

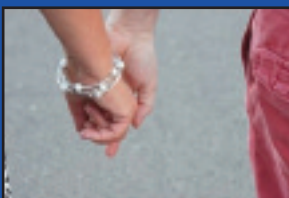


Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

No 290 March 2015 **LENT**



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To read A&B NEWS on line please visit www.dabnet.org

'Repent and believe in the Gospel'

Justice & Peace Assembly 2015

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



IT WAS PRIMARILY a day of awareness-raising and promoting action, focusing on the dignity of the human person, and called us, as Christians, to respond to the sad and difficult challenges faced by many of the most vulnerable people in the UK and the world today. For the many who attended, the day was a memorable occasion, with high quality speakers delivering strong and challenging messages to a very good turnout, despite snowy conditions, of committed people.

The Assembly was held at DABCEC in Crawley on the 31 January and attended by approximately 140 people. The timing of the event was pertinent given that many voters in this May's General Election, just 95 days away at the time, consider Immigration to remain, their number one issue.

The day opened with a time of worship led by Fr Kevin Dring, Priest Adviser to the Diocesan J&P Commission (pictured on the right) and concluded with a Prayer of Commitment read by Fr Terence Bateman (pictured on the left).

The scene was perfectly set by Fr Terence who grounded the day with an overview on Catholic social teaching, specifically the Dignity of the Human Person. Fr Terence encouraged us all to show 'compassionate solidarity with excluded persons' and also took a pre-theological approach to his arguments explaining that

starting from a Christian viewpoint can often lead to difficulties in public discourse. Fr Terence is the assistant priest in Bognor Regis and has served in parishes in South Africa, his home country, and in Belgium previously. He holds advanced degrees in Philosophy and Theology and studied and lectured at the Catholic University of Louvain for several years.



Sarah Teather, Liberal Democrat MP for Brent Central, was our next speaker. Sarah (pictured on the right) has been in Parliament since 2003 following her election in a historic by-election following the Iraq war. A practising Catholic who is active in her local church, when first elected she was the youngest MP in Britain. Sarah is currently Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and is chairing a cross-party inquiry into immigration detention. She previously chaired an inquiry looking at financial support for young asylum seekers and their families.

Sarah has held many posts in her time in Parliament. For two and a half years she served as Minister of State for Children and Families in the coalition government. There she was responsible for early learning, childcare, special educational needs and child poverty. She also negotiated the ending of routine detention of children in the immigration system, something she counts as one of her proudest achievements in politics.

Sarah has a long-standing interest in issues affecting refugees and migrants. She represents the most ethnically diverse constituency in the UK and her constituency office has handled tens of thousands of complaints against the Home Office over the eleven and a half years in which she has been elected. Sadly she is stepping down as an MP at this year's general election and she shared her agonising reasons for doing this. On a positive note, it had just been announced that she will be joining the Jesuit Refugee Service International Advocacy Team from 1 June as an adviser focusing on the provision of education for refugee children in the Middle East and South Sudan.

Slogans such as 'Tough on Immigration' were identified as divisive and responsible for distorting and magnifying this complex area as an issue. Sarah claimed that no party appears to have much of a vision of the future and in concluding she stressed the importance of people sharing their experience of hearing the stories of refugees with parliamentary candidates ahead of this year's election.



STOP PRESS
We are pleased to announce that Deacon Robin Farrow will be ordained priest at St Joseph's church, Guildford on Thursday 19 March at 7pm.

Story continued on page 4



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The 'Voice' from our diocese



THE DIOCESE IS FULL OF HIDDEN TALENT. Recently one of these talents appeared on our television screens in the form of Stephen Bloy, who sang 'Bring him Home' from Les Miserables.

Some of us know him as the caretaker at the diocesan Christian Centre. Others will have heard him sing at the Chrism Mass or maybe at a wedding.

He is known in Crawley parish as someone, who together with his wife, Clair, leads music at The Friary. He was seen in the programme with Clair and Fr Gerard Hatton preparing music for Mass and there was a shot of members of the congregation at sung Mass.

Fr Gerard then came on screen to say how much Stephen's efforts had improved the singing at Mass.

Stephen's website is www.stephenbloy.com

Have you a story to tell us?
Something that your school, parish or organisation has done.
Would it interest readers of A & B NEWS?
A good quality picture would enhance your story. If there are children in it please be sure that their parent/guardian is happy for it to be in the paper and confirm that you have their permission.
We would be glad to hear from you.

Lourdes Office Makes Pilgrimage To New Home



Moving home, left to right - Marie Jackson, Charlotte Booth, Mary Pratt and Mike Thoms

A NEW START for the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage team was celebrated on 19 January when Mgr John Hull, blessed the new Lourdes Office in the presence of the diocesan Trustees and 40 other guests. The offices have been created from what was a derelict stables block at St Cuthman's Retreat at Coolham.

Many Lourdes volunteers were also present to hear Deacon Mike Thoms, Director of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, thank the Diocese for their generosity in supporting this move, which gives the Lourdes Pilgrimage a permanent home for the first time.

The Lourdes Pilgrimage office is the nerve centre where three permanent staff work on ensuring that every detail is planned for the Pilgrimage. Marie Jackson, well-known to so many Pilgrims who ring in and write to the office, is the Pilgrimage Secretary working with Mike Thoms. She is ably supported by Charlotte Booth and Mary Pratt. There is a central piece of furniture - a large table on which carefully prepared letters are laid out in the month of July ready to be mailed to over 800 pilgrims. There is also storage space for wheelchairs and other equipment used for the Pilgrimage - with some fine wooden shelving, which was custom-built by one of the helpers, who is a professional carpenter.

What is really exciting about the twelve month project is that it has also enabled St Cuthman's to add the Cardinal Cormac meeting room, a ground floor bedroom for disabled guests, as well as toilet and shower facilities. This will enable St Cuthman's to offer residential space at an attractive rate for youth groups and confirmation groups and, according to Mary-Jane Burkett, Director of St Cuthman's, bookings have already been taken for the new rooms. 'The arrival of the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office at St Cuthman's will create a buzz of shared activity in this corner of the Diocese' Mary-Jane reflected.

