maintaining grass verges, and planting more trees.

A few other ways the church is addressing its environment impact (now and planned for the future):

1. Harvesting rainwater for toilet flushing - is a future plan. This could mitigate low water pressure issues at certain times in Brighton.
2. More vertical bike racks - some are already installed.
3. We have LED lights and motion sensors which save money, and energy.
4. Underfloor heating – would be more efficient for a huge drafty building.
5. We're reusing discarded scaffolding boards to make furniture.
6. We're using a waste and recycling company, Recorra, who are 0% landfill, to commercially recycle our disposable compostable single use cups, and food waste.
7. The coffee grounds go to a church member's garden.
8. We use a 50% green gas supplier.
9. We are looking to install solar panels on the aisle roofs.



Chichester

St George's Whyke Holds Itself to a Greener Standard

St George's Church in Whyke has become passionate about ecological stewardship in Chichester. Their renewed focus on environmental issues, stemming from this year's parish Lent course, has set the stage for a transformative journey.

At the forefront of this movement is Sam Kelly, appointed as one of the parish's Eco Champions. Sam's tireless efforts – notably in her work with the Friends of St Mary's Churchyard, her helping to establish a community herb garden, and her advocacy for biodiversity – have been instrumental in driving change.

Sam is a professional ecologist specializing in protected species surveys and ecological impact assessment, with expertise in botany, as well as bat, dormouse, reptile, and native amphibian ecology. She also holds a qualification as a secondary school science teacher and is keen to engage people (especially children) in ecology and environmental matters. Not only does Sam give talks, run workshops, and training on ecological issues, she is also happy to offer support and share resources.

Already, with Sam's guidance, St George's has achieved the Bronze Eco Church Award,

“Eco Church isn't just a tick-box exercise; it's a profound call to action motivated by recognizing and celebrating the vital interconnectedness of all living things.”

marking a significant milestone in their eco-conscious endeavors.

Fr. Angus Reid, the vicar of St George's, envisions churches acting as local centres of environmental care and compassion. He emphasizes, “Our planet faces pressing issues, and many within our church are eager to prioritize environmental matters as central to our faith for the common good of all.”

“Our Bronze award, made possible by following A Rocha's Eco Church program, is just the beginning,” Fr. Angus adds. A Rocha, an organization committed to the restoration and protection of the natural world, provides the framework for St George's eco-initiatives.

The Eco Church survey, a cornerstone of their efforts, assesses and awards churches on their eco-friendly practices. With levels ranging from bronze to gold, the survey encourages churches to reflect on their environmental impact and take meaningful steps towards positive change.

Fr. Angus concludes, “Eco Church isn't just a tick-box exercise; it's a profound call to action motivated by recognizing and celebrating the vital interconnectedness of all living things. It empowers churches to integrate ecological responsibility into their daily operations, aligning with our Christian duty to care for God's creation.”

St George's, Whyke, hopes to join with the efforts of other parishes in charting how churches can act as beacons of hope for a greener future.



Worthing

Worthing Church Cash Boost Helps Community and Environment

St Matthew's Church in Worthing is a step closer to its carbon-neutral target thanks to a £10K grant from the Rampion Community Benefit Fund. The fund supports charities, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations to fund projects benefiting local communities and supporting the environment.

St Matthew's in Worthing, which supports local people struggling with poverty, hunger, loneliness, and addiction, was awarded £10,000 towards a Solar Photovoltaic (PV) project

to install 17 panels feeding two inverters, one for the church building and the other for the church hall.

Rev. Paul Taylor, the vicar at St Matthew's Church, said: "We are so grateful for the grant from the Rampion Community Fund that has enabled us to fit the new solar panels. This has supported our work as a community hub in the center of Worthing, as well as our aspiration to fulfill the Church of England's 2030 carbon neutral target."

Run by the Sussex Community Foundation, the fund has benefited 187 projects in Sussex with more than £2 million in

grants in the past seven years. Its 2023 report, published this week, shows £200,000 awarded to 27 projects last year.

"In both 2023 and 2024, we are particularly pleased to be able to allocate £100,000 for capital projects, improving community and charity buildings with renewable energy solutions and energy conservation initiatives," said Katie Scanlan, Rampion stakeholder and visitor center manager. "This focus ensures that charities and community groups can use more of their vital funds to directly support their local communities while reducing their carbon impact."

Education

School Funding Will Make a Huge Difference

The Chichester Diocese has been awarded a grant of over £530k to decarbonize heating systems in three of our voluntary-aided schools in West Sussex. This funding was awarded by Salix as part of the Public Sector Decarbonization Scheme 3c, which provides capital funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels in schools and other public sector buildings. In addition to the Government funding, £647k of Department for Education capital funding, administered by the diocese,

will be provided as match funding.

Heather Broadbent, Capital Assets Project Officer in the Education Team at the diocese, said, "We are delighted to have been successful with our bid for Public Sector Decarbonization Scheme funding. For us, it is a real step in moving our schools forward towards net zero carbon. The Church of England has an ambitious target to reach net zero carbon across our parish, cathedral, diocesan, and school estates by 2030, recognizing that we need to do our part in addressing climate change and its growing impact right across the world. We know that schools account

for 51% of carbon emissions in the Church of England estate, so improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions in our schools is a really important part of us reaching that target. This project will make a huge difference in these three schools, replacing aging heating systems with energy-efficient systems and greatly reducing their carbon emissions. Without the Public Sector Decarbonization Scheme grant, this just would not be possible."

The Public Sector Decarbonization Scheme is run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and delivered by Salix.

Work out your church's carbon footprint to help care for God's creation!

ENERGY FOOTPRINT TOOL



Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

Thank you to all the parishes that have completed their EFT. As at mid-May, only 23% of parishes have submitted their data. Every parish is asked to complete it by July 31.

The data you collect from the EFT will help you better understand your energy use and help inform future net zero action plans. If you do not enter your parish's data, then it's unlikely that you will be able to access grants to help you in your journey towards net zero. We all need to do our part in helping to reduce our CO₂ emissions.

Each parish needs to nominate one person to complete the EFT by July 31. Bishop Will has also sent each parish a letter outlining why this needs to be completed, and there are resources to help you, including a video - How to fill out the Energy Footprint Tool (from our Net Zero Carbon Programme Manager Steve Collins) which you can access [here](#). For further advice and support, contact Sarah Rogers.

2024 Green Church Awards Celebrate Environmental Initiatives

The Church Times is launching the 2024 Green Church Awards to recognize Christian organizations, communities, and schools actively addressing the environmental crisis.

