

FREE

A & B NEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
No 286 November 2014



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On 4 October the Holy Father accepted the resignation of Bishop Kieran Conry. At the same time the Holy Father has appointed Archbishop Peter Smith as the Apostolic Administrator of the vacant See of Arundel and Brighton, until such time as a new Bishop takes possession of the Diocese.

*A message from the Most Reverend Peter Smith,
Archbishop of Southwark and our Metropolitan*

My Dear brothers and Sisters,

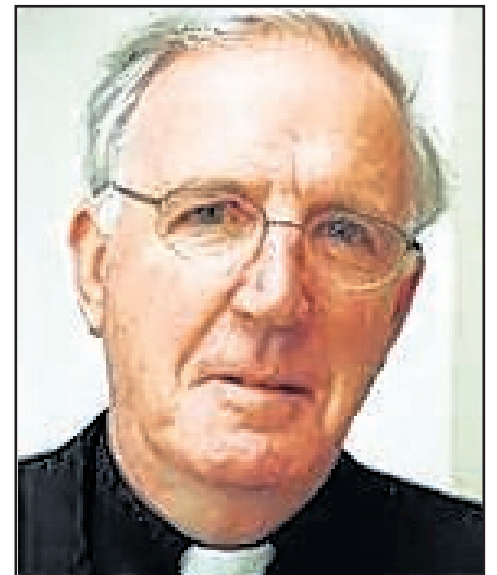
The announcement last weekend that Bishop Kieran had offered his resignation to the Holy Father came as a great shock and was very distressing. Working with him in the Bishops' Conference and more recently as a Bishop of the Province of Southwark, I am well aware of all his dedicated work in the Diocese and nationally as Chairman of the Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis.

My heart goes out to you at this difficult time, and I just wanted to write and let you know that I have offered Mass for you and all those hurt or distressed by Bishop Kieran's actions. I will be keeping you and all those involved in my prayers in the coming weeks and months as you continue your preparations to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese next year.

The words of Pope Francis in his letter to the Church, 'Evangelii Gaudium' struck me as particularly appropriate at this difficult time: 'I invite all Christians everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask you to do this unfailingly each day'. May I gently suggest that in the coming weeks and months, you consider having a regular period of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in your parish churches, which would be a very fitting response to that invitation, and an excellent preparation for the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese.

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who was your Bishop for 24 years has asked me to send on to you a letter, which I am attaching to this message.

With and assurance of my prayers and good wishes,
+Peter,
Archbishop and Metropolitan
1 October 2014



Pictured above: Archbishop Peter Smith
and Cardinal Cormac

*A message from +Cormac Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor
Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster*

My dear People of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton,

I just want you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

The resignation of Bishop Kieran and the events accompanying it have been a great shock and sadness to us all.

As it happens, I know Bishop Kieran had intended a letter about the Church to be read out to you today. In it he says, 'The Church is what joins us to Christ and builds and supports that relationship. It is also what binds us to one another. It is where we find healing and forgiveness. It is where we find support and encouragement.' We all need that healing and forgiveness as Bishop Kieran does at this time. We are all dependent upon one another for prayer, support and encouragement in times of trouble and failure. I know that you will pray for Bishop Kieran as he seeks God's guidance for the time ahead, and for all those who have been hurt by these events.

The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton is a great diocese and will continue to flourish and develop with the renewal that has already begun in preparation for the Golden Jubilee.

Know that you are and will always be in my prayers.

With my kindest wishes,
Yours devotedly in Christ,
+Cormac

YouthGather meets at St Andrew's

See story on page 3



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On 11 September, the diocesan seminarians with two extras, gathered for their annual autumn meeting at the Cathedral. This year, with the Cathedral Dean they visited the Poor Clare Convent at Crossbush for tea, discussion and prayer before returning to Cathedral House for dinner. Picture: Canon Tim Madeley

The seminarians are pictured with the nuns on the back row: (from left to right) Tristan, Frederick (seminarian from Tromso, Norway) Joe, Andrew, Martin, Tom, Peter, Ed and Florian (seminarian from Coustances-Avranches, France). The Mother Abbess, Sr Leo is pictured on the extreme left.



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YouthGather 2014 at St Andrew's, Leatherhead

THIS YEAR'S YOUTHGATHER was held, in glorious sunshine, at St Andrew's Catholic School in Leatherhead on Sunday 28 September. Mrs Balko, Assistant Head and Chaplain at St Andrew's welcomed over 200 people and the day began with Mass celebrated by Fr Tony Barry.

During the Mass we listened to the Gospel story of the two disciples walking along the road to Emmaus, talking about the recent events in Jerusalem when Jesus had been crucified. When a stranger appeared and walked alongside them, they didn't recognise that it was Jesus himself until they were sharing a meal and he broke the bread. This then set the scene perfectly for our afternoon walk, providing the opportunity to spend greater time together and the sharing of stories.

St Andrew's School led the music at Mass and everyone was impressed by their singers and instrumentalists – drums, violin, guitars and ukuleles (even an electric acoustic one!). Thank you so much to Mrs Ridgeon, Miss Allerton and to all the students for their hard work and for sharing their gifts and talents with us.

The day was concluded with a 10k sponsored walk through beautiful nearby woodland but not before we had a barbecue to remember, with the School's Chef serving up homemade burgers to give much needed sustenance to the walkers. We are very grateful to the School's Caterers Pabulum who subsidised the cost to support our charities.

The day also provided an ideal opportunity to promote next summer's Festival 50. Filming took place during the walk that captured walkers of all ages sharing their special gifts and talents. These 'talking heads' may well get shown on the giant screens at the Amex Stadium in Brighton.

One of the themes of the day was to inspire young people by the examples of others. The two charities to benefit from this year's sponsored walk are Action in Africa and The Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (GDWG).

St Andrew's has been supporting Action in Africa for a number of years. This academic year they

have their most ambitious project yet. Their target is to raise £20,000 to fund the building and fitting out of a dormitory for female students at the school. Currently, the girls walk up to 15 miles each way to attend school and they are very vulnerable. Being able to stay in the dormitory will ensure the girls' safety and will also mean they will be able to continue their studies at night as solar lighting will be fitted.

GDWG was set up by the Diocesan Justice & Peace Group in 1995 to offer friendship and support to asylum seekers and other migrants held in detention at Gatwick Airport. There are two centres at Gatwick holding 464 people, many of whom are vulnerable, away from family, homeland, familiar culture, religion and language, and imprisoned in a system they do not understand. They feel isolated and may suffer post-traumatic stress disorder because of experiences in their homeland.

There was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for our Fairtrade Stall which enjoyed a good day for sales. The Redshirts from the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage were well represented; they also had a large display that included CDs for sale. Other activities on the day were provided by CAFOD and GDWG and a Bible studies stall included a 'speed bible verse finding competition'.

Patrick Reeve, from the A&B Diocesan Walking Pilgrimage, very enthusiastically organised the route and marshalling of a challenging walk through woodland, racing stables and farmland. At the end of proceedings many of the wearied youngsters described the walk as excellent!

Story: Aidan Cantwell, Pictures: Thom Flint

If you would like to learn more about this day or other Social Action initiatives please contact Aidan Cantwell, our Adviser, t 01293 651154 e aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org or visit his blog absocialaction-jp.com.



