

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



Learning about Remembrance Day.

Arundel Church of England Primary School pupils express their creativity whilst learning about the poppy as symbol of remembrance, hope and resilience after the first world war.

IN THANKS FOR THEIR SERVICE

/10 - 15

Lay people invested with the Order of St Richard

GROWING CHURCHES

/20

Read how Children and Youth work grows churches

GREEN GYM AT CHURCH

/25

Read about the eco-friendly church at St Leonard's



Find out more at
**Churchofengland.org/
CalmAndBright**





What does Christian faith look like in Sussex?

The Church of England expression of this is unashamedly church-shaped. That is to say, there is a building you can go to, where you will experience Christian faith in the mystery of worship.

This will be an unusual experience for the overwhelming majority of people. But we hope it will be a really good and safe experience of something serious and irreducible, which enriches the lives of those who take it seriously.

That is the public expression of the practice of faith. The application of that faith can also be seen elsewhere: in Church schools, for example, giving the very best free education that we can deliver, to nearly 40 thousand pupils. Some of the large independent school also build their educational standards on Christian faith.

This faith is also evident in voluntary work with young people and families, just as it is seen in Christian ministry in prisons, hospitals, the armed forces, and the emergency services.

And then there is the individual practice of faith that is seen in the vastly different ways that thousands of ordinary people live their Christians lives. They give priority to the call of Jesus Christ to subvert the worldly values of self-interest, in order to offer the recovery of hope, justice and dignity when it has been lost, together with a renewed delight in being alive.

The Order of St Richard is one way of identifying those people who demonstrate in some remarkable way what this Christian faith looks like in Sussex. The annual award of membership of the Order of St Richard is a powerful reminder of the persistence of Christian faith in Sussex.

Congratulations, and thank you, to those who are this year's recipients. You are an encouragement and an inspiration to us all.

+Martin

COMING SOON

Chichester 950 Celebrating Faith



LIFE
by *Luxmuralis*

30th October - 2nd November

BOOK NOW at stpetersbrighton.org





200 YEARS OF HERITAGE AND MISSION /32

Church celebrates with light show



GET YOUR CHURCH WINTER READY /32

Tips from the building team



GIFTS OF LOVE /32

Is your church legacy ready?



FAITH IN RECOVERY /46-47

Read how one person overcame her addictions to help others

CONTENTS

- 6-9 News
- 10-15 In thanks for their service
- 16-17 Discover your calling
- 18-19 A celebration of Readers' ministry
- 20 Diocese wins funding for growing faith
- 21 Youth ministry is thriving
- 22-23 Maycamp news
- 24-29 Eco news
- 30-36 Parish news
- 37 Tips for preparing your church building for winter
- 38 Making a Parish Share pledge
- 39 Leaving the generous gift of love
- 40 Support for studies overseas
- 41 Hymns unpacked
- 42-43 Modern slavery ambassadors
- 44 News from The Childrens Society
- 45 A dedicated servant steps down
- 46-47 From spiritual bankruptcy to divine restoration
- 48-49 Family support work news
- 50 A prayer for Sussex
- 51 Books and reviews
- 52-53 Cathedral news

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

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

Faith in Sussex magazine is published in conjunction with the weekly e-bulletin.

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

Editorial Support: Kate Parkin

Pictures: Thank you for all the photo contributions and Russell Sach

Design: kaufcreative.com

Contact us

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

Switchboard: 01273 421021

Fax: 01273 421041



www.chichester.anglican.org



Chichester Diocese



@Chichesterdio



Diocese of Chichester

NEWS

Year of Faith - 2025 a year full of promise for the future

Next year marks the 950th anniversary of the re-establishment of the diocese in Chichester and the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the forming of our Creed.

Plans to celebrate these historic events in our Diocese are gaining momentum as the official launch date of Advent Sunday approaches.

A series of events covering various aspects of diocesan life are already at advanced stages of planning in anticipation of the launch date. The Bishop of Chichester told Faith in Sussex that he was delighted with the imagination and energy shown by a wide range of people and groups tasked with rolling out the vision: "Bishops Ruth and Will have taken the lead from the start and I am really excited about the plans being put in place. "We intend this to be a celebration of our inheritance of faith, as the foundation for our confidence in the mission that will unfold into the future," said the Bishop.

Chichester Cathedral will play a central role throughout the year, hosting various events and pilgrimages – a real opportunity for the new Dean of Chichester and his team as the events unfold throughout the Christian year.

Parishes will be encouraged to take a leading part in a variety of ways. Beginning in January, each deanery will host an anniversary event and there will be an exhibition at the Cathedral early in the year.

The 2025 Lent Course will focus on the Nicene Creed, taking up the themes of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, the catholic church and the life of the world to come. Contributions offered by experts in the

various subjects will be supplemented by easily accessible podcasts hosted by the Bishop.

The theme of Pilgrimage will cut across many aspects of the year. Families and young people will also be encouraged to book into the planned family camps, and there will be parish pilgrimages to the Cathedral which can be booked now.

June will feature a range of marquee events in and around the Bishop's Palace and a Cathedral Street party on 15th June will mark Trinity Sunday, to which the Cathedral is dedicated. Church schools across the diocese will also take part in the year of celebration, and the Board of Education is coordinating plans so that teachers, parents and young people can share.

A conference on the Creed in late June, organised by the Ecclesiastical Law Society, will feature a historic visit by the Ecumenical Patriarch. In September, there is to be a Clergy conference in Canterbury with a full exciting programme in the final stages of planning. Finally, on Advent Sunday in 2025, every individual will be encouraged to solemnly recite the Nicene Creed prayerfully, in church together with others or individually at home or wherever they are to mark the start of the special year.

A short video will be made available to be shown in all churches and wherever appropriate from Advent Sunday this year. Visit the designated website to see how plans are coming together:

<https://celebratingfaith.co.uk/>

New Canons

Bishop Martin appointed six new Honorary Canons of Chichester Cathedral. The appointments have been made in recognition of the contributions they make to the apostolic life of the diocese. The new Canons were each given a designated stall, which is theirs to occupy for the duration of their canony.



The Revd Andrew Woodward, Vicar of St Mary's, Kempton and Bishop's Liaison Officer for the LGBTQI Communities, to the Stall of the Prebendary of Thorney • The Revd Julie Sear, Rector of Hartfield with Coleman's Hatch (soon to be also Priest in Charge of Cowden) and Rural Dean of Rotherfield, to the Stall of the Prebendary of Somerley • The Revd Dr Earl Collins, Vicar of St John's Hove and Diocesan Continual Ministerial Development Officer, to the Stall of Bursalis Prebendary.



The Revd Justin White, Senior Provost of Woodard Schools, to the Stall of the Prebendary of Seaford • The Revd Peter Blee, Rector of Arlington, Berwick, Selmeaton with Alciston and Wilmington, to the Stall of the Prebendary of Sidlesham • The Revd Dr Godfrey Kesari, Vicar of Southwater, Diocesan Racial Justice Officer, and Diocesan Interfaith Adviser, to the Stall of the Prebendary of Selsey.



Celebration of American Thanksgiving

The Cathedral will be holding an American Thanksgiving service at 5.30pm on Thursday 28th November. Chichester Cathedral American Patrons was launched to celebrate the many connections that exist between Sussex and North America

After the service, guests will be invited to remain for drinks and see some of the Cathedral's historic artefacts which have special links to America. All are welcome. To reserve seating in the Cathedral's historic 12th-century Quire, please email: trustsvp@chichestercathedral.org.uk

Ride and Stride 2024

Sussex Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) annual Ride and Stride event in September not only raises crucial funds for church repairs and restorations across Sussex but also offers participants a unique opportunity to explore the county's rich ecclesiastical heritage and stunning landscapes.

This year, SHCT asked churches to think of innovative ways to raise funds. Winchelsea raised an incredible £2,586.40, mostly from an attic sale which alone raised £2,056, paid by a mixture of cash and contactless and QR transactions. St Michael's Southwick doubled its funds by holding a film show event.

If ever there was a need to encourage parishes to get involved in the event in 2025, it is this – SHCT made grants to four churches in September in excess of £45K, on top of grants made to churches in April of £51K. September 2024 grants:

- St Peter's Church Brighton for work on the church tower: £10,000
- St Leonard's Church Aldrington for their steeple ladder: £5,000
- St Mary's Pulborough for urgent work to the church tower: £18,000 (biggest grant in the Trust's history)
- All Saints' Church Hastings for the south porch roof and gutters: £12,000

Our Lady of Walsingham Festival at Boxgrove Priory

A joyful time of fellowship was had by all who took part in Our Lady of Walsingham Festival at Boxgrove Priory in September with Mass, healing ministries, and great speakers.

Paul Sanderson MBE, chaplain from The Woodard Academy in Lancing and Alex Bird, Operations Manager at Horsham Matters, both reflected on how Mary's words 'My soul magnifies the Lord' can and should have a part in our own lives today.

There was music, prayers, singing and a lovely lunch with Bishop Will. This joy-filled day of Christian celebration at Boxgrove Priory ended with Benediction.



Harvest Blessings at St George's Church

During the Harvest Festival at St George's Church in Whyke, West Sussex, a new lawn mower was blessed. Fr. Angus Read said, "We celebrated our harvest festival and blessed donations for the food bank. This was also the perfect opportunity to bless the new lawn mower, which was made possible by generous contributions from our congregation. It was a wonderful festival, and our talented J-Team created beautiful natural gifts using woven willow."

Earlier in September, the church hosted a well-attended Harvest Fair and Produce Show, where local participants showcased a variety of produce and homemade items, including cakes and needlework, with prizes awarded to the winners.



IN THANKS FOR THEIR SERVICE

FORTY lay people from churches across Sussex were welcomed into the Order of St Richard during a ceremony at Chichester Cathedral.

The Order of St Richard Awards were launched in 2019 by Bishop Martin in recognition of exceptional Christian service in deaneries, parishes and local communities. Each recipient is nominated by their parish clergy and one other supporting person in the parish.

Many of those receiving awards were at the ceremony, travelling from parishes in the east and west of the diocese with friends and supporters from their churches. The Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood, welcomed them and presented each one with a lapel badge and certificate.

He said: "What a privilege it is to play a part in the service as we recognise and celebrate the inspiring work of those from across the diocese awarded the Order of St Richard. They, like the Saints who have gone before us remind us of Jesus' call to serve which is the natural outpouring of the Grace freely given to each of us at Baptism".



Alan Thurlow

St George's, Donnington (Chichester)

Alan Thurlow, from St George's, Donnington (Chichester), was thrilled and honoured to receive the invitation to accept the Order of St Richard Award. He said: "My appointment as organist of Chichester Cathedral in 1980 has given me the opportunity of spending over half of my life in what my wife Tine and have come to regard as our home.

