

A & B NEWS

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
No 292 May 2015



Fr Robin's
Ordination -
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Hockey
success -
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A warm welcome to Bishop Richard

The diocese greets with great joy the appointment by Pope Francis of Bishop Richard Moth as our new bishop

BISHOP RICHARD comes to us from being Bishop to the Forces. He will be installed at Arundel Cathedral on 28 May, the actual 50th anniversary of the foundation of the diocese. Due to limited space, only a very few people will be invited to that Mass, but everyone will be able to be with him at the Festival on 5 July. He is looking forward to taking a very full part in the events on that day and meeting many more people across the diocese. He has written to the diocese:

'May I thank you for your prayers at this time – for me, for the diocese and for the Bishopric of the Forces as I leave that community for pastures new amongst you all'.

With every Blessing for a fruitful celebration of Holy Week and Easter.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Richard

**We pray, as he asks, for God's blessing on
Bishop Elect Richard**

Picture: © Mazur/Bishops Conference of England and Wales



Chrism Mass at Arundel Cathedral

THE CHRISM MASS this year was presided over by Bishop Paul Hendrix, Auxiliary Bishop in Southwark (pictured below). The usual numbers attended the celebration, with over 100 priests, about 25 permanent deacons and representatives from parishes across the diocese. In his introduction Bishop Paul explained the slightly unusual situation: 'It feels very strange to be standing here, substituting as best I can for Bishop Richard. It's an odd coincidence that he was going to be celebrating this Mass himself, but now that he has been chosen to be the new bishop of the diocese, he has to wait until his installation in May. There's something very personal about a Chrism Mass, which speaks to us of the relationship of the bishop with his people and with his priests. No other bishop can really substitute for that, so this Mass will probably feel slightly odd to you as well. Having said that, I am glad to be here with you today. There has always been a close link with Southwark and I know quite a number of your priests from when I used to teach at the local Seminary in Womersley. And there are a number of other old friends that I'm very glad to see. This Mass speaks to us about the sacraments, which unite us all in Christ. It speaks of the anointing we have all received at our Baptism and our common calling as disciples of Jesus. It also speaks of the particular role of the ordained priests, who renew their vows today. Through their ministry the grace and power of the sacraments become available to us and to all God's holy people. Let us open our hearts to God

during this Mass and allow ourselves to be renewed and refreshed by a new awareness of his presence in our lives'.

A fitting start to the celebration of the Triduum across the diocese.

Story: Pauline Groves Pictures: David White



Pictured above signing are, the from left to right, Shirley Burrows, Jo Cropp and Jim Mortell. On the left are two of our retired Canons: Brian O'Sullivan on the left and Gerry Coates - they total almost 120 years service.



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The Feast of the Annunciation in Bletchingley

ON 25 MARCH, the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord, traditionally known as 'Lady Day' in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley, the newly-restored statue of Our Lady and the Child Jesus was blessed and rededicated by the Right Rev Jonathon Clark, Bishop of Croydon.

The ceremony took place within the Sung Eucharist, Bishop Jonathon wearing a beautiful white chasuble with an embroidered front panel showing the Madonna and Child and the back bearing the emblem M and a lily, both in gold. In his sermon he said that the many titles given to Mary, including Star of the Sea, Mystical Rose, and Queen of Heaven, detached her in our minds from the real bodily existence of the rest of humanity. Our bodies are part of our identity and remain so in eternity; the belief in the resurrection of the body is fundamental to the Creed we proclaim.

The Catholic Parish of the Nativity of the Lord has a long association with Bletchingley's Parish Church. Members of our community were present and Deacon Tim led the Bidding Prayers. We all enjoyed a social time afterwards with full glasses and an array of nibbles.

Story and picture: Ann Lardeur.



Pictured above are the Heads of Josephite Schools in Europe meeting together for their annual conference on 16 March 2015 at St George's Junior School at Weybridge in Surrey
Richard Morris

Merging of Barrow Hills and King Edward's Schools

THE GOVERNING BODIES of King Edward's Witley and Barrow Hills School announce a merger of the two Witley Schools' foundations with effect from September 2015.