The Pilgrimage leaves for Lourdes on 30 July 2015 for those going by coach, and 31 July for those flying. This year, for the first time, over half of the pilgrims will go in two specially chartered flights from Gatwick, and two other scheduled flights. The remainder will travel by coach or by independent travel. Every year the Pilgrimage welcomes many new people as well as regulars - redshirts aged 15 and 16, helpers aged 17+ who come from all over the diocese, many from our Catholic schools, and assisted pilgrims with sickness or disabilities for whom the pilgrimage cost can be supported by the Pilgrimage Trust. There is also a family group and we are supported by dozens of nurses, doctors and chaplains.

If you are interested in coming on the Lourdes Pilgrimage in this Jubilee year, please email Marie Jackson at lourdes@dabnet.org, ring 01403 740110 or write to: A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage, The Bothy, St Cuthmans, Cowfold Road, Coolham, Horsham, RH13 8QL

Words: Adam Simon, Chair of the A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage Trust and Picture: Peter Burholt



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The Consecrated Life - Worth Celebrating!



Rev Stephen Ortiger at the ambo with some of the Worth Abbey Community, Archbishop Peter Smith behind

LAST NOVEMBER, Pope Francis dedicated this liturgical year as the Year for Consecrated Life and Monday 2 February 2015 was the 18th World Day for Consecrated. That very special day was marked with a solemn Mass at Worth Abbey attended by around 200 religious from A&B Diocese, including the Benedictine monks from the Abbey, and representing 30 separate Orders, Institutes and Congregations. It was celebrated by Archbishop Peter Smith, Archbishop of Southwark, with Abbot Dom Luke and the community of Worth Abbey.

In his homily Archbishop Peter spoke of how the ministry and witness of women and men Religious has enriched the life of A&B Diocese and been a great witness to the Gospel and an encouragement to both clergy and laity. He offered his thanksgiving and deep gratitude for the work of the Religious and paid special tribute to older Religious, speaking of how his experience as Bishop in three Dioceses had led him to hugely admire their perseverance in steadfastly and joyfully carrying on their ministry of service. He also spoke of his encouragement at the new religious communities coming from abroad, especially from Africa and Asia.

Pope Francis, in his recent Apostolic Letter 'To All Consecrated People' spoke of the 'gift which is the presence of our many consecrated men and women, heirs of the great saints who have written the history of Christianity.' He went on to say that the Year for Consecrated Life is not solely for religious, it also includes the laity 'who share with them the same ideals, spirit and mission.'

The Pope had some specific suggestions for the laity: 'I ask all of you to draw close to these men and women, to rejoice with them, to share their difficulties and to assist them, to whatever degree possible, in their ministries and works, for the latter are, in the end, those of the entire Church. Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feel for them'.

What better way to celebrate the Year for Consecrated Life? And perhaps start with a visit to Worth Abbey, founded just over 80 years ago by a community of monks who follow the Rule of St Benedict, written more than 1,500 years ago. The brothers live a community life of prayer and service, running a school, a parish and a retreat house, as well as a variety of other activities including working with young people, refugees and the poor of Peru.

The Abbey Church - one of the finest examples of 1960s church architecture - is also the largest church in Sussex with a seating capacity of 900. More importantly, it offers Mass and monastic prayer daily (for details, see www.worthabbey.net/ml/ch-liturgy.htm).



Religious from Arundel & Brighton attend the Diocesan Celebration for the Year of Consecrated Life at Worth Abbey

Story and pictures by Harry Robertson

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A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the
Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Three major events to report

WE HAVE HAD A BUSY TIME in the diocese with three major events to report. The Justice and Peace Assembly, the gathering of the Religious of the diocese at Worth and the move of the pilgrimage office to St Cuthmans. What they all have in common is that they are all about people coming closer to each other.

This coming closer is the essence of the Festival celebrations in July. Then we shall all come together to give thanks to God for our 50 years as a diocese and, we hope, go away with a greater sense of having come closer to many new people.

In this month's A & B NEWS we also have other stories, many of which have as much importance for the people concerned as the diocesan - wide happenings and which also tell us of people coming closer to each other. Thus we are building up the Kingdom of God in this place.

It always seems that Lent comes so soon after Christmas that hardly have time to catch our breath.

But Lent gives us time to prepare to celebrate the biggest event of all: the story of our salvation.

We have much to give thanks to God for.

Pauline F. Groves

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FOR CATHCOM

Advertising: Alice, Tel: 01440 730399

Justice & Peace Assembly 2015

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The final speaker of the morning was Louise Zanre, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service in the UK (pictured below top right). Louise set a quiz in advance of her talk and, in providing answers to that quiz, 'busted' many of the myths we regularly hear, giving information on how asylum seekers are funded by the state and are not allowed to contribute to society unless their applications are successful. Louise highlighted with statistics the fact that the UK does not take anywhere near its fair share of asylum seekers and refugees, and described our fundamentally flawed system for assessing asylum seekers and the significant costs to the taxpayer while they are detained, many times for years. Louise stated that compassion has been taken out of our system, and there are ridiculous consequences resulting from ensuring able people are excluded from engaging in society.



A short film entitled 'Somebody Among Us' about people who are treated as if they're nobody opened the afternoon session. Two local charities then had an opportunity to showcase their work. Lauren Cape-Davenhill from the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (pictured on the left) spoke passionately about their support for detainees at two removal centres at Gatwick Airport. She also invited Mary Barrett, a volunteer visitor, and Pious Keku, an ex-detainee (pictured together on the left below), to share their own personal stories. Lauren also took the opportunity to promote 'Refugee Tales', a nine day walk in solidarity with refugees and detainees, from Dover to Crawley in June to coincide with Refugee Week.

Mary-Jane Burkett (pictured below right) of Brighton Voices in Exile (BViE), a charity partly funded by the Red Cross, told how many volunteers are supporting those seeking asylum, refugees and those with no recourse to public funds in Sussex, and in some parts of Surrey. Volunteer support is required for giving advice on accommodation, health, education and employment. She also introduced Graham Delahunt who provides legal advice for BViE's visitors and also advice on support from the UK Border Agency and welfare support.

The final session involved a panel (pictured below on the right) chaired by Louise Zanre and featuring Fr Terence, Lauren Cape-Davenhill and Graham Delahunt responding to questions raised from the floor throughout the day.

Many of the attendees commented that the day was a great success with 'superb' speakers and contributors. There were many resources to take away and recordings and presentations are now available on the diocesan website.