"Along the way I have been very fortunate in having the opportunity to serve the diocese as a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and also as organ adviser. Through this I have come to know a great many of our churches, along with the devoted incumbents, churchwardens and PCC members who care so passionately about the maintenance of their fine and often historic churches.

"It has been a real privilege to spend my life doing what is really my hobby."



John Durrant

St Swithun's (East Grinstead)

John Durrant from St Swithun's, East Grinstead, said: "I feel very honoured to receive the Order of St Richard. It was a complete surprise to be nominated. I am aged 79 and have been involved in the life of St Swithun's for 47 years. I have served twice as churchwarden and PCC secretary. I have been a reader for 26 years, serving on the then Diocesan Readers' Committee as archdeaconry secretary for Horsham for 12 years.

"Outside the parish I currently participate in the Prison Fellowship Sycamore Tree Restorative Course at HMP Lewes as a course facilitator, East Grinstead Street Pastors and as a school governor.

"As my faith is particularly important to me, I have been pleased to serve the Church in its many activities including those in the wider community over many years."





Alyson Heath

St Mary's (Pulborough)

Alyson Heath has worshipped at St Mary's Pulborough for 43 years and has been a member of the PCC for over 20 years as well as serving as a churchwarden for the past seven. She is a retired headteacher of the local Church of England Primary School and a former member of the Chichester Diocesan Board of Education.

She said it had been a real honour to be head of the local church school for 13 years and for the church and school to be centre of the community.

Although she retired from her role as chairwoman of trustees of Family Support Work, Alyson is still very active in her community. She chairs the local Deanery Storrington Group and leads on Fairtrade and Christian Aid at her church as well as supporting the eco church and children's initiatives.

She also chairs a charity called Education West Africa, which supports church schools in Sierra Leone. St Mary's Church and St Mary's school maintain a strong link with the school in Kenema Sierra Leone.

Alyson said: "It was very humbling to receive this award and I feel honoured to have had my name put forward as so many people in our church give so willingly and generously of their time, energy and expertise."



Bryan Gibson
Dallington Deanery

Bryan Gibson, from Dallington Deanery, moved to East Sussex with his family at the end of 1978 when he retired from the Royal Navy in the rank of commander. He joined the congregation of St John the Evangelist in Bodle Street Green where he has worshipped ever since. In the Nineties he started playing the organ on an occasional basis, becoming the organist in 2004 and still playing for services today in his 80s.

He was awarded an MBE in the 2003 New Year Honours for services to engineering. He is a Freeman of the City of London and Master of The Worshipful Company of Engineers 2006/07.

Bryan joined the PCC in 2000, becoming treasurer from 2005 until 2020. He was the Dallington Deanery treasurer for seven years and also supported his late wife who was a churchwarden for 20 years. He continues on the PCC as a Dallington Deanery representative.

Bryan said: "St John's has been a major part of my life for well over 40 years and I have greatly valued the support of the clergy and the congregation through many good times and especially in difficult moments. I am humbled by the award which I also see as recognition of all the help I have received from within the church."



Robert Atkins
All Saint's (Crawley Down)

Robert Atkins first connected with All Saints Church, Crawley Down, in 1952 when he started at the village Church of England School and then the Sunday School run by sisters Mrs Lucking and Miss Body. He joined the children's choir in 1958, a new venture set up by the vicar at the time Rev Blakeway-Philips, and that is how his musical connection with the church began.

Today he is still choral singing at services and has done so for at least 40 years. He is known as the music librarian, making sure singers have the correct music. During the Covid lockdown he introduced weekly emailed "just for fun" quizzes to keep members in touch. This is still running, although not weekly, and now includes other parishioners. Robert has also served as a member of the PCC, planning and running church fetes and other fund-raising activities and occasional churchyard working parties.

He said: "To be nominated by people that I worship and work with makes me proud but also humble about my modest contributions. "As a recipient I feel that my varied service to All Saints throughout the years has made our parish a welcoming place for all. Special to me are of course the many past and present choir leaders, organists and singers who have served with me and this award is as much for them as well as me personally."

Kim Cuthbert

St Luke's, Seaford

Kim Cuthbert, a member of St Luke's Seaford, has attended the church her whole life, having joined the Sunday School at the age of nine.

She said: "In 2021 I began volunteering with the fab children, youth and family team. Over the past three years I have had the pleasure of taking a lead role. Our team relates to over 400 children and 280 adults. I've been serving on the Seaford Parish PCC since 2022. During this time the hard work of the PCC has led to an increase in numbers. We have also been working on an amazing new project within our connected church, St Leonards.

"When receiving the news of the award I went through a mixture of emotions. First, shock. I couldn't quite believe it at all. Second, confusion - I kept thinking about all the other amazing people that are deserving of the award. Third, honoured - I felt honoured that someone thought enough of the work that I had done to put me forward for the award."



Julie Thorpe

The Church of the Ascension, Battle

Julie Thorpe, of the Church of the Ascension, Telham, has been the honorary secretary at the church, which is part of the Parish of Battle, since the late 1980s, having worshipped there from the age of five. Julie is also Liveryman in the Honourable Company of Air Pilots.

She said: "Currently, I am a member of the Battle and Bexhill Deanery Synod and for some years was a member of Chichester Diocesan Synod. Since 2004, I have arranged the clergy rotas for both St Mary's Battle, Church of the Ascension and am the contact for the retired clergy locally. At the moment, I am part of the editorial team for Battle Parish News and am involved in various fundraising activities.

"On receiving the letter from Bishop Martin, I was totally flabbergasted and very humbled to receive this award."



DISCOVER YOUR CALLING

ARE you passionate about serving your local church and community? Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) could be the perfect opportunity for you to deepen your faith and develop new skills.

What is Authorised Lay Ministry? ALMs are dedicated individuals who share in the public ministry of their local church. They work alongside clergy and other lay leaders.

The ALM training programme is designed to be accessible. The short, flexible sessions are open to people of all educational backgrounds and run on a mix of week nights and weekends to suit you.

Diverse ministry opportunities will be running from January 2025 and you can choose from a range of exciting electives:

PASTORAL CARE

MISSION

CHAPLAINCY

WORSHIP AND LITURGY

PREACHING

**CARE OF CREATION AND
ECO CHURCH**

RURAL MINISTRY

**SMALL GROUP
LEADERSHIP**

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY.**

The course sessions involve some written work and practical assignments to deepen your understanding. However, these are not graded, making the programme suitable for all learners.



Emily Keating-Rowe worships at St Mary de Haura Church in Shoreham. She undertook the small group leader elective.

She said: "I am passionate about Jesus and I had a little time to spare to do the training to become a small group Authorised Lay Minister. I am fully aware of the responsibility we have as Christians that we need to step up and step forward in making sure we have active groups in our everyday lives where we feel safe and can soak in the goodness of belonging to God's family.

"I felt that the ALMS course would position me into leading people and encouraging my

“I am taking my time to fully think how I would like to represent myself as a small group leader and how best to use my ministry to serve my church”

congregation in to bringing church into their homes and communities. The training was great, especially the second part of the course. It helped to open my mind into all our different needs inside church and in our community.

“I felt the safeguarding training had the largest impact on me and the responsibilities we have to each other. The implications from the safeguarding training have left me with a great appreciation for what the diocese has to do to manage and regulate a safe working and worshipping environment, the accountability we all have in keeping a healthy and open Church community.

“I am taking my time to fully think how I would like to represent myself as a small group leader and how best to use my ministry to serve my church with the resources I have access to within my church and my diocese. I look forward to access to further training.

Michael Trist has worshipped at The Mid Dowland Parish (Poyning with Edburton, Newtimber, and Pyecombe) for 32 years. When the

former church reader Patrick Pollicott-Reid died Michael understood the “spiritual baton” was being passed on to him.

He said: “I’d previously had vague discussions along those lines with Patrick before he passed away. Following that, during a sermon in Poyning, by our vicar Tim, I had a very distinct spiritual calling. That calling said to me “what can I do to serve and minister God’s word?”. This came after many months of wanting to find some way to contribute to our local church community in some sort of lay ministry capacity and to help the worship activities in our parish.

“When I applied to Chichester Diocese to be a reader there was a pause in training so I switched to the ALM course instead. It turns out that the ALM course was quite well suited to what I needed at that stage of my journey in faith.

“The training was informative and was delivered with enthusiasm. The huge experience by our trainer was evident. The support material was thorough and the weekly

assignments were just the right level to get our minds thinking as we planned our would-be services.

“The training has made me more confident about resources available to use in church, knowing quite a lot more about the structure that lies behind. As churches vary a lot in their levels of formality, I found it very useful to see the different structures that can be used in church services. One particularly valuable legacy from the training is the small WhatsApp group that our sub-group of trainees (six trainees) formed.

“We still keep in touch with each other and encourage each other in our various paths through our developing ministry. Several of the trainees plan to visit each other’s churches in due course to see how we are progressing and to continue to share ideas in our worship.”

Do you feel called to serve your local church in a new way? ALM training could be the perfect opportunity to explore your vocation. Speak to your vicar about how you can pursue this exciting path of ministry and make a lasting impact in your community. Details can be found on our website here: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/authorised-lay-ministry/>

The closing date for registering for 2025 December 6, 2024.

A celebration of readers' ministry

CHICHESTER Cathedral hosted this year's celebration of reader ministry with two new readers

formally admitted into the role, "Reader Emeritus" bestowed on retired readers and the vows of all readers in attendance renewed.

Bishop Ruth led the service which also served as an opportunity to thank Jayne Prestwood, retiring as officer for lay vocation and ministry, and Peter Mansell, retiring from his role as warden of readers.

Jayne was acknowledged for the significant contributions she has made in developing the reader ministry in the diocese and Peter was recognised for his diligent overseeing and support of reader ministry.

The two new readers, Victoria Smith from St Mary's Pulborough and Charles Randall from St George's Worthing, were admitted and licensed.

Their stories highlight the importance of being open to God's guidance, using one's unique skills and background to serve, and the transformative power of engaging with faith communities around the world.

Victoria was raised attending church in Nottingham with her family but stopped when she went to university. It wasn't until moving to Pulborough years later that she reconnected with faith after a friend invited her to a community church.

A move to Singapore for her husband's work proved transformative. Victoria quickly found an Anglican church and became their director of children's ministry, organising programmes and occasionally preaching. This experience ignited a passion for formal ministry and on returning to Pulborough, Victoria felt called to pursue preaching and teaching.

She joined St Mary's Parish Church and began the discernment process for reader training. Though initially overwhelmed, she felt confident in her path.

Victoria now combines her church role with her job as a learning mentor at a local church school. This allows her to minister to children and families in both educational and parish settings. Her core belief is that children and families need to feel loved and accepted by those around them, the church and, most importantly, by God.

