

THE CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER FOR SURREY & SUSSEX

FREE

A & B NEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
No 289 February 2015



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Things have been happening at the Diocesan Christian Education Centre

Good & faithful Servants

ARCHBISHOP PETER SMITH was at the Diocesan Education Centre in Crawley to celebrate Mass for all Diocesan Staff and Volunteers. Gathered with him were colleagues from the Trustees and Diocesan Finance Committee, DABCEC, Hove, The Lourdes Office, Coolham Retreat Centre and the Cathedral.

The Archbishop took the opportunity to thank everyone for their work during 2014 – a year which he noted had been particularly challenging. He went on to say that, as Apostolic Administrator, he wanted to reassure the Diocese of his support and prayers.

One of the things highlighted at this annual Mass is the large number of volunteers involved in supporting the Diocese.

A good example is Vince Gartlan, who has been a volunteer at the A&B News for 15 years. Many readers will have met Vince, at least on the phone, and may still do so as he will be helping from time to time.

Archbishop Peter presented Vince with the St Philip Howard Medal (*picture right*) – the Diocesan recognition of voluntary work generously given over many years.

At the end of Mass several members of staff who had retired or left during the year were thanked by Mgr Tony Barry, the Centre Director. The Archbishop also welcomed three replacement members of Staff: Marie Ryan, Jack Regan and Margaret Fraher. An external grant has been given to the Diocese for research in the area of Marriage and Family Life and Kat Pond will take on this role for 2 years. Finally another volunteer: Harry Robertson will be replacing Vince on the A&B News team: welcome to them all!

Mgr Tony Barry



Pictured above: Pauline Groves, Editor, A & B NEWS presents a folder of memories to Vince. Watching are (l/r) Joel Basson who left earlier in the year, Vince (and behind him) Sue O'Brien, Mary Reynolds and John McManus.

Pictured below: the St Philip Howard Medal, awarded to volunteers who have given outstanding service to the diocese.

The other recent changes have been as follows:

Jack Regan who has replaced Ray Mooney as Youth Adviser



Margaret Fraher, who has replaced John McManus as Inclusion Adviser



Marie Ryan who has replaced Mary Reynolds as Director of the Schools Service



Harry Robertson who will be replacing Vince at A & B NEWS on a voluntary basis.



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Don't forget this year's Annual Justice & Peace Assembly on Immigration with guest speaker Sarah Teather, MP, takes place on Saturday 31 January at DABCEC, Crawley.
Ruth.gerun@dabnet.org

A & B NEWS catches up

FARNHAM HOSTS TALK ON TANZANIA

AFTER THE ARCAID AGM in St Joan's Centre, Farnham a very interesting illustrated talk was given by Dr. Karilyn Collins MBE on palliative care in Tanzania. Dr. Karilyn Collins went with her husband to Teule Hospital in Muheza, Tanzania in 2002. Karilyn quickly saw an urgent need for palliative care, particularly for Cancer and HIV patients. She founded Muheza Hospice Care within the main hospital. At that time there was no morphine for pain relief and no treatment for HIV. As morphine and treatment for HIV became available they were able to help more people both in the hospice and in the villages. In 2006 a programme was started to help orphans and the most vulnerable children, and a Kids Klub was later set up. This programme is catering for a large and ever increasing number of children in the district. In 2008 the palliative care was extended to other hospitals by training a suitable team from each hospital. Since 2012 this has been further extended to villages, since it was realised many patients could not get to the hospice. To assist in this expansion a document called the Palliative Care Toolkit (already in existence) was used to help the local palliative aid mentors and workers. At the end of the talk, Karilyn was presented with a cheque for the hospice by Andrew Torjussen. Further information on Dr. Collins work can be found at www.muhezahospicecare.org/about/history-of-mhc ARCAID is an independent charity run by volunteers within St Joan of Arc parish. Their income is from subscriptions and gifts and last year they disbursed £52,768 to 34 deserving cases in India, Africa, South America, etc

Pictured: Dr Karilyn Collins receiving a Cheque for the Hospice from Andrew Torjussen

Story and picture: Tony Tunstall



ROOM AT THE INN IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

FOR THE FOURTH WINTER in succession, Brighton & Hove Churches ran their Homeless Night Shelter. It opened at St. Peter's Anglican Church on 22 November and will run for the next 18 weeks until the end of March 2015.

The 11 participating churches each host up to 15 homeless men and women for one night each week. Sacred Heart Church in Hove is the 'Tuesday Night' church for the first nine weeks and then passes the baton to St Joseph's Church to host the second nine weeks.

At Sacred Heart over 50 volunteers are arranged into two teams that work alternate weeks. They welcome the guests each Tuesday evening, provide a hot dinner, entertainment, companionship, comfortable sleeping arrangements and a warm breakfast before departure early the following morning.

This year, for the first time, the Shelter will be open to both men and women. With the squeeze on benefits and continuing employment woes, it is expected that the number of homeless will continue to rise. Certainly, the early indications are that a larger spread of nationalities than usual is using the shelter.

The shelter has been a great blessing for the participating Churches. Apart from providing the structure to help some of the homeless, it has galvanised support among parishioners, united the volunteers in a remarkable spirit of joyful service, and brought together Anglican, Catholic, Baptist and Evangelical churches across the city.

Story and picture: Harry Robertson



SILVER MUSIC FOR CAFOD

THE PATCHAM Silver band gave a fund-raising concert at Christ the King Church in Langney, with proceeds in aid of CAFOD, to go to the people in war-torn Iraq and Gaza. Conductor James Benka-Coker included traditional Remembrance Day music, songs from the Last Night of the Proms, as well as popular tunes by Abba, Queen and Carole King. The audience, ably led by guest singer Margaret Tompsett, joined in enthusiastically with energetic waving of Union Jacks. Fr Barry Anderson has hosted the event for a number of years, and it has always proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable occasion.

Story and picture: Mary Barlow

Pictured left to right: Fr Barry Anderson, James Benka-Coker and Margaret Tompsett.



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A & B NEWS catches up (continued)

Intercultural Event held in Bexhill



RECENTLY Bexhill Youth and Community Centre was nearly overflowing as Bexhill hosted Faiths in Sussex's Autumn Interfaith event, drawing together members of Interfaith Groups from all over Sussex.

Seven speakers addressed the topic 'Exploring Forgiveness', ranging from Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Shakil Malik's insightful professional analysis to Sikh, Christian, Hindu, Moslem and Jewish perspectives drawing on personal experience informed by faith. Dr Malik spoke of the health benefits of forgiveness and the damage to our mental health caused by bitterness and hatred, while the UK Inter Faith Networks' National Director, Dr Harriet Crabtree, drew all the contributions to a conclusion and provoked us to consider forgiveness in an inter-organisational and interfaith context.

Our local Hastings and District Interfaith Forum took the lead with funding from Community First for Central Bexhill and very active support from Bexhill Council of Christians and Jews, our local Islamic Association and Churches Together. It was a resounding success attended by 85 participants who also enjoyed the forgiveness themed cultural contributions of the Come All Nations Choir, Charles Harvey's chants and the Pestalozzi Village Community's young people (pictured above).

All concluded in the harmony of Tanzanian and Persian cuisine and traditional English cakes, accompanied by lively conversation and an interesting display introducing the Forgiveness Project.

Story and picture by Gill Meyer

Opening of Haslemere Crypt

HASLEMERE'S MAYOR, Penny Bradley, was present at the launch of new facilities for the ecumenical youth club housed in The Crypt, below the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes church.

Young people have been meeting there for some years, but without kitchen or toilet, it was not really suitable for the many groups who currently use it.

After several years of planning and fund-raising and with the refurbishment complete, young people and guests gathered to celebrate the occasion with wine and refreshments.