The Medaille Trust exhibited their work showcasing how they support women, men and children freed from trafficking. CAFOD had resources that included a pre-election briefing with suggested questions to ask your local parliamentary candidates. The National Justice & Peace Network were also well-represented and there was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for our Fairtrade Stall which once again boasted of 'another very good day for sales'!

If you would like to learn more about this day or other Justice & Peace initiatives please contact Aidan Cantwell, our Adviser, telephone 01293 651154 or email to aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org.

Story: Aidan Cantwell, Pictures: David White



JUST A THOUGHT Washing the disciples'

The shadow of the Cross around him lay, as Jesus knelt to wash the dusty feet of his dear friends, companions on his Way these past three years.

Great-hearted Peter was distressed to see his Master serve with such humility; until, with tears, he understood love's lesson, here complete.

The traitor's feet, no dirtier than the rest, were newly-shod, to walk into the night to sell his Lord.

Only beloved John, of footstep light, and feet as yet unscarred, felt in his breast his Master's grief;

all the rest, with Peter as their chief, would lose their lives to spread his living Word.

Upon the table stood the bread and wine, soon to become his farewell Eucharist. Tomorrow he would die upon the Cross, but, mitigating that most grievous loss, with touch divine,

his sacramental death would yet remain, memorial of his pain, and deep surpassing love for humankind.

Margaret Staunton

Jesuit Refugee Service UK

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS) is an international Catholic organisation working with refugees in over 50 countries. In the UK we focus our work on the accompaniment and service of those people detained under the immigration rules and those left destitute by the asylum process: that is without recourse to public funds and yet without permission to work. This latter group of people will provide the focus of this short article.

Over 100 people attend our day centre each week. They come from around 30 countries, range in age from babies to men and women in their 70s, have different faiths, and have a variety of educational and social backgrounds. Most are homeless, either sleeping on streets or night buses or moving around staying with friends or in hostels.

Most have been in the UK for many years. Often their asylum claims have been mismanaged by the Home Office or they have had poor legal advice. Unsurprisingly, having not had a fair hearing and feeling they are still at risk of persecution, they are reluctant to consider returning to their own country voluntarily.

Although we offer some modest financial support (bus passes so that essential medical and legal appointments can be attended, one off hardship grants), our focus is very much on accompanying the people who use our services.

To accompany someone is to be with that person as a practical sign of God's presence, sometimes in seemingly hopeless situations. That accompaniment involves a mutual sharing of lives and caring for each other. It is a visible act of solidarity, a form of radical hospitality in action, which may start with the offer of a cup of tea or lunch but goes much farther than that.

You might well imagine that in a life limited by access to money, and constant stress about food and accommodation as well as the more long term stress and anxiety around their applications for asylum, there can be a sense of time slipping by with no achievement or opportunity to grow. In response to this need we have been able to work in partnership with other charities and organisations to offer opportunities such as museum tour guide training (Wallace Collection Museum), creative writing workshops (English PEN), and photography workshops (Fotosynthesis). Other than giving new skills and offering a break from every day worries, these programmes have helped the refugees to reflect on their lives and to have the confidence to express themselves and share those lives with a wider group of people.

Part of the ongoing reflection and concern with wellbeing is through our companioning programme: groups of men or women gather prayerfully (on an ecumenical or interfaith basis) for regular reflection and discussion. In this way they are able to both offer each other support and derive strength and resilience from their own faith.

We also have the opportunity to deepen our understanding and experience of some of the problems around homelessness that our refugee friends face and in this way offer solidarity. JRS has produced a reflection and discussion guide for groups and individuals available at www.jrsuk.net or by telephone on 020-74887310. An online version with spoken reflections and music is also available at www.pray-as-you-go.org

Churches Together in Wadhurst (CTIW)



CTIW comprises five churches in the locality, one Catholic, one Methodist and three Anglican. Last week we all got together to pray for greater understanding and to celebrate unity in diversity. The opening service was in the Sacred Heart Wadhurst using two symbols, light and water. We used five candles of different shapes and colours in different candle sticks (pictured above). When lit, Fr Martin O'Connor pointed out that, though very different they all gave out light. For the water we used five different shapes and colours of jugs, all the water being poured into one Baptismal font (pictured below). The Anglican choir joined us, which seriously improved our singing. During the week each Church led a short discussion group on a different theme, and also produced delicious home-made soup and rolls which encouraged further chat.



The Anglican leader showed us a map to demonstrate why Jesus actually went through Samaria and met the Samaritan woman, it was the shortest route. Fr Martin opened our eyes to the importance of understanding how to communicate with different cultures. He spent 26 years in Africa and some of his fellow Kiltegan priests from Brazil found the approach needed was entirely different from their experience. A learning curve for us all.

Story and picture by Peggy Purslow

St Steven's Day Mass

THE SERVERS, PRIESTS AND DEACON are pictured attending the Mass on St Stephen's feast day, 26 December 2014 at St Mary's Rydes Hill in Guildford. Some of the servers in the front rows were enrolled that day into the Archconfraternity of St Stephen and others were awarded certificates of merit for five years service. The combined servers were from the Guildford group of churches of St Joseph's, St PiusX and St Mary's.

Story and picture: Joseph Chan



Simbang Gabi (Filipino Novena Dawn Masses) 2014

IN WHAT HAS NOW BECOME parish tradition, Mass was celebrated at 7am by Fr Aaron Spinelli for and with members of the Redhill Filipino community and other members of the parish. The tradition of nine Novena Dawn Masses celebrated before Christmas is one particular to the Philippines. Although nine Masses were not celebrated at dawn or otherwise, the parish got into the spirit of Advent by gathering early for Mass in the dark and enjoying a breakfast before the day begins. Songs were sung by a group of Filipino singers and then, after Mass, a nice group went to the hall for a shared Filipino breakfast (pictured). It was impressive to see many children and families present, as we offered Mass for the victims of the recent typhoon to affect the islands.

Story and picture: Fr Aaron Spinelli



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The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team

Serving the communities of our Diocese



Parents are the First and Best Teachers in the Faith

A NUMBER OF PARISHES across the diocese are opting to use the programme *Growing Up Catholic* for their catechesis on Reconciliation and Eucharist. It is a parent-based catechetical programme that also encourages the whole family to get involved. Parents no longer simply 'drop off' their children for an hour with the parish catechists but instead sit down with their child (and sometimes other siblings) and prepare together for the child's first reception of these Sacraments.