Charles Randall's faith journey began early in his Christian family. For 45 years, he worked as an engineering consultant for missionary radio, travelling to a dozen countries. This connected him to Christians of many nationalities working in challenging environments where following Jesus came at a real cost.



THE READERS WITH BISHOP RUTH AND THE READER MINISTRY TEAM

At his home church, Charles served behind the scenes in technical roles and on committees. In recent years he developed a renewed enthusiasm for studying scripture and theology. Inspired by the remarkable people he had worked with, Charles felt compelled to give back.

Recognising the likelihood of longer clergy vacancies, he pursued lay readership to equip himself for ministry.

The national recognition of this role appealed to Charles, who has always tried to serve wherever called.



L TO R - JAYNE PRESTWOOD, VICTORIA SMITH, BISHOP RUTH, CHARLES RANDALL AND PETER MANSELL



VICTORIA SMITH



CHARLES RANDALL



DIOCESE WINS FUNDING FOR GROWING FAITH

THE diocese has been awarded £20,000 to undertake a vital piece of work with Church of England schools across Sussex.

The funding, from the Growing Faith Foundation, will help all those involved with youth and children's work to base their practice on solid evidence and help more children and young people grow in their faith.

The foundation is a part of the national education office of the Church of England working with schools, parishes, church organisations and dioceses to establish "growing faith research hubs", each with a specific focus.

Jamie Gater, diocesan strategic officer for youth and children's work, said: "Our successful bid to become a research hub means establishing an exciting partnership between diocesan departments and a group of pilot schools.

"They will work together to investigate the ways in which Church of England schools can support parents in faith-filled parenting and the aim is to find ways in which parents can be helped to support the Christian vision of their school at home, whether or not the parents attend church regularly.

"This work is exciting, not only because we hope to produce a resource to be rolled out across the diocese, but because it places our work, research and expertise right at the heart of the national conversation."

Lesley Hurst, diocesan director of education said: "We know that our amazing schools already do so much to support parents but we're excited that this project will enable us to carry out some key research and contribute to best practice across the diocese and beyond."

If you lead a Church of England school and would like to take part in the growing faith pilot project, email Jamie.Gater@chichester.anglican.org



YOUTH MINISTRY IS THRIVING

THE Diocese of Chichester has seen sustainable growth in its youth outreach programme, with more than 60 employed youth and children's workers now actively engaging with their communities.

This expansion reflects the commitment to nurturing the spiritual lives of young people and fostering a vibrant, inclusive church community.

At the core of youth ministry are the dedicated youth workers and volunteer teams, they are passionate advocates for youth engagement in faith and community life and their roles are diverse, ranging from organising events to providing mentoring and support for young people navigating the challenges of adolescence.

Evidence shows that churches that employ youth or Children's workers grow. Church work can be lonely, it's difficult to recruit volunteers and finding other people doing the same role isn't always easy. One of the ways we try to support youth and children's workers in the diocese is through regular Link Up events, for networking, discussion and training. The gatherings ensure youth and

children's workers remain connected, share best practices and continuously improve their skills to better serve the children and young people they work with.

The diocese also offers events and resources throughout the academic year, ensuring there are always opportunities for young people to engage with their faith and community.

The increase in youth and children's work in the diocese has been strongly supported by the Diocesan Mission Fund which has created opportunities, not just to offer seed funding, but to also work one on one with Parishes in developing their strategies for outreach and discipleship



Maycamp 2025

Maycamp is the annual diocesan youth festival which has now been running for more than 40 years.

The theme for 2025 is Life. Diocesan youth officer Dan Jenkins said: "Linking in to the 1700 anniversary celebrations of the Nicene Creed, we proclaim our belief in the birth, death and resurrection of Christ, but in the middle of that is the life and ministry of Jesus. This year we're starting with Luke 4 when Jesus picks up the scroll in the synagogue and reads from Isaiah proclaiming the start of his ministry to proclaim the good news to the poor, freedom for prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind and set the oppressed free and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour! The year of Jubilee!

"We've got a line-up of inspiring talks, a range of interactive seminars and space to experience and engage in worship and prayer in different and exciting ways.

"Within our main worship gatherings, seminars, and valuable time for discussion and reflection with your youth leader and clergy; Maycamp offers young people the chance to encounter God, explore Christianity, ask the difficult questions and learn how to worship and pray.

"There is always plenty of fun. Think giant inflatables and ridiculous challenges. There's something for everyone with a huge range of creative workshops, sports and games – whether that's woodwork, make-up, football, or just grabbing a milkshake in the café.

"Maycamp is an incredible opportunity to build relationships in your youth group and with the wider Maycamp family - from bonding over the campsite washing up rota to having deep and meaningful conversations after late-night worship.

For further details email youth@chichester.anglican.org

MINI MAYCAMP

This is being held on November 8 this year and youth leaders are urged to encourage anyone from Year 6 to Year 11 who wants to get involved. There will be games, sports, inflatables, a tuck shop, worship and teaching.

Mini Maycamp is also the reunion event for Maycamp 2024 and a great opportunity for people to check it out if they have never been before. You can get a feel for Maycamp with discounts available on the night for groups booking their tickets at <https://www.maycamp.org/mini-maycamp>

All groups are asked to attend with the number of leaders that complies with their policies as the Maycamp team will not count towards them. It runs from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at St Andrews, Burgess Hill and is £2 per person.

COULD YOU BE A MAYCAMP ANGEL?

The Maycamp team is appealing for help. Dan Jenkins said: "Financial challenges have affected so many people and sadly Maycamp is no exception and we have a fundraising goal of £20k for Maycamp 2025.

"We are looking for Maycamp angels, individuals who would like to partner with us by donating financially to the continuing work of Maycamp.

"We try to make Maycamp as affordable as possible but unfortunately this means we have a shortfall every year, with ticket sales covering around 50 per cent of our costs.

"We believe the work of Maycamp is key in helping serve the young people who attend and brings the love of God to hundreds every year. Your sponsorship will help with running costs of the event.

"Being a Maycamp angel means you are helping the next generation to know, love and follow Jesus.

"Maycamp is amazing. It touches the lives of hundreds of young people across the diocese with the love of Jesus, and each year we see several come to faith.

"If you are able we ask that you prayerfully consider whether you might be able to donate any amount to support the work we do. Simply click the button below to head to our CAF campaign to donate."

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/25692#!/DonationDetails>



YOUTH & CHILDREN'S WORK HUBS

Stefan Bracher is a children, youth and family worker from Seaford Parish Church (St Leonard's and St Luke's) He is also a volunteer hub leader.

He said: "The hubs are such a vital part of assisting in the work churches carry out. Quite often churches are going through similar highs and lows in their work with children, youth and families, it's OK, it happens. But having the support of other churches around you has proven to be really effective in helping you think about new ways to change what you are doing and take encouragement that you are going in the right direction.

"It's a space where workers and volunteers can also get things off their chest, just like other areas of life. Speaking with those who know what it is like in that role is hugely beneficial.

"It might be that you have areas of training which are required across the hub, for example first aid training. It might be that sharing the cost of training across four churches who also needed the training rather than just one makes the course more affordable.

"The hubs are also looking to run 'YouthScapes Essentials' and later 'Children Essentials', aimed at equipping volunteers and paid staff to help work and run children and youth work.

"The hubs are also a space where churches can share resources, potentially saving time and money. Some hubs also have a form of a Google Drive with resources other children and youth works have created, such as Messy Church planning, risk assessments, holiday club resources.

From Faith to Action

Sussex Churches Pioneering Net Zero Solutions

Two Sussex churches will receive funding for net zero projects as part of a new multi-million pound initiative. This project, part of the Church of England's Net Zero Programme, aims to help 114 churches across the country in 2024 and 2025 implement sustainable solutions

As the project progresses, participating churches will share their experiences with dioceses and parishes, creating a valuable learning network.

Abi Hiscock, Project and Grants Manager for the Church of England's Net Zero Demonstrator Churches Project, said: "Ultimately, we want to demonstrate that with the right support and infrastructure, churches from diverse settings and facing a variety of challenges can reach net zero by 2030".

It is hoped the project will reduce carbon emissions by 6,615 tonnes by 2030.

The two churches in Sussex are St Peter & St Paul Church, Wadhurst, East Sussex and St Bartholomew's in Brighton.

Fr Ben Eadon is the vicar at St Bartholomew's and he said: "We're delighted to have been awarded this grant which gives us the opportunity to look realistically at how we can journey toward net zero at St Bartholomew's and live more sustainably as a church community.

"St Bartholomew's is a large and lofty building and it is going to be an exciting project to see what we can achieve with expert help and advice. Without this support we would struggle to engage in any meaningful way to reduce our carbon emissions."

Rev'd Dr Paul Ratcliff from Wadhurst said: "We are so excited to be part of this project and to become net Zero Carbon within the next two years.

"The £15,000 Stage 1 grant will be invested in accessing expert advice to design a heating system, using the best of modern technology to run on sustainable renewable energy.

“Our historic Grade 1 listed church has served Wadhurst for over 900 years. We aim to ensure it continues to provide a warm welcome for all.”

Both churches will serve as champions, sharing their experiences with other churches in their diocese and beyond

This initiative not only supports the Church of England's commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030 but also provides a model for environmental stewardship that can benefit the wider community.

The project's learnings will be invaluable for other churches and organisations striving to combat climate change.

A Model for Eco-Friendly Community Engagement

Green Gym at St Leonard's Church

St Leonard's Church in Aldrington, Hove, East Sussex, has become a beacon of environmental stewardship and community spirit through a number of initiatives, including the Green Gym initiative and its Secret Garden.

When St Leonard's was faced with closure in 2016, the small congregation and local community fought to keep it going. The fact that the church has stayed open without a vicar for so long is because of the determination and devotion of that group of people.

The desire to see St Leonard's returned to its glory days at the heart of the community, with a full and thriving congregation, led to conversations between St

Leonard's PCC, the Diocese of Chichester and St Peter's, Brighton, to try and create a partnership which would help to achieve this dream.

In Spring 2021, Chichester Diocese was successful in a fundraising bid for money from the central Church of England which will fund church growth in Brighton and Hove, and St Leonard's was a key part of that strategy.

Since the beginning of 2024 the improved and upgraded church building and halls now benefit from a new heating and lighting system (powered by a new eco-friendly air source heat pump), a café space and a welcoming and accessible new entrance.

Throughout this time a few of the regular activities continued and one of them was the Green Gym.

The Green Gym, supported by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), offers fun, free outdoor volunteering sessions across the UK, aimed at transforming local green spaces.

Coordinated by Don Macleod, the Green Gym volunteers at St Leonard's have been helping to maintain the church grounds for over 20 years, clearing areas of overgrown ivy and scrub bashing to provide clearer pathways to gravestones and also taking care to encourage the wildlife.