African Visitor to Barrow Hills School

BARROW HILLS SCHOOL in Witley was delighted to welcome Fr Fabrice Tapsoba, from Burkina Faso, to celebrate their start of term Mass on Friday 12 September. His celebration of their first Mass was a wonderful reminder of the important link they have with St Benoit School in Burkina Faso. Barrow Hills has been linked in friendship with St Benoit School since 2005 and has raised many thousands of pounds for the school. Getting visas to travel to the UK from Burkina Faso is extremely difficult, requiring months of preparation and travelling all the way to Ghana, where the nearest UK embassy is. It is therefore particularly inspiring that each year a priest from Burkina Faso visits Barrow Hills School. These visits provide a real life link for the children of Barrow Hills with the children of St Benoit School and to learn something of another culture.



Fr Fabrice thanked the school for their support, 'Permit me at the end of this Mass to say a word of appreciation to the school staff members and to the entire school. Indeed we are very grateful to you for all that you have been doing in Burkina Faso, especially for the school Saint Benoit in Fada which benefits immensely from your generosity. And we are blessed to have Mrs Nicholls coming to Burkina Faso every year since 2005. I can even dare to say that she is more Burkinabe than British because she knows our realities and needs and with your contribution and support we are helped appropriately and conveniently.

Thanks so much and may God continue to shower his blessings abundantly upon you. Long live Barrow Hills and long live Saint Benoit'.

Story and picture: Pauline McBrown

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A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

HEALING

THIS HAS BEEN A STRANGE few weeks for all of us since Bishop Kieran made his announcement. There have been many different reactions to what has happened and the secular press has yet again challenged the Church from various angles.

What are the lessons we can draw from these events?

One is that we are all sinners and need God's forgiveness and that of our fellow human beings. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer we ask for that forgiveness on the basis that we will be prepared to forgive.

In many ways this has been a bereavement. Many of us will have felt hurt or let down. Maybe we have felt angry. We will certainly have felt sad.

As in all bereavements, we need to acknowledge and express our feelings before we can begin looking forward and we may be able to help each other do this.

Then we have to accept what has happened and look forward to a new and maybe different future.

Not only should we pray for Bishop Kieran, as he has asked, but also for all those involved, including ourselves.

Pauline F. Groves

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JUST A THOUGHT

On the Anniversary of Armistice Day, 1918

From mud-filled trenches, freezing and afraid,
Deafened by screaming shell and burst grenade,
We struggled on, in stubborn, desperate pride,
For England, and the comrades at our side.
Now in our quiet graves these many years,
We ask that you remember us with tears,
That we, in God's green pasture's pleasant shade,
May rest in peace, where poppies never fade.

A Tribute to 'The Few'

(Fighter Pilots in the Battle of Britain, 1941)

Like birds we flew the path of death;
We did not hate our foe,
Rather we loved, till our last breath,
Old England there below.
On silver wings we rode the skies,
And scorned death's mocking face,
And laid our youth as sacrifice
Before the throne of grace.

For all those grievously wounded

Remember us in quiet days of autumn,
When leaves fall silently from threadbare trees;
Remember us, the weary and forgotten,
Whose wounded lives so dearly bought your peace.

Remember us before our Master, Jesus,
Who knew so well the thorny path of pain,
That when at last from all our griefs he frees us,
He'll gently stoop and make us whole again.

Margaret Staunton

The St Barnabas Society and it's new director

Fr Richard Biggerstaff talks to the A&B News about his new challenge

MOVING FROM HORSHAM to Oxford may not be such a big deal for a priest who has not been able to call his residence 'home' since he left in 1988. What is different is that Fr Richard moved from being a parish priest in Horsham, although still of the diocese, to become Director of The St Barnabas Society. As Peter Burholt explores his life story, it becomes absolutely clear why he was chosen as Director.

My Early Years

My story is typical of these last twenty years in the history of our Society and the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

I was born and brought up in Orpington, Kent. My grandparents moved there in 1936 and shortly after the birth of my mother, my grandmother died. When my parents married they moved into the family house, a house my mother had never left. Sadly, my mother died in 2009 - however my father still lives there.

My brother and I went to our mother's infants' school, where we enjoyed the rigour of Miss Reins, our mother's childhood teacher. We sang badly in the church choir!

We were both baptised in the same font as our mother in the CofE church of St Paulinus. My father was unbaptised and neither of my parents attended church services, although we all rallied round for the vicarage fete!

Religion Comes Into My Life

At about the age of thirteen I started to get interested in the Catholic faith. Catholic neighbours had given me a book called 'Life in Christ'. Black and white, it certainly wasn't bland; it had me captivated and, in a strange way, I wanted to believe every word. The text was broken up by questions in what I later discovered was the classic catechetical style - pictures, religious old masters, poorly reproduced but quite beautiful - were its aesthetic feature. This was the beginning in me of a sense of religious doctrine and religious art.

We had little of either in St Paulinus, but we did have two windows of Peter and Paul. I can remember them now. I was keen to see other churches and so I got on my bike and explored. Every church I found was open and every experience different.

The first Catholic priest I got to know was Fr Philip Matthias. As parish priest of St Joseph's in St Mary Cray, Fr Matthias was an inspiration. He was both kind and gracious and loved church music. He still lives in Vauxhall and I last saw him in April at a performance of the Matthew Passion in Westminster. We talked again about how, all these years on, we are now brother priests.

My travels also took me to other Anglican churches of different traditions and I eventually settled at St Francis, Petts Wood. I started serving and visiting Walsingham. I made great friends and found a spiritual home.

I suspect my parents were a little relieved that I hadn't thought it necessary to become a Catholic! From that time I took a sense of a call to ordination seriously. I wanted to be ordained, I saw my life going in that direction and there was really nothing else I would do. My non-churchy friends were very accepting!

Education at Kings College and Beyond

After A levels I secured a place at King's College London to read theol-

ogy. I was fortunate enough to be appointed pastoral assistant to the Anglican chaplaincy in Nice and I managed to get through the rigours of Anglican selection for ministry. My good friend Ruth told me Mirfield was the only theological college I should consider and in due course I began there in September 1988. I loved Mirfield - the college, the community, the liturgy and the life.

My appointment, after ordination, was to Brighton where I learnt such a great deal from Canon Brandie, my training incumbent. I have fond memories of that parish.



Catholicism Makes an Entry into My life

Sharpened by the events of modern Anglican life, I had a growing sense of a call to the Catholic Church. It is strange to think how a liberating development for some can be a negation of tradition for others. I became a Catholic three years after my Anglican ordination as deacon - I felt called to be a Catholic, 'called home', to use a familiar phrase and to describe a familiar experience.

Suffice it to say, this call to the full communion of the Catholic Church is what we are about. The Society exists to support those who hear this call and who have to cope with its consequences.

Leaving the Diocese with My Eternal Thanks

I have just taken Holy Communion to Betty. Each morning she watches EWTN and delights in the stories of converts to the Catholic faith. As we talk I think of those stories, which have touched my own life.