The decision to merge the respective charities makes formal a close relationship that has been forged between the schools over many years. Despite assimilation under a joint foundation, Barrow Hills will remain as an independent Roman Catholic prep school for children aged 3-13, while King Edward's Witley will retain its position as a leading independent senior school providing boarding and day education for children aged 11-18. It represents a natural working partnership, which will give Surrey parents an all-through choice when seeking out an excellent yet affordable independent education delivered with a strong family ethos. The merger acknowledges that Barrow Hills and King Edward's Witley will continue to provide differentiated offerings designed to suit the needs of local children and their parents. Key benefits of the merger include:

- The opportunity to maintain the affordability of an excellent independent school education against the backdrop of rising costs in the independent school sector
- The ability to benefit from economies of scale without compromising the 'family feel' that permeates both schools
- Enhanced sharing of resources which includes after-school care, sports and performing arts facilities and extra curricular activities
- The ability to provide boarding capability (including flexi boarding) to Barrow Hills pupils
- The potential for parents and children to benefit from a seamless independent co-educational school education experience from the age of 3-18

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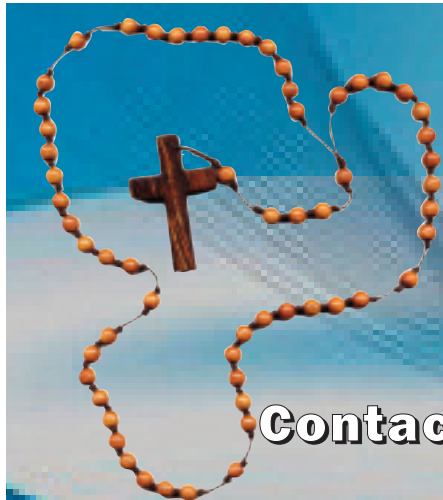
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Fr Robin Farrow is ordained at Guildford



ON A COOL but clear late winter evening the ordination of Robin Farrow took place at St Peter's Church in Guildford on the Solemnity of St Joseph, 19 March. Present in addition to Robin and Archbishop Peter Smith, the Apostolic Administrator of our Diocese, were Fr Terry Martin who presented Robin to the Archbishop, and Robin's wife Caroline, daughter Isabella, who sang John Rutter's 'The Lord bless and keep you' and two week old son, John Henry Joseph. Also assisting in the ceremony were about 40 priests and a number of deacons, all but one of our current seminarians, and Fr Richard Biggerstaff of the St Barnabas Society.

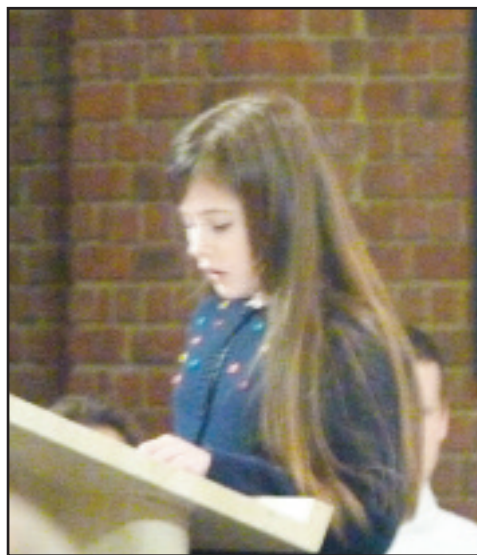
In his written introduction Robin thanked his wife Caroline who opened his heart to the possibility of conversion, his wife's parish priest Fr Alastair Simmons who prepared him for reception, the St Barnabas Society who ensured that they always had a roof over their head and food on the table, Fr Terry Martin in his role of Vocations Director and mentor, the staff and seminarians at the Seminary in Womersley, the parishioners of Ash and Heath End, and all those involved this evening. Catherine Christmas led a diocesan choir singing the Jubilee Mass.

Archbishop Peter addressed Robin in his Homily 'Robin, given the years of your priestly ministry in the Church of England, I'm sure you don't need me to preach a long homily on the meaning of the ordained priesthood! As you well know, all the baptised share in the one priesthood of Christ by virtue of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. United to Christ in the power of the Spirit, God's holy people constitute a royal priesthood united in Christ, the High Priest, and the head of his Body, the Church.