At St Leonard's, the Green Gym involves around 50 volunteers, with about 10 participating in each session.

Despite the challenges posed by the lockdown, the volunteers continued their efforts in small, socially distanced teams, ensuring the churchyard remained a welcoming space. Don Macleod highlights the community spirit among the volunteers: "Some come for a few hours, others every week. We are fully trained and insured, and we use our own hand tools. We do a lot of scrub bashing, clearing paths, and generally keeping things tidy, especially around gravestones."

"We are not on the lookout for more work as we have plenty to keep us going - we are fully booked until 2025.

"All the volunteers enjoy coming. We do a couple of hours and then break for coffee and cake in the church which they now provide from their lovely new café."

The Green Gym is not just about maintaining the churchyard; it fosters a sense of community and well-being among its volunteers. Rowena Watson, a church member, expresses her gratitude by baking cakes for the volunteers each week. "We love Green Gym, and I make the cakes to say thank you for giving up their time," she says. Kathy Marshall, who continues to volunteer after her husband's passing, finds solace and social interaction through the Green Gym. "I wanted

"We love Green Gym, and I make the cakes to say thank you for giving up their time,"

to continue because it is good for social interaction. We also come together for a Christmas lunch. I like to be outside and get a lot of pleasure from seeing the results of what we manage to do," she shares.

Stephanie Windsor, also a church member, said: "The Green Gym volunteers make a huge difference. They are part of our church family. We share in the big moments such as key birthdays and weddings.

"Thanks to their work we have uncovered many graves which had been concealed in undergrowth for many years. The churchyard is rich with history, including five blocks of sarsen stone in the NW corner of the churchyard, and we are beginning to get ahead with recording all the graves. This is so important, and we often get enquiries or visits from relatives," she explains. "They are always so pleased to see the upkeep of their family's resting place. Just recently the Magregor family came to pay their respects and helped clear the graves and gave a donation.

Beyond the churchyard lies the Secret Garden, a haven of peace and tranquillity developed by church members and local residents. The garden, which grows vegetables, fruits, plants

and flowers, also features a thriving pond with pond plants to help wildlife make the pond its home. There are tables and seating around the garden which serves as a quiet retreat for the community. Dr. Michael Sharman, a co-founder in 2014, whose gravestone is in the graveyard, is commemorated in the Secret Garden with a plaque on a water-pump barrel.

Chrissie Hogarth, Chair of the Secret Garden, has been involved with the project for as long as she can remember, and emphasizes the garden's role as a haven for wildlife and a community space. She used to keep honey bees there and the apiary has now been passed to another beekeeper. She says "The Secret Garden is your local Therapy Room, nestled behind the church; a community garden open for all to enjoy as long as they respect the space. Run entirely by volunteers, we have supervised sessions every Saturday morning from 10.30 - please pop in. We are wildlife-friendly with a pond, rockery, raised beds and bug hotels; garden organically; make our own compost with help from local householders who bring in their kitchen compost; recycle/re-purpose as much as we possibly can and do not use one-use plastics.

Our old tools are being sent to Zimbabwe to be re-used rather than being put in a landfill. We really care about the environment worldwide."

St Leonard's Church is responding to the Church of England's initiative to encourage churches to journey towards net zero. Andy Bicknell, a member of St Leonard's with an interest in the management of the churchyard, and also a member of the Secret Garden committee said: "It is an exciting opportunity for the church and local community groups to work together in looking after the land surrounding the church. It is quite an extensive area, with around 500 graves as well as the Secret Garden section.

"The challenge is to achieve a balance between the role of the land as a churchyard, having regularly visited and tended graves, as an area used by all ages of the local community, and as a valuable natural resource for the local fauna and flora.

"I like the thought that in caring for this churchyard we are part of a community and an activity that goes back some seven hundred years. How important that we play our part well!"

Vicar, Rev'd Ali Marshall comments: "In the quiet beauty of our churchyard, the Secret Garden and Green Gym serve now as they have for many years as faithful stewards of creation. Their care and stewardship

transforms this sacred space into a living testament of God's grace, where nature and faith intertwine. We couldn't do this without them, and we are truly, deeply grateful for their dedication, which brings peace, beauty, and life to our Church grounds here in Hove.

"Ever since we started this new partnership and revitalisation project, the grounds, gardens and churchyard have been a key draw to the community to come in and enjoy. We've loved including the newly refurbished church inside as a welcoming and open place of peace alongside the grounds outside"

Resources

Caring for God's Acre (CfGA)

Find out how CfGA helps communities and others recognise the potential for conserving, enhancing and enjoying churchyards, burial grounds and cemeteries.

A Rocha UK?

Every church should be registered with A Rocha, an award scheme for churches. Eco Church is provided free of charge, to help as many churches as possible celebrate what they're doing to care for the environment and decide what to tackle next. Find out about the easy steps to gaining Bronze status and how to work towards Silver and Gold.

The Conversation Volunteers (TCV)

Find a TCV or Green Gym activity near you

Diocesan Contacts

The Diocese of Chichester's Environmental Officer is **Rev Buff Stone**. Net Zero Manager is **Steve Collins**.

Contact our Environmental Officer if you want to join the Diocesan Eco Group to share and receive information relating to Environment and Net Zero activities across the diocese.

We want to hear how your church environment projects are coming along, so please contact us and start to share your story.

Bats & Moths Draw Crowds

St Mary's Church in Pulborough has turned its annual Bat and Moth evenings into a monthly event from May to September due to popular demand. Participants witness impressive numbers of bats and moths, with expert speakers from organisations like Sussex Wildlife Trust. Contact Christine Lindsay for more information: christine.lindsay1@talktalk.net or 01798 368407.

DIGITAL PROMOTION

Showcase your eco efforts online using AChurchNearYou.com. The free Digital Labs resource provides tutorials on adding Eco Church tags to your church's page. Become an approved editor at <https://cofe.io/EditorACNY>, then watch the step-by-step YouTube guide by searching "Church of England resources."

JOIN THE ECO CHURCH MOVEMENT

Only one-third of churches are currently registered with A Rocha's Eco Church program. It's free to sign up and access resources. The Eco Church Survey outlines actions in five key areas:

1. Worship and Teaching
2. Church Building Management
3. Church Land Management

4. Community and Global Engagement
5. Lifestyle

Many churches are eager to share their award-winning strategies. At St John's Preston in Brighton two eco church champions have been appointed to take the church from bronze to silver. In Ticehurst, the church achieved Gold in 2019. St Margaret's Church in Warnham recently qualified for Bronze and is part of Horsham Eco churches, a local group where congregations support each other in making environmental differences in their church life.

It would be great if this time next year the majority of our churches are registered and on their way to Bronze, silver or even the gold charter mark! Find out more at ARocha

Photo caption: Jane Millett (L) and Lisa Williamson(R), pictured with Rev'd Emma Ham-Riche recent Eco church officers for St John's Preston Brighton.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Environment Day

The aim of the day is to find out what your church can do to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergency and equip us to care for God's creation. Great speakers, signposts to resources and workshops to choose from.

- Date: February 1st
- Location: St Mary's Battle
- Bookings open now
- Contact: Environment.officer@chichester.anglican.org

Net Zero Conference Day

An interactive and practical day conference to help you on your NZC journey.

- Date: January 18th
- Location: Portsmouth Cathedral
- Ideal for parishes in the West of the Diocese

Take Action

1. Register your church with Eco Church if you haven't already
2. Aim for Bronze certification as a starting point
3. Network with other local eco churches for support and ideas
4. Utilise digital resources to promote your eco initiatives
5. Attend upcoming environment events for inspiration and guidance

By this time next year, let's aim to have the majority of our churches registered and working towards Eco Church certification. Together, we can make a significant environmental impact through our church communities.

Eco Church and Eco Diocese • Equipping us to care for Creation

DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT DAY

St Mary's Church, Upper Lake, Battle, TN33 0AN
 Saturday February 1st 2025 • 9.30 am to 4 pm

Eco Church and Net Zero Carbon – how do they inter-relate?
Keynote Speaker: Steve Collins, Net Zero Officer

Choose workshops • drinks & cake provided • bring your own lunch

The Revd Buff Forbes Stone
 Diocesan Environment Officer
 environment.officer@chichester.anglican.org
 07954 652824



Scan for
Eventbrite



<https://environment-day-2025.eventbrite.co.uk>



DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH NET ZERO CONFERENCE 2025

HOPE in the face of climate change

An inspirational, interactive and practical conference to help you on your NZC journey

Saturday 18th January, 10am to 4pm
 Portsmouth Cathedral

Speakers include: Rt Rev Jonathan Frost, Bishop of Portsmouth; Rt Rev Paul Davies, Bishop of Dorking; Rt Rev Will Hazelwood, Bishop of Lewes; Andy Atkins, CEO of A Rocha UK; Richard Abraham, COO of Portsmouth Cathedral.

£5 registration (includes lunch and refreshments)



PARISH NEWS



Local Fisherman hits Church window target

Ross Fisher, a 77-year-old fisherman rowed from Sussex to the Isle of Wight and back to raise funds for a new stained glass Platinum window for St Mary's Church, Felpham to commemorate the late Queen's extraordinary life of service.

The challenging feat is a testament to the power of community spirit and individuals determined to make a difference

Ross, a lifelong sailor and former Coastguard with over 20 years of service, will navigate the waters in his 60-year-old Pearson glass-fibre fishing boat, which was made at Ford.

The locally crafted vessel which is a testament to Ross Fisher's deep connection to the area, will be equipped with two pairs of oars for the journey. "This challenge is close to my heart," he explained. "It combines my love of the sea with an opportunity to contribute to our local church and honour Queen Elizabeth II's legacy." Ross's mother was born in Ventnor and his grandfather was a local Isle of Wight fisherman.

In thanking Ross, Rev John Challis of St Mary's church Ross said that Mr Fisher's dedication to helping fund the window was "inspiring". He said: "We are doing

something not unique, but rare, in that we are replacing one of our plain windows with a stained-glass one dedicated to the life and service of HM Queen Elizabeth II. This project will not only beautify our church but also solve a practical issue for our choir, who currently struggle with direct sunlight during services."

Funds raised exceeded expectations, with nearly £6K donated.



Schools get creative to share the Christmas Story

St Mary's Church in West Chiltington is inviting local primary schools and the community to get creative and participate in a heartwarming Christmas Crib exhibition. This engaging event promises to be a delightful way to celebrate the festive season while bringing the Christmas story to life for children.

The Nativity Exhibition will run from Thursday, November 28th to Saturday, November 30th, from 10am to 4pm daily. The highlight of the event will be a special service led by Bishop Ruth on Thursday, November 28th at 11am. Vicar Stephen Merriman has extended a warm invitation to local primary schools to join in this joyous celebration, encouraging them to send a group of children to the special service.