I thank God for the gift of faith and the grace of ordination as a Catholic priest. I

thank Him for the parishes in which I have served, not least Horsham which I have left after only three years to take up this appointment. I thank God for the many extraordinary people who have supported me, forgiven my frailties and treasured the sacraments and the communion of the Church.

But I thank Almighty God most of all for my parents. Bill was baptised a Catholic in 1994 and Jan was received at the same Easter Vigil. My brother, who had married a Catholic called Loretta with whom he has a wonderful family of four boys, became a Catholic this last year. My aunt, Anne, is a Catholic too, received into the Church in Great Missenden in 1995.

We are indeed fortunate as a family to have found this gift of faith and shared it a little.

A New Life and a New Challenge

I am greatly looking forward to the challenges of this exciting post and the development of the Society for the service of the Church in England & Wales and beyond. The Society has a rich history and the personal stories of so many who seek the full communion of the Catholic Church is so enriching to the life of the Church. I am grateful for the confidence of the trustees and I entrust myself and the Society to the intercession of Barnabas, that son of encouragement so committed to the Lord, for the important work ahead.

I hope I will have the opportunity to reflect with you on this call in the years ahead.

What's The St Barnabas Society All about?

IF YOU WERE faced with the question at a Catholic quiz night 'What is The St Barnabas Society?' hand on heart, how many readers of the A&B News could truthfully answer the question? Now, here is the answer.

'In co-operation with the Catholic bishops, it provides support and assistance to those former clergy and religious of other denominations and their dependants, who have come into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, until such time as they have been integrated into the Catholic community and have re-established themselves.'

One may have come across religious who have transferred over from another faith. But does anyone think that, having made the momentous decision to change, there is the question of income; how to find accommodation and how to cope with the reactions to those who might not get that cheery good-bye or the look of curiosity from new colleagues and parishioners?



Is this help confined only to men? No, not at all. While the majority are male and from the Anglican religion, the Society has helped a number of women who made the transfer, such as the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary (previously from the Church of the Oxford Oratory). This decision by the sisters in 2013 was made even more difficult, as not all transferred and some life-long friendships were left behind. Additionally, the Society supports former clergywomen and women ministers.

Why St Barnabas?

Born in Cyprus as a Cypriot Jew, but becoming an early Christian, he and Paul the Apostle undertook missionary work. He is honoured in the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches, the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Council. Reputedly, he

was martyred at Salamis, Cyprus in 61 AD.

The Acts of the Apostles quote 'He was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and with Faith'

A Personal Story from Robin Farrow

ROBIN CONVERTED to Catholicism following fourteen years of ministry as a clergyman in the Church of England. He had a house provided, a good salary and pension, a respected position in a loving community and lifetime job security.

At the time of his conversion, Robin's wife Caroline was pregnant with their third child. They responded to God's call for him to come home to the Catholic Church in faith. Doing so left them homeless and without the

means to support their growing family.

Over the last four years, as Robin has discerned a call to the Catholic priesthood, The St Barnabas Society has generously helped to home and support the whole family, especially during his time at the seminary. Their help has been an invaluable complement to the welcome and friendship the Farrowes have received in the Diocese.

Story: Peter Burholt

REUBEN RIDES TO SUPPORT UGANDAN CHILDREN.

REUBEN SELBY, aged 17, is one of our long term servers at Christ the King, Steyning (Our Lady Queen of Peace, Adur Valley Parish) and has just completed a mammoth cycle ride from the Czech Republic back to the UK in order to raise funds for the secondary education of young people in Uganda.



Reuben was inspired to undertake this challenge after hearing about it from his girl-friend, Nicole Allan, also 17, and her friends who had completed the ride 2 years previously.

Around 40 cyclists took part, most completing the whole journey with some joining at different points. The journey took them through back roads of the Czech Republic, Germany, Belgium, France and England. By the second day the group had 4 punctures, 6 crashes and 4 broken bikes! Thankfully everyone stayed safe except for a few bumps and scrapes. Reuben said that there were many memorable moments on the trip but the friendships they made were unforgettable.

Most of the cyclists were from the Petworth area being friends, family and ex fellow pupils from Christ's Hospital, of Rob Gauntlett and James Atkinson who tragically died whilst climbing in the Alps. - In 2006 Rob became the youngest Briton to reach the summit of Mount Everest. - Then some years later they lost two more great friends, Jack Hutton-Potts and Vaughan Holme to whom One Mile Closer meant so much. In their memory One Mile Closer seeks to provide opportunities, education and enjoyment to youngsters at Nalango Secondary School in Uganda under the Rob Gauntlett Memorial Fund and at Christ's Hospital under the James Atkinson bequest.

The event was organised by Richard Lebon, the main leader along with Rob's father David Gauntlett, the oldest on the ride and Tim, Rob's brother also took part.

Reuben alone raised £655 and the group as a whole raised £20,000. They will be grateful for further donations; so if you wish to donate go to <https://www.justgiving.com/Reuben-Selby/> More information about the fund can be found on www.onemilecloser.com

Story and picture: Penny Richardson

A QUICK BIBLE JOURNEY IN FARNHAM

ON SATURDAY 6 September 2014 Dorothy McIntosh very efficiently organised a day in St. Joan of Arc's parish centre looking at the 'history of our salvation', starting with the creation of Adam and Eve and ending with the Resurrection of Christ. We travelled through numerous historical moments via the Bible Timeline and learnt how our spiritual ancestors (the Israelites) constantly failed to trust God.

The day was totally absorbing and we were all given a package of information including a well-constructed Bible timeline, that contained lots of information. The timeline used the 14 'narrative' books of the Bible while listing the other 59 supplemental books, putting them in date order on the Bible Timeline Chart.

The day started with coffee, and then we were shown a series of DVD's, in which Jeff Cavins explained the timeline through the writings in the Old and New Testaments. At the end of each DVD we had 10 minutes for a brief table discussion on what we had seen and heard.

We had breaks for coffee and lunch. Dorothy had provided a number of scrumptious cakes for us, and we brought our own packed lunches.

The day was very concentrated but also very revealing and all 38 present felt that it had been well worth it. Thank you Dorothy for being the facilitator for the day and thanks also to Ceri Potts and her helpers in the kitchen.



A&B NEWS is always keen to publish stories of local parish activities which would be of general interest around the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Social gatherings, Fund raising activities, Special anniversaries of parishes and/or parishioners etc all welcome. Articles of around 200 words are especially welcome accompanied by photographs, which should be sent as Email attachments

CRAWLEY PARISH SAYS FAREWELL TO THE FRANCISCAN SISTERS

IN A PACKED FRIARY CHURCH, Crawley, on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, Mass was celebrated to say farewell and thank-you to the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Littlehampton in Copthorne for their 72 years presence in the parish. The Principal Celebrant, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, was assisted by priests of the parish and from the Franciscan Order. He spoke most warmly of the part played by the Sisters in the life of the parish and, at the end of the Mass, Mgr Tony Barry presented a scroll promising a Foundation Mass to be offered at the Friary Church, Crawley, annually on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Sisters have already made two presentations to the parish: the Crucifix from their convent Chapel which now hangs above the Altar in St Edward's, Pound Hill and their fine Tabernacle which is at the heart of the new Chapel of St. Wilfrid's School. The Mass was followed by a reception, with a superb buffet, in the Friary Hall.