Though some parents (and catechists!) have been initially nervous at this change the quality of the material and the depth of the relationship between parent and child are showing this to be a great success so far.

Whilst many parishes are adopting this methodology wholesale, others have chosen to proceed with a mixture of parent-led and catechist-led sessions.

So far parishes adopting this strategy include Crawley, East Grinstead, Egham & Englefield Green, Guildford, Hove and Seaford

If any parishes would like to learn more please contact: David Wills, Adult Formation Adviser 01293 651157 david.wills@dabnet.org

Lent 2015

Prayer and Reflection Programme by the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

Booklets are still available from DABCEC bookshop:

01293 651165 bookshop@dabnet.org

A downloadable version is available from the diocesan website

More information from David Wills:

01293 651157 david.wills@dabnet.org

Dates for Musicians for the Chrism Mass

Rehearsals: Saturday 7 March, Arundel Cathedral Centre, 1.30-4pm
Saturday 14 March, St Joseph's, Guildford, 1.30 - 4pm

Chrism Mass: Wednesday 1 April, Arundel Cathedral, 6pm
(Rehearsal before Mass at a time to be confirmed)

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



Annual Grandparents Day:

Saturday 20 June Worth Abbey

A Day of prayer and reflection led by Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB

for more details contact: Katherine Bergin

katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

A Walk in Solidarity with Refugees and Asylum Seekers

to celebrate Refugee Week from 13 to 21 June.

The walk commences in Dover and arrives in Canterbury on Sunday 14 June for a service in the cathedral. It continues through Kent and Surrey ending in Crawley on Sunday 21 June. The organisers are Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and further details are in the website www.refugeetales.org

Key Justice & Peace Dates in 2015

February

23-8 Mar Fairtrade Fortnight www.fairtrade.org.uk

27 CAFOD Lent Fast Day www.cafod.org.uk

Note that all donations between 18 Feb and 17 May will be matched £ for £ by UK Aid

March 7 Time to Act: Climate March and Climate Service St Mary le Strand, London

April 12 Brighton Marathon - this year includes a mini run for children and a 10K run for those who don't feel quite up to the task! Why not contact CAFOD for sponsorship ideas?

25 Southwark Diocese J&P Spring Assembly, Aylesford Priory 'From prayer to action and back again - learning and doing together'

May 4 The tenth St Joseph the Worker Migrants Mass will be held at St George's Cathedral Southwark at 10.30am

7 UK GENERAL ELECTION

June Pope Francis is drafting a highly anticipated encyclical on ecology and climate change, expect the document to be released in either June or July.

13 'Refugee Tales' - 13 to 21 June - a walk in solidarity with refugees and detainees www.refugeetales.org

15 Refugee Week - 15 to 21 June www.refugeeweek.org.uk

17 Climate Coalition lobby of Parliament to ensure newly-elected MPs commit to action on climate change

July 5 Diocesan Golden Jubilee Festival - The Amex Stadium, Brighton A&B There!

August *Calling all Cyclists* Cycling Pilgrimage to Paris - taking place in 2 stages: London-Newhaven during the August Bank Holiday, and Dieppe-Paris in the first week of December. The aim is to draw attention to the UN Climate Change Conference and its importance! **VOLUNTEER ORGANISERS NEEDED**
email: aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org



"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.



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.

Deirdre McMahon



St Peter's Primary School fund raising



St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Leatherhead has been raising funds over the past year to support the Bugzi Appeal, led by Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People (QEF). Bugzi is a powered indoor wheelchair for children aged two to six and offers a unique opportunity for pre-school children with disabilities to experience independent mobility, often for the first time in their lives.

The school council organised a whole-school sponsored 'Christmas Singalong for Bugzi' at the end of last term, when pupils sang a grand total of 13 Christmas songs in half an hour. Last week we had a visit from Piers Gilbert of QEF, to collect a cheque for the proceeds of our fundraising efforts over Christmas, including basket collections at the Nativity plays and Carol Service as well as the Christmas Singalong. The total for these events was £340, making the grand total collected so far £1,099.

The school chose to support this appeal because one of our families has a child who has benefited from using Bugzi. Pictured is Piers with Year 6 School Council Representatives and a Bugzi!

Story and picture: Jacqui Shabankareh - Deputy Headteacher

Congratulations and celebrations at All Hallows, Farnham

There was a lot to warm hearts, on a very cold night at the annual presentation evening for All Hallows' Catholic School, held in the beautiful setting of the cathedral church of the Bishopric of the Forces, Aldershot the prize-giving highlighted the whole range of student achievements. Sporting awards included the sports team of the year award, which went to the triumphant Year 11 football team.

Several awards were given in memory of people connected to the school. The Moira Reynolds award for mathematics, won by Joseph Mather, is given in honour of a former bursar of the school, while the Peter Dodd music award, won by Grace Liney, was set up in recognition of Peter Dodd's contributions to music. Pictured are Guest Speaker, Mr J Bird - former Deputy Head Teacher of All Hallows Catholic School presenting Leanne Heaven with a design and technology award, named after the late Bob Ellenor who devoted many years to working tirelessly for the students. The award itself is a model of steam engine which Bob made himself some years ago. Mr Bird congratulated all the students on making the best of all their talents and thanked both parents and teachers for all their hard work.

The musical life of the school was also represented by the Chamber Choir singing Howard Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd' and the String Orchestra playing Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor.

Story and picture: Alison Garland



Learners from St Joseph's Specialist School visit The House of Lords

On Friday 12 December, two Learners from St Joseph's Specialist School and College, Cranleigh accompanied by Mary Fawcett, Principal, and Sarah Kennedy, Home School Link Worker, went on an expedition to the House of Lords to attend the launch of the 'Life at School Research Project' hosted by Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England. With great excitement and a very early start the entourage from St Joseph's joined the morning commute to central London, arriving at The Palace of Westminster for the presentation. Mrs Fawcett said 'St Joseph's were delighted to be invited to take part in the research project, and it is a great privilege to bring some of our Learners to the launch.'



The research project talked to children with special educational needs and disabilities about their lives at school. Children with special educational needs and disabilities often do not have a say in decisions about whether to send them to a residential special school, according to a report published today by the Office of the Children's Commissioner (12.12.14). The report, 'The views and experiences of children in residential special schools' is based on children's accounts of their lives in 17 residential schools for children with special needs.

Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England said: 'A decision to place a child away from home is momentous, and can be fraught with difficulty. How well families, and their children, are supported in this very difficult choice is uneven, and all too often time, energy and emotion-consuming when families and children are in long term testing and vulnerable situations. The bar needs to be raised.

We are clear that much more timely, sensitive and consistent support is needed. The decisions must be made with the child being placed and subject to formal and regular reviews which involve and engage the child. These matters lie at the heart of their rights.

The report 'My life at school, a detailed account of the research undertaken with children' can be found at http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_910.

Hilary Clark School Admissions Administrator

Christmas at Our Lady Queen of Heaven

Following a very busy term at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School, Crawley we have gathered together our final donations for the charities we hold close to our hearts. With the help of the school community and members of the parish the children were able to raise over £2,000. This was shared between the two charities that the school supports, Operation Christmas Child and East Surrey Neonatal Unit. The majority of the money was raised during three special events where



the children celebrated the birth of Jesus. Early Years classes and Year 1 and 2 put together two wonderful Nativities of music, dance and performing arts. The school choir and children in Key Stage 2 shared carols with the community, as well as Mayor Brenda Smith and Crawley's MP Henry Smith. The important message being portrayed at all these events was to remember the true meaning of Christmas whilst coming together as a supportive and loving community.

Story and picture: Irene Archer

Reflection

OUR PARISH PRIEST is a Kiltegan Father. Kiltie-what? you might ask, as we did. But they are a lovely group of priests mostly missionaries, whose headquarters are in East Moseley in our diocese. One of them seems to compose or dig out! prayers related to everyday life and since it is the gardening season you might like this.

Reflection on a few gardening jobs to be done

First look at the weeds.

Weed out gossip, Weed out laziness, weed out indifference and weed out pride

Planted five rows of Peas.

Patience, peace, promptness, politeness, and prayer

Then plant five rows of lettuce.

Let us be faithful, let us be loving, let us be useful, let us be trustful and let us be grateful. Then we turn to the reliable turnips.

Turn up in time, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea and turn up with new determination.

Happy gardening!

By a Kiltegan priest

Sent in by Peggy Purslow, Sacred Heart Wadhurst

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Knights' Charity Quiz at Hollington



A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all the participants in our Knights of St Columba Charity Quiz at Holy Redeemer attended by 78 contestants making 15 tables.

The Knights would like to thank everyone who donated prizes and food for the event. We are particularly grateful to the members of the UCM who put on such an excellent supper.

The money raised amounted with other cash donations to £762. The bulk of this magnificent sum (£400) is being donated to Mary's Meals and £100 to Surviving Christmas. The remainder will be used to help finance our continued annual support in assisting the youth pilgrimages and the purchase of achievement shields for our primary schools.

Well done to all who helped with this very enjoyable evening.

Pictured is the Winners' Table with, seated from left to right: Mike Surman, Bob Blizard, Diana Watts, Sally Hick, Linda Dignum and Kevin Dignum.

Story: Sean Harkins, Picture by Maria Ezobi

NOTICE BOARD

MASS FOR THE DEAF Important Notice

From January 2015 this Mass will be at 1pm

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

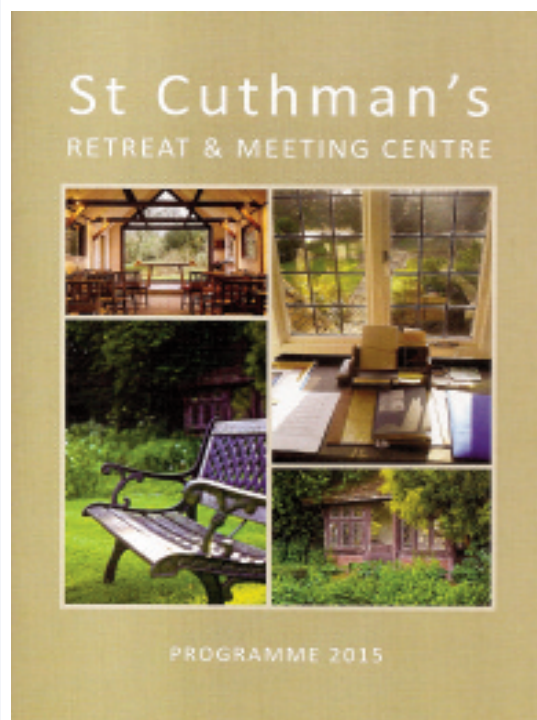
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Tel: 01483 419 269

St Cuthman's



For further details of the 2015 programme contact St Cuthman's at:
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email: enquiries@stcuthmans.org
Tel: 01403 741 220

CAFOD
Just One World

CAFOD A&B tel:01483 898866, email arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

TRADITIONALLY weather is a popular topic of conversation in this part of the world and as I type this it windy and wet outside; the sort of weather in which umbrellas are more trouble than they're worth. As we compare ourselves with many other countries we can count ourselves fortunate that we don't have many severe bouts of disastrous weather.

This year CAFOD's Lent Fast Day takes a look at Burma (Myanmar) which suffered terribly with cyclone Nargis in 2008. Around 138,000 people died and many others lost livelihoods, homes and much more. Each of these were individual people, with friends and families; individual people like each of us.

CAFOD supporters showed their generosity and thanks to this, many people were able to re-build their lives after the disaster. There was the initial help in the immediate aftermath but also the longer term help you helped provide such as helping villagers build a wall to protect their village from flooding and training people in what to do when another cyclone hits. You have helped reduce the risk involved in future cyclones and saved many lives in many countries throughout the world.

Your donations at Lent Fast Day enable work like this happen. This year, every pound you donate to CAFOD during Lent will be matched by the UK government, doubling the impact of all your donations. Thank you for your generous support.

Story: Martin Brown



Fifty Golden Years twice over



FLANKED BY THE PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY of Arundel Catenian Circle, John and Valerie McDermott, are Michael and Susan Clark who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary recently. Also celebrated that evening was the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Valerie and John McDermott themselves – they reached their milestone just before Christmas. Both men are Knight Commanders of the Catholic order, The Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Brother John being a Knight Commander Grand Cross. Both, too, are very long standing members of the Catenians Association having between them clocked-up just shy of 100 years membership. The Ladies of the Association are key to success and a warm tribute was paid to both Ladies for their solid support for their husbands over so many years.