But from the midst of this priestly people, Christ freely chooses and calls some men to share his priestly ministry in a special and more public way. That call is initiated by Christ himself as we read in St John's Gospel: *You did not choose me, no I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last.* So it is Christ who has chosen you. It is he who calls you and sends you in his name to proclaim the Gospel, to gather together the flock of God, and to lead them to a life of holiness, to a life of unconditional love and compassion after the example of him who is our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

In all this you know you will have the companionship and support of your wife, Caroline, and your family, as well as the wider community God's people in the Diocese - priests, deacons, religious and laity. Thank God for it every day, because there will be times when that will sustain you through the inevitable difficulties which will come your way. The journey you have followed under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to seek full communion with the Catholic Church has cost you and your people a great deal already. I pray that your example and way of life as an ordained priest will lead many people closer to Christ and to a deeper holiness of life. In that way all those you serve will become more credible witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.'

The laying on of hands, investiture with the stole and chasuble, and the anointing of hands led into the kiss of peace and the Mass with Fr Robin concelebrating. In conclusion, Archbishop Peter thanked everyone involved and Fr Colin Wolczak, the Moderator of Guildford Parish, invited all into the hall for food and refreshments where the parish had prepared sumptuous fare. When Fr Robin had completed blessing many present in the church, he appeared in the hall and with his daughter Isabella to cut a celebration cake.



Our top picture shows Fr Robin as he makes his promise of obedience to 'his Ordinary' (who will be Bishop Richard Moth, when he is installed in the diocese in May).

Above (left) Fr Richard Biggerstaff, Director of St Barnabas Society. Fr Robin had paid tribute to the society's support, 'who ensured we always had a roof over our heads and food on the table during my time of discernment'

Right Fr Robin's daughter, Isabella singing during the laying on of hands by all the priests.

Story: David White. Pictures David White and Mark Woods

Voting to serve the Common Good

AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, we work with him to renew the face of the earth. This begins with our daily personal encounter with him through prayer and the sacraments. We are called to live out his teaching through active love of neighbour wherever that may be; in our homes, in our work places, in our parishes and in the wider communities of which we form a part. As his disciples, we search for mercy, compassion and justice in all we say and do, and challenge where these are absent in our world. Together with the state and politicians, we are responsible for the kind of society we build. That is why our actions are more important than our opinions.

Politics is a vital and necessary vocation. It carries important responsibilities not only for policy decisions but also for shaping the hopes and aspirations of people. Political leaders can choose to appeal to our sense of hope and fear, to our desires to care for others or for ourselves, and to our sense of solidarity or to our selfishness.

We expect politicians to be committed to the common good. We also each have a responsibility to be involved in the democratic process. It is important that we vote. It is a duty which springs from the privilege of living in a democratic society. In deciding how we vote the question for each of us is then:

How, in the light of the Gospel, can my vote serve the common good?

Prior to casting your vote, you may wish to use the following prayer:

'Lord, grant us wisdom that we may walk with integrity, guarding the path of justice and knowing the protection of your loving care for all'.

With our very best wishes

+ Vincent Nichols
Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President

+ Peter
Archbishop Peter Smith
Vice President

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A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the
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The call to change

READING THIS ISSUE of A & B NEWS Against the background of continuing to celebrate the Resurrection of The Lord, a theme seems to emerge – that being alive and Christ-followers means changing and changing often. The Apostles certainly had to, when suddenly they found themselves responsible for spreading the Gospel.

We have a number of good instances of change in our stories.

There was sadness when the Norbertines left Storrington, but their place has now been taken by a new and different way of being 'Church'. In the Church we have many torch lit processions, in Lourdes, for example. But have we been to a procession lit by mobile phones? A small symbol of the world in which we live today.

The shape of our priesthood is changing, as another ex-Anglican brings his skills and experience to us. And as, Archbishop Peter said he comes with the support of his wife and family.

And, of course we look forward to the coming of our new bishop. His appointment has brought changes into his own life, a fact which he has already shared with us. We will need to be open to change in collaboration with him in the way the first Apostles had to.