Fr Chris Bergin welcomed everyone including the Rev Mary Bowden and youth officer Sandy Clarke, both from St Bartholomew's Parish Church, before blessing the new facilities. The Mayor then declared them officially open.

On the fund-raising side, Fr Chris expressed gratitude to parishioners and PCCs of both churches, the Haslemere Religious Education Fund and Haslemere Town Council. For practical help with the project he thanked the contractor Ian Bush on behalf of BC Construction, parishioner Tony Lyons who had acted as project manager, and the young people and their leaders who had cleared all their stuff from the crypt in preparation for the work to be done.

Everyone now looks forward to the Crypt being used for meetings of many other groups within both parishes.

Pictured from left to right are Fr Chris Bergin, Penny Bradley - Mayor of Haslemere, Rev Mary bBowden and Sandy Clarke - Youth Officer

Story and picture: Fay Foster



St Dunstan's in Woking present Cheques

DECEMBER at St Dunstan's parish in Woking was a busy month with presentation of cheques to two charities - Woking Lions and Woking Mind.

The picture shows the presentation of a cheque for £1000 to Roger Chamberlain, President of Woking Lions from Canon Frank Harrington, parish priest of St Dunstan's church. The parish has a collection every week for local, national and international charities and emergencies and parishioners always give most generously and the collection on the weekend of 5/6 December raised this £1000 for the work of Woking Lions.

For more information about St Dunstan's please contact the parish office on 01483 760652 or email st.dunstan@dabnet.org and for Woking Lions on 01483 723832.

Story and picture: John Sexton



Grandparents visit English Martyrs in Woking

IN OCTOBER, members of the Grandparents Group, with friends, visited the English Martyrs church in Goring where we were amazed by the beauty of the only known reproduction in the world of the Sistine Chapel Ceiling.

Working evenings, it took Gary Bevans five and a half years to complete the project. The colours were made to match those of the restored ceiling following cleaning. The size of the ceiling is 3,500 sq ft compared with the original 5,000 sq ft. We were all blown away by the technical skill involved. Nor is it just the ceiling that impresses. The same artist has produced further paintings, created wonderful marble effects and the stained glass windows are not only beautiful but were rescued and the glass reused.

After a short but interesting talk, we had time to wander and admire before retiring to the small adjacent chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is usually reserved in view of the number of visitors to the church.

It seemed coincidentally appropriate that we, a Grandparents group, being under the Sistine Chapel ceiling of Goring, while Pope Francis and his Bishops were, in Rome, debating issues concerning the Family, that we should pray for the Pope and for Families everywhere.

Story and Picture: Judith Barnes



The Oaks of Merstham

MIGHTY OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW. Merstham UCM discovered not only mighty oaks but from acorns miniature oaks can also be grown.

Karl Wakeling began his presentation by giving a history of bonsai which included a well known Japanese folk tale of a samurai who burnt his last three potted trees to keep a passing monk warm and how this was repaid to him hundred fold.

Karl has been seriously studying bonsai for the last three years after a couple of failed attempts to keep trees alive! His first specimen was a Christmas present from his mother-in-law, Linda Corcoran who is UCM Secretary. He now grows his trees from seeds, seedlings and cuttings.

Karl brought a number of his trees to talk about and explained how to care for them, and answered the many questions. There were jokes too! Having been ill recently he recommends taking up bonsai as an aid to relaxation and recovery.

As for the familiar proverb, the earliest record of a similar saying is from Chaucer! 'As an ook cometh of a litel spyr' (a spyr, or spire, is a sapling) Troilus and Criseyde, 1374.

Story: Ann Lardeur Picture: Lizzie Wakeling



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A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the
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On a journey

WE OFTEN SAY THAT 'Life is a Pilgrimage', but we don't necessarily really believe it is. Most of us don't like change very much. Change means adjusting our outlook or our way of life.

The Holy Family certainly had to change radically when they had to leave for asylum in Egypt. But it is happening today in our world. Imagine having a few minutes to gather what belongings we can carry and walk for many days in heat and cold, maybe with young children, to somewhere a little bit safer. How would we handle that? And recently some of the refugee camps have experienced snow. Would we in our rush have packed suitable clothing for such weather?

As you read this our Justice and Peace Assembly is looking at some of the these issues and we will report on what they learnt in our next edition.

During the month of February the Church journeys on from Christmas and, after a short quiet Ordinary Time, moves towards Lent and Easter. In this issue of A & B NEWS we have looked back to include material we had no room for last month. Next month we, too, will move towards Lent and Easter.

Pauline F. Groves

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JUST A THOUGHT

Persevering to the end

THERE IS AN EPITAPH on a headstone in Ocklynge Cemetery. 'He did the work God gave him to do. He followed the Way of the Cross unto the end.' Canon Corballis, Rector of Our Lady of Ransom Church, Eastbourne, died of cancer on 15 December, 1955.

The epitaph suggests he suffered his illness with patience, uncomplaining. That quite simply is the Christian view of things; life is not a bed of roses; a part of life is to bear the sorrows, the disappointments, the illnesses. Some early Christians threw themselves off precipices with mistaken zeal to be with Christ. They were right in thinking things were not so great in the world. They were wrong not to persevere.

As Fr Corballis closed his eyes, police were digging up bodies to build a case against Dr Bodkin Adams, accused of bumping off old ladies for riches. He was found not guilty of murder at The Old Bailey in 1956; Lord Justice Devlin, the trial judge noted the doctor's phrase, 'easing the passing' to describe his use of drugs on his patients.

Visiting people, particularly the sick, is a priest's duty, not just a social call. A familiar 'Goodnight, God Bless!' is a great consolation; a silent prayer to either give more life and health in old age, or let a soul go in peace at the end of life is a comfort.

Andrew Somerville

Diocese of Chulucanas – Who? What? Why?

Back in July the A&B NEWS reported on a goodwill visit by six of our priests to the Diocese of Chulucanas to celebrate their 50th Anniversary and now, as part of the preparation for our own Golden Jubilee on 5 July this year, Special Correspondent, Peter Burholt, looks into the background of our relationship.

LOCATED IN WESTERN South America and bordered by five countries and the Pacific Ocean, The Republic of Peru has trebled its population in 30 years to 30.4m. Its history is rich, with many of the oldest civilisations living in the country – including the Inca Empire. Spanish is spoken by over 80% of the population, which is separated into 25 regions. Over 26% of inhabitants are classed by the World Bank as living in or below the poverty line. This may sound an unacceptable statistic, but Peru has made great advancement in reducing this percentage from an eye-opening figure of 55% in 2000.

Chulucanas is a city in the Piura Region, with a population of 400, 000 – for us, this compares to Surrey with 1.1m - although the physical spread of townships and villages bears no resemblance to our diocese, often taking days to reach the outer regions.

How did this relationship start and why did it start?

The only source to find the answer to this question is Cardinal Cormac, who writes to the A&B News on the early days and his aims for this special relationship.

'I became Bishop of Arundel & Brighton on 21 December 1977. At that time I soon found out that there were five priests from the diocese who were working in South America, three in Chile and two in Peru. I remember them all well and their names are Ed O'Shea, Mick McGlade, Kevin McHugh, John Medcalf (now all gone to the Lord), as well as Brendan MacCarthy, still happily serving in Hersham. I soon made up my mind that I would travel to South America and see them all. I think it was 1979 before I paid my first visit. I was accompanied by Fr Jeremy Lear and I remember getting Jeremy to take all the necessary injections and I took only one or two very essential ones! Anyway, it was a very eventful and happy trip and I was really glad to meet them all, both in Santiago, Chile, as well as in Lima.