The occasion for the presentation was the Epiphany dinner of the Circle held on 9 January and the Vardar VIP Club and Restaurant in Littlehampton. About 50 Brothers and guests of the Circle celebrated a late Christmas treat, an excellent meal and some live entertainment and a sing-along from Les and Rob Peacock, troubadour folk singers (featured).

The Circle meets monthly at the Avisford Park Hotel near Arundel and membership enquiries from Catholic gentlemen are always welcome. [Contact Circle membership officer, Jim Edwards on 01903 882756.]

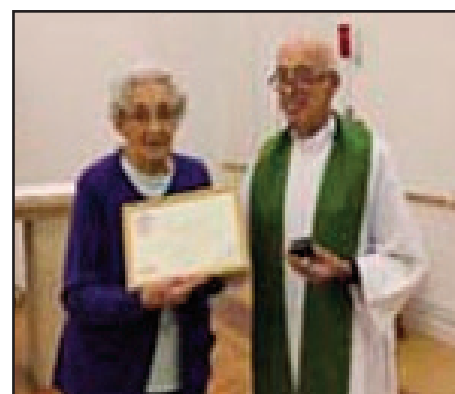
Story and picture: Nigel Corby

'Red Box' Betty

On the weekend of the 24/25 January, the Cathedral hosted Fr Donie O'Connor who gave an appeal for the Mill Hill Missionaries.

At the Saturday evening Mass at the Poor Clares' Convent in Crossbush, he gave a special presentation to Mrs Betty Barrett for her 40 years of dedication to administering the 'red box' campaign in Arundel.

Story and Picture:
Canon Tim Madeley



The Family Synod

Setting Out and Walking Together



IN OCTOBER 2014 bishops and other delegates from around the world met with Pope Francis in Rome for the Synod. The theme for discussion was the Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelisation. A further Synod will take place in October 2015 and the focus then will be on the theme of The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World.

The place of marriage and family life is well known to be of considerable importance to Pope Francis and he speaks about it often; 'Not only would I say that the family is important for the evangelisation of the new world. The family is important, and it is necessary for the survival of humanity. Without the family, the cultural survival of the human race would be at risk. The family, whether we like it or not, is the foundation.'

27 July 2013 Brazil

'Today, there are those who say that marriage is out of fashion... They say that it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision, for ever 'because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries, I ask you to swim against the tide; yes, I am asking you to rebel against this culture that sees everything as temporary and that ultimately believes you are incapable of responsibility, that believes you are incapable of true love.'

World Youth Day 2013 Brazil

In this year between these two Synods, our Holy Father has asked us to spend time reflecting on these themes with 'true spiritual discernment'. In order for us to engage with this, the Bishops Conference of England

and Wales has produced a wonderful discussion document entitled *The Call, The journey and the Mission*. This document looks at what we actually believe about marriage:

- * what are our joys and hopes,
- * our struggles and fears
- * how do we understand the vocation of marriage
- * how it enriches us and those we meet.

It concludes with the thought provoking question, *In what way through the abiding presence of God is your family, salt of the earth and light to the world and a place of and for handing on our faith?*

This is available from your parish or from www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Featured/An-Invitation-to-Reflect-on-the-Gift-of-Marriage-and-Family-Life

Parishes have been invited to use this material in a variety of ways and there are some more general events being held around the diocese. These will be in the form of cafe style discussion evening with an opportunity to feed back to the Bishops Conference. Dates are:

- Wednesday 4 March 7.30-9.30, St Dunstan's Woking
- Thursday 12 March 7.30-9.30, Arundel Cathedral Centre
- Wednesday 25 March 7.30-9.30, St Thomas More, Seaford
- Saturday 21 March 10.00-12.30, Crawley, DABCEC

Please book for these events through

katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Bishop Peter Doyle (the national bishop for Marriage and Family Life)

will be attending the Synod in the autumn and taking with them the results of our conversations and deliberations. It would be lovely for as many people as possible to contribute to their reflections and you have the opportunity to do this via

www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Featured/An-Invitation-to-Reflect-on-the-Gift-of-Marriage-and-Family-Life/Survey-We-want-to-hear-from-you

Pope Francis' words give us encouragement on the journey and marriage 'Those who celebrate the sacrament say, 'I promise to be true to you, in joy and in sadness, in sickness and in health; I will love you and honour you all the days of my life.' At that moment, the couple does not know what will happen, nor what joys and pains await them. They are setting out, like Abraham, on a journey together. And that is what marriage is! Setting out and walking together, hand in hand, putting yourselves in the Lord's powerful hands. Hand in hand, always and for the rest of your lives.'

Rome, 26 October 2013

Picture credits: Mazur/
catholicchurch.org.uk



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FROM THE PARISHES

ARUNDEL

OUR INCREDIBLY hectic Advent and Christmas season finally came to an end when the whole parish family joined together for the annual Christmas party. In the convivial atmosphere of banter and chatter new faces now had names and familiar faces caught up with news. An excellent entertainer enthralled our younger (and young at heart) members with a whole array of quick-moving skills and trickery. Then everyone sat down to a fine choice of delicious cooked meals followed by festive desserts, all prepared before the Christmas rush. Later as we relaxed together we were led in the singing of familiar carols by a small group of parishioners who have formed an excellent brass ensemble. As the youngsters began to get tired the evening came to an end and left us all looking forward to the next gathering.

Hilary Caws

BRIGHTON

St Mary's Preston Park

OUR PARISH Christmas fair on Saturday 29 November was an enjoyable and successful event raising over £3,380 for the parish and two homelessness charities.

On the weekend of the third Sunday of Advent we had Fr Michael Creech (a Redemptorist priest) visiting to say Mass, preach and hear confessions.

Our Advent service on Sunday 21 December was a lovely preparation for Christmas with beautiful music, readings and carols. It was followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall. A collection for 'Delete Blood Cancer' raised £606.

On Sunday 18 January the Social Concerns Group ran a homelessness Sunday coffee morning with bring and buy cakes and gifts plus a raffle. £110 was raised for St Anne's Day Centre for the homeless.