Pauline F. Groves

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JUST A THOUGHT



May is the traditional month of the Blessed Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus and our mother - so why not begin and/or end each day with the *Hail Mary*....?

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Community Life: A New Way of Relationship

The Chemin Neuf Community came to West Sussex in September 2013 to live at Storrington Priory, the house leased to them by the Norbertine Canons, who left the Priory after 130 years.

CHEMIN NEUF is a young community started by seven young people in 1973, the fruit of a charismatic prayer group. 'Chemin Neuf' is from the address of our first house: 59 New Street Hill (Montee du Chemin Neuf) in Lyon. Today we number around 2,000 committed members, comprising priests, couples and single people (mostly committed also to celibacy) living in 30 countries. We are a Roman Catholic community, a Public Association of the Faithful, with an ecumenical vocation.

Our first house in England in 1999 was St Gildas Christian Centre at Langport in Somerset; the Community also had a spell running first one then another Catholic Chaplaincy in London. Both the Chaplaincy and our lease at St Gildas were expiring by January 2015 and we wondered what God's plan was. Within a year we were surprised to find ourselves installed at Storrington Priory...and invited by Archbishop Justin Welby to animate the prayer life of Lambeth Palace...and also invited by (then) Archbishop Vincent Nichols to run the parish of Cockfosters, North London...and to be given Sclerder Abbey near Looe in Cornwall - 20 minutes walk from the sea and ideal for sessions with young people and for couples and families - by the Carmelites.

From the beginning, the major influences on our spirituality have been, on the one hand, the Jesuit (St Ignatius) tradition and, on the other, charismatic renewal (the Holy Spirit). In fact, you could say the Community runs on twin tracks: the charism of the Holy Spirit guiding and inspiring prayer and worship and the charism of discernment and accompaniment based on the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. Our missions include Spiritual Exercises retreats, retreats for inner healing, formation programmes, youth missions, and the CANA mission for the enrichment of marriage and family life.

It seems to us that the most important thing any human being can do is to commit their life to God through Jesus and to anchor that choice in prayer. Community life is the way some of us have chosen to follow Christ, poor and humble, in order to serve the Church and the world. Our Constitutions say: 'Brother or sister, if you commit yourself with us, it is solely because of Christ and the Gospel'. People are looking for ways to be with God, to make sense of their lives and relationships, to give and receive forgiveness, to break down the walls of division in us and outside us.

So, as a Community we want to work for unity; unity between races and warring nations, in marriages, between rich and poor, young and old, Catholic and Protestant. That is the grounds for our ecumenical desire for Christian unity, for having a common purse, sharing our possessions with each other on a global basis. And it is why we try to listen to each other and be attentive in daily life and practise reconciliation amongst ourselves.

Our current programme includes a Confirmation weekend for three London parishes hosting forty-four 12 & 13 year olds, a retreat for 25 students from St Mellitus, the theological college sponsored by Holy Trinity



The Priory of Our Lady of England, Storrington, the new West Sussex home of Chemin Neuf

Brompton, and a CANA mission weekend for couples and families which will see around 85 people of all ages squeezed into our house!

The Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius will be running at Storrington in March and at our Cornwall house, Sclerder Abbey - which is just 20 minute walk from the sea - in April. A slightly shorter retreat ('Jericho') aimed at young people will be held at Storrington straight after Easter, as well as an Inner Healing Retreat in May.

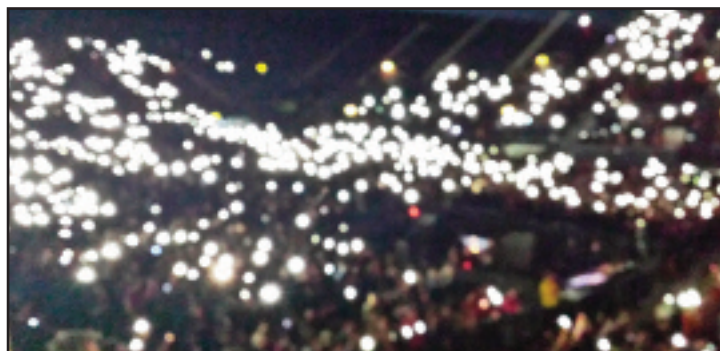
A new initiative is to launch an outreach to young people using St Patrick's Hove at the invitation of Bishop Martin of Chichester. A Sunday evening Eucharist at 5.30pm will be followed by pasta and chat and there will be a charismatic prayer group on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. This is a project being run in conjunction with the local churches and the universities.