The awards aim to highlight the impressive environmental strides made by churches of all denominations. These efforts include reducing carbon footprints, advocating for climate action, and fostering biodiversity.

The awards are a means of gathering these initiatives together and acknowledging the imaginative and sacrificial work done by many hundreds of churchgoers.

Organized in collaboration with the Church of England's environment program and partners such as A Rocha UK, the awards feature seven categories:

1. Green Building Award
2. Land and Nature Award
3. Congregation and Community Action
4. Green Champion Award

5. Training and Education Award

6. Green Health Award

7. Action on a Shoestring Award

The panel of judges will be looking for projects that have made a positive change in the past two years in buildings, outdoors, and in the community. A building project can be nominated even if it hasn't been completed, with as much information as possible about known and projected environmental impacts. A group can enter in one or more categories.

Entries are welcome until June 30, 2024. Shortlisted projects will be featured in the Church Times, with an awards ceremony slated for the following autumn during Creationtide.

Ecclesiastical Insurance, alongside other partners like A Rocha UK and Inspired Efficiency, supports the awards, emphasizing the importance of preserving churches from climate change and celebrating grassroots initiatives.

For further category details, follow the link to the Church Times article [here](#)

Nominate a project [here](#)

PARISH NEWS



A LITTLE TREASURE IS BLESSED

A replica of a medieval figure of Jesus has gone on show in the church from where the original was stolen more than ten years ago.

The Corpus figure of Christ, described as being “of exquisite craftsmanship”, is less than ten centimetres high.

It is a crowned figure of Christ, made in copper, hammered, engraved and originally enamelled and gilded.

It was discovered in the churchyard of Coombes Parish Church, Lancing, in 1877 and displayed high in the window arch of the church.

But in 2012 it was stolen and was not seen until four years later when it came to the

attention of West Mercia Police and was returned to the church.

The little figure originated in Limoges, a medieval centre for metalworking and enamelling, in the first half of the 13th century and is believed to have been forged for attachment to an altar or processional cross.

It was damaged but retained traces of the original gilding and tiny fragments of blue enamel on the loincloth.

The damage suggests it had “suffered some violence”, which may have been deliberate and could have links with the Reformation.

The original is on display in the treasury at Chichester Cathedral but now a replica has gone on show at Coombes Parish Church for all to see.

The church applied for permission from the Consistory Court to display it along with details of its history. Permission was granted and now, in a special service, it has been blessed by Bishop Will.

People can see the original at the Cathedral Treasury at Chichester Cathedral which is open daily and is free to enter.

HISTORIC OCCASION FOR ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

The Bishop of Lewes has blessed a church's foundation stone to mark the 100th anniversary of it being laid.

The Right Rev Will Hazlewood was at St Michael and All Angels in South Street, Lancing, for the centenary, following in the footsteps of one of his predecessors.

The stone was laid on March 18, 1924, by the then Bishop of Lewes Henry Southwell in a ceremony which marked the culmination of a 40-year wait since plans were first proposed for a new church in South Lancing.

Father Felix Smith, vicar of St Michael's, said: “We tried to follow as much of the original service as we could, so included

two hymns we know were sung 100 years ago and the same psalm but with a new setting by our organist and choirmaster Aedan Kerney.”

Bishop Hazlewood led a ceremony of thanksgiving and rededication of the stone, which is at the front of the church as it faces South Street.

Following the rededication of the stone, the bishop and congregation made their way into the church for a service of Holy Communion with special hymns and prayers.

An exhibition of photographs and newspaper cuttings from 1881, when a church was first proposed, up to the laying of the foundation stone was also on display.

Further centenary celebrations will include a visit from the Bishop of Chichester in December to mark the centenary of the consecration of the church and a musical event in September with the Boundstone Chorus and Worthing Salvation Army Band, compered by BBC Songs of Praise presenter Pam Rhodes.

It is also hoped to work with local schools and history groups to see how Lancing has changed over the past 100 years.





A VERY WARM WELCOME FROM VILLAGE CHURCH

NEW residents moving into Scaynes Hill are receiving a particularly warm welcome from the village church.

St Augustine's hands out special bags packed with useful items - including teabags and biscuits - aimed at helping people to settle in.

The gesture follows a community audit the church carried out in 2019 to better understand the needs of the community it serves. This coincided with

the construction of a new development of about 50 houses in Scaynes Hill.

One outcome was the creation and distribution of welcome packs for the new houses, aiming to extend a warm welcome to new residents.

Initially, the bags were delivered to those in the new development but the project was later expanded to include all new residents moving into Scaynes Hill.

The church received assistance from a Mission Project Team from St Augustine's College of Theology to produce the packs which are delivered in canvas shopping bags printed with the church logo.

The initial 60 bags were sponsored by a local preparatory school and contained the school's prospectus. Subsequent bags have been funded by a member of the congregation. Each bag, including printing costs, cost

£4.50 at that time. They are high quality and were printed locally by the Incredible Design Company (formerly CHEC), a social enterprise company.

The cotton tote bags bear the church logo and have a welcome tag attached to the handle. They contain:

St Augustine's folder including:

- Welcome leaflet with church and village information
- Enquiry card with contact details
- Map of the parish
- Children's work programme
- Youth work programme
- Flyers of current church events

Scaynes Hill Parish Magazine

St Augustine's Church keyring

Box of teabags

Packet of biscuits

Hope magazine from Good News for Everyone (formerly Gideons UK)

Map of local woodland

Vouchers for:

- Anchor Coffee Shop (run by the church)
- The village pub
- Garden Centre



During construction of the new houses the church collaborated with the developer to identify when properties became occupied. Now it keeps track of property sales in the village, often aided by residents informing it about new arrivals.

The church team aims to visit new residents as soon as possible to extend a welcome. Typically, the vicar Reverend Beverley Miles and the community outreach team co-ordinator Jenny Walker visit together but several others are involved in the project.

They have consistently received positive responses and people are usually surprised and delighted to receive the welcome pack.

One resident, Maureen, later mentioned at the church coffee shop that receiving the welcome pack made her feel optimistic about living in the area.

Amy, another new resident, said: "Receiving a welcome pack from Jenny and all at SASH (St Augustine's Scaynes Hill) was a wonderful surprise and made us feel very welcome in our new community.

"It was lovely to meet and chat with Jenny to establish our initial link with SASH. As a family, we have continued to enjoy the ministry and events at the church, including Funday Monday and Christmas services. The welcome pack was just the start of the wonderful hospitality and warm welcome we have received from SASH."

Welcoming newcomers with the packs has become a significant aspect of the church's engagement with the community and the project will continue as part of the church's mission and ministry.