It urged me to make sure that the commitment of the diocese to what was then called, 'The Third World', should continue and when I returned. I decided that I would pay another visit and see what would be the best way in which the diocese could help, particularly in Peru. Accordingly, on my second visit I met the Bishop of Chulucanas, a diocese in the North of Peru and soon decided that it would be good to have a relationship with him and promised that I would send some priests to serve in his diocese. I seem to remember that a contract was given that I would continue this help for at least ten years. Jeremy Lear and Hugh Dutton were the first to go and soon settled very happily. I remember going out again a year or two later with Benny O'Shea and I was able to have long sessions with the bishop and see the parishes in which they were working.

The next visit I paid was a particularly sad one because Jeremy Lear was killed in a car accident and I went out with Barry Wymes for the funeral. This was a most moving event. It seemed that nearly the whole of the diocese turned out to bid farewell to an English priest, who had won their hearts in such a short time. When I returned, Benny O'Shea kindly offered to take his place and before long, he and Ian Byrnes went out and remained there for nearly eight years. Nor must I forget that Benny and Ian were joined by three Sisters of Mercy from Midhurst - Sr Veronica, Sr Rosaria and Sr Marie Louise. During his last visit home, Jeremy Lear had asked for some sisters to join him in Peru but, sadly, he did not live to experience their help and companionship. Much later on, Kevin Dring went out for a few years and I know that he too gave good support there and was very warmly welcomed.

Those were the facts. But my memories of Peru are happy ones. It seemed to me that the people there have a very simple faith and because they were so poor, accepted with gratitude from God the very ordinary things that they received in life. I did not think it was entirely untrue to say that, while the people at home in England were better instructed in their Catholic faith, the people in Peru were more evangelised. By that I mean the simplicity of their faith communicated itself in very real ways, so that their faith and their life was intertwined.

I remember a long walk from Chulucanas to the parish of Frias. I walked because the road was impassable by car. That walk was like a pilgrimage, because the heat was intense; we had little water and we slept one night on the floor of a house in a tiny village and never was I happier than to see the end in sight when we climbed up to the village of Frias and to be greeted by the people there. On a number of occasions we went away for a night or two together at some congenial place. It gave us an opportunity to talk about the diocese where they were working, but also for me to tell them about what was going on in Arundel & Brighton and for me to thank them for all they did in what for us was a very remote part of the world. Those were very happy occasions.

I felt that the Arundel & Brighton diocese had been very generous with



the good priests that had gone out there and I never once regretted the sacrifice that we made in sending them. I think the link is now nearly broken, though I understand that Fr Hugh Dutton is still working there. But here I only want to express my gratitude to God for the gift that he gave to the diocese in our representation in Chile and especially in Peru. May the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton always keep its missionary endeavour in mind and may the Lord help its priests and people to be missionary disciples of the Lord, both now and in the time to come.'

Has the link been broken?

To find the answer to that question Fr Hugh Dutton, who has been in Chulucanas from the start, sets out his

views about the special relationship.

The Diocese supports Chulucanas financially, which is obviously important and deeply appreciated. But there are other things, like the interest shown by people I speak with while in England on holiday, encouraging letters and various visits by people from the diocese, especially those who have worked here for a time, and prayer which, in its own mysterious way, holds everything together. It keeps the bond between Arundel and Brighton and Chulucanas secure.

When in England giving communion I think of the people I give communion to here and vice versa; two churches in communion with one another mutually supportive, both members of the same body so different and yet one in the tremendous diversity of Jesus.

Being of one body of course means that we're interdependent and that what happens to one affects all. For two dioceses so different to be bonded together helps us to go beyond ourselves and recognise that we are just part of a whole needing each other, concerned for and interested in each other.

I have been here now for 32 years and am still learning, making mistakes and trying to understand how a people so poor and with such suffering celebrate their faith and remain faithful, perhaps because life is so hard. The constant struggle to survive, find a job, find the money to be able to go to university, dying because they can't afford the necessary medical attention and a host of other difficulties. Underneath all this a living and vibrant faith that trusts that God is with them, that he understands, suffers with them and keeps their hope alive is indeed a mysterious and humbling thing to witness.

It's all very difficult to explain really; two Churches so different yet one. I am reminded of what Jesus said to the disciples, who asked where he lived. 'Come and see' He replied. Well I came, I continue to see but am still amazed at a Church which suffers so much and yet I am sure because of that has a vibrant and living faith.

Has our link with Chulucanas ever produced a positive result, affecting our own diocese?

Fr Kevin Dring reflects on his own personal experiences of Chulucanas and what effect it had on his early life – including the fiestas!

I picked up the 'Peru bug' back in 1982 when I went for part of a gap year, as a nearly-18-year-old, and spent some months in Chulucanas with Ian Byrnes, Jeremy Lear and Hugh Dutton. I just fell in love with the people, their simple but lively faith, their warmth and openness ... and their almost insatiable desire to celebrate! My vocational seed was definitely sown in those months and like a homing pigeon I was destined to return all of 23 years later as a priest. Once I arrived it felt like only a few years had passed, everything was instantly so familiar. I share a remembrance of one of so many fiestas, which I celebrated in my three years in the Andes.

They love a good fiesta. I thought the Spanish had the prize for wholehearted 'Fiesta-ing' but the Peruvians go a step or two further. In November 2005 we went for two days to help with and join the Fiesta of the Patrona of Sapillica, La Virgen Pura y Limpia (see picture above). The fireworks, the processions, bands, music and dancing all day and into the early hours, 100's of baptisms, football competitions (first prize being a huge bull for the lucky winners ... not the easiest prize to share among a team!), singing competitions ... and all going on without interruption for 5 days. Yes – 5 DAYS!! I asked a priest from another parish what his fiesta was like. Having described it to me I said 'you must feel tired at the end...' 'ILL' he said 'I'm always ILL afterwards!' He said it with a smile - confident of recovery in time for the next Fiesta no doubt! I grew to experience the 'ill' – recovery cycle many times over those the ensuing years!

In conclusion

On reflection of the three contributions to the A&B News, it is clear that our communities are worlds apart. However, it is a link we should not dismiss as 'well, what has all this got to do with me?' We are here in our affluent diocese – yes, Peru suffers with 26% of its population living on or below the poverty line – and Cardinal Cormac has clearly set out his aim of the special relationship. We are, and will continue to be, bonded by a common faith.

PASTORAL LETTER OF ARCHBISHOP PETER SMITH

Read at Masses of the Holy Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

HE THEN WENT DOWN WITH THEM and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority . . . And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and man.” That little passage from St. Luke’s gospel reminds us that Jesus did not suddenly emerge from nowhere, so to speak. He grew up as a human being within a stable, loving family, in a particular neighbourhood, and within the tradition and culture of Judaism in first-century Palestine. It was in that same context that Jesus was prepared for his God-given task of bringing the healing gift of God’s love to a world wounded by sin and suffering. To a world overshadowed by darkness and confusion, he brought the light of truth. And after his Resurrection and Ascension, he poured out the Holy Spirit of Truth on the infant Church so that his mission would continue down through the ages.

In giving us the gift of his Son, God has given us the gift of life and the gift of love. He has also given us the gift of truth, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to enable us to understand the origin, meaning and purpose of human life. Enlightened by that same Spirit we believe that life is God’s gift. And precisely because it is God’s gift, human life and authentic human relationships have infinite value and dignity. When human relationships break down, when they become fractured and dysfunctional, not only do individuals suffer, but there are inevitable consequences for others in terms of peace, justice and the common good.

The Church has consistently taught that the best context for learning about, and being nurtured in authentic human relationships, is within marriage and the family. And the evidence from report after report in recent years indicates very clearly that even from a secular point of view, marriage between a man and a woman provides far and away the best place to bring up a family and educate children. It is within that stable, loving context that children learn to develop spiritually, emotionally, physically and intellectually. It was within that context that Jesus learned to live under authority; it was there that he learned from the experience and wisdom of Mary and Joseph. It was there that he had his first human experience of being loved, of being held, of being listened to and nurtured so that he could fulfil all his human potential.