We are a young community and in our short time here we have begun to appreciate the work of communities and churches established long before us. We hope to work as partners offering our charisms and missions where they will be helpful. We want to be of service to parishes, schools, youth groups, education departments, formation programmes up to theology degree level, pastoral and reconciliation projects...and individuals who need a safe, quiet space.

Please find out more on our website: www.chemin-neuf.org.uk. And please feel free to ring up to come and visit us: 01903 742150 or email: storrington@chemin-neuf.org.

Story by Charles Hadley, photo: www.chemin-neuf.org

Aflame with Joy at Wembley



FLAME 2 brought together over 8,000 young Catholics from across the country for the largest National Catholic Youth event of 2015 at SSE Wembley Arena on Saturday 7 March.

Groups from as far afield as Newcastle and Manchester joined us, who are from Barnham, with the theme of the event being 'joy'. It was certainly a day filled with great joy, with inspirational talks from many high profile speakers, such as Cardinal Luis Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, double Grammy award winning artist Matt Redman and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster.

One highlight was the message sent from Pope Francis, in which he 'imparts to all participants in Flame 2 and their families and loved ones a special Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abundant graces from Our Blessed Lord'. Another was when Matt Redman asked everyone to take out their phones and turn on the lights, 'if you have any battery left', resulting in a magical sea of lights (see above).

#Flame2 was trending number 1 on Twitter throughout the day. Perhaps the most surprising result from the day, however, came on our way home to Barnham, when we were stuck in traffic and a priest leaned out of his car window and blessed us!

The day itself was split into three sections, the first beginning with an interpretive dance to the start of St John's Gospel and the second ending with a jubilant dance to 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams, finishing with confetti falling from the ceiling. The third section consisted of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Cardinal Vincent Nichols, where Matt Redman provided a thoughtful accompaniment through his song 'Benediction'.

From Adoration the mood gradually built up, culminating in a big finish by Matt Redman performing 'Dancing Generation', in which the whole arena were indeed dancing, bringing a joyful end to a joyful day and an overall wonderful experience, which exceeded all our expectations.

James Holland, St. Philip Howard Catholic High School 6th Form



Local Catholic charity sees need for ship visits to support seafarers

SHIP VISITS WILL CONTINUE to be a vital part of Catholic charity Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)'s work along the south coast of England in 2015.

AoS strengthens its efforts to provide seafarers with practical and pastoral support through its network of port chaplains, ship visiting volunteers and parish and community contacts in the region.

Deacon Roger Stone, AoS port chaplain for Southampton, Fawley, Portsmouth, Cowes, Poole, Shoreham, Portland and the Channel Islands, supported by 25 volunteer ship welfare visitors, visited 1,098 ships last year at those ports.

Last March, while visiting a cargo ship, Roger was told in confidence by a seafarer that he was being bullied and physically assaulted by a colleague. He spent an hour listening to the crew member and they prayed together. At the end of their time together, the seafarer said that he felt so much better and felt able to cope.

'This was the seafarer's first contract in that position and he did not want me to speak to his colleague. The seafarer was so much more relaxed after my visit and on my subsequent visits to the ships, he was much happier and reported that the situation had improved. He no longer wanted to sign off but was happy to extend his contract,' relates Roger.

In April, Roger visited a fruit ship and found that several of the crew were out of contract and there were other issues on board. At the crew's request he contacted the relevant authorities who boarded the vessel and found many deficiencies. The ship was detained. Later that day, a seafarer from the same ship sustained injuries during a lifeboat drill and was taken to hospital. Roger visited him in hospital and took him back to the ship after he was discharged.

The next day Roger visited the injured seafarer on board and spent time with other members of the crew who were quite shocked by what had happened. He also assisted in getting fresh drinking water on the ship after they reported that they did not have any for their voyage.

Roger has also led many communion services on board ships.