ST PETER'S CHURCH IS AWARDED A £250,000 GRANT BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND TO HELP CELEBRATE 200-YEAR MILESTONE.

St Peter's Church, Brighton has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £250,000 for an exciting heritage project, One Moment in Time. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project focuses on celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of the church by engaging the community and restoring the building for generations to come.

Since the laying of its foundation stone on May 8, 1824, St Peter's has stood as a beacon of faith and a witness to the growth and transformation

of Brighton from a humble fishing town to a vibrant city. As the church approaches this significant milestone, it invites the community to join in commemorating 200 years of history and heritage with a series of engaging events and activities as well as further restoration works to the tower. The funding will enable the church to finally remove the scaffolding which has remained in situ since 2014.

"We are thrilled to mark this significant milestone in the history of St Peter's Church," said the Rev'd Daniel Millest, Vicar at St Peter's. "For 200

years, this sacred space has been a home for worship, a centre for community life, and a witness to the ever-changing story of Brighton. Thanks to The National Lottery players, this funding has enabled us to restore the building for generations to come. As we celebrate our bicentennial, we invite everyone to join us in honouring the past, embracing the present, and envisioning the future of St Peter's."

For more information about St Peter's Church and its bicentennial celebrations, please visit www.stpetersbrighton.org

NEW LARGER PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH BURGESS HILL IS CREATED

L to R are Flicity Davies, Bishop Ruth, Archdeacon Angela Martin and Will Kemp.

The launch of a significant new chapter at St Andrew's Church in Burgess Hill is an exciting development, uniting two churches with a shared history and vision for mission and ministry.

The collaboration between The Point Church, in mid-Sussex and St Andrew's Church is rooted in a history of support and sharing resources of all kinds for many years. St Andrew's originally sponsored the launch of The Point Church in 2004, and now, nearly two decades later, they are coming together as one community.

This blended family comes at a crucial time, where The Point Church, a Bishop's Mission Order, BMO, which had been renting space, was in need of a permanent home, while St Andrew's parish church was eager for new energy and vision for growth. The Deanery and Diocese are keen to resource mission into the vast new Brookleigh

housing development in the North of Burgess Hill, and this will now be possible from the strengthened size of the team and congregations at St Andrew's.

Under the leadership of Revd Will Kemp, the vicar of The Point since its inception, and with the support of Revd Felicity Davies, who was licensed as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St Andrew's, the blending process has been underway. The new team, officially licensed by Bishop Ruth, is now ready to embark on this journey together.

"The vision for the new St Andrew's is focused on love: loving Jesus, loving people, and loving the community of Burgess Hill and beyond, said Will Kemp. "Change always brings challenges. But this is an exciting opportunity to begin a new chapter of life and growth at St Andrew's as two churches become one church family"



With combined resources, staff, and volunteers, the church is poised to offer a wide range of programs and initiatives, including youth and children's activities, new Sunday services, and community outreach projects.

While change always brings challenges, this merger represents an exciting opportunity for growth and revitalisation. By joining forces, the new St Andrew's Church is positioned to have an even greater impact on the parish and beyond, embodying the love of Christ in all they do.



Lifesavers on the Clifftop

By David Farey (Volunteer Chaplain)

Our diocese boasts a beautiful coastline, ideal for walkers and sightseers, but sadly also attracting those contemplating ending their lives. Fortunately, the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team (BHCT) is there to help.

BHCT is a crisis intervention and search-and-rescue service dedicated to preventing suicides at Beachy Head. Patrolling a 4.5-mile area, they identify individuals displaying suicidal traits and engage them early, offering supportive listening and encouraging hope. Available every day of the year, the chaplains are committed and well-trained, ensuring sensitive approaches.

All chaplains belong to churches, integrating faith into their work. Their efforts have transformed lives, as evidenced by heartfelt testimonials:

“Thank you for saving my nephew’s life. My family and I are eternally grateful.”

“You found me writing a note in my car. I was pregnant and didn’t want to go on. My son is turning one soon, and he wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for you. Thank you.”

Suicides profoundly affect many people; one death impacts around 135 individuals. Tragically, around 1% of all UK suicides occur at Beachy Head, with an average of three incidents daily in 2023.

BHCT collaborates with Sussex Police and the Mental Health Triage Team, who provide ongoing support. Yet, everyone can help by simply greeting others. A small gesture can make a world of difference.

One chaplain, Mark, finds it a privilege to assist those at rock bottom: “Being there for someone when life has lost hope is a privilege.” As someone said, “Suicide doesn’t end the chances of life getting worse, it eliminates the possibility of it ever getting better.”

For more information on volunteering, visit www.bhct.org.uk or contact Karen at 07792 788606 or Karen. Elkington@bhct.org.uk

Chaplaincy in action

On the Front Line of Life and Death

Claire Withams worships at Holy Cross parish church in Woodingdean, Brighton. An authorised lay minister in the diocese, she serves as a chaplain at the Royal Sussex County Hospital and with the South East Coast Ambulance (Secamb) service. Both roles, she says, are an honor and a blessing.

“I have experienced so much in my time volunteering on the front lines of A&E and in ambulances,” Claire reflects. “It’s about serving God through action, love, words, prayers, and sometimes just a smile or eye contact.”

Claire’s journey into chaplaincy was one of faith. Trusting God to place her where needed, she believes the Holy Spirit guides her words and actions. Early in her service, she experienced significant events that highlighted the importance of her role.

On her first Secamb shift, New Year’s Eve outside A&E, Claire encountered a patient with a stab wound and severe mental health issues. Amidst the

chaos, she silently prayed for the staff and patient, helping paramedics calm the individual. It was her first glimpse into the challenging work of the ambulance teams.

Another shift involved an ambulance arriving at A&E on high alert. Claire felt compelled to approach the distressed relatives of a major trauma patient, offering support as they faced difficult decisions about life support. She led them to the hospital chapel for prayer before returning to assist the crews.

Recently, Claire joined an ambulance crew for a 12-hour shift. The first call was to a violent, drug-affected patient, followed by a C1 cardiac arrest emergency. In the ambulance, she prayed and prepared her pastoral service book and olive wood crosses. Upon arrival, she was asked to help with CPR. Without hesitation, she assisted the crew, witnessing her first death and offering prayers during and after the event.

Supporting the crew and relatives during this intense

experience underscored the profound impact of chaplaincy. “Being present as the patient passed away and delivering prayers while the relatives held the olive wood cross is something that will stay with me for life,” Claire shares. “To feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in that moment gives meaning and purpose to everything.”