But what ultimately gave Jesus direction in his life, what sustained and supported him through thick and thin was his abiding relationship with God, his Father. In that respect, the Holy Family is indeed a wonderful model for all of us, and reveals a deep truth about



our humanity and our human relationships. Our homes should shine out as ‘holy places’, a communion of life and love rooted in our relationship with God and reflected in our love for one another.

In our own day, the Church’s claim to know and to teach the truth is often dismissed on the basis that such a claim is illiberal, restrictive and authoritarian! The Church’s proclamation of the truth about God, about the value and dignity of human life, and about what it means to be truly human is often regarded as at best irrelevant, and at worst, arrogant. Yet how often these days do we hear the cry that society is breaking down, that there is total confusion about morality and the meaning of life? How true were the late Cardinal Hume’s prophetic words, spoken on the last Ash Wednesday of his life: “All is not well. A society without a common understanding of what it is to be human, and without a shared morality is in danger of gradual disintegration.”

Jesus never hesitated to speak the truth in the face of moral confusion and social evil. But he did so as the Good Shepherd,

full of mercy and compassion, especially for the poor, the needy and for those who had gone astray. As we prepare to face another New Year, I exhort you to take seriously the challenge to make a fresh start with God, a fresh start at home and a fresh start for the world’s poor. We are called to be people of deep compassion and kindness, treating others with the respect and honour which is their due because they are images of God. In particular we need to give a new start to those families which have been broken and grievously wounded through separation or divorce. For these especially we must all have the greatest love, respect, gentleness and compassion. These are our brothers and sisters, deeply wounded and suffering. Let no one judge them. Welcome them within the community of the Church and help them to experience the life-giving love and compassion which, please God, will in time lead to healing and new life.

With my prayers and blessing for the New Year,

Archbishop Peter Smith
Apostolic Administrator

Woking People of Faith

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD – Was an evening of fun, delicious food, and reflections about the diversity of faith. It was attended by over 40 young people (aged 11-19 years) from Shah Jahan Mosque, United Reformed Church and St Dunstan’s Church, on Friday 21 November at Woking URC to celebrate National Inter Faith week. The local charity, Woking People of Faith organised the event as part of their on-going work to strengthen understanding and friendships between people of different faiths and cultures in the Woking Area. This event was sponsored by Inter Faith Youth Trust.



The evening kicked off with people Bingo and other ice-breakers, followed by presentations by young people from Christian and Muslim Faiths. The young presenters from the URC, and from the Mosque, talked about Food linked to faith with a focus on fasting linked to Lent and Ramadan respectively. After the presentations there was an extended Q&A session where young people raised a range of important questions for the panel, including some which touched on the rather challenging/thought provoking subjects of abortion, blood transfusion and same sex marriage! Young people also discussed and shared the challenges that they face being a person of faith in their contemporary context. The evening concluded with pizzas and refreshments accompanied by more games.

Feedback from the young people who attended confirmed that the evening had been a success. For example:

‘I think it was a really good idea’

‘This evening was very formative; there were great interactions between faiths.’

‘It was fun!’

‘It is interesting understanding things which were not clear before and about different aspects of other religions’

‘The presentations were really good. I learned something about our community.’

‘The event was well organised with insightful and diverse debate.’

‘Everyone was really respectful’

‘I think everyone’s opinions matter and it was good to listen’

There was a universal call for more events such as these to be held (‘Please host more of these events, at least 3 times a year?’) along with requests for inclusion of more faiths and ethnic groups represented in Woking as well as positive feedback on having young people share their experiences. ‘Having young people provides an insight into what their views are about religion – we should do this more often and have more time to ask and answer questions.’

Woking People of Faith is committed to the important and complex task of promoting knowledge, mutual understanding and respect for the beliefs and practices of different faiths in the Woking area in order to promote good relations between people of different faiths and cultures for the good of the wider community. An important part of building friendships is to learn about one another’s faiths and customs – as well as to have fun together. Woking People of Faith looks forward to building on the success of this evening.

Story by Rev Pippa Ross-McCabe WPOF coordinator

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The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team

Serving the communities of our Diocese



Refugee Tales A Walk in Solidarity with Refugees and Asylum Seekers

DOZENS OF MODERN PILGRIMS will be following in the footsteps of Chaucer's travellers this June when they walk the Pilgrims' Way via Canterbury, in recognition of the long journeys to safety made today by countless refugees.

The walk from 13 to 21 June will celebrate Refugee Week and echo the journey that is the migrant's defining experience; Refugee Tales will celebrate the presence of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. By walking from Kent to Surrey along an ancient track, the walkers hope to establish the fact that journeys are integral to our landscape, that they provide the stories out of which our shared histories emerge. The organisers, Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, are hoping to counter the silencing that is so much a part of the migrant's experience by demonstrating that refugees and asylum seekers are no more and no less than people who have had to move.

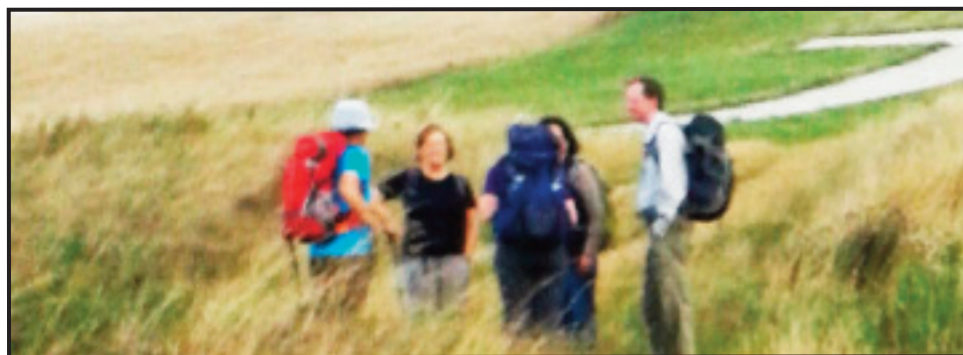
Inspired by the Canterbury Tales, and backed by leading writers and human rights activists such as Helena Kennedy QC, some 60 people will be making the 80-mile journey. Just as their famous forbears did, each evening the modern pilgrims will hear stories: tales of flight from persecution and war interpreted by well-known writers and poets. The Refugee's Tale, The Chaplain's Tale, the Unaccompanied Minor's Tale are just some of the 'Tales' that will be performed along the way.

Baroness Kennedy said: 'The Canterbury Tales collected together stories about a set of travellers in England in the 13th century. From my experience, as a current day lawyer, refugees' stories are just as affecting: horrifying but also life-affirming, frightening but also uplifting. Our humanity is measured by our empathy and willingness to step into the shoes of others. The idea of sharing the migrants' experience by travelling with them and lending an ear as well as a hand is ingenious. This is a journey worthy of our support.'

The walk will start in Dover and on Sunday 14 June the pilgrims will arrive in Canterbury where they will be welcomed in a prayer service in the Cathedral. The walk continues through Kent and into Surrey ending on Sunday 21 June with a reprise of the Tales in the Hawth Theatre, Crawley. Walk organiser, Christina Fitzsimons says: 'I have now walked most of the route. The North Downs Way is outstanding. It is very varied and there is some spectacular scenery. I especially enjoy the stretches where the walk goes along ancient trackways which feel like green tunnels. It is amazing to think that some of these tracks have been used for thousands of years.'

Day walkers are welcome to join the pilgrimage and stay to hear the Tales in the evening. The website www.refugeetales.org Has details of booking and more information about the walk.