*Story: Charles Snowdon
Picture: Franis Fernandez*



THE COPTHORNE house opened in 1942 as a refuge from the bombs for children from St Joseph's, Littlehampton. It became known as Bethlehem because most of these children were babies. A school was started to educate these children. Gradually the Catholic children of the area came to join the school along with the boarders. In 1961 a school hall was built and, in time, more classrooms were added, more children came and the school grew. The chapel became a Mass Centre for our parish and sisters were involved in parish activities. Times and needs brought changes and in 1993 it was decided to close the school. The sisters then developed a Retreat Centre where people came from near and far for a break and to recharge their batteries. Some people used the accommodation en route from Gatwick to the Shrines abroad. This house closed in 2005. The Sisters moved into the Lodge at the bottom of the drive and continued to serve the parish and people in the area. After much reflection and prayer the order has decided to close the Lodge with the sisters moving to other Community houses



Copthorne Convent



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The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team



Serving the communities of our Diocese

How to share the Joy of the Gospel

FR KIERON O'BRIEN and Deacon Stephen Sharpe joined around 70 Catholic evangelists from England and Wales at a meeting with Pope Francis in September to receive practical wisdom about how to share effectively the Catholic Faith at the International Meeting on the Pastoral Project of Evangelii Gaudium in the Vatican.

Pope Francis' call to Evangelization and Mission has transformed the way we live as Church in the city. Deacon Stephen says 'The Church cannot continue to live as we have for the past 50 years, we need to respond to the signs of the times, we need to better understand the radical call to authentic Christian life in contemporary culture'. The parish of St Joseph with St Francis, Brighton has started a year of prayer and reflection as they discern in practical and spiritual terms what Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation 'Evangelii Gaudium' means to the parish.

Pope Francis, said of his Apostolic Exhortation:...'it is about the main mission of the Church, that of evangelising! There are moments when mission becomes urgent and our response to it needs to be revived... How many people are tired and exhausted? How can we share with them the love of God?'

He added: 'There are many possibilities for us to recognise God's presence in today's world... All those engaged in pastoral care are called to read the signs of the times... Jesus spent the whole day looking for workers in the vineyard. Those in pastoral work go out and look for those in need, in search of the Lord.'

Pope Francis ended: '...patience and perseverance. We don't have a magic wand but we do have the Lord who accompanies us and never abandons us. Bearing witness is the beginning of evangelisation and is what touches the heart and transforms it.'



The Pope was addressing around 2,000 delegates from across the world which included representatives from English and Welsh Dioceses. Bishop Mark O'Toole, Plymouth, Bishop Robert Byrne, Birmingham, and Bishop Seamus Cunningham, Hexham and Newcastle, were present.

Deacon Stephen Sharpe

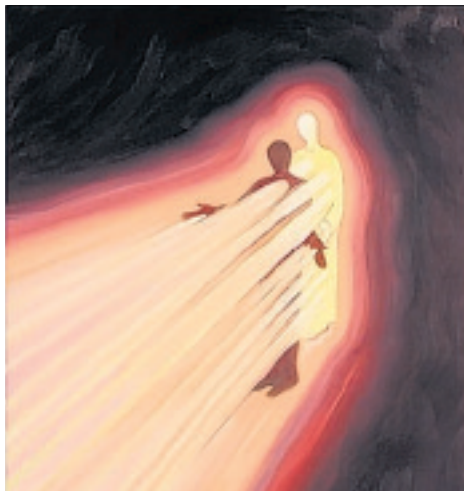
ADVENT 2014

Prayer and Reflection Programme

Advent 2014 is a booklet of scripture, reflections and prayers written by young people and designed for small group discussion.

Six young people were brought together to write reflections on the second reading of each week of Advent, and to design prayer activities and challenges to introduce new methods of prayer to people around the diocese. It is hoped that this approach will help all those involved in Advent 2014 small groups to enter into the preparation of Christmas through Advent and experience the joy that this time of the liturgical year brings.

Each week contains a reflection by young people on one of the readings for each Sunday of Advent followed by a different, stimulating prayer activity and challenge for the week.



Picture Elizabeth Wang

Booklets can be ordered from DABCEC bookshop:

Tel (01293) 651165 Email bookshop@dabnet.org

A downloadable version is available from the diocesan website:

www.dabnet.org/PastoralTeam/adform

More information from David Wills:

Tel (01293) 651157 Email david.wills@dabnet.org

Justice & Peace Assembly 2015

Taking Action in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, refugees and people on the move

Saturday 31 January 2015

Christian Education Centre (DABCEC)

4 Southgate Drive Crawley RH10 6RP

Speakers to be announced shortly

To reserve a place please email ruth.gerun@dabnet.org

Aidan Cantwell, Justice and Peace Adviser



Health Care Workers Mass

All Catholic Doctors, Nurses & other workers in Healthcare are invited to a Mass Saturday 8 November 12.15pm

The Friary Church,
Crawley, RH10 1HR

with coffee afterwards in the Friary Hall

All Catholic Doctors, Nurses & other workers in Healthcare are invited

If you would like to know more about this, or any other event we arrange especially for Healthcare Professionals, please contact

Susan O'Brien, Dialogue & Unity Adviser on 01293 651162

or susan.obrien@dabnet.org

THE ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON DIOCESAN SUPPORT TO THE BEREAVED COURSE 2015

Taking place on Wednesdays in 2015

on 14 and 28 January, 4 and 25 February, and 11 March

Introductory Session Thursday 6 November 2014

Contact Katherine Bergin on

01293 651152 for more details.

katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

Limited Places!

World War 1: - Poems and reflections

OVER A HUNDRED people, including parishioners, members of other churches and people from the local community came along to an afternoon of poetry readings and reflection at the Sacred Heart church in Caterham on Sunday 3 August to commemorate the outbreak of war in 1914. The church was filled with stunning floral displays of poppies, created by Evelyn Kelly and her team. To a background of music, poems from and about the war were read every quarter of an hour, while people were invited to light a candle or share their memories, thoughts or prayers on one of the cards of remembrance.



For several people it marked their first return to a Catholic Church for many years, while those from other faiths and no-faith backgrounds also came together with members of the Sacred Heart parish, united by a wish to remember and acknowledge the sacrifice made on behalf of the generation we have become. With teas and a marvellous selection of cakes on hand, there was also the opportunity for people to chat and exchange stories and reflections, making it very much a community event as well as a testament to the fact that we do indeed remember them.

The Sacred Heart has a special connection with the Irish Guards who would march along with their chaplain to the church each Sunday morning to attend Mass; in 1919 the Battalion presented a Union flag which was given to the church and is still there on display.

Story and picture: Hazel Plaistow

- We Shall Remember Them

A GROUP OF PARISHIONERS from the Parish of the Nativity of the Lord together with parishioners from English Martyrs, Horley who are members of the Reigate Catenian Circle and their wives visited the Somme to pay their respects to the fallen of the First World War.