While the rest of the day was less dramatic, involving patients with mental health or age-related issues, Claire felt fulfilled by the work. “Being on the front line of life and death, showing love and kindness to all we encountered, is truly God’s work in action.”

Claire is passionate about her calling. Whether delivering prayers, supporting suicidal patients, providing company to the elderly, or offering comfort during end-of-life care, she feels deeply fulfilled. “I am in exactly the right place at this time and am so thankful to God for this calling and vocation,” she concludes





THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT IN CHICHESTER IS ALIVE AND KICKING

Cursillo staff: Sue Bowman (Petworth) , Maggie Williams (Findon Valley) , Sue O'Neill (Pagham) ,
Revd Helena Buque, Revd Jane Roberts (Southwark) Stephen Lucas (Kirdford) and Iain Whitlam (Southwark)

Last month, members from churches across the Diocese attended a Cursillo Weekend at Wychcroft, the Conference and Retreat Centre for the Diocese of Southwark.

“Cursillo,” (Spanish for “Short Course”) begins with a three-day weekend to deepen our faith, featuring talks, reflections, group discussions, worship, and fellowship. This is the start of a journey into the “Fourth Day”—the rest of one’s life—supported by a new community.

Revd Helen Buque, vicar of Findon with Clapham and Patching, and the Spiritual Advisor for the weekend, shared her thoughts: “It is a joy and privilege to staff a Cursillo Weekend. It gifts us space away from frenetic activity, allowing us to lay aside our usual concerns and focus on our relationship with God. Cursillo invigorates and empowers our faith, making us more effective witnesses wherever God sends us. It’s an opportunity to live in community with like-minded

people. Watching strangers become friends and the family of Christ is a joy. It’s humbling to witness the Holy Spirit working through everyone, culminating in a powerful closing Eucharist. We discover our lives are rooted in God’s love and our mission is to help others realize the same.”

Maggie Sorton, a weekend attendee from Kirdford with Plaistow, recounted her experience: “I was persuaded by friends to attend the Cursillo weekend. Initially, I was reluctant and apprehensive, but on arrival, we were warmly greeted by the staff, who quickly put everyone at ease. Surprisingly, we gelled quickly as a group, sharing laughter, tears, prayers, fellowship, and ideas. The weekend was very special. I recommend it to anyone looking to deepen their faith and discover more about God and themselves. Go with an open mind and heart, ready to listen, learn, talk, and share. The hospitality was excellent; it was nice not to worry about meals for a few days.”

Lisa Williamson from St. John’s Church, Preston, Brighton, said: “Everyone should have the opportunity to attend a Cursillo Weekend. It’s a unique experience. We made friends, listened to talks, prayed together, sang a lot, attended daily Eucharist, and had the chance to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. The dedication from the staff team and the resources provided were evident. A highlight was knowing we were prayed for by other Cursillistas across the country, who sent messages of support called Palanca. It was humbling to receive so many beautiful messages and gifts.”

Cursillo has been a pivotal experience for many on their faith journey. Whether you are new to your faith or seeking deeper understanding, Cursillo may be just what you are looking for.

Cursillo in Chichester will be celebrating 25 years in 2025. More details of this and future dates of weekends will be featured in a future issue of Faith in Sussex



CHURCH SCHOOL MARKS GROUNDBREAKING CO₂ SAVING PROJECT

From left, Bishop of Lewes Will Hazlewood, Gary Dimmock, and Sir Jeremy Quin, MP and headteacher Giles Kolter, with pupils from the Eco Committee at St Peter's CE (Aided) Primary School Cowfold.

Bishop Will joined pupils, school governors and the local MP to celebrate the completion of a groundbreaking CO₂ saving project at St Peter's in Cowfold which will help protect the environment for generations to come.

The pump is part of energy savings work at the school largely funded by a grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The scheme is run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and delivered by Salix. An additional grant came from the Diocese of Chichester. The Diocese receives School Condition Allocation capital funding from the Department for Education to support building works in voluntary aided Church of England schools.

St Peter's was awarded funds from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to enable the project, with additional funds from The Diocese of Chichester and the School Trust.

As part of its day to day liturgy of worship and celebration, all of the children at Midhurst Primary School have been working on creating a School Prayer. All classes have worked on the prayer and together with the watchful eye of Rev. Marcus Collie, these have been combined to create one common School Prayer. The new School Prayer will be central in acts of communal worship.

Loving father, we thank you for our school, and all who work and learn here.

We thank you for all that makes our school special and pray that you will support and guide our teachers, leaders and support staff.

We pray that you will show us how to make our school a place of safe and fun learning, where each of us can make the most of our abilities so we can live life in all its fullness.



Bishop Ruth pictured with Rev Marcus and pupils commissioned the new school prayer and the specially designed candle, designed by pupils.



Berwick Church

An Oasis of Learning and Community

In April 2023, Berwick Church welcomed Catherine Marsh-Lewis as its new Education and Outreach Officer, thanks to a grant from the Diocesan Mission Fund. Catherine's efforts have secured visits from many schools and charities. There is a sense of a new ministry being breathed into the church which is reaching out beyond the parish, with many schools and charity groups being able to share this "thin space" where the creativity of the artists, the beauty of the natural surroundings and the historic continuity of worship combine in a unique and powerful way.

Catherine reported, "Since my appointment, we've had 30 visits from schools and charity groups. Twelve visits were from schools, ranging from a reception class to a sixth form college. We particularly aim to attract schools with a high proportion of children on free school meals, who might have had little access to the countryside and church and who might benefit from what we offer."

TAILORED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Each visit is tailored to the age group and the school's desired focus. Typically, a visit includes:

A talk about the church's history, its landscape setting, and its paintings.

Exploration of features, such as the Saxon font and the altar, and their role in worship.

Creative activities such as sketching and leaf printing.

A nature walk along the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path or exploration in the churchyard.

A moment of reflection and lighting of candles for those that wish to

Catherine said, “It has been a joy to share this gem of a church and witness the good it does to those who visit. The effect of its beauty and calm, together with the warmth of welcome from our volunteers, is always remarked upon.”

MEMORABLE MOMENTS AND FEEDBACK

Feedback from schools has been overwhelmingly positive, with every group saying they would like to return. Some have already.

- **A primary School in Eastbourne** (July 2023): The visit was described as a brilliant day, offering children experiences they may not have had otherwise. Some children had never been to the countryside before.
- **A primary school in Newhaven** (April 2023): The children loved their visit, engaging with the various activities and benefiting from a greater sense of the world around them.
- **DV8 Creative College** (June 2023): One student expressed feeling his stress disappear during a leaf-printing activity. Another student created a leaf print card for her hospitalized sister, opening up meaningful conversations.
- **Wriggle Room** (April 2023): Part of the Towner Gallery Early Years Programme, this artist residency allowed children to engage closely with artworks in a relaxed environment, which parents also appreciated.