HOW SCHOOLS CAN PARTICIPATE

Each year group is invited to create their own unique Christmas crib display, with sizes ranging from as small as a shoebox to a maximum of 1 meter square. Cribs will be collected from schools on the Tuesday or Wednesday before the exhibition and returned the following week. Fr Stephen Merriman emphasizes how simple and enjoyable it is for schools to take part: "I shall be very happy to come to your school to lead an assembly on the Christmas Crib or visit a class." A personal touch to ensure children understand and appreciate the significance of their creations.

This is a great hands-on, creative way for children to engage with the Christmas story while encouraging teamwork and collaboration.

Additionally, it offers an opportunity for children to showcase their artistic talents and connect with the local community and church.

All donations and proceeds from the event will go to support diocesan family and young people events planned for the 950 celebration year 2025 (you can read more about those events on pages xxx

GET INVOLVED!

If you'd like your school to be part of this festive celebration, please email Fr Stephen at rector.westchiltington@outlook.com. Don't miss this opportunity to bring the magic of Christmas to life for your pupils while fostering community spirit and creativity!



St Peter's Church Shines Bright: 200 Years of Light and Heritage in Brighton

St Peter's Church, often referred to as Brighton's "unofficial cathedral," is celebrating its bicentennial this year. Since the laying of its foundation stone on May 8, 1824, St Peter's has stood as a beacon of faith and witness to Brighton's transformation from a fishing town to a vibrant city.

Recent funding from the National Lottery Fund has enabled the church to commemorate its rich history with a series of engaging events for the whole community. This funding will also support crucial restoration work on the tower, finally allowing for the removal of scaffolding that has been in place since 2014.

A highlight of the celebrations is the spectacular 'LIFE' by Luxmuralis installation, taking place in half-term from October 30 to November 2. This stunning art experience will transform the church interior with immersive light projections and atmospheric soundscapes, offering visitors a unique perspective of the historic building. The Rev'd Daniel Millest, Vicar at St Peter's, expressed his excitement: "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 National Lottery players, this funding has enabled us to restore the building for generations to come."

St Peter's continues to play a vital role in the community, hosting five services every weekend and supporting over 230 homeless individuals through its Safehaven project. The church also welcomes hundreds of visitors interested in its heritage and history. As St Peter's marks this significant milestone, it invites everyone to join in honouring its past, embracing its present, and envisioning its future as a cornerstone of Brighton's spiritual and cultural landscape. For more information about St Peter's Church and its bicentennial celebrations, visit www.stpetersbrighton.org.

St Peter's Church Play Café supporting young families

St Peter's Church, Brighton launched a Play Café for parents and pre-nursery children from 9.30am to midday on Thursday mornings two years ago, which continues to prove very popular with local residents.

Typically, the church welcomes between 100 to 150 parents and children to the Play Café each week during term-time. Colourful toys and story books are on offer for the children to enjoy and it often acts as a hub for NCT and other groups to meet up. Some parents have attended Alpha course and Sunday church services as a result of first hearing about the church through the Play Café.

A team of volunteers run the Play Café and there is an on-site café offering a delicious selection of drinks, pastries and snacks for the parents and children. Entry to the Play Café is free, though there is the opportunity for parents who enjoy using the facilities to make a donation to the church via giving stations. St Peter's has an Instagram account dedicated to the Play Café which posts weekly updates and news for local residents.

"We are really thrilled with the success of the Play Café. We provide an open space in Brighton with barista coffee, drinks and tasty food. The feedback we get is very positive, with parents often commenting how they appreciate the quality toys, comfy sofas, buggy space and the warm welcome by our staff and volunteers, especially in the winter months. We are delighted it provides local parents with somewhere warm and fun to bring their children on Thursday mornings during term-time and we look forward to welcoming all who would like to come along – they are very welcome and we love to welcome them to St Peter's." said the Rev'd Daniel Millest.



A number of other churches in Brighton also run successful Play Cafés to support young families, including St Matthias Church, Fiveways who are open 9.30am to midday each week day during term-time and St Leonard's, Hove who are open 9.30am to 11am on Wednesday mornings during term-time.

Find out more at...

www.stpetersbrighton.org
or follow on Instagram
[@stpetersplaycafe](https://www.instagram.com/stpetersplaycafe)

www.stmatthiasbrighton.org
or follow on Instagram
[@stmatthiasplaycafe](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthiasplaycafe)

www.stleonardshove.org/little-lions

Meet Gary Pickett: Steyning Parish's New Families and Children's Worker

Steyning Parish welcomes its new families and children's worker, Gary Pickett. Gary is well-known in the Diocese, having served as a paid church youth worker for seven years, during which he has been involved with six churches and four schools.

Before taking up this role, Gary completed a part-time Diploma in Theology, Ministry, and Youth Ministry. He is no stranger to adventure and hard work; his experience includes leading various youth groups and junior church groups, as well as serving on tech teams. Gary also enjoys kayaking and has a special connection with his four godsons. Additionally, he has been running mission trips to Uganda for the past six years, supporting a local school, and has participated in mission trips for a total of 14 years.

As a former retail manager, Gary understands the importance of community relationships. He has already begun meeting with key stakeholders to gather ideas for children and family-related church activities.

Gary expressed his excitement about his new position: "I am really excited about Steyning and building relationships with everyone, but most importantly building relationships with the local community."

He is collaborating with Foundation Governors Caryl Vine and Kate Burnett to support Steyning Primary School and build connections with young people there. "Together we can work to reach the goals of the five-year vision the parish has developed. I'm looking forward to seeing how St

Andrew's & St Cuthman's can support the mission of building God's kingdom in the local area," he said.

Gary hopes his work will forge links with families: "We want to introduce them to all that is on offer in the church community, creating new adventures and successfully sharing the love of God with those around us."

Looking ahead, children and family activities will be highlighted in church notices, on noticeboards, and on the church Facebook page (Steyning Saint Andrew and Saint Cuthmans).



Gary Pickett, assisted by Wendy Francis and Rosie Harrison, reading the story of Squeak the Mouse at the 4pm family harvest service on 6 October.

Malcolm Donaldson

The church community in the parish church of St Andrew & St Cuthman in Steyning have lost a committed Christian, Malcolm Donaldson, who died on 22 September at the age of 75.

Malcolm played in the church music group and was for many years a foundation governor at the Church of England primary school, and a supporter and benefactor to the parish, recently supporting the recruitment of a full-time families and children's worker.

Malcolm, however, was probably best known for accompanying his wife Julia Donaldson, author of *The Gruffalo* and many other children's stories, at the many performances of

her poems and stories for children, particularly during her tenure as Children's Laureate.

Malcolm voiced many of Julia's characters on stage – such as Zog, the Fox, and of course the Gruffalo, as well as playing the guitar. But beside his musical career, Malcolm was a highly respected consultant paediatrician – known, for obvious reasons, to his young patients as 'Dr Gruffalo' – and academic, having written or contributed to over 180 books and research papers.

Bill Thomson, former Churchwarden at St Andrew & St Cuthman recalls how Malcolm and his guitar were an essential part of Steyning

Parish Church's music group, performing, publishing commitments permitting, at the monthly family services as well as other events aimed at the younger age range.

He said: "Malcolm contributed wholeheartedly to the life of the church and the wider community, both spiritually and materially. For many years he was a Foundation Governor at Steyning CofE Primary School, and he gave much to strengthen the links between the church and school, as well as being a strong supporter of the church's family and children's work. His strong faith sustained him through his illness and he was able to take a philosophical view leading up to his death.

"Our sympathies and prayers are with Julia and their family at this time."

"We, at the Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman in Steyning, will miss Malcolm and the joy he brought to his performances."



Malcolm with the music group (from left) Tamzin Ripley (flute), Simon Knowles (vocals), Vanessa Knowles (percussion and vocals), Kate Burnett (cello), Fiona Aiton (vocals), Malcolm Donaldson (guitar) and Neil Aiton (keyboards and violin) – quite an eclectic mix, but it works well.

Church Magazine Editor Wins National Award



Chris Fitton, the parish magazine editor for Steyning, has won a top award from The Association for Church Editors (ACE) in a national scheme celebrating local church magazine editors and their teams.

Chris received a Certificate of Excellence at a ceremony in Westminster, London, gaining valuable insights to further improve the magazine.

The Steyning parish magazine is produced entirely in-house by a dedicated team. This achievement follows the success of the Pulborough Community News magazine, which won the Silver Award in the 2023 competition.

If your parish produces a regular church magazine, whatever its format, the editor could find membership as helpful as Chris found it.

ACE, formed in 1999, brings together editors, authors, designers, and church members involved in producing magazines for all denominations across the UK and abroad. The association offers numerous benefits to its members, including:

Access to ideas and material for magazine content

Monthly email service

Website resources at www.churchmag.uk

Advice on magazine production

Regular magazine competitions

Parish magazine editors may find ACE membership valuable for improving their publications. Interested individuals can contact ACE membership officer Alan Rickards at acetreasurer@aol.com. The annual membership fee is £10

Tips for preparing your church building for winter

At this time of year, it's worth spending some time carrying out maintenance tasks and checks that will help to get your church building through the winter in good shape. Here are some tasks that it's good practice to do at this time of year, which will hopefully ensure that any issues are noticed and addressed before they grow into bigger and more expensive problems:

Clear gutters of leaves and debris. If your church has low and accessible gutters it may be possible for a volunteer to do this, but you are likely to need a contractor for gutters that are higher and/or more difficult to access. Please don't attempt to carry out high level works alone and seek professional advice if in doubt.

Clear drains and gullies of leaves and debris. It's important to clear drains and gullies at ground level, so that water can drain away from the walls of the church

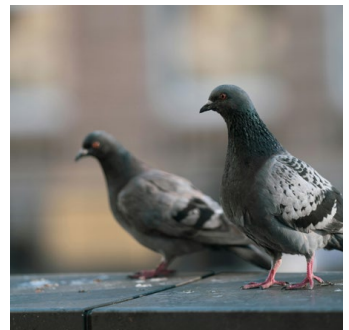
Check for blocked gutters, hoppers and downpipes. The easiest way to check for blockages is walk around the church in heavy rain and look to see where the water is going – is it leaking from cracks in the downpipes or spilling over the edge of the gutter due to blockages? In dry weather, check for water stains on stonework.

Roofs. Walk around the church and check for missing tiles or slates. Repeat after storms in case of storm damage. Also look out for new damp patches appearing inside the building, as this may indicate an issue with the roof or rainwater goods.

Birds. Birds can cause a serious and expensive mess if they get into the building. Check for gaps in any bird netting or bird gates that prevent birds entering the building.