Respect was paid at the grave of Rifleman V J Strudwick, to be found in the Essex Farm Cemetery, Boesinghe. He was a Dorking resident who was one of the youngest men killed in the war – only 15 at his death. It was also here that the poem 'In Flanders Fields' was written by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae on the 3 May 1915.

Brothers Mark Allanson, Tom Cahalane, Kevin Redstone and Terry Damer laid a wreath of remembrance on behalf of the Catenian Association (Reigate Circle) at the Menin Gate memorial during the Last Post Ceremony (pictured). The Menin Gate memorial has the names of 54,000 soldiers who died in the Ypres area prior to August 1917 and have no known grave.

Respects were also paid at the Tyne Cot Cemetery (Ypres), Vimy Ridge (near Arras), The Thiépval Memorial (the Somme), and the Newfoundland Memorial at Beaumont Hamel. The group was ably led by Gerry O'Dwyer of Horley parish who has researched the First World War over many years and was a unique source of information, enabling many of us to research fallen members of our families.



Story and picture: Bob Barnes

and World War 2: - Fr Cyril - Hero - Remembered

THE HEROISM of St. Maximilian Kolbe is well known and rightly honoured. Not so well known is the heroism of Fr Cyril P Scarborough, (died 24 May 1985) parish priest of The Sacred Heart, Caterham, from 1955 to 1979. In the 1930s he had served as a curate in Caterham. Fr Cyril volunteered as an army chaplain and in 1940 was on the beaches at Dunkirk. He was offered a place in one of the evacuation boats but refused, giving up his place to a married man. He spent the rest of the war in various prisoner of war camps, ending up in the notorious Colditz where he witnessed the arrival of the allied troops who captured the castle. Pat (Patrick) Read who wrote *The Colditz Story*, upon which the film was based, attended Fr Cyril's funeral. He was an exceptional character and it was fortunate for the parishioners of Caterham and Whyteleafe that his sacrifice did not end in martyrdom. He is buried in the cemetery on Caterham Hill, surrounded by many of this parishioners. Our picture was taken during Fr Cyril's time at Caterham.



Story: Ann Lardeur

- The Forgotten Mothers

IT IS MANY YEARS ago since the wartime evacuation of children. I now find myself remembering the many mothers of that March morning in 1941. When the train pulled out of my home town, Worthing station, and us children waved goodbye to our mothers, I call those mothers *The Forgotten Mothers*.

Because I compare the mothers of that day with my own mother, who with a family of seven children, on that morning walked away from Worthing station, to return to their empty houses, in which only so recently they had enjoyed a whole family life.

I think I speak for the majority of the children of that morning, when I point out that the school teachers well prepared us to be evacuated. We were told 'we were going to a farming community town', with plenty of farm produce to eat, farm animals to see, surrounded with beautiful country side, and our mothers put on a brave face to encourage us to go.

In our family my father put his age up to join the army in the Great War (known now as WW1), then just before WW2 was declared like so many other patriotic old soldiers he joined the Territorial Army, so he was among the first to be called up again. I am the fifth child of a family of seven children, and it was not long before my three eldest sisters were away from home in the services; then during the Battle of Britain our mother like many of the other mothers, took in evacuated children from London, until the German invasion across the English Channel was eminent. Then us four remaining children left mother that March morning for her to walk back to an empty house.

I wish to highlight the anguish those *Mothers* must have suffered that day. I take my hat off to them, and may their God bless them, for there has never to my knowledge been any recognition of the pain and their part of the war, that they all must have experienced that March morning.

That is why I call them *'The Forgotten Mothers.'*

Story: Bert Kent

Brighton Deanery Catechists' Meeting

OVER TWENTY CATECHISTS from the Brighton Deanery met at the Sacred Heart Church in Hove on 6 September for a morning of prayer, instruction and reflection, led by David Wills, A&B's Adult Formation Adviser.

Key to the session was Pope Francis' challenge to us to 'be' catechists, not simply to 'work as' catechists.

Catechesis should be much more than teaching, imparting knowledge. We are asked to lead people to Christ by our words and our lives, by giving joyful witness. We can do this by being close to Jesus and by going out of our comfort zone to encounter others - even by going to the margins where we are challenged and uncomfortable.

We considered the five stages people typically go through in the process of full commitment to Jesus, took a hectic one-hour journey through an abbreviated Kerygma Bible Retreat course, and ended with a fascinating presentation on coaching parents to be the providers of their children's religious education.

Unspoken - but at the back of our minds - was the inspiring example of Pope Francis himself, a joyful and humble catechist who reaches out in love to prisoners, migrants, the ill, the poor and the wretched at society's margins.

We are all called to be catechists. A wise person once said: 'faith is caught, rather than taught'. Does our faith infect others?

Our picture shows parish priest Fr Kevin Dring and David Wills, Adult Formation Adviser opening the meeting

Story and picture: Harry Robertson



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SVP Member for 50 years



ANTHONY BATES joined the SVP in 1964 and served 18 years in the Holy Redeemer Conference before moving to St Mary, Star of the Sea Conference in Hastings, where he is still a member. It was appropriate at the SVP Festival Meeting, Corpus Christi in Henfield, West Sussex, on Sunday 14 September 2014 for Adrian Abel, SVP National President, to make the presentation, on behalf of Ingrid Phillips, President of A&B Central Council. Bishop Kieran presented Tony with a medal and Certificate for his long, devoted and continuous service to those in need.

One member exclaimed: 'Tony must have been 10 when he joined the SVP!' Actually, he joined when he was 16. He recalled 'My mother was always a giving person, and she always liked us to do...to help each other; and what we do for God we get back threefold.'

We all wish Tony and his Conference every success for the future. Wow! -What a cake!-and it tasted good too!



Story and picture: A&B SVP Central Council

Benemerenti at Thames Ditton



THERE WAS A DEAFENING round of applause at Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton, as Jeff McCormack was presented with the Benemerenti Medal.

Jeff has been a member of the parish for a staggering 55 years. He has done a great deal of design work as well as hard graft in parish buildings. He has for years been instrumental in sending enormous sums of money to developments in various parts of Africa.

Closer to home Jeff also works regularly in the parish bringing two disabled parishioners to Sunday Mass.

Jeff says that his wife, Anne 'is the greatest joy of his life'. She is also his secretary and computer expert!

Fr Rob Esdaile made the presentation (the second in the parish for five years) 'Jeff is one of the most unassuming men you could meet and there was a desire among those who know the extent of his contribution to honour him'.

It's fair to say that Jeff never saw the honour coming. 'I'm not used to having my name called in church; My first reaction was 'Have I done something wrong?'

A fitting award for a man with a huge heart

Story and picture: Nora Cleeve

NOTICE BOARD

MASS FOR THE DEAF
3pm on 1 November, 6 December and first Saturday of every month unless otherwise stated at **St John the Evangelist Springfield Road, Horsham RH12 2PJ**

Cathalaity Fair
Saturday 8 November
Hove Town Hall
10.30am - 3.30pm
Stalls, refreshments and music

Knights of St Columba -- Province 34
Mass for Deceased Brothers
Sunday 2 November 2014
Arundel Cathedral at 3pm

FOLLOW ME
Saturday 15 November 10am - 3.30pm
Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Hove
Exploring what it means to be a disciple of Jesus today
SPEAKER: FR CHRISTOPHER JAMISON
Director of the National Office of Vocation and monk of Worth Abbey
email admin@wellspringbrighton.org.uk
07975 845193

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr David Buckley, parish priest of Ash and Heath End, who died recently. We hope to carry an obituary next month.