Story and picture: Mary Barrett



The walk passes Lenham Cross, situated on the North Downs Way (Day 5 of 9).

This month's J&P Assembly,
'Taking Action in solidarity with immigrants, migrants, refugees and people on the move'
is at DABCEC on the 31 January.

The day will include presentations from the organisers, GDWG, promoting the Refugee Tales.



Making an even bigger difference

EVERY LENT the generosity of the Catholic Community enables CAFOD to continue working with the poorest communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. This year we have the opportunity of making an even bigger difference.

This Lent, every pound you give, the UK Government will match, up to the value of £3.5 million. This means, your gift will have double the impact – £4 will buy a bag of rice seed for a family to plant on farmland; £8 will buy the tools to grow the seed. £25 will pay for a tree or two to build a natural barrier around someone's land; £50 will pay for the training to build the barrier. Gift Aid can still be claimed.

This is such a great opportunity for CAFOD. Why not think about holding an event in your community or parish. This could be a soup lunch, quiz evening, talent show, sponsored event, cake sale or any other type of event. We could help you do this. Do get in touch if you would like a booklet of ideas or any help with organisation. Think of the even bigger difference we can all make.

Have a wonderful Lent 2015.

Deirdre McMahon

Would your parish benefit from access to parenting courses?

The Family Caring Trust is running an initial training day for those who would wish to become facilitators and go on to offer parenting courses in their local area.

The day is fee free but £10.00 is required to purchase the basic pack needed.*

The day is kindly being hosted by
St Joseph's Parish, 12 Eastgate Gardens
Guildford GU1 4AZ

on 11 March 2015 9.30 for coffee - Finish 4.00

Pre registration is essential at Katherine.bergin@dabnet.org



* Family Caring Trust's programme kits contain all that is needed to deliver a course of skill-based support to parents, couples and young adults: participant handbooks, facilitators guide including a script for sessions and audio-visual input. However, since both facilitators and group participants benefit when facilitators have access to training and support, we offer two levels of training

an Initial Training (1 day)

an Open College Network Level 3 accredited training course:

Parenting Programmes - Leading with Confidence.

The day being offered on 11 March is the initial training.



"We need to talk about Young Suicide"

The Annual event for 2015, in conjunction with



Suicide is the leading cause of death among our young people. PAPYRUS seeks to work with communities across the UK to tackle the stigma that surrounds suicide and to promote mental health and wellbeing among young people and those who care for an work with young people.

On Thursday, 19th March, 2015,
at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street,
London, SW1P 1QN
Contact Maria O'Brien
T: 020-7931-6064
Email: family@rcdow.org.uk

Who should attend? Youth Workers, Clergy, Chaplains, Catechists, Safeguarding coordinators, Secondary School heads, Heads of RE/PSHCE and all affected by suicide.

Calling All Grandparents - Dates for Your Diary! Saturday, 25 April:

Annual day for Catholic Grandparents,
At DABCEC, Crawley, RH10 6RP,
from 10 - 4 pm. Saturday, 11 July,

Fifth Annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage to Aylesford.
(Participants will need to make their own transport arrangements).

For more details on the above please contact
Katherine Bergin 01293 651152
katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

SERIOUS FUN AT REDHILL !

HOLY PLONKING, poultice, duvet, queue barging, pillow talk, robbery with rescue and Winnie the Pooh! These unlikely diverse headings were included in the recipe for prayer handed by Fr Stephen Ortiger O.S.B. to the parishioners of the Nativity of the Lord who crowded into the Retreat Café, St Joseph's Redhill. 'Holy Plonking': the example is 2 Kings 19:14 when Hezekiah takes a letter bearing dire news from a messenger, and takes it to the temple and spreads it before the Lord, so plonk your needs before God. Prayer is speaking with God face to face like with a friend (Exodus 33:11) and as Jesus says 'I call you friends' (John 15:15). 'Queue barging': scripture too! The friends of the paralytic in Mark 2 don't hang about. They get him to Jesus by the most direct route – through the roof. "Poultice" comes from the Epistle of Privy Council written in the 14th Century. 'Take good gracious God as he is, plat and plain as a plaster, and lay him to thy sick self as it is'. God is the great healer and will draw away what sickens us. Winnie the Pooh comes in here; we must recognise when we are being 'a silly old bear'. We must get real with God, telling as it is as in pillow talk. With the pillow talk comes duvet time; the need to snuggle down and be wrapped in the warmth of God's love. As for robbery and rescue, that is the story of the Good Samaritan. Fr. Stephen explained how helpful it is to chew over passages of scripture slowly, exploring as we go. He illustrated it by unpacking the parable though the characters; 6 in all including the gang of robbers as 1. 2 is the traveller, 3 & 4 those who pass by, 4 is the injured party, 5 is what we all forget - the donkey who carries the burden, and finally the innkeeper. Fr Stephen's final words were 'A person can bear all things provided then possess Christ Jesus dwelling within as friend and affectionate guide. Christ gives us help and strength, never deserts us, and is true and sincere in his friendship' (St Teresa of Avila).

The Feast of All Saints was an occasion for the children in our three churches to use their imagination and dress us as a saint. Young Patrick at Merstham rose to the challenge of being dressed as a saint and serving at Mass. He came as St Bede. The choice was especially appropriate as he and his brother attend St Bede's School in Redhill. After Mass Fr Aaron Spinelli blessed the memorial garden at St Teresa's.

Story and picture: Ann Lardeur



RETREATS AT ST CUTHMAN'S

INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREAT

Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 February 2015, Led by the St Cuthmans Team

An individually guided retreat is an opportunity to grow in relationship with God. As an aspect of that developing relationship, retreatants often come to understand more about prayer, about themselves, and about how to discern the will of God in their lives. On a residential retreat, retreatants maintain silence for most of the time and will meet with a spiritual director during the day. There will also be daily prayer and Eucharist for those who wish. For the rest of the time, retreatants are invited simply to be to be inwardly quiet, to be open to what happens, and to attend to thoughts, emotions and moods, relaxing in our historic house or walking within our beautiful grounds.

Cost: £185.00 residential / £98 non-residentially



'ALL THE EARTH CRIES OUT WITH PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD' PRAISING GOD IN ALL THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR LIVES.

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 February 2015 Led by Sr Teresa Brittain NDS

This weekend of retreat will be a time for prayer, silence and reflection using the Psalms, the prayers which unite Christians and Jews and have been prayed by the believing communities for centuries. The weekend will afford the opportunity to stop and to allow the breadth and depth of the poetry of the Psalms to permeate into our being.

Sr. Teresa is a Sister of the RC Congregation of Our Lady of Sion. Presently she works in Bible work and represents the Diocese of Salford in Jewish-Christian Relations. She lives in community in Manchester.

Cost: £185.00 residentially / £98 non-residentially



PARISH DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Come, ring out the joy

THE PARISH OF Southwick with Portslade and Hangleton enjoyed an informative and reflective Advent Day of Recollection at the Torch Centre, Hurstpierpoint. The day was led by our parish priest, Fr Alistair Simmons who based the day on bells. The bell is made up of many parts which can be related to the human body, Lip, Throat, Waist, Tongue, Mouth, Neck, Shoulders and Head. There are many references to these common parts in the bible and we explored the references through the old and new testaments. For example: 'If I make use of the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am like sounding brass, or a loud-tongued bell'. 1 Corinthians 13: 1. We were able to acknowledge that when the bell is broken or damaged it does not ring melodically, and we could relate this to our own lives. It was a very reflective and reconciliatory day, which was enjoyed by all. We concluded the day with Mass in the chapel at the Torch Centre, and some amongst us tried their hands at playing a carol on the hand bells that Fr Alistair had brought along.