Lighting. Check that any external lights are working and change bulbs if necessary.

Ask for help. All of this is a lot for one or two churchwardens to do on their own. Consider organising a Maintenance Day and asking members of the congregation and local community to come and spend a few hours helping to carry out the tasks above.



MAKING A PARISH SHARE PLEDGE

A guide for PCCs

Making your parish share pledge is a significant decision that the PCC is asked to take ahead of each coming year. Together across the diocese we seek as a household of faith to meet the costs of ministry in our parishes.

This guide seeks to help you in your decision making. This is a decision for the whole PCC – it's too important a decision to be left to the treasurer.

First, here are three terms you will need to understand...

You may wish to prepare with reflection

Read **Philippians 4:10-20** or **2 Corinthians 8:1-15**. What do these passages have to say about how churches might share in meeting the costs of ministry?



1 Parish Ministry Cost (PMC¹)

An estimate of the costs of ministry in your benefice². It includes stipends, NI and pension, averaged housing costs, and a share of the costs training of new ministers and central diocesan costs.

2

Parish Share

The contribution you make towards the costs of ministry across the diocese. Some parishes pledge more than PMC so that others, especially those in deprived communities, can pledge less.

3

Your pledge

The amount that you plan to contribute in the coming year to mission and ministry across the diocese. Pledges should be both generous and realistic.

Download the full leaflet on the diocesan website



HERE

Leaving the generous gift of love



By Sarah Rogers,
diocesan parish adviser
(finance, governance and
stewardship)

IN MY ROLE as parish adviser, I have lost count of the number of parishes that mention a legacy that came just at the right time. A wonderful blessing received that now allows them to fix the building, employ a youth worker, create a new missional outreach or simply stay open and keep serving their faithful.

Crucially, this means they can now look to the future mission of their church.

While I am thrilled for the parishes concerned, it is important to recognise that this only happened because someone in their parish in the past spoke about legacies.

Legacy giving in the charity sector is not unusual.

Charities rely on legacy benefactors to fund their charities for the future, making it a large source of income. In fact, legacy income to charities hit a new high of £4 billion in 2023.

We have all seen the adverts for multiple good causes asking people to think about leaving a gift in their will. This is an increasingly crowded, well-funded and resourced market.

The 2022 Anglican giving survey showed that Christians are, by nature, very generous people. However, we are three times more likely to leave a legacy to a charity than to our local parish church.

From the 2,000 Anglicans surveyed, only 15 per cent had been spoken to about legacy giving to their church. It is the “ask” that makes the difference in a crowded and very worthwhile market. Only our ability to speak about legacies is going to make a difference.

Our church communities are generous and loving. By leaving a legacy, this offers your parish the chance to continue its mission into the future. It means future generations will have the opportunity to worship and know God in the parish you so loved.

Churches can stand out from the crowd and we should be encouraging all our congregations to think about planning for their future. This is not about asking them to leave a legacy but to plan for their future and, in that moment, consider leaving a gift to their parish.

A will is a vital document that takes care of your loved ones and causes you care about after you are gone. We know that it is a good idea

to have a will but many of us never actually get around to doing it. It is critical that our congregations are given the information about how important a legacy can be for the future life of the parish and how easy it is to do.

To help open the dialogue, I will be offering a legacy webinar for parishes to talk about legacy giving, what resources are available and to answer any questions. It will run on Monday, October 21, from 2pm to 3.30 pm. Please book via trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DVVJ>.

Talking about legacies is an ongoing process and it is hard to measure success as it can often come as a surprise to others many years later but is not immediately visible in the moment. This does not mean that we shouldn't do it and that it isn't worthwhile, in fact, the opposite is true.

So, let's start the conversation. To make a will, make an appointment with a solicitor who can take you through the process of writing your will.

For further questions or information, please contact me. I will be more than happy to have a conversation about legacy giving - email me at Sarah.rogers@chichester.anglican.org

Support for studies overseas

With the historic resources provided for the Diocesan Overseas Council, we are able to support those in link dioceses studying for full-time Christian work and those in our own diocese studying abroad. We hear from two of them...

JAMES BOWEN



James continues his studies at St Nicholas Seminary, Cape Coast in Ghana, having been recommended by Bishop Kojo of Gambia. Unfortunately, it is far from home – an expensive four-and-a-half-hour flight - but is the best place to train.

He started his studies in October last year and has completed the second semester. He has been involved in pastoral activities and as an ordained priest has worked in a local parish, celebrating mass and preaching regularly.

He's had the opportunity to visit prisons and learned about the varied traditions within Anglican Communion in parishes in a very different country, sometimes in a previously unknown local language.

James said: "I am committed to continuing my studies and becoming a dedicated servant of God. I am eager to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during my time at the seminary to serve the church of God and the community."

His principal challenges – and matters for prayer - are the high cost of living, the lack of adequate funds to take care of personal needs, the emotional distress due to absence from his young family and the difficulty in adjusting due to changes of environment and culture.

ADAM TOMALIN

We have included reports from Adam in previous additions. He grew up in East Sussex where his father was vicar of Hailsham. For the past three years the DOC has been supporting Adam and his wife Nomfundi in their studies at George Whitfield College, Muizenberg, Cape Town, with Crosslinks.

Adam has now completed his course. The DOC has welcomed the opportunity to help train someone from Chichester Diocese to live and serve long-term in Africa. Adam and Nomfundi are very grateful for the support they've received while training.

They are looking for opportunities to serve the Church in rural Kwa-Zulu Natal where Nomfundi's family are from. This will entail funding as well as Adam learning a new language and they would value prayer for that.

In addition, funds are available for clergy to visit our link dioceses, suitable for curates in training and those planning extended ministerial development leave.

Email James Campbell for details of how to apply for these funds. If you want to hear about your plans – contact Lisa.williamson@chichester.anglican.org

For parishes considering making donations towards overseas work during Harvest, visit the diocesan website. In the search bar, enter "Overseas Mission and Companion Links" to find further details.

HYMNS WITH REV NEVILLE MANNING

O COME, O COME

Emmanuel

IN THIS coming special anniversary year for our Diocese of Chichester we will be thinking about two hymns attributed to someone whose ministry as a priest was associated with our diocese.

John Mason Neale (1818-1866) was a controversial figure whose ministry was linked with East Grinstead. He became warden of Sackville College almshouse and also set up the Sisterhood of St Margaret. He had a detailed interest in the Eastern Church and wrote much about the Psalms.

However, he is remembered mostly for his hymns, of which there are many in several of our hymn books. A few were his own creations but most were based on much older, often Latin, hymns.

The hymn we are thinking about in this issue is “O come, O come, Emmanuel” which is often in our diet of hymns during the season of Advent. Its popularity is helped by the memorable tune “Veni Emmanuel” to which it is usually sung.

The hymn is based on the Advent Antiphons which in the medieval church were sung at Vespers before and after the Magnificat. In the 13th

COME AND CHEER OUR SPIRITS BY THINE ADVENT HERE

century someone translated the Antiphons into a Latin hymn which became the basis for Neale’s hymn (though T A Lacey produced an alternative version which is printed in some hymn books).

Each verse begins with the letter O, with its sense of yearning for the coming of Christ. Each verse draws on language from the Jewish Faith and our Old Testament.

Emmanuel: “O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel”. Just as Jewish people in captivity in exile in Babylon years ago yearned for deliverance so we now look to the coming of the Christ. The word Emmanuel means “God with us” and links with the promise to Joseph in Matthew: “The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel”. That is the incarnation, God with us in human form.

Rod of Jesse: “O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own

from Satan’s tyranny”. Some versions refer to the Root of Jesse, who was the father of King David. The verse looks onward to the coming of a greater King, Jesus.

Dayspring: “O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here”. The reference is to the dawn or sunrise, the beginning of a new day, dispersing the darkness of the night. It reminds us of the Song of Zechariah (the Benedictus): “The dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of peace”.

Key of David: “O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home”.

The Book of Revelation refers to “the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens”. Like a house key, which opens up our home but also locks to keep us secure, so Jesus is the key to our heavenly home.

Lord of Might: “O come, O come, thou Lord of Might”. Neale’s hymn uses Lord of Might as a translation of the Hebrew word “Adonai”, a very reverent term for God. That term is now used for Jesus, our Lord and our God.

Modern slavery ambassadors

MORE than 200 years after the abolition of slavery, an estimated 40 million men, women and children are trapped in modern slavery. In the UK alone, the World Health Organisation estimates the number to be around 136,000.

Modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing various forms of human trafficking and exploitation, where people are forced to work, are controlled, bought and sold, with their freedom severely constrained.

Together In Sussex is a partnership with the Diocese of Chichester which established a network of modern slavery ambassadors across the county to promote awareness and inform churches about this critical issue.

What do the ambassadors do?

It is a flexible, voluntary commitment. The role involves:

1. Acting as a point of contact for anti-slavery information
2. Receiving free training on anti-slavery, trafficking and exploitation issues
3. Learning to spot signs of slavery and how to report concerns
4. Organising occasional anti-slavery activities in your church
5. Disseminating information through church newsletters and community channels
6. Championing Anti-Slavery Day (October 18)
7. Networking with like-minded individuals in your community
8. Raising awareness with the approval of your incumbent and PCC
9. Helping shape the work of Together In Sussex
10. Being passionate about ending slavery, trafficking and exploitation.

Karen Higgs was commissioned as an ambassador in 2021. She said: "Following an event in Brighton raising awareness of modern slavery I realised the scale of the problem and was truly shocked.

"There was so much I had not known or understood about modern slavery. I felt I had a responsibility to not only learn more about the issues surrounding this but also share what I had learnt.

"The better informed we are, the more effective we become in reducing - and we pray one day eliminating - the markets that provide opportunity for the exploitation and entrapment of human beings."

Jane Myers, one of the first commissioned modern slavery ambassadors, said: "When I heard a talk on modern slavery and human trafficking from Stop The Traffik [an organisation that works to prevent it], I was shocked to realise how little I knew about the issue and felt I couldn't ignore what I was hearing.

"You don't need any experience to be an ambassador, just a heart to see this exploitation and abuse come to an end."

A day of events raising awareness will take place in Chichester on Friday, October 18. This Anti-Slavery Day is a partnership between Together In Sussex and Chichester Diocese, with contributions from Sussex Police and others.

Ambassadors will be present to provide information and support. For those interested in exploring this area of social action, becoming an ambassador offers a meaningful way to make a difference. To express interest or learn more, contact info@togetherinsussex.org.uk.

Remember, do not be afraid to question something you are not comfortable with - modern slavery comes in many forms.