CAFOD A&B telephone: 01483 898866 email arundelbrighton@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD Mass of Remembrance

DURING NOVEMBER, the month of remembrance, we take time to pray for those who have died and give thanks for loved ones who have made a deep and lasting impression on our lives.

Over the years CAFOD has been blessed with wonderful, generous and loyal friends. The insight, faith and strength of our founders and early supporters still shape our values and way of working today.

One of the saddest aspects of growing older, as individuals and as an organisation, is that some of our closest friends have passed away in recent months and years. In our own diocese we have lost a number of friends who have played an inspirational and important role in our work.

So in celebration of our inspiring friends, and as a small token of our appreciation for their years of kindness and dedication, we will be holding a memorial Mass at The Friary in Crawley, on November the 29th at 12:15. We'd be honoured if you would join us in commemorating the wonderful people who've touched our lives and made the world a better place.

Our book of remembrance will be presented and blessed by the celebrant at Mass. If you would like to add a name to this list you would be very welcome; whether or not you can attend the service itself. Please get in touch with our office to add a name or if you'd like to know more.

Blog: cafodarundelbrighton.wordpress.com

Fr Rory's 65th Birthday Bash

ON SUNDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, the Catholic churches of St Wilfrid's in Hailsham, and St George's in Polegate, celebrated with great gusto this special occasion by organising a social evening in the Civic Community Centre in Hailsham. It was a great opportunity to express our affection and gratitude to Fr Rory Kelly for his encouragement, wisdom and pastoral care, especially as we now eagerly await the commencement of the construction of our new church.

The entertainments were arranged to meet the ages of all present, from young children to great grandparents! And enjoy it, we did. Fr Rory had requested that a special committee be formed to plan the details of the entertainment and the buffet and drinks all of which were available throughout the evening. The children thought Christmas had arrived early!

The first hour and a half was dedicated to the children with musical games and activities and prizes distributed all round. Bill then announced the details of the Auction and the Sales Table; 15 good items were available for bidding including donations from Cardinal Cormac and Bishop Kieran for which we are extremely grateful. There were many other items for sale throughout the evening.

The arrival of the Irish Dancers from Crawley, who gave a very impressive and enjoyable performance, and the Band, Dom and Flash Company, were welcomed by all and soon there were dancers on the floor enjoying the Irish Music. Many popular songs were included in the programme and we were soon singing along with them. Towards the end of the evening, a member of the band, a young guitarist of 14 years played and sang two solos. We were all amazed at the power and maturity of his voice and wish him well for the future.

The great moment of the ceremony of cutting the cake arrived and it was wheeled into the hall on a trolley, beautifully decorated with green shamrock and writing. It was huge and had been made and donated by Chris Brown from Hailsham. Everyone sampled this delicious moist fruit cake and did it justice. Thank you so much, Chris. Our singing of 'Happy Birthday' raised the roof. We were so pleased that Fr Rory's brother from Ireland was able to join us and it was obvious that they both enjoyed the party as much as we did!

Then followed the Auction and Bill with his 'silver tongue' and with the assistance of Maeve and Jean, managed to persuade us to bid for all the items. It was an hilarious half-hour and quite amazing that we all came away with the items we had actually bid for!

More dancing followed and people continued to visit the buffet and drinks tables which were restocked (soft drinks!!) throughout the evening. There was plenty left over to fill small doggy bags for all to take home.

Our thanks go to the committee, Maeve, Margaret and John, Jean, Margaret from St George's and Ann for all their hard work in bringing about such a successful evening, to Bob, our MC who kept us in order, to Sophie and Peter who organised the children's entertainment, to all who came to the festivities and made our efforts so worthwhile and especially to Fr Rory who suggested the idea. Thank you, everyone.

PS. The proceeds from the event amounted to over £2,100 towards our New Church Project.

Story and picture: Ann Fielder



New Head Teacher at Arundel

AT ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL, on Sunday 14 September, in the presence of Mrs Mary Reynolds, Director of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Service, pupils, teachers, governors and members of the parish congregations of Arundel and Storrington, Bishop Kieran inducted Mrs Lucy Horne as the new Head Teacher of St Philip's Primary School in Arundel.

In the ceremony, the Bishop reminded Lucy of her new role and responsibilities: 'As leader of the school community, your first responsibility is to ensure that it is centred on Christ. The whole curriculum and every part of it is religious, since there is nothing which does not ultimately relate to God. You are asked to ensure that every person in your school, adult and pupil, is valued as an individual who is loved and gifted uniquely by God'.

Lucy was presented with a Bible during the induction ceremony as a gift from the parish communities of Storrington and Arundel.

Story: Canon Tim Madeley

Festival 50 on 5 July 2015

Some ways to join in

Walking Pilgrimage for Festival 50

The Arundel and Brighton Walking Pilgrimage are organising a fantastic and joyful two day Diocesan celebration pilgrimage. We will be walking from Arundel along the beautiful South Downs Way to process into the Amex Stadium on Sunday 5 July. Those who would like to join us, from parishes, communities or schools are invited to arrive at Arundel Cathedral for a 09:30 Mass on Friday 3 July. Any banners will be blessed and the walkers commissioned as pilgrims to bring the Diocese to the Amex stadium. The cost per pilgrim will be £50* which includes food, transport of luggage, overnight sleeping at Upper Beeding Friday night with a barn dance in the evening and overnight sleeping at Falmer Saturday night with hopefully some more celebrating that evening. (*£50 reductions possible if needed - all priests come for free). Please start looking for and asking for walkers or a get a youth club from your parish to represent your church / school at this event.

Contact: www.thepilgrims.org.uk

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See the Diocesan website for further information and to download an entry pack, or contact Dabcec:

Email: Festival50@dabnet.org
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www.dabnet.org/Festival50



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Outline of Market Place and Diocesan Showcase At Jubilee

Festival 2015, there will be a 'Market Place' with many stalls.

These stalls will enable many different Catholic/Christian-based organisations and initiatives to represent and report about what they are doing and what they plan for the future. The types of organisations/initiatives that will probably be participating will include Catholic schools and educational institutes, charities (e.g. CAFOD, ...), Christian artists, Christian communities, youth organisations, Christian book stalls, Catholic organisations (e.g. Knights of St. Columba, UCM, ...), retreat centres, organisations and centres offering training and courses, relevant A&B suppliers etc, and many others.

In addition there will be displays covering Diocesan history and archives and information about vocations and religious organisations within the Diocese.

Call for participation

If you as an individual, or as a representative of an organisation, would like to participate in the Market Place / Diocesan Showcase please contact us as soon as possible at the Festival Office, DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6RP, or by email at festival50@dabnet.org. Festival 50 can provide tables and display boards on request for Market Place participants, but there may be a small charge (at cost) for these.