Story: Gill Sajnog

NEW HALL RISES FOR REIGATE SCOUTS

CONSTRUCTION of 17th Reigate (St. Joseph's) Scout Group's new Scout Hall has now officially got 'out of the ground' as Fr Chris Spain, Moderator for the Parish of the Nativity of the Lord, laid the first brick on 16th December. Fr Chris said 'this marks a milestone in the history of 17th Reigate which from its earliest days has always had a strong connection with the Parish. With a strong foundation I am sure that the building and the life of 17th Reigate will grow and develop for future generations of young people'.

Mike Phillipson, Group Scout Leader, commented 'We are delighted to have finally reached this stage. Our young people and adult volunteers have worked tirelessly for almost three years to plan and raise the funding for what will become the first permanent home in the Group's history. We would like to thank all of our sponsors and donors who have supported us – their generosity has been inspiring. We are now praying for good weather to allow the building to be completed in 2015 to coincide with our centenary – it promises to be quite a birthday party.'

The building will provide a large 200m² hall and a smaller 30m³ meeting room with kitchen, washrooms, and disabled access for use by 17th Reigate and other local community groups. The

Group still needs to raise another £10,000 to enable the project to be completed; anyone interested in supporting the project can visit the Group's website www.17threigate.org. 17th Reigate is also keen to reach anyone in the Diocese who has had any involvement with the Group throughout its history, to enable them to be included in the centenary celebrations next March. Contact can be made through the Group's website above.

Story and picture: Mike Phillipson



**Cardinal Newman Catholic School
Brighton & Hove, Sussex**

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NJC Scale M10 £33,128 - £35,784

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The successful applicant will play a key role in the spiritual development and pastoral support of students, families and staff.

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Details of the post and application forms are available on the school website:

www.cnscs.co.uk

or through the school reception office:

enquiries@cnscs.co.uk

Tel: 01273 558551

**We welcome your application. Closing date for applications:
Monday, 9th February 2015 at 10.00am**

**Shortlisting: w/c 23rd February 2015
Interview Date: To Be Confirmed**

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MA'S IN CANON LAW



Michelle Crabbe, St John the Evangelist, Horsham and Dr John Higgs of Worth Abbey celebrating the awards of MA's in Canon Law by Heythrop College, University of London.

SIXTIETH AT REIGATE



RAY FLANNIGAN, a Brother in the Reigate Catenian Circle, and his wife Marjorie celebrated 60 years of marriage at St Josephs Church, Redhill on Sunday 9th November. Fr Aaron Spinelli (on the right) celebrated the Mass assisted by Fr David Parmiter (on the left) who is a friend of the family. Two of their sons together with their families attended but unfortunately their third son was unable to attend because he has just taken up a new post in America. The Mass was very special and a delight with brothers from Reigate Circle in attendance together with many friends and parishioners. A most fitting celebration for a life devoted to each other!
Story and picture: Bob Barnes

NOTICE BOARD

MASS FOR THE DEAF
Important Notice:
From January 2015 this Mass will be held at 1pm

7 Feb and 7 March - Normal Mass at St John the Evangelist, Horsham.
4 April - Easter Vigil at The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, Edith Ave, Peacehaven BN10 8HX

Thanks to everyone for your support in buying Christmas Cards in aid of St Pauls, Haywards Heath. £182 was raised

ARE YOU A PAST STUDENT OF ENDSLEIGH COLLEGE, HULL?
I am trying to contact students of the 1962 - 1965 cohort with a view to organising a reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of our graduation next Summer. Please contact by email angelaBrewer@ntiworld.com

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VOLUNTEER AND BRING LIFE TO OTHERS
VOLUNTEERS are vital to our work and we work in partnership with them committed to building a world free from poverty and injustice. Reflecting on what we have achieved together this last year, I would like to thank all of you who have volunteered for us, prayed for us and financially supported us. To continue our work and to help even more of our brothers and sisters living in poverty we need your help. Would you be able to volunteer with us? There are many ways you can volunteer with us. We need people to work in schools to help children and young people learn about global poverty and inspire them to take action. We need people to help out in parishes promoting our fast days and campaigns and raising awareness. We need people to contact their MPs on issues of importance. We need people to run events and fundraise for us and of course pray for our work. Why not join our team of volunteers across the Diocese as your new year's resolution? We provide support, resources and training where needed, we aim to make your volunteering a life giving and joyful experience. If you are interested contact us and let's try and make this a happy new year for all.

Deirdre McMahon

FIRE SAFETY ACROSS THE DIOCESE

ON SATURDAY 8 November the Diocese hosted a fire safety seminar at St. Dunstan's Church, Woking. The seminar was presented by Nicki Worley and other members of the SafetyToolbox team (Diocesan Health and Safety Consultants) and was attended by clergy, employees and volunteers from all around the Diocese. Representatives from Bexhill-on-Sea had time for a welcome coffee and biscuits in time for a 10.30 start! Over the course of the 2 hour session we learnt about fire prevention and emergency planning including an opportunity to get some hands on experience using fire extinguishers. The main speaker, Clive Raybould, an ex-fire officer with the West Midlands Fire Service made the subject matter easy to understand and applicable beyond our parishes, explaining some useful points to keep us safe in our homes and workplaces. For example, avoiding overloading power extension leads and plug socket adaptors to avoid fires. Electrical fires are the second major cause of fire after arson. A short video highlighted how critical it is to think about how to respond to fire starting and making sure that people know what to do and can direct others. The video showed CCTV footage of fire starting in a small off licence. Despite the fire being evident to members of the public and staff it took some time before anyone responded to the danger. When they did react they were unable to respond effectively and only just managed to get out in time. At the end of the seminar Nicki Worley reminded everyone of the legal requirement to carry out a fire risk assessment. All parishes MUST comply with this and the Diocese require an up to date assessment to be filed by the end of 2014. For further details contact Nicki at SafetyToolbox on 01483 338202.

Story: Nicki Worley. Picture: Patsy Clark



DECEASED CLERGY

FOUR MEMBERS of the Arundel and Brighton clergy died in December.

Rev Canon Michael Reynell who had retired to Selsey died in St Richards hospital in Chichester on Sunday morning. Fr Andrew Moss had anointed him on Friday afternoon

Fr John Olliver, parish priest at All Saints, Oxted. The sermon on Wednesday 10 December was preached by Archbishop Peter Smith.

Fr Christopher Hunting CJ MA of the Josephite Community at St Georges in Weybridge died peacefully after a long illness on 12 December, having recently celebrated 50 years of priesthood and 60 years of religious life. He gained a double first from Downing College, Cambridge and served as headmaster at St Georges College, Weybridge, for 10 Years. He was an enthusiastic hockey coach and choral singer. Little Dorrit, his favourite Dickens was on his kindle at the time of his death.

Fr Philip de Putron who had retired to Holy Cross Priory, Heathfield

Transport Arrangements for Festival 50

NOW IS THE TIME to start planning how to get to Festival 50.

Parishes and individuals are advised to come by coach to the Amex Stadium or use public transport and leave cars at home.

To help you sort out transport arrangements for the parish you can see set out below all the possible options for coaches, trains, buses and transport for disabled and sick. As well you can also contact the Festival Office for help and assistance by email Festival50@dabnet.org or ring 01293 651190.

Coaches

We would suggest that you book coaches now so coach companies have the date in the diary. Below are two companies that the Diocese and Lourdes Pilgrimage have used:

- Worthing Coaches – Tel. 01903 505805
- Woods Coaches – Tel. 01243 868080



Train

There are regular train services along the coast to and from Falmer station (you may want to check engineering works nearer the time). The station is only 250 metres from the stadium concourse. On Sunday's there are two trains per hour with a maximum capacity of 900 per service. We will approach Southern Rail requesting additional carriages to the existing services if necessary.