ANTI - SLAVERY DAY

18TH OCTOBER 2024

FOCUS ON MODERN SLAVERY



A day of events in Chichester raising awareness of Modern Day Slavery

Chichester Cathedral 10am-5pm

The chapel of St. Clement will be set aside as a creative prayer space with a Modern Slavery theme and there will be an information desk about Modern Slavery in the cathedral.

Evensong at 5.30pm

With a focus on Modern Slavery

The Assembly Rooms 6.30pm-8.30pm

A free information event with presentations from a range of organisations involved in eradicating Modern Slavery
Assembly Rooms Address: 6, St Martin's St, Chichester PO19 1AF.

MODERN SLAVERY EVENT
6.30pm-8.30pm

The Assembly Rooms

Presentations from:

- Sussex Police
- West Sussex County Council
- Mothers' Union
- Bishop Alastair Redfern
- Modern Slavery Ambassadors

Light refreshments will be available

Map outlining the route from the Cathedral to the Assembly Rooms



<https://togetherinsussex.org.uk/>
✉ info@togetherinsussex.org.uk

KATE HENWOOD: CHAMPIONING THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY IN CHICHESTER

Since January 2023, Kate Henwood has been the volunteer diocesan ambassador for The Children's Society's across the diocese of Chichester. This is an important role that enables the charity to build and strengthen its relationship with The Church of England.

Kate, who lives in Worthing, first considered taking up the role of Diocesan Ambassador when she was tagged on Facebook by a local priest who said, "you'd be ideal for the role". Her home church is St Paul's, Chichester, the city church, and she is an active member of the Junior Church team and honorary minibus driver for parish trips and pilgrimages to Walsingham, with both the children and young people and the wider congregation.

The Children's Society has always been part of her life, from having a collecting box at home and loving the annual Christingle services, both as a child and as an adult. Kate says "I've learnt so much about what The Children's Society does since being in post and now I want to share that knowledge with others in the diocese"

Jess Meale, Community

Relationships Lead for the south of England said "As The Church of England Children's Society, we want to grow and nurture our relationship with local parishes and the Diocese, especially after a tumultuous few years. It's wonderful to have someone based in the diocese who is familiar with the church and how diocese and parishes work, who can help to grow our engagement in the area".

Kate would love to hear from any parishes that would like to either host a Christingle service, have a talk about the work of The Children's Society or are holding fundraising events for them. Kate can be emailed at kate.henwood@childrenssociety-volunteer.org.uk ES

Christingle services for the whole community

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. They are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas), with Christmas Eve being a particularly popular time for services. But you can host one whenever you like.

Christingle celebrations have been taking place for over 50 years. The first Christingle service took place at Lincoln Cathedral in 1968, but Christingles themselves go back much further to the Moravian church in Germany.

At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus, and created a *sis ambol* — the Christingle — to do this.

Christingle is a great way to involve the whole community in a children's, family or all age service. Don't forget to share the details of your Christingle Churches on all your social channels, website and the events listing on A Church Near You.



Kate Henwood

A dedicated servant steps down.

The Mothers' Union president Karen Hill is preparing to hand over the baton to her successor Michelle White.

Karen concludes her tenure at the end of this year and Michelle, who has been an active member for many years, prepares to take up the mantle in January 2025.

"During her years as president, Karen Hill fostered a spirit of community partnership and resilience, transforming challenges into opportunities for engagement within our church communities.

This transition marks an extraordinary year for Karen in which she has presided over many achievements for the Chichester MU.

- This year priorities have included:
- Championing women's rights and gender equality
- Providing support for families in need
- Organising community events and fundraisers
- Offering prayer and spiritual support.

As well as the continued support for families through various programmes, there have been successful fundraising events and community outreach,

including engagement with church members through local branches.

MU members were in attendance at the South of England Show, serving their ministry of cake and raising much-needed funds for their flagship project, the Away From It All holiday programme for families in need.

Michelle is already a well-known figure in our parish communities but Karen has been introducing her across the diocese these past few months.

Michelle is well positioned to bring her own unique perspectives and initiatives to the organisation.

Ahead of Karen's final AGM next month, Bishop Martin extends his grateful thanks for all that she has contributed since taking over the role from Kathryn Anderson in March 2020.

He said: "During her years as president, Karen Hill fostered a spirit of community partnership and resilience, transforming challenges into opportunities for

engagement within our church communities.

"We have much to be thankful for. In particular, the partnership with Family Support Work, during Covid, which saw the launch of FoodAid.

"Karen's dedication and her hard work to this effort meant more families, and others in need, did not go hungry."



Karen Hill



Michelle White



From spiritual bankruptcy to divine restoration

SEVEN years ago Jaclyn Colbert was in a dark place. She was an alcoholic and drug addict who had lost everything – her family, her home and her belongings.

She had been married for 20 years and had two children but when her mother died, her life began to unravel. “I didn’t know really what was wrong with me,” she said. “I was so, so full of shame and broken.”

Then a friend she met at a 12-step fellowship invited her to church, St Peter’s in Brighton, and it set her on a path to recovery.

Today Jaclyn, now 55, helps others out of the downward spiral of addiction and dependency. Her story is testament to the transformative impact of the church’s community outreach and supporting ministries in the city.

“I didn’t know I was an alcoholic or an addict,” she said. “I didn’t know really what was wrong with me, but I’d lost everything. I was left in a flat that I’d been kicked out of – it was empty as everything had been moved out. I stayed there, it was the last night and I got drunk.

“I was full of shame. But I heard a beautiful quote. It was ‘shame will eat your words until there’s nothing left but silence’ and that’s exactly what it felt like. I felt completely spiritually bankrupt and shut down.

“I didn’t know I was an alcoholic or an addict, I didn’t know really what was wrong with me, but I’d lost everything.”

“Then a friend of mine invited me to St Peter’s. When I walked in there it felt like being at a gig, but there was so much joy and so much community. It was nothing like I’d ever experienced so I found it quite overwhelming initially.

“But slowly and surely, they carried me, they looked after me, they offered for me to be baptised, which was both moving and beautiful and the best decision I’ve ever made.

“It’s like, yes, I was healed, yes, I’ve been transformed, and I’m so grateful for that. Every morning I wake up and draw breath it means I’ve been given another day by God, but I need to walk and work with God every day as well.”

After volunteering at St Peter’s, Jaclyn was asked to help run a recovery meeting.

She said: “It amazes me sometimes when I look back at what I was like that I’m actually trusted. It astounds me when I look at how St Peter’s have supported me, what God has done in my life. “He’s restored my family, my children, who are now 25 and 27 years old.

“He’s given me so much more than I could ever have asked for and that’s all due to my friend taking me to St Peter’s and stepping through those doors and finding this beautiful, grace-filled love.

“That whatever I think about myself as an addict, I’m absolutely loved, and I want to pass that message on to other people that there’s light and that they’re loved.

“Addiction is a disease which I’ve always had and will always have but recovery gives us a solution and God the grace of healing and transformation.

“It’s a lifelong journey and illness but we walk and work with God every day to remain sober and clean.”

Today Jaclyn is an authorised lay minister at St Peter’s and she leads on the recovery ministry in the parish.

She also runs a weekly recovery meeting where all are welcome in any way addiction affects them.

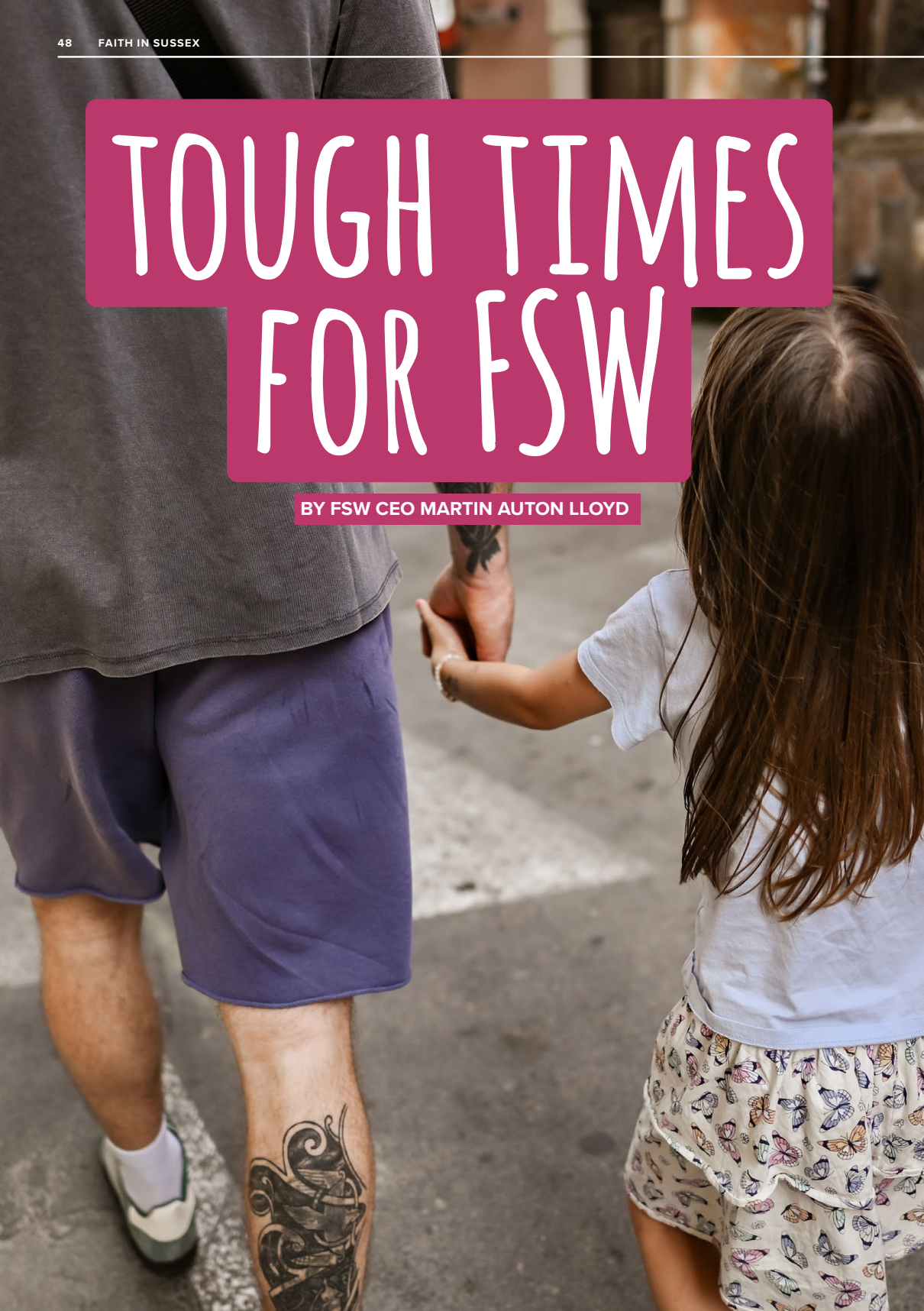
“Jesus’s table is immeasurably bigger than we could ever imagine,” she said.