Claire Shelton-Jones

CATERHAM

OUR THOUGHTS and prayers are with those who are suffering now and in the past from the fall out from conflicts in all parts of the world.

Here in Caterham on the Hill our church is a place of peace. One of our older parishioners, Jim Horrocks, died recently only a few days after one of his sons, Seamus, also died. Our thoughts are with their family.

On 17 January we had our New Year's lunch for the older members of the parish in the Centenary hall. This has been an event that has taken place for 36 years with only one cancellation because of bad weather. Our thanks to Karen Rattigan and Jo Waiton for organising such a pleasant occasion, and our thanks also to the girls from Woldingham School, together with the Scouts for waiting at the tables, and for those girls from the school who entertained us with music (instrumental and song).

We were grateful to Fr Gerard Bradley for saying the Sunday Masses when Fr Sean Finnegan was on holiday early in January.

Peter Patterson

CRAWLEY

Christ the Lord (LEP)
Broadfield & Bewbush

OUR CHRISTMAS Eve Vigil Mass was a beautiful and joyful occasion. The church was packed and Mgr Tony Barry celebrated our Mass. Our talented Blue Sash Choir and our music group, with guest pianist Steven Hors-

PETWORTH with DUNCTON



IN 2010 one of our parishioners, Anna Austin, after consultation with Fr Peter Newsam, started a working group to make new tapestry kneelingers for the Lady Chapel in Petworth. Each design for the 12 or so kneelingers is different and all of them related to Our Lady. They are worked in cross-stitch on a blue background and one of them was completed by a parishioner at the age of 100yrs. They are lovely and greatly enhance the Lady Chapel.

The project then grew to include new kneelingers for the side aisles of the main church and after more than three years hard work these are now almost completed. They are worked in a finer stitch, still using a blue background and Anna's designs are of the image of the Sacred Heart, a commemoration of Blessed (now Saint) John Paul II, the IHS design from the marble panel behind the high altar and the Lamb as depicted on the tabernacle door. (See pictures above). Each kneelinger is dedicated on the reverse to someone special to the person who has stitched it.

From a hard core of roughly six people the group has grown in number and has created a great sense of cohesion amongst those involved. And, as Anna says, stitching the tapestries is an act of continual prayer to help glorify the house of God.

(There will be an exhibition of these kneelingers as part of the Diocesan celebrations in Brighton later in the year)

Sally Bohane

forth, led us in joyful singing of well-loved carols.

After the gospel, our children performed a lovely tableau of the Nativity story, dressed variously as shepherds or wise men. The choir provided the angelic host, all in appropriate costumes.

Our joint service for the week of prayer for Christianity on 18 January was very well attended, with representatives from four different congregations. The Rev Howard Schnaar welcomed us and opened in prayer. Music was provided by the Blue Sash choir, Broadfield Christian Fellowship music group and the Church of England Youth Band. Fr Raphael Majewski read the Psalm and Sue Petritz gave a reflection on the gospel story of the Woman at the Well.

Barbara Winstanley

EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

ON WEDNESDAY 20 January, Fr Stephen Purnell led an ecumenical service at St Mary's Church of England church for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service was attended by members of Churches from across the town, including some from Our Lady and St Peter.

Parishioner David Tass has published a book, 'Poems from a Marriage', in memory of his beloved wife Philomena who died last year. Phil, as she was known, suffered over 15 years from an incurable form of lymphoma. She asked her family to celebrate her life and David could think of no better way than through this book. As David has covered the publishing costs, all proceeds will go to the Royal Marsden Hospital, where Phil was treated.

In January, we welcomed in Baptism Lonnie Fretten.

Clive Carpenter

EASTBOURNE

Our Lady of Ransom, St Gregory
and St Agnes

AN EPIPHANY celebration was held after Mass at Our Lady of Ransom with both English and Polish carols and a procession of the Magi to the infant Jesus, followed by refreshments of traditional cakes, tea and coffee and a retiring collection in aid of St Gregory's roof.

The school children of St Thomas a Becket Schools raised £169 for St Wilfrid's Hospice by carol singing at Christmas in the Arndale Centre.

Parishioners were invited to the Congress Suite Eastbourne to join with fellow Christians in Eastbourne's annual day of prayer for the intentions of the town. Fr David King held a meeting after Mass for 18 to 35 year olds, entitled 'Discipleship'.

Fund raising for repairs to St Gregory's Church roof continues with fresh enthusiasm this year. St Gregory's themselves held a cake sale. A very happy and successful table top sale, which began with prayer, was held on Saturday morning with parishioners, parish groups

and St Thomas a Becket Parent Teachers Association, hiring tables.

All the children in St Thomas a Becket schools have been fund raising too with the reception class Christmas play, a great cake sale and a mufti day. Our huge thanks go to the school for encouraging this level of commitment from the children and raising their awareness of how important it is to all help each other.

Mary Staffiere

MERSTHAM, REDHILL
and REIGATE

THE FEAST OF the Baptism of the Lord took on an extra dimension this year at St. Teresa's Merstham. As well as celebrating Jesus being baptised by John, we celebrated our own with the theme of 'Being Called by Name'. In recent years attendance at the 11.00 Mass has grown and we have not yet come to know each other well and remember names. Everyone was invited to proclaim their name on a label and exchange the sign of peace using our names. The Penitential Rite was the sprinkling of the congregation with Holy Water: The Asperges, the title being taken from the opening word of the Latin chant 'sprinkle me, Lord, with hyssop and I shall be cleansed, wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow'. After the homily we all lit our small candles, starting with the celebrant Fr Tony Bridson lighting his from an altar candle and then coming to light ones in the front pew. We then renewed our baptismal promises in the question and answer form used at the Easter Vigil followed by the creed. Everyone was invited to take their candle home as a reminder of both of their own Baptism and the Feast Day. Fr Tony has got to know us, and we to know him, through his many years of standing in from time for our other priests.

Story Ann Lardeur: Picture Janet Franklin

HAYWARDS HEATH

MANY THANKS to Molly Baker and Anita de Lacey who raised £182 for parish funds by making and selling handmade Christmas Cards. Thanks also to St Paul's Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group whose donations have also been added to the money raised. Thanks to everyone for your support.