Bus



There are three services that stop within easy walking distance from the stadium, 23, 25, and 28. The 23 service operates from Brighton Marina with two services per hour. The 25 service operates from Palmeria Square via Churchill Square with five services per

hour. The 28 service connects Brighton and Tunbridge Wells via Crowborough, Uckfield, and Lewes with two services per hour.

Cars

There is very limited car parking at the Amex, and priority will be given to those with mobility needs, volunteers and those directly involved with the work of the Festival.



Transport for Sick and Disabled

There will be comfortable facilities at the stadium for the sick and disabled fully supported by the Lourdes Pilgrimage team of nurses, doctors and carers. The SVP is also helping to find transport for the sick and disabled who cannot travel on a parish coach.

Access to the stadium from the coach park and disabled parking area is good with access ramps from both parking areas.

Please let the Festival Office know if, at this stage, you require any assistance in arranging your transport by email Festival50@dabnet.org or ring 01293 651190.

A member of our 'Transport' team will be in regular contact with Festival Parish Contacts or Parish Priests to enable effective planning on the day. They will need to know from them on a regular basis:

- Parking requirements
- Number of Coaches booked
- Estimate of people travelling by train

This information will be essential in order to ensure both easy access for everyone arriving at the event and a well planned exit!

Festival 50 - What are you going to do?

Celebrate the Jubilee of the Diocese with the

FESTIVAL 50

Exhibition of Religious Art and Crafts

Calling all Artists and Crafters!

Everyone in the Diocese is invited to contribute - whether you are professional, a beginner, or a parish group working together on a project.

Now is the time to start!

Painting . Sketching . Embroidery . Needle felting . Stained Glass . Calligraphy . Pottery . Photography . Needlecrafts . Cross Stitch . Banner making etc...

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

Email: Festival50@dabnet.org
Tel: 01293 651190

Please email elizabeth.hembrey@dabnet.org

Celebrate the Jubilee of the Diocese with the

FESTIVAL 50

Flower Displays and Flower Arrangements

Calling all Flower Arrangers!

Everyone in the Diocese is invited to contribute - whether you are professional, a beginner, or a parish group working together on a project.

Now is the time to start planning!

Lilies . Roses . Ferns . Daisies . Carnations . Delphiniums . Orchids . Peonies

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For further information contact the Festival 50 Office:

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

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11th - 15th September & 11th - 17th October
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DELTA **Maestro**

Recent services in Eastbourne

A SHORT TALK was held at all Masses regarding Street Pastors who are Christian volunteers who offer care services for young people in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights. Prayer Pastors are essential teams staying at base in town to pray while the Street Pastors are on the streets. A service for the Sacrament of Reconciliation was held at our three churches with the First Holy Communion children attending for their first confession.

Fr David King read the Sermon on the Mount again during this year's Advent season.

St Thomas a Becket children came to sing at a wonderful carol concert in the church. As usual they brought along lovely banners depicting the scenes from the Nativity; all made by hand by the school.

We were privileged to welcome The Renaissance Singers who held a Christmas Candlelit Concert of readings and carols with mince pies, refreshments and more singing in the hall afterwards.

St Gregory's held the popular Taize Service and many people attended to hear the beautiful singing and music.

St Gregory's also took part in the Old Town Nativity Trail with different scenes from the Nativity Story in various churches.

Mass was celebrated on St Stephen's Day with many of our Altar Servers attending, refreshments were served for all of them in the Presbytery afterwards hosted by Fr Raglan Hay Will and Fr David - pictured.



Story and picture: Mary Staffiere

FROM THE PARISHES

ADUR VALLEY

A NOVENA OF PRAYER in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception was held and followed by a day of Adoration. There was an Advent Concert at St Peter's with a retiring collection for the Sudan raising £133. Another £353 was raised for Chestnut Tree House from the sale of teas and coffees after Mass at St Peter's.

The SVP group have been gathering gifts for the homeless. Parishioners at St Peters as well as Christ the King have been displaying a card for all their parish friends whilst donating to the Worthing Churches Homeless Project.

A photo quiz with fish and chip supper at St Peter's was well attended by those from all parts of the parish- a great time was had by all especially those who won a small trophy and a voucher. Everyone who came really appreciated Teresa Payne's expertise when she ran a Christmas flower arranging workshop at Christ the King.

The confirmation group arranged an all night vigil at St Peter's with exposition throughout the night.

The Secret Singers group held a singalong morning, with mince pies, coffee and tea, singing Christmas songs and those from the musicals.

Penny Richardson

ARUNDEL

IT'S BEEN A BUSY, busy Advent season in Arundel this year marked by both tradition and innovation. The study groups continued to flourish in preparation for the Jubilee and church groups adopted a festive air.

Early in the season, on a dark wintry evening we welcomed Bishop Richard Moth who celebrated Vespers with Friends of Arundel Cathedral along with representatives of civil authorities in East and West Sussex as well as Surrey.

A few days later parishioners joined members of the Norfolk family along with Mgr John Hull in a Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in the Arundel Castle chapel.

We were saddened by the death of Lady Anne Herries but were able to remember her in a packed Cathedral for her Memorial Service.

We have since hosted the annual round of carol services and concerts including a vibrant presentation of the Christmas story by our local school, St Philip's.

Amid all this activity and after weeks of preparation and planning we were pleased to welcome the BBC for the live television broadcast of Midnight Mass. We were excited as well as delighted to share our very special Cathedral celebration with the world outside Arundel and can even re-live it again and again on our recordings!

Hilary Caws

CATERHAM

COMING UP TO 2015, which, hopefully will be a good year for everyone in the parish, we look back on the run up to Christmas when Fr Sean Finnegan led the ecumenical Carol Service at St Lawrence's Ancient church (1095); his first as our new parish priest. The church was full with some having to stand, and the singing was assisted by the Salvation Army band from Croydon.

There was a full range of Christmas Masses,

TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS ITEMS for the **March 2015** issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on **Monday 26 January 2015** and for the **April 2015** issue by **Monday 2 March 2015**. 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.

GODALMING



FR MICHAEL PERRY recently celebrated 20 years as our parish priest. A lunch was organised which was well attended by parishioners. Fr Michael (on left above) was thanked for all his hard work, guidance and support during his time in the parish.

The parish also celebrated 40 years of holding a weekly Sunday Catholic Mass at St John's CofE church, Farncombe. This was a very innovative venture at the time. The joint service of Choral Vespers and Benediction was very well attended by both the St John's and St Edmund's communities. The service was lead by the Revd James Rattue, Rector of St Johns (2nd left) and Fr Michael Perry. Mgr Edwin Barnes (3rd left), who was Rector at St John's when the first Mass was held, gave a very thoughtful homily. On right above is Revd Maggie Stirling-Troy, Curate at St John's. The service was followed by a buffet supper and social in the church room. It was a wonderful evening and will long be remembered by both congregations.

Damian Wheeler

and we were pleased to welcome Fr Terry Martin, the Diocesan Vocations Director, at the 9.00 pm Christmas Eve Mass.

The parish Christmas Fayre was held on 14 December and our thanks to Karen Rattigan for organising this annual event.

Various changes are taking place with Mirella O'Donaghue, after eight years organising the older children's liturgy, handing over to Michele Anderson and the chairman of the Finance Committee, Rayon Brown, handing over to Geoff Walker.

Geoff Walker

CRAWLEY

**Christ the Lord (LEP)
Broadfield and Bewbush**

FR RAPHAEL MAJEWSKI celebrated our Mass on the first Sunday of Advent. And after the homily he enrolled our first Holy Communion candidates and presented the children with prayer books.

Fr Chris Dobson celebrated our Gaudete Sunday Mass. Afterwards the Blue Sash choir held a cake sale.