Jaclyn added: “If anyone is considering or has it on their heart to set up a recovery ministry within their own church please contact me. You’d be fully supported and guided. We have a mission model pack we are creating to give to people who would like to do this with our full support.”

If this article has affected you in any way and you would like to speak to Jaclyn, or someone in your own church, email recover@stpetersbrighton.org

TOUGH TIMES FOR FSW

BY FSW CEO MARTIN AUTON LLOYD



FSW's recently published impact report highlights some of our achievements and statistics for the 2023/24 financial year.

Most striking of these is the number of families we were able to support – 782. This represents a 29 per cent increase on the previous year, highlighting both the increased need for our work and the impact of our expansion over the last few years.

Recent items in the national press have highlighted one of the main reasons we are so

much in demand. Funding cuts over many years to statutory early intervention services (which can help families when small issues are first identified) have resulted in a severe lack of support for families, who are only identified for help once issues become extreme and complex.

FSW has remained one of the only organisations able to support families through their difficulties on a long-term basis.

Together with the challenges facing our families, we have our own challenges in securing enough income to maintain our work.

Many of you will be aware that we run an annual winter fuel campaign, which is usually generously supported by hundreds of individuals across the diocese and enables us to provide fuel support to our families who struggle to pay for essential heating over the winter.



The new trustees of Family Support Work meeting of their AGM at Church House in Hove. Please pray for their continuing vital work with families across Sussex.

With the new government's announcement that the winter fuel payment will now be cut, we will sadly not be able to run this campaign, leaving us with a significant gap in our budget for the year.

Having been financially supported by the diocese with a grant of £36,000 a year since 2002, unfortunately this has been reduced to £18,000 for this year and £1,000 from next year.

As a result, we are facing a particularly challenging time as we seek other sources to replace this funding.

But we remain optimistic and our wonderful and dedicated supporters across the diocese continue to think of new and innovative ways to raise money for

our work. Our Dallington committee partnered with the local Rotary club to raise £3,000, our East Grinstead committee supported a high-quality concert which raised more than £2,500 and many other committees tirelessly plan and carry out events throughout the year to add to our funds.

Our central fundraising team continues to seek funding from trusts and foundations and recently secured a multi-year grant to support our work in Bognor Regis.

Despite all the challenges facing the charity sector we continue to be positive in our outlook and give thanks for all the continued support, both in prayer and financially, which we receive in abundance throughout the diocese.

A prayer for Sussex

By Paul Milton, church member of St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath

In the quiet sanctuary of St. Wilfrid's Church, as sunlight streams through stained glass windows, I find myself reflecting on my journey of faith. It's a path that has led me from uncertainty to belonging, from isolation to community.

Years ago, my life was different – prosperous, filled with large family gatherings. Church was a part of our routine, but it wasn't until I was involved in an art trail at St. Mary's in Balcombe that I truly discovered the warmth of a church community. It wasn't about religion per se, but rather the welcoming atmosphere that declared, "All are safe and welcome here."

The memories of Balcombe still bring a smile to my face. The quaint village, the familiar faces at the Half Moon pub, and George Ezra's "Budapest" playing on my iPod as I strolled into the village – these moments are etched in my mind.

After services, we'd gather for tea, coffee, and cake, catching up with the congregation. It gave us a sense of wellbeing, preparing us for the week ahead.

Life, however, has a way of changing course. For reasons unknown, we drifted away from faith and the church, leaving the village behind. Yet, I never forgot the kindness of Reverend Desmond Burton, his humorous tales at the altar, or the magical Christmas events.

Through years of personal unrest, I came to realise that faith isn't confined to a building – it's something you carry within.

Recently, feeling isolated and longing to reconnect, I called upon St. Wilfrid's in Haywards Heath. Their warm welcome was a beacon of hope. Stepping into a church again, I was enveloped by that unique, musty scent mingled with melted candle wax – a comforting reminder of continuity amidst change. As I admired the intricate masonry and play of light through the windows, I marvelled at the dedication

of those who built this sacred space.

For some, faith and Christianity are deeply important. As a newcomer, I've been embraced by the St. Wilfrid's community, attending services and coffee mornings, even offering to help where needed. I've witnessed the beauty of baptisms and felt the sprinkle of holy water during Fr. Edward's blessing – moments that remind us of our shared humanity and spiritual journey.

These places of worship rely heavily on fundraising and donations for their upkeep. They also need younger faces to ensure the faith and heritage are passed on to future generations.

Already, there's talk of my confirmation – a renewal of faith that I approach with both excitement and reverence. In a recent service, we prayed for the residents and visitors of Haywards Heath. Through this reflection, I extend that prayer to all of Sussex. May we find strength in community, comfort in faith, and peace in our hearts. As we say in church, "Peace be with you, and also with you."

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

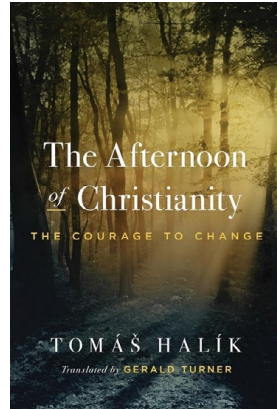


CELEBRATING HAYWARDS HEATH: HEART OF SUSSEX

With South Downs & London rail trails
By John Twisleton

This is an accessible history framed by the author's experience of the town over 23 years. Haywards Heath grew from an ancient crossroads on the commanding heights of the High Weald now traced by the A272. London's growing engagement with Brighton fuelled demand for a railway connection and Haywards Heath station opened on the "Hayworth" 1841 at the heart of Sussex. The book celebrates the town's growth, its long-gone cattle market and asylum for the mentally ill, its entrepreneurs and philanthropists. A commuter town gaining energy from London and Gatwick Airport, Haywards Heath has a parallel going out as a tourist venue. The book provides appendices linked to the author's Fifty Walks from Haywards Heath (2020) with routes to sights on the South Downs and in London from Haywards Heath station. It celebrates St Wilfrid's School's 2024 local history project and appeals for hosting and volunteers to service a Haywards Heath Museum.

Amazon 2024 ISBN 979-8322378303 110pp



THE AFTERNOON OF CHRISTIANITY

By Tomas Halik
Translated by Gerald Turner

Review by Nick Henshall

An important book for our times. Halík's main argument is that the entire template of Western Christianity is changing and changing fast, and that we as Christians need to have the courage to change. The book is beautifully written and beautifully translated from Czech. It communicates a genuinely biblical vision for the renewal of the church that is both philosophically nuanced and deeply accessible.

Here is an author and theologian bold enough to read the signs of the times with foresight and courage and enables us to see - as one reviewer put it - that the present challenges to the church are not spelling the end of faith but are the birth pangs of labour.

University of Notre Dame Press, ISBN: 9780268207472 264pp

Cathedral News

Chichester



950 CELEBRATIONS

A year long programme of events will mark the Cathedral's 950th anniversary.

Chichester950 will feature exhibitions, choral and orchestral concerts, and community events, culminating with a spectacular light show in October. The programme of events aims to highlight the Cathedral's presence as a beacon of faith, spirituality and community, and invites people to celebrate its captivating history that spans over nine centuries.

At the heart of the festivities is a fascinating exhibition Religion, Rebellion & Reformation, which runs from 14th February - 15th November 2025. The exhibition will feature nine objects from

across East and West Sussex, each representing a century in history. Through artefacts, stories and pivotal moments, the exhibition aims to highlight how the Christian faith shaped, not just the Cathedral's history, but the lives of people across the two counties.

In honour of the Cathedral's renowned musical heritage, a special concert marking the 60th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms will take place on Saturday 17th May 2025. Together in Unity will also feature an exciting new choral composition which has been specially commissioned for the 950th anniversary.

Other events will include TrinityFest on the Green on Sunday 15th June 2025, a vibrant celebration marking the Feast of the Holy Trinity,

to which the Cathedral is dedicated. This special day will see Chichester city centre come together for festivities and street parties, celebrating music, food and culture.

Chichester950 will conclude with a spectacular light show during October Half Term, from Friday 24th - Friday 31st October 2025. This immersive light and sound installation will transform the Cathedral, bringing its 950-year history to life in an awe-inspiring display.

The Dean of Chichester, Dr Edward Dowler said: "We hope these events will offer something for everyone. The anniversary also prompts us to look ahead to the next 950 years, and our efforts in various ways to create a legacy that will endure for generations to come."



NEW DEAN OF CHICHESTER

On Holy Cross Day, the Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler was installed as Dean of Chichester.

The special event was attended by the community, representatives from across the Diocese of Chichester, as well as local dignitaries including representatives of His Majesty King Charles III, the Lord Lieutenants of West and East Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard and Mr Andrew Blackman.

Following the service, Edward said:

"I am deeply honoured to be installed as Dean of Chichester and feel truly welcomed by the community and all those present today. Chichester Cathedral holds a special place in the life of the Diocese and the county, and I am excited to be part of its continued mission. As we approach the Cathedral's 950th anniversary in 2025, I look forward to working together to celebrate this remarkable milestone, while ensuring that the Cathedral remains a flourishing place of Christian worship, culture, and outreach for future generations."



MARS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Luke Jerram's **Mars installation** lands at the Cathedral on Saturday 19th October until Sunday 10th November and offers visitors the opportunity to explore the Red Planet in exquisite detail.

A Spiritual Trail, inspired by the installation, also gives visitors the opportunity to reflect, meditate and connect through a series of thoughtfully curated reflection points.

You can read a Q&A with the Artist which is published on the cathedral website. The exhibition will be open daily, Monday – Saturday from 9.00am – 5.00pm and Sunday 12.30pm – 2.30pm. Entry is by donation. Ticketed Evening Viewings will take place on selected dates throughout the exhibition period.

www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

HALF TERM AT THE CATHEDRAL

Lots of great activities for all ages will be taking place during the week of half term. On Thursday 31st October, there is the opportunity to meet two of the most inspiring voices in modern astronomy today. The Average Scientist duo, Ian Hall and Charlotte Alexandra, will attend for a one-day exclusive during their sell-out UK tour.

Perfect for audiences aged 8 to 88, they'll unravel the mysteries of Mars and explore the near future where humans will be living on Mars within the next century during their interactive talk.

Day tickets start at £6.00 per child and £8.00 per adult.

Evening tickets start at £8.00 per child and £12.00 per adult and includes entry to see Luke Jerram's Mars by twilight.

There are many Mars themed activities throughout half term week. Take a look at the cathedral website for the latest details

Maycamp

LIFE

23RD - 26TH MAY 2025
school years 6-11

FAITH

FRIENDS

FUN

More info