If you would like to take part please contact: Festival50@dabnet.org with the following information

Name
Address, Telephone/Mobile, email
Purpose of proposed stall / Organisation represented

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FROM THE PARISHES

ADUR

PAINT BRUSHES have been very much to the fore this month. Fantastic help has been given by so many to prepare the presbytery to welcome our new parish priest Fr Graham Ricketts, who arrives in October together with his family. In addition the new office built by reorganising part of the parish hall has quite miraculously come together and looks very smart. This being largely due to the expertise of Peter Ransom our Buildings and Maintenance expert and for which we owe him tremendous thanks.

The rest of the parish has not been slacking though. In Shoreham along with other members of Churches Together there has been a Walk around the boundary of Shoreham to pray for the welfare and well being of our town and for blessings and protection for our town and neighbours; From seven starting points people were welcome to walk as many or as few zones as they wished or indeed the whole boundary.

There was a memorial service at the St Botolph's cemetery on 14 September which because of repairs to the historic building of St Botolph's church was held outside in fortunately good weather. *Penny Richardson*

ARUNDEL

THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS marking the end of the school year at St Philip's was celebrated in a full cathedral by Bishop Kieran, along with several other priests. However, there was an additional poignancy on this occasion, for after 13 years as head, Margaret Fraher was retiring. The meaningful St Philip's hymns were sung with gusto, complete with actions, reviving happy memories of the special occasions for which they were originally written.

Margaret and Peter Fraher then presented Bishop Kieran with a chalice and paten, as gifts for the school, which he blessed and used in the Mass. These will be used at future Masses in the school community. The Mass ended with an exuberant rendering of 'A sower went out to sow...' and so our journeys continue...

In the idyllic setting of our recently landscaped Cathedral garden parishioners gathered for the annual Barbecue. We spent time relaxing together, renewing acquaintances and making new friends, amid the aromas of delicious home-made burgers, sausages and other delicacies. As the day ended we were all set for another year of parish activities as well as the celebrations marking our Diocesan Jubilee, which have a special significance here in Arundel. As a gentle beginning, those involved in parish ministries took time to out to reflect on their particular roles under the engaging guidance of Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith.

Hilary Caws

BRIGHTON

St Mary's, Preston Park

TWENTY TWO of our children made their First Holy Communion on Trinity Sunday 15 June: one of the most important days in the year for the parish.

On Sunday 29 June the Social Concerns Group organised a summer coffee morning after the 10am Mass, raising £85 for CAFOD.

On Thursday 28 August the Sisters of Grace and Compassion Benedictines at St Mary's House had a Mass of thanksgiving to commemorate 60 years of work for the elderly. It was attended by Cardinal Cormac and Bishop Kieran.

We had the Vatican cricket team as guests at our 10am Mass on Sunday 14 September before they played a cricket match in Preston Park against a local team also called St Peter's. Funds raised from the game went to charities helping the homeless in Brighton. A grand day was had and the team were thankful for their warm welcome. *Claire Shelton-Jones*

CRAWLEY

Christ the Lord (LEP)
Broadfield and Bewbush

CONGRATULATIONS to Katie Dunlevy on winning a world championship medal in cycling, despite the very hot weather. Katie is the first female paracyclist to win a medal at a world championship road race.

Big congratulations too to Fr Chris and family on their amazing feat of doing the Three Peaks Challenge for 'Mind'. Total overall sponsorship raised by Fr Chris was a magnificent £10,000, for which they are most grateful.

Our Macmillan cake sale after Mass on 14 September raised £205, due to the generosity of those who baked and bought cakes.

The 'Vintage Day' fund-raiser for the roof fund on 20 September was a fun way to raise money while trying out new things in the workshops like swing-sing, lindy-hop or art. Once again delicious cakes were on sale and enjoyed!

Barbara Winstanley

CRAWLEY

St Francis, St Anthony
and St Bernadette

WE ARE VERY PROUD of Fr Chris Dobson, of our clergy team, who successfully climbed the three highest peaks in the UK at the end of August with his family. The parish were pleased to sponsor him to undertake such a huge challenge. The object of the challenge, was to raise money for the mental health charity 'Mind'.

Over the last weekend in August, Fr Chris and his family attempted to climb, Ben Nevis, Scarfell Pyke and Snowdon. While his family completed all three, Fr Chris attempted all three but managed to reach the actual peak of the 'Big Ben'! They finished the course after 30 hours and returned to Crawley at 6am on the Monday. Fr Chris was overwhelmed, not only by the experience but the generosity of the parish, who donated over £1000 plus gift aid. What heroes

Sue Fellows

EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

THE ANNUAL Harvest Weekend appeal (on 27/28 September) brought donations from parishioners of canned and packaged food for the East Grinstead food bank and Crawley Open House charity.

A Walk for Life, to raise money for mothers and babies in West Sussex LIFE houses, took place on the afternoon of Sunday 28 September. Parishioners taking part were sponsored to compete the 11km (7 mile) route from Worth Abbey back to East Grinstead. There was also a shorter option from Crawley Down. Walkers returned to enjoy a welcome tea at the parish hall at Our Lady and St Peter.

Scaffolding has now appeared along the south side of Our Lady and St Peter as repairs to the roof continue.

In September, we welcomed in Baptism Ruariri Matthew Hennigar, William and Arthur Stewart, Olivia Rose Bradford and Jack Alexander Varga.

Clive Carpenter

LEWES

'HOME MISSION SUNDAY' saw the launch of a new Parish Pastoral Plan in Lewes. Inspired by the 'missionary option' about which Pope Francis says he 'dreams' in *Evangelii Gaudium*, Fr Jonathan Martin has organized the parish into very simple geographical areas, each with a kind of co-ordinator, in order to foster pastoral care of the community and to respond to the Pope's request for Christians throughout the world to 'offer a radiant and attractive witness of fraternal communion.' The Pope says: 'Let everyone admire how you care for one another, and how you encourage and accompany one another, [for, as Jesus says] 'by this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.' [*Evangelii Gaudium*, 99] Our pastoral plan is not, then, simply about taking greater care of our own, but about our evangelization of this beautiful corner of our diocese.

Ffion Wilkes

MERSTHAM, REDHILL and REIGATE



'I AM FRANCIS.' The priest introducing himself so simply was Mgr Twum-Barimah, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Koforidua in the Eastern part of Ghana. He spent from 20 August to 30 September with us celebrating Mass in all our three churches, thanks to volunteers who ferried him around. The trail of co-incidences which let him to the parish began some years ago with a chance meeting in Dublin. Then he became good friends with John and Jane who lived in Wapping, so his first visit to England was to an area very different from leafy Surrey. They have since moved here so Fr Francis has been able to visit us too. He obviously enjoyed his stay – he writes, 'I've enjoyed the company and hospitality of the priests in the presbytery, the warmth of parishioners and the sense of humour of both the priests and parishioners. Liturgical life in the parish is impressive: Mass attendance, devotional groups, vibrancy of the youth and particularly the daily hour of adoration before Mass at St Joseph. Also the individual dedicated parishioners who voluntarily have taken up roles in the parish assisting the priests, for example, those who keep the sacristy. The weather during the period of my stay has been very lovely. I'm told it has been exceptional this year. I took advantage of the fine weather to visit places like Arundel (Cathedral), Windsor and Littlehampton. Profound gratitude to all especially Frs Chris Spain and Aaron Spinelli, and Deacon Tim Murrell and all who have assisted me'.