“It has been a joy to share this gem of a church and witness the good it does to those who visit.”

COMMUNITY AND CHARITY ENGAGEMENT

Berwick Church has hosted eighteen visits from charities and community groups, including East Sussex Care for Young Carers and Blind Veterans UK. Family Support Work made two visits in the summer of 2023. Catherine noted that the church’s combination of beauty, calm, and warm volunteer welcome encourages repeat visits.

The input of Revd Canon Peter Blee, whose vision was the original driver for the outreach work, has been invaluable. Catherine reports that he is brilliant at using the paintings and the activities to encourage reflection on the nature of God’s love. Special thanks also go to volunteers, Liz Golden, Carol Palmer, Bronte Graham and Anna Correl, for helping lead the activities, preparing refreshments and creating a welcoming atmosphere with homemade cakes and flowers. Catherine emphasized, “We never underestimate the impact of a smile, a warm cup of tea, and a homemade cake.”

IMPACT ON THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

These outreach efforts have fostered a strong sense of unity within the church congregation. Members work together, each contributing their unique gifts. Catherine reflects, “It seems to me clear that God is very much at work here. We put a lot of thought into planning the events and ensuring a warm welcome – but simply by opening our doors and leaving the rest to God, that would be enough to make a difference.”

Contact Information

To arrange a visit, contact Catherine Marsh-Lewis at 07715 347625 or email outreach@berwickchurch.org.uk.

Mission Fund Grants

The Mission Fund, supported by The Benefact Trust, aims to support imaginative new forms of local mission or new developments of current mission. The Mission Fund Committee meets twice a year to administer the grants.

For more information, visit the Mission Fund page.

Feedback from schools has been overwhelmingly positive, with every group saying they would like to return.

Reviving Heritage

HISTORIC CHURCH PLANS FOR TOWN'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

One of Hastings' fastest-growing churches could soon attract a multi-million-pound heritage grant, boosting tourism and positively impacting the local economy.

Holy Trinity Hastings Church, centrally located, has secured an initial £479,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to develop the Heritage@HTH project. These initial funds will support a multi-disciplinary team in detailing plans for restoring the church's exterior and interior.

Upon completing this phase, the project team will apply for a full National Lottery grant of around £4 million to create a curated Heritage Experience for Hastings. Known in past decades as 'The Cathedral of Hastings,' the church has been on the Heritage at Risk register for years. Despite being a key town landmark, its stonework has eroded significantly, leading to a state of disrepair. This grant allows the church to draft fully costed plans for the next restoration stage and narrate the fascinating stories of its long heritage and people.

Jerry Hocking, who leads the heritage project at HTH Church, said, "We are thrilled to receive this development grant. The church holds remarkable heritage waiting to be discovered. The Heritage@HTH project will enable many people in Hastings to experience the cultural assets of the church and engage with its fascinating history."

This grant is the latest initiative to revitalize the church. In 2014, the church was relaunched with a vision to serve the young and non-religious. It now impacts over 500 people weekly through its Sunday services, youth and children's programs, and various community activities.

Simon Larkin, one of the church leaders, stated, "This is significant for the church. Over the past few years, we've built an amazing, loving community where everyone is welcome. This grant will not only help restore the building to its former glory but also make it more accessible, allowing more people to experience its extraordinary story."

"We would like to thank the Heritage Fund, the professional team whose passion for the Heritage potential of HTH Church resulted in a compelling grant application, and Hastings Commons for their support through the Trinity Triangle Action Zone, funded by Historic England."

Stuart McLeod, Director of England - London & South at The Heritage Fund, said, "We're proud to support churches that have been central to our communities for centuries. We see a movement towards using these spaces innovatively to engage more people and ensure a sustainable future. The project at HTH Church exemplifies this, and we look forward to working with the project team to apply for a full grant later."

Tom Foxall, Regional Director at Historic England, added, "This is excellent news for Hastings. The Lottery's funding will help deliver much-needed repairs to this significant building and create exciting opportunities for wider community involvement."

Look out for 'Heritage@HTH' project updates throughout 2024/25 at hthchurch.org.

HYMNS WITH REV NEVILLE MANNING

WE HAVE A GOSPEL

to proclaim

IT IS OFTEN interesting to discover who wrote the hymns we often sing and why. Our hymn this time, “We have a gospel to proclaim”, was written by Edward Joseph Burns. He was born in 1938 and came from Lancashire where he later ministered and prepared for ordination at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Ordained in the early 1960s he served in curacies in Lancashire and as Incumbent of Chorley, also becoming the Bishop of Blackburn’s adviser on hospital chaplaincies.

In 1968 the bishop issued a “call to mission” to awaken parishes. Edward Burns initially wrote the hymn “We have a gospel to proclaim” for his own Chorley Deanery as part of that call, though it came to be used more widely and is now included in several hymn books.

The opening verse reminds us that we do indeed have good news (gospel) to share with others. Like St Paul in one of his letters to the Corinthian Church “we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord” (2 Corinthians 4 v5). Someone has said the only way we can keep the gospel is to keep giving it away.

IN LONELY SUFFERING ON THE CROSS: FOR ALL HE LOVED, HIS LIFE HE GAVE

The verses in the hymn which follow highlight some key elements in that good news which we are entrusted to share. The second verse focuses on the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem in amazingly humble surroundings, “not is a royal house or hall”, with the reminder that the one born there is “the Word made flesh”.

The third verse goes straight to the Good Friday story with reference to Calvary and the sacrificial love we see there, “In lonely suffering on the cross: for all he loved, his life he gave”. Somebody’s death is not normally good news but this death is an exception.

The fourth verse moves on to the glory of Easter, “that glorious Easter morn”. The words point to the real triumph of Easter and the one who “broke the power of death and hell” and calls us to be partakers in that victory.

The fifth verse points us to two realities. One is the Kingship of Christ, “Tell of his reign at God’s right hand”, the reign of the King of love whose goodness faileth never. It also flags up the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift we celebrate at Pentecost, enabling us “to live for him, the Lamb who died”.

The final verse has the note of rejoicing at Jesus as “Lord of all the earth” with the final reminder that this is a message we are entrusted to proclaim. Sometimes hymns are one way in which we discover the depths of our Christian faith and Edward Burns’s hymn is one worthy example.

Some hymns have been sung to a variety of tunes. In the case of this hymn the only tune to which it seems to be sung is Fulda, composed by William Gardiner and first published in Sacred Melodies in 1815.