Anita de Lacey

SOUTHWICK with PORTSLADE

A VERY PRAYERFUL and reflective service was hosted by Portslade at the Mass centre on Sunday 18 January to mark the beginning of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme this year was 'The Well is Deep', reflections on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4 1-42). Candles were lit at the beginning of the service, one for each Churches Together in Portslade (CTiP) community. Water was brought forward and poured into three basins, a symbol of our unity which is real, though incomplete for we all share Christian baptism administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Later in the service we had the opportunity to reflect on various readings from the old and new testaments that refer to the 'well'. The service was concluded with exchanging the sign of peace and a final blessing and hymn. After the service we came together for refreshments and the opportunity to chat with our friends from other communities.

Gill Sajnog

WOKING

A PERMANENT EXHIBIT describing the history of Christianity in Woking and district was officially opened in January at The Lightbox, the town's arts and culture centre. The exhibit features a map of local churches, both ancient and modern, and historical details from the 11th century to the present day. It includes a rolling DVD with two young Christians talking about present-day church worship and community initiatives, and a layout of the tenets of the Christian creed.

Churches Together in Woking raised a significant sum of money for the exhibit. It was officially opened by the present Mayor of Woking, Councillor Tony Branagan, who is a St Dunstan's parishioner, as is his wife Mary. The display casing was built by DJB Exhibitions, whose director David Bittleston, is also a member of St Dunstan's, as well as being a local Councillor. Fr Peter Andrews, assistant priest at St Dunstan's, was a key member of the planning committee, along with ministers and lay members of other local churches. Entry to the Lightbox is free; it is open Tuesday to Sunday each week.

Mark Potter

WORTHING

St Mary of the Angels

ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY during the Offer-tory procession we sang the carol 'We Three Kings' and gifts of gold (the collection), frankincense and myrrh were brought to the altar during the appropriate verses.

On the afternoon of Saturday 17 January Mary Murphy and Teresa Corkery ran a splendid party for three to ten year olds. About 45 children attended and Fr Chris Benyon put on a disco, there were also party games and a lavish tea was enjoyed by all.

During the windy weather several tiles slipped off the roof of the south transept of our Church and, on inspection, it was discovered that the whole of the west side of the transept will have to be renewed!

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Colin White who used to write this column before I took over, may he rest in peace.

Astrid Gibson

The A & B NEWS team would like to express their appreciation to Colin for his long service. May we also offer our sympathies to his family.

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

TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS
ITEMS for the April 2015 issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on **Monday 2 March 2015** and for the **May 2015** issue by **Monday 30 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.

New faces working for the Diocese

I HAVE RECENTLY been appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Team as the new **Inclusion Adviser** and am really looking forward to developing this role and being part of the Diocesan Team.

My husband and I moved to West Sussex in 1980 and have lived in the Diocese ever since. We have four sons and have been actively involved in parish life since we came into the diocese. I was a catechist for a number of years, was involved in setting up a Mothers & Toddlers group, and was a member of the Core Group during Renew. When we moved into the Bognor Parish my husband I were involved in leading the Marriage Preparation course and I also ran a Parenting course for parents of young children.

I have been involved in education throughout my professional career, working in Catholic primary schools for the majority of this time. I was privileged to be a Headteacher for 18 years in two different Catholic primary schools. This experience has been a great reparation for my new role.



Margaret Fraher

PRIOR TO JOINING the Diocese as **Director of Schools Service**, Marie held senior leadership roles at Canterbury Christ Church University. As Deputy Programme Director for PGCE 11-18, Marie co-ordinated the curriculum across one of the biggest PGCEs in the country. Her research into Creativity in Language Teaching and Learning has been published in educational journals and books; likewise Marie has presented her findings at national and international conferences.

Marie joined Canterbury Christ Church after twelve years in secondary schools as a middle leader and latterly as a senior leader in a large, 3-18 international school.

A keen linguist, Marie speaks French, Dutch and Spanish and has lived in France and Belgium. She is nearing completion of her PhD; a study of the French Catholic poet Gabrielle de Coignard. In her spare time, Marie enjoys travelling, cooking, reading and walking. Marie lives in Ferring and attends English Martyrs parish - famous for its painted ceiling - in Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.



Marie Ryan

KAT POND has joined the Pastoral Team as **Parish Family Groups Project Officer**. This is a new short-term position with the mission of setting up Family Groups in the diocese.

Parish Family Groups are modelled on the very successful Passionist Family Group Movement established by Fr Peter McGrath in Australia. Groups meet once a month or so to enjoy being with one another and gradually develop supportive relationships and so build the Christian Community. Everyone is welcome.

Kat will be involved in establishing groups and providing active support to the newly formed groups. For further details, please contact her in the Pastoral Team.

Kat is new to Arundel & Brighton having moved to East Sussex from London last year. She lives with her husband and three children in the parish of St Mary's, Crowborough where she is a Mass reader. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, sewing, dog-sitting and visiting old castles.



Kat Pond

I HAVE BEEN in youth ministry full time for about fifteen years now. The first 8 years or so was mostly spend in residential retreat centres, but I've also worked in diocesan work, on school missions, on pilgrimages, on national projects and in school Chaplaincy. Hopefully these things have prepared me well for the amazing challenges ahead as **Diocesan Youth Adviser**.

I come from Germany originally and since coming to England at 11, I've moved around way too much. I'm not originally an A&B person, but I've lived here for seven years now and I do rather like it!

In my spare time, I go to the cinema, take photographs and enjoy the company of my friends. I also travel a lot. You'll all hopefully hear a lot from me in the coming weeks and months, so I'll keep it brief for now.



Jack Regan

BEFORE RETIRING, Harry worked as a Chartered Accountant and spent over 20 years with a large multinational financial services company.

He has worked and lived in many different countries, including several years in New York, six in India and three in Hong Kong - where he met and married the lovely Goretti.

Since retiring, he has taught English to foreign businessmen, started and run an internet bookselling business, spent many hours angling and obtained a Master's degree in creative writing from Sussex University - an expertise in fiction comes naturally to many fishermen!

As a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Hove, he supports Fr Kevin Dring, most recently running the Homeless Night Shelter. Harry also serves the Saint Vincent de Paul Society as Brighton District treasurer and joint diocesan trainer. In his spare time he writes a blog and has been a correspondent for the A&B NEWS since 2012 and is now an **Editorial Assistant** on the paper.



Harry Robertson
Editorial Assistant,
A&B News

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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Closing date for applications: Monday 2nd March 2015

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