We are also continuing to fund-raise for the roof repairs fund, and a very successful raffle was drawn on the fourth Sunday of Advent after Mass, celebrated by Fr Gerard Hatton.

Barbara Winstanley

EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

THE PARISH Christmas lunch, held at St Bernard's Hall, Lingfield, on Sunday 7 December, was well attended and much enjoyed. Lingfield parishioners generously provided a full Christmas meal.

Operation Shoebox provided gifts for 160 underprivileged children in the developing world. St Peter's School and parishioners from Our Lady and St Peter contributed these welcome surprises for children living in difficult circumstances.

On the evening of Thursday 18 December, the choir of Our Lady and St Peter sang carols for commuters at East Grinstead station, raising £408 for St Catherine's Hospice.

Clive Carpenter

EASTBOURNE

**Christ the King, The Holy Rood
and St Joachim**

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES in the Eastbourne area have been announced which were scheduled to come into effect as from the beginning of 2015.

In order to comply with the requirements that a priest should celebrate no more than three Sunday Masses at weekends it has been decided that there will no longer be a regular 4pm Saturday Mass at The Holy Rood, Pevensey Bay, which will be replaced by Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion which will normally be led by

Deacon Eugene Adams. It is, however, envisaged that Fr Neil Chatfield, our local Ordinatee priest will celebrate Mass once a month. The 6pm Saturday Mass at Christ The King and the Sunday Masses at St Joachim and Christ The King are unaffected by these changes.

During the busy pre Christmas period we have taken part in Reconciliation services at St Joachim and Christ the King, small group discussions using the Diocesan Advent booklets have taken place and a Christmas Eve service was held at the crib prior to the Christmas Masses. Midday Masses at Christ the King during Advent were followed by lunches in the hall to raise money for CAFOD.

John Carmody

WORTHING

ST MARY OF THE ANGELS

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY of Advent - Bible Sunday - all the readers renewed their commitment at the Masses.

It was announced that in future the weekly Monday soup kitchen for the homeless, which was held in the parish centre, would now take place on the sea front. This was due to the misuse of the church and the car park. The fourth Sunday of Advent - Gift Sunday - gifts for the Homeless Project and the Knowles Tooth Family Refuge were placed around the altar at all Masses. People are very generous and a vast pile was amassed. After Mass parishioners were asked to sign the card for the Golden Jubilee of Fr Albertus who helps the parish by celebrating Sunday Masses when Fr Chris Benyon is away. Our Advent Penitential Service was at 3pm with four visiting priests helping. Following hymns and readings there were confessions. People were asked to take the candles which had been distributed at the Church entrance and light them from the Advent candles after receiving the Sacrament and leave them alight until after the final hymn.

The Christmas Masses commenced with the Family Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve where the children presented a lovely mime to the gospel reading. This was followed at 9pm by the Midnight Mass preceded by carols. The church was beautifully decorated with red and white flowers intertwined with ivy.

Dennis Key, who is compiling a parish history on our website, is going to post photos of previous parish priests and has all but one. If anyone has a photo of Mgr Dennis Wall who was parish priest from 1958-1966 he would be very pleased to have a copy.

Astrid Gibson

WOKING

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH, Woking held their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 29 November. The Fair is organised by a team of people - Lara Pereira, Bea Somer, Thereza Macnamara, Jackie Clements and Elena Matas, with support from a large number of parishioners in many ways, including the running of the stalls and games. The Fair is open for just two hours (though countless number of hours is involved in putting it all together) and this year raised over £8,000 for three local charities: Woking Mind, Alzheimer's Society and The Lifetrain Trust.

The attached photograph shows Canon Frank Harrington, parish priest of St Dunstan's handing a cheque for £4000 to Carlton Spears, General Manager of Mind, Woking. Also in the picture are Bea Somer and Thereza Macnamara, two of the organising committee.

Woking Mind is a charity that provides support for people who live within the Borough of Woking and who have difficulties with their mental health.

John Sexton



WORTHING
ST MICHAELS



ON 29 NOVEMBER we held our annual Christmas bazaar. As well as being our main parish fundraising event it is also a wonderful opportunity for the parish to reach out to our local community and to welcome our friends, family and neighbours; as well as enabling us all to work together for the benefit of the parish. It proved to be a very happy and joyous event, especially so with the arrival of Father Christmas and his helpers!

Carol Shaw

BEXHILL

THE CHILDREN of our parish were invited to enter a Christmas card competition, with the winning entry being chosen as the front cover of our information pamphlet, covering all the Masses being said at the churches of St Mary Magdalene, Our Lady of the Rosary, and St Martha's. However, Fr David Parmiter found it difficult to choose just one winner from the excellent entries, and so five different designs were used for the parish Christmas card. Congratulations to Dillon, Joseph, Jovitta, Ewan and Barnaby for your wonderful art-work! The cards made a lovely start to the joyful celebrations held throughout the parish.

Frances Haragan

The five cards by Dillon, Joseph, Jovitta, Ewan and Barnaby are all shown below



Services and Activities at Wadhurst

SACRED HEART PARISH has experienced a population explosion of young families over the last year. So many children would like to learn to serve on the altar that Fr Martin O'Connor noticed we have run out of small cassocks. Our senior altar girls, Siobhan and Isabel decided that, rather than ask the parish they would raise the money themselves by organising mince pie sales after the 10.30am Mass - pictured. This was not only a financial success, raising a staggering £500 but resulted in many parishioners staying to chat creating a warm family feeling in the run up to Christmas. Our young people are to be congratulated for their efforts, even getting up at 8am to bake fresh mince pies.

Fr Martin and Frances Dorr made sure that the parish also looked outwards to those in need. As well as a special Christmas food collection parishioners were encouraged to help pack shopping in Sainsbury's on two days in return for donations. This raised about £600 for our local food bank *Nourish*, for families in need in Tunbridge Wells.

Christmas Eve was made special again by our children's Nativity play (pictured), as for the second year running we had a real baby playing Baby Jesus. Emily was shown off by her elder sister Eloise and was wonderfully well behaved. This had been aided by the fact that she was fed right up to her appearance and that she also had a soother in her mouth during proceedings, so there was no chance of her adding any melodies of her own! We don't know if Mary had so many mod cons in the stable to help her! There were in addition brothers, sisters, cousins and children from the Liturgy group being angels and shepherds. The three Wise Men took up the offertory during Mass and after Mass, Mary and one of the shepherds gave out sweets to all the parishioners as they left. The children were all so proud of themselves and deservedly so.

The youngest ones didn't steal all the limelight, although Louis and Clara sang solos with great confidence. The young adults also transformed the singing - Rachel, Richard, Chris and Amelia sang during the Offertory procession. The church looked beautiful as usual, thanks to the flower arrangers who once again had excelled themselves. Our little church was bulging at the seams with standing room only; it was a wonderfully prayerful way to begin Christmas.

Story and picture: Peggy Purslow



Activities in Horsham

THE COMPLETION of the refurbishment of our church was delayed but the contractor promised that we will have our enlarged balcony and the sacristy ready for the Christmas Masses; and we did.

As a treat for our children a small group of professional players provided a pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, to a packed parish hall (pictured). Both of our primary schools and the nursery group assisted in the sale of tickets.

In order to improve access and also as a cost saving measure we are now issuing our weekly Newsletter by email to those on our parish database with email addresses, and after a few hitches and some complaints it is now working successfully. The current one can be viewed at the parish website.

Story: David White



Prayer for a New Shepherd

Heavenly Father,
Look with mercy on your people, and grant us a new shepherd.

Help those who choose our bishop to listen to the voice and guidance of your Holy Spirit and to act for the good of your Holy Church.

Father, we ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Our Lady assumed into heaven, pray for us.
St Philip Howard, pray for us.



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