SIGN UP TO GET YOUR CHURCH NOTICED

CHRISTINA Hughes is a practising Christian and a sign maker with a business, Sign Management Ltd, in Chichester.

A key part of her work is supporting churches to improve their signage. She is often asked how we can use signage to communicate our mission and activities effectively and at the same time draw positive attention to our church. She shared her insight:

As church leaders and churchwardens, you understand the importance of making your church visible and welcoming to the community. Often churches blend into the background, overlooked by many except for special occasions like weddings, christenings and funerals. So how can you improve your church's visibility and draw positive attention to your mission and activities? The answer could be in your signage.

Churches are usually looking to improve their profile in the community and want to know how they can increase opportunities to be seen. My response is always the same: Be bold. Be proud of your church and use your signage to announce its presence. You have a huge blank canvas with a beautiful church building and surrounding grounds or churchyard, so it makes sense to use that canvas wisely.

The perception, often, is that a small sign will be enough, budgets are tight after all, but your sign and where it is positioned is your "shopfront", offering the casual passer-by a glimpse of what you have to offer as a church community. Your sign gives you a chance to shine a light on your church's mission and activities, the chance to extend a welcome to the curious passer-by who might just be harbouring a desire to find out more about faith, while also giving a cheerful greeting to your regular attenders.

You don't need a fancy strapline or a clever marketing statement to shine a light. Shining a light is about putting your church in the spotlight in the community. You will attract interest in what your church has to offer by presenting a welcoming and straightforward image which will say "come and explore. This is us, this is what we do, this is what we can offer. We're part of the community, we're here for you and we'd like to welcome you".

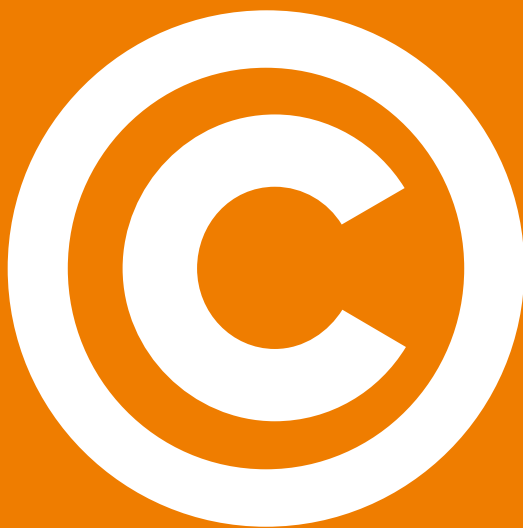
From good quality aluminium signs on posts with neat and tidy noticeboards to well-designed reusable banners advertising your church fair or your Christmas services signage can help to turn on the spotlight, open the church door, aid your mission and in turn support your ministry.

You can contact Sign Management Limited, on 01243 779991/07973 387830

anysignanywhere@aol.com
or find it on Facebook



Please get in touch with the Church Buildings Team about any permissions that may be needed.



BEWARE OF USING COPYRIGHTED IMAGES ONLINE

Many churches find themselves in copyright disputes after using images on websites and social media without the copyright holder's consent.

As this becomes increasingly common, it's important to ask whether your church is at risk.

Millions of images are available on the internet and there is a misconception that if they are free to view, they are free to use.

However, most cannot be freely republished and doing so puts churches and others at risk of legal consequences.

One common misunderstanding is that images are only protected under copyright laws if accompanied by a copyright

symbol. This is false. Copyright automatically applies to any original image. All forms of visual art, including photos, maps, paintings and sketches, are subject to copyright.

Copyright holders have the right to determine how their images are used. If their material is published without permission they can take legal action. Advances in search technology mean copyright holders can quickly find unauthorised usage.

For example, you might innocently include an image in your social media post, assuming it is fair game. But the copyright owner could discover your usage and issue a takedown notice or demand compensation. Ignorance will not shield you from

infringement claims. Even unintentional violations can harm your reputation and finances.

The best way to avoid claims is to use images you have created yourself or have permission to use. There are many free-to-use images online but always ensure you have permission for the ones you choose.

Several websites offer high-quality images free, with permission from the copyright holders. Two well-known sites are Pixabay and Unsplash.

Always verify permission before using images on your church website. If you are dealing with a claim, seek advice from the diocesan communication officer Lisa Williamson.



EMPOWERED MOTHERS UNITE FOR CHANGE

The four presidents, from left, Michele White, Karen Hill, Kathryn Anderson and Chris Emson.

Domestic abuse was among the subjects under discussion at a lively AGM for Chichester Mothers' Union.

There was a big turnout for the event held in St John's Church Preston in Brighton with vicar Emma Ham-Riche welcoming members from all corners of the diocese.

After official business, the day covered key forthcoming events and shared important resources for issues such as domestic abuse and "Love Matters", the report by the Archbishops'

Commission on Families and Households. The day ended with a Eucharist with special guest Mr Andrew Blackman C St J, Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex.

The day also recognised the 80th birthday and many years of service from Chris Emson, a former MU president. Chris attended with members of Rye MU and was presented with gifts and flowers.

The current MU president Karen Hills announced her successor, Michele White who takes over the role in January 2025. Also present was Kathryn Anderson, a former Chichester president and now Mothers' Union provincial president covering the southern region.

Karen said, "Over the last five years we have stabilised MU we are now ready to move forward and Michele is exactly the person to do this. I know you will hold her as you have held me in your prayers."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Kathryn Anderson gave a powerful talk on behalf of RISE UP, the Mothers' Union campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. The hope is for MU members and churches to work together to be a part of the change and become involved with the campaign's challenge.

RISE UP stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. You can find out more about it and resources to share in your church here or <https://www.mothersunion.org/riseup>

There are bronze, silver and gold awards for branches and churches which take part and complete various actions.

Kathryn said: "Every church or MU branch should be able to achieve bronze. It simply requires you to:

1. Put up a RISE UP poster raising awareness about domestic abuse in an appropriate public place such as in churches, toilets, community centres, village halls etc
2. Commit to pray for those affected by domestic abuse, including the victims, survivors, perpetrators and those who work in the field of domestic abuse
3. Make a connection with your local domestic abuse support organisation to see how you can support it.

LOVE MATTERS

Rev Emma Ham-Riche introduced Love Matters, an eight-page booklet which explores six themes featured in the report of the Archbishops' Commission on Families and Households.

It challenges church communities to think about practical steps to put the love taught and exemplified by Jesus Christs at the heart of their mission. It includes Bible passages and questions for discussion.

It is for use locally in parishes and deaneries. You can order the free resources for your church by emailing Professor Jan Walker.