It has been barbecue season; on 14 September St Teresa's Merstham hosted one in the garden, and Fr Francis came bearing a plate of food to share. A further example of his modesty that when being asked about himself he did not reveal he is Vicar General of his Diocese! On 28 it was St Joseph's Redhill who provided the BBQ lunch. There was entertainment too: Elizabeth gave a beautiful display of Irish Dancing.

Story and picture: Ann Lardeur

POLEGATE AND HAILSHAM

ST GEORGE'S Mother Teresa Group invited guests to watch a DVD showing how their knitted blankets and shoe boxes are distributed in Eastern Europe by volunteers from the Mustard Seed Relief Missions, based in Eastbourne. Lisa Smart, director of the charity, showed how all contributions are checked in their warehouse to ensure gifts are suitable for the children they serve. It was a time of excitement for the children in hospitals and orphanages, and to see the pleasure on their faces as they unpacked their boxes was very moving. Immediately hats, scarves and gloves were put on, and there were great smiles when they found a pack of coloured pencils among the flannels, soap and toothbrushes. We saw a grandmother at her sick granddaughter's bedside in tears, because the girl had been given a box of simple toys - she had never had such a gift before.

St George's also put on a very moving presentation by Kelly Richards, niece of 'Forces Favourite' Anne Shelton. Anne sang with all the greats of the era, including Glenn Miller, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Everyone joined in singing enthusiastically to the recordings, including *Lay Down Your Arms*. Kelly has written a biography of her life and a CD of Anne's recordings is also available.

Tessa Truman and Ruth Ayres

WORTHING

OUR RESTART week this year was from 7 to the 14 September and was based on *Lumen Gentium*, one of the principal documents of the 2nd Vatican Council. This commenced with Mass on Sunday the 7. On Monday there was Penitential Service where it was asked if as members of the Church we were the Light of the World. Tuesday the church was blessed in honour of the 150th anniversary. Wednesday there was a Renewal Service with guest speaker David Matthews who is a Methodist Minister from Northern Ireland who has done a lot to help relations between Catholics and Protestants there, he is now based in Brentwood and has spoken at a number of Catholic Conferences. This year he is speaking at the Birmingham

Conference and the Irish National Conference in Athlone. Thursday there was a Taize Service with prayers and meditative chants. Friday an informal service of Prayer and Praise was held. The week ended at Masses on Sunday 14.

Tuesday 23 September was Fr Chris's Birthday which was celebrated with a splendid party organised by the Filipino Community in our Parish Centre.

Sunday 28 we had our Harvest Thanksgiving all for which the church was beautifully decorated and parishioners placed their food donation around the Altar, these were given to the Day Centre for the Homeless.

Astrid Gibson

WORTH

ON MONDAY 15 September we had an excellent talk at Worth Abbey by Dr Oonagh O'Brien on the role of the laity in the Church and how this has changed with the implementation of Vatican II. She is working on a project to map the development of lay life as a form of discipleship and ministry in the Church. She gave us time to ask questions and the roles of priestess and deaconess were discussed. It was good that several of the monks from Worth supported the talk.

Anita de Lacey

TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS

ITEMS for the December 2014 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on Monday 3 November 2014 and for the January 2015 (Christmas) issue by Monday 1 December 2014. Contributions may be sent by e-mail to abnews@dabnet.org and if so please include a contact telephone number.

It is helpful to us if Correspondents can type their contributions, keep them to no more than 200 words and include a word count. Original good quality digital pictures (which must be at least 300dpi) are very welcome. They should be sent as e-mail attachments. We regret we are unable to use photocopies or copies printed directly from computers. Please tell us that you have permissions for children's photos to be published.

NOTICE

It would be of considerable benefit to the editorial team if contributors would *always* include their contact telephone number when submitting any copy.

Thank you

FROM THE PARISHES

SUTTON PARK



ON 24 SEPTEMBER Fr Sean Finnegan celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his priesthood at St Edward the Confessor, Sutton Park. Fr Finnegan was pp of St Edward's from 1997 to 1998 and chaplain of Guildford University during the next three years. During his time at St Edward's he made many friends, and many of them came from far away to celebrate with him his jubilee. It was a delight to see his mother Nancy celebrating with us, as well as Fr Philip Smith, who used to be one of his altar servers at St Edward's, and is now a priest in the Southwark Diocese. The photo shows Fr Philip Smith, Fr Sean Finnegan, Fr Jerome Bertram and Fr Brian Taylor concelebrating Mass, followed by a get together of many old and new parishioners of St Edward's.

Story and picture: Ingrid Phillips

Worth Abbey Events

10 November - Talk by Sr Cathy Jones on Mary in the Church today - in the Unity Room - No tickets required - suggested donation of £5.00.

30th November (1st Sunday of Advent): Handel's Christmas Music @ 7.30pm

14th December (3rd Sunday of Advent): Organ recital by D'Arcy Trinkwon - A Selection of Advent Music @ 7.30pm

21st December (4th Sunday of Advent): Traditional Carol Service followed by refreshments @ 4pm
All are welcome - No tickets required

For further information, please contact Mandy Horton on 01342 710313 or at www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk <<http://www.worthabbeyparish.co.uk>>

New Prayer Garden at Sacred Heart, Hastings

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, the pupils of Sacred Heart School, Hastings will be enjoying their new prayer garden. It was opened and blessed by Bishop Kieran on the occasion of the retirement of Miss Rosalind Gillies at the end of the Summer Term. Miss Gillies, whose teaching career spanned 39 years and included much good work for the Diocese, presented a gift to the school of a beautiful statue of Our Lady for the prayer garden. After the Thanksgiving Mass, which was attended by many past and present staff, governors and colleagues, Mary Reynolds spoke of Miss Gillies' wonderful service to Catholic Education in the Diocese. Miss Doreen Cronin, Principal of St Richard's Catholic College spoke warmly of the strong links between the two schools, which, as Year 6 class teacher and Deputy Head, Miss Gillies had promoted. Headteacher, Mr Joe Hellett presented Miss Gillies with a special Papal Blessing on behalf of the school community and thanked Miss Gillies for her support and dedication to the life of the school over many years.



Story and picture: Lesley Shaw

Senior Staff Soaking at The Towers!

TWO SENIOR TEACHERS and a Sister of the Blessed Sacrament went the extra mile today at the Towers Convent School in Upper Beeding, when the school held its own version of the Ice Bucket Challenge. Sr Mary Andrew, who was Headmistress for 32 years, Mrs Hanks, Teacher in Charge of The Junior School and Mrs Trelfa, Headmistress faced their soaking as bravely as possible.

Pupils and staff bought raffle tickets in the hope that they would be one of the three lucky individuals who could inflict the watery torture on the foolish volunteers! A once in a lifetime opportunity!

Mrs Sparks, Head of Drama was the 'Mistress' of Ceremonies and introduced the victims one by one before they received their comeuppance. Sadly for the spectators the entertainment ended all too soon! Money raised will be sent to two charities; Wateraid and Children in Gaza.

Story and picture: Louise Crick







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