Ninety miles for ninety years

Pam Brooks, from St Peter and St Paul's church in Rustington, has been a MU member for many years.

To celebrate her 90th birthday Pam will be embarking on an epic 90-mile walk along the Sussex coast from Selsey Bill in the west to Winchelsea Beach in the east.

Pam will tackle the feat from July 5 to July 16 with friends, walking nine legs over 12 days to raise funds for church projects in Burundi in Africa, one of the world's most impoverished nations. It is a place she and her husband Pat, a retired clergyman, have links with going back to 1957 when Pat first went out there with Church Mission Society.



They lived in Burundi till 1979 with their family and since retirement in 1993 visited every year over Lent until 2014. During these trips, Pam's passion for supporting local communities led her to explore the hills of Burundi, visiting projects initiated by Mothers' Union groups aimed at promoting literacy and income-generating activities.

She said: "I wanted to commemorate my birthday in a meaningful way, but the thought of extreme activities like skydiving or cliff abseiling didn't resonate with me. Instead, I invite others to join me as we explore the breathtaking Sussex coastline together."

Pam is raising funds to support the literacy and financial education programme of the Mothers' Union in Burundi. Her walk will be dedicated to the memory of her friend Pelagie Simbinuba, the much-loved Mothers' Union leader in Matana Diocese who died earlier this year while visiting family in Canada.

You can sponsor Pam at www.justgiving.com by searching for "Jeremy Brooks" or visit this link [here](#)

NEW FACE AT THE HELM OF FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

RICHARD Bickersteth has been appointed chairman of trustees for Family Support Work and will take over from Alyson Heath who is standing down at this year's AGM after serving her full nine-year term. They give their thoughts as they prepare for the change.

A CHAT WITH ALYSON HEATH

What has given you the most enjoyment during your time in the chair?

Working alongside so many committed trustees and especially meeting our volunteers and deanery committees who work tirelessly for FSW. However, it is the work of the FSW team whose determination to do their very best enables our practitioners to work with families and support them through difficult times.

Is there anything you wish FSW had done but didn't, or had done differently?

No, I think every decision that has been made has been carefully prayed about and thought through keeping our families at the centre of all we do.



Which four words describe FSW over the last nine years?

Growth, commitment, energy, resilience.

What advice would you give to Richard?

Get to meet as many members of the committees/volunteers as you can. Have a good listening ear and be a good critical friend.





A CHAT WITH RICHARD BICKERSTETH

Richard was appointed by the Bishop of Chichester, serving as president of the Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work. He was last year's High Sheriff of East Sussex and worked in the toys and games industry and children's television before returning to Ashburnham where he is now based.

Why did you accept the Bishop's invitation to become chairman?

I have a strong commitment to young people and family life, both of which are under a whole new set of pressures today. My wife Rachel and I have been Bishop's Champions of Family Support Work for some five years and the more we have seen of FSW's work the more impressed we have been by all they do. So it is an honour to have been invited to join the board of trustees at this time and to serve FSW in this way.

What do you see as the biggest challenge?

If they have not read it, I encourage your readers to read the impressive Sussex

Community Foundation report "Tackling Poverty Sussex Uncovered" as that highlights socio-economic factors including financial hardship, long-term illness and deprivation in coastal communities all of which compound the challenges on many families with children. That is driving up demand for FSW's work while at the same time, as these factors affect everyone, it can increase our challenge of raising the funds needed for that increasing demand.

What are you most looking forward to?

As I mentioned I have enjoyed being a Bishop's Champion for FSW and so getting to know all the staff, supporters and volunteers even better will be great. Also seeing the joy on the faces of the parents and children when they go on FSW-organised events such as the activity sessions, teddy bears' picnics and other school holiday activities will be fabulous. The impact that these have on the families FSW supports moves one to tears.

What do you think you will learn from your time in the role?

The first thing, which I have already learnt, is how amazing my predecessor Alyson Heath has been. She has steered FSW through many changes and hands over an organisation in good heart. Secondly, I hope to learn more about how Jesus cares for all those FSW

supports. Given my Christian faith I know how much he loves me but many feel unknown, uncared for by our society and in a way FSW are the "hands of Jesus" who reach out to those others forget or no longer have the time to care for. May we learn never to stop supporting them in their time of need, as He never stops caring for us.

Richard has a longstanding involvement with various local charities as a trustee and played a pivotal role in establishing the Rural Officer for East Sussex in collaboration with The Ashburnham Thanksgiving Trust and the Diocese of Chichester.

He currently chairs the East Sussex Prayer Breakfast, is patron of the Penhurst Retreat Centre and has been a dedicated Bishop's Champion of Family Support Work for five years.

The Chichester Diocesan Association for Family Support Work has been supporting families in need across Sussex since 1890. The organisation offers both emotional and practical assistance to families experiencing challenging circumstances through a network of dedicated family support practitioners. In 2023-24, FSW supported 782 families in crisis, offering assistance to 2,805 children and 2,065 adults.

For further information, visit www.familysupportwork.org call 01273 832963 or email admin@familysupportwork.org.uk.



Six Steps Into The Bible

Inspired by the Diocesan Lent Courses on the Bible, Canon Peter Sills decided to write a follow-up course for those who would like to take their study of the Bible a bit deeper. *Six Steps Into The Bible* is the result. It shows how the scriptures evolved; how the Old and New Testaments relate to one another; and how ideas about God, Jesus and salvation developed over time. It explores major biblical themes like covenant, righteousness and hope, and how its moral teaching applies to contemporary issues.

Six Steps was trialled in the Beacon Parish of Ditchling, Streat and Westmeston. The Vicar, the Revd David Wallis, writes:

"This is the book I have been looking for!"

"*Six Steps into the Bible* is a gem that has brought alive God's Word for us in the Beacon Parish where we have used it as a group study course. It challenges, surprises, inspires, questions and affirms, as it invites the reader to step into scripture.

"There were many in our group who were unconfident about picking up the bible, not knowing where to begin and

how to interpret its message into modern life. *Six Steps* has radically changed their hesitancy and reluctance into enthusiasm and has created in them an appetite to keep on exploring the bible. The approach of the book is 'refreshingly serious', in that it doesn't shy away from academic thought and serious theology, while at the same time helping the reader with its clear language and expertly crafted content."

For Kylie Sanderson following the course was a journey of discovery:

"As a new arrival to the Beacon parish I leapt at the chance to join the group studying *Six Steps into the Bible*. Meeting every Wednesday in Lent, then, by popular demand, extending to the end of April, Peter guided us through an understanding of the Bible – its historical context, the different styles of writing, how the canon was edited and compiled, and what it says about God and Jesus and the basic Christian beliefs.

"This was very new to me. The idea that the Bible is not a textbook but a map came as a shock, then a revelation: it all began to make sense. Suddenly the beauty of the parable of

the mustard seed and powerful metaphor of Ezekiel's good shepherd became apparent. *Six Steps* opened all our eyes to a new, more fluid understanding of the Bible; as Carl said: 'It deepened my faith in a way that current religious practice does not enable.'

Six Steps is 'heartily recommended' by Bishop Richard Jackson: "A splendid achievement and an inspiration for continued study and meditation."

Six Steps Into The Bible is published by Peter Sills Books (ISBN: 978-1-8381050-5-1). For details of the contents, further reviews and comments, and to order copies (£19.99+p&p/£17.99 for parish orders of 8+ copies) go to Canon Peter's website: www.peter-sills.co.uk/courses. *Six Steps* can also be obtained from St Olav Christian Bookshop, North Street, Chichester, and Books Alive, 86 Elm Drive, Hove. If you would like Canon Peter to talk about the course, email him at: peter@peter-sills.co.uk.

Some friends who were walking the Way asked, 'Is the Bible true for today?' In *Six Steps* they cracked it; no longer distracted, they continued their journey for ay!

BOOKS AND REVIEWS



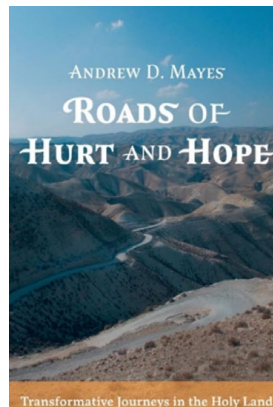
JOURNEYING TOGETHER - A JOINT AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By John & Anne Twisleton

Reviewed by Cavan Wood, Reader at All Saints, Lindfield

Subtitled ‘a joint autobiography’, this is the tale of two people who have faced great challenges in their lives both together and apart. John was a priest in a coalfield area in the middle of the Miners Strike in the 1980s. Anne, called to be missionary and newly married found herself suddenly widowed. The Anglo-Catholic Priest and the Evangelical widow were to become husband and wife - love can bring people to each other across the barriers and instead build a bridge of understanding. They have had to navigate many personal challenges in their married and family life. The most recent of these has been the challenge of the Alzheimer’s disease that Anne is experiencing and John is learning daily to support. Their Christian faith and love for each other shines through in this moving account. What makes this book even more special is that about a third of it is Anne’s art, which tells their story in another way, in the vibrant pictures and drawings. The writer Charles Taliaferro first used the phrase ‘the ordinary is the extraordinary’ and this book of lived Christian experience and love in action shows that in abundance.

Amazon 2023 £9.99 ISBN 979-8860972223 170pp



ROADS OF HURT AND HOPE- TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEYS IN THE HOLY LAND

By Andrew Mayes

Reviewed by Revd John Twisleton

Roads of Hurt and Hope’ is a short, readable book serving to remind its readers of the human and Christian realities of suffering and the supernatural woven into our lives through faith which help form discipleship. It is a powerful reminder of Christian basics and how to hold to these. In heartfelt words Andrew Mayes paints a picture of hurt from the Holy Land where he has lived and taught and prayed over the years. An experienced spiritual director in the best Anglocatholic tradition the author draws from wisdom across the whole Church in seeking to draw people into a transformative walk with God. Subtitled ‘transformative journeys in the Holy Land’ the book builds both from Andrew’s spiritual acumen and his knowledge, literally, of the ground, hopeful ground that is holy yet hurting.

Resource Publications 2024 £11 ISBN-13 979-8385209 78pp

Cathedral News

Celebrating 950 years of
Christian Faith in 2025

Vanessa Baron is the Canon Residentiary and Treasurer at Chichester Cathedral. She has been tasked with leading an exhibition - creating a journey through time - to capture the essence of the cathedral's 950 years of Christian Faith which takes place next year.

On these pages Vanessa shares the vision, describing how the 950th anniversary is not just a milestone in the Cathedral's history, it also marks a pivotal moment in the journey of faith that has shaped our community for nearly a millennium.

2025 holds a special significance as we commemorate the 950th anniversary since the Cathedral's historic move from Selsey to Chichester

"From February to November 2025, the Cathedral will host an exhibition on the theme, 'This is our Faith.' We want you to join us as we honour our shared Christian heritage and reflect on its enduring significance in our lives today. But we need your help to bring this exhibition to life."

"We are inviting the parishes of the Diocese to join us in telling the story of our faith—sharing the tales of heroes and heroines who have inspired us, uncovering the intriguing memorabilia that speaks volumes of our Christian heritage, and revealing the treasures hidden within our churches and homes.

We want you to join us as we honour our shared Christian heritage and reflect on its enduring significance in our lives today.

Moreover, 2025 coincides with the Diocesan Year of Faith, commemorating 1700 years since the Council of Nicea—an event that profoundly shaped the landscape of Christian belief. Throughout the year, we will join in celebration across the Diocese, honouring our shared faith journey.

We invite you to consider the following themes and report back to us:

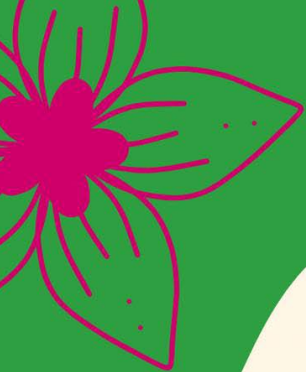
Reflect on the last 950 years of Christian faith in the Diocese of Chichester. Do you have heroes or heroines whose stories resonate with you? Perhaps it's the courage of St. Wilfrid in the 7th century or the unwavering faith of those who have left a lasting legacy in your parish.

Explore the unique commemorations within your church—discover the stories behind unusual artifacts or memorials that capture the essence of Christian faith. Each artifact holds a testament to the enduring power of faith.

Unearth the Christian memorabilia tucked away in your house or church—share the treasures that hold a special place in your heart, from wartime relics to cherished family heirlooms imbued with prayers and scripture. Perhaps you have a pocket Gospel handed to a soldier on the beach at Dunkirk or a medieval pilgrim badge. Do you have a cookery book in which someone has written prayers or a child's sampler with verses from Scripture?

If your church holds any medieval manuscripts, missals, pilgrim badges, Tudor or Stuart Bibles—let us know! These will enrich our exhibition, offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of our Christian heritage.

Join us as we embark on this extraordinary journey of discovery and celebration together, uniting to honour the faith that has shaped our lives and community both in the past and for years to come.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE
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