Across ports in Great Britain, AoS visited 9,951 ships last year, of which 3,167 requested faith resources. A total of 173 Masses were celebrated on ships.

Our picture above shows Deacon Roger Stone with a seafarer

To find out more about the work of AoS in 2014 please go to www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



Gift Aid AGM at St Paul's College in Burgess Hill

WHAT MAKES A FAIRLY mundane subject interesting? An archbishop, his private secretary, a Monsignor, a selection of staff from Bishop's House - including the Financial Secretary Fergus Brotherton and Diocesan Gift Aid Co-ordinator Sue Rickard - the head of one of our leading Catholic colleges, a large team of helpers including Sybil's trusted catering staff, and an enthusiastic selection of over 100 parish and school organisers; then there was Mass to celebrate another successful year of the Gift Aid scheme. Last, but not least, was the promise of supper, Percy the parrot and a prize draw.

giftaid it



Starting the day at St Paul's College in Burgess Hill was a seminar hosted by Diocesan auditors, David Goodge and Dan Meehan (pictured left to right) – well, almost not starting the day, due to an IT hiccup! Forty delegates listened to and asked questions about the diocese's pioneering GiftWise system, which is used to record membership, donations and tax rebates. Dan spoke about how the system works 'A&B Diocese has invested considerable time and money in getting this state-of-the-art system in place, much to the envy of many other dioceses. It is simple to use and provides the mechanism for easy and quick settlement of claims'. One delegate reminded the gathering of how he used to wait over a year to collect claims, now it happens monthly.

Moving on to the afternoon, Fergus Brotherton welcomed delegates and formally opened the 49th AGM. Next up was Sue Rickard, who began by saying 'I cannot proceed without paying tribute to my three auditors – David, Dan and Ian (Dallas). They give endless support and undertake a lot of sheer hard work and most people do not know that they give of their time freely and without reward.

While the year had been pretty uneventful, Gift Aid has raised £1.3m, which is something the whole diocese should be proud of – remembering that this figure represents £5m of actual donations. Currently, the scheme has an impressive 27,226 donors, with 2,524 being added this year so far. Sue reminded delegates that out-of-date paperwork does not slip by the Gift Aid team. 'Believe it or not, some paperwork came in last week in a printed version dated 2006!' The recent change in tax levels could affect some people coming out of the scheme, but Sue has her 'friendly' HMRC contact called Harry to give advice.

David took the spotlight to talk about the right way and wrong way to operate the Gift Aid system. He recalled, when carrying out weekly donation checks as part of his auditing role, he found parishes who had missed a week or, in one case, had completely forgotten about a month. We all realise, of course, that this lack of attention directly affected the parish's or school's income.

Next he mentioned BIB. No not the thing around the baby's neck at mealtimes, but the Business Internet Banking system. This enables parishes and schools to transfer standing order data directly into GiftWise. It's quick and easy, and greatly reduces the possibility of errors. Sounds like every scheme should have a BIB!

Delegates were reminded by Dan – and this applies to all who are members of the scheme – that accuracy is everything to HMRC when joining. Ongoing, this applies to recording as there has been a time when an inspection of the diocesan books revealed that a few claims had been accidentally made, so HMRC assumed that every parish and school had made the same mistake! A fine ensued, which sticks in the memory of the Bishop's House team. 'HMRC do have the last word' Dan reminded delegates.

Question time came along on what can and what cannot be claimed under Gift Aid regulations. Dan posed questions on a number of scenarios which seemed to throw the audience, giving a clue to the uncertainty of some situations. Dan's advice was 'If it has a price tag, such as sponsoring a brick for £10, it is not eligible for Gift Aid. Whereas a donation without a price tag is acceptable' Hopefully, this cleared the minds of the bemused audience.

So, what do all these good people think about for the next twelve months? Sue had the answer 'Next year we are 50. Let's try and make it a truly golden one!' However, not to be forgotten Percy the parrot, who acted as adjudicator for the prize draw, announced that Celia Putland had got closest to guessing how much Gift Aid had been collected so far this year.

As is the practice, Mass followed the formal business. Much to everyone's delight, Archbishop Peter took time out to officiate along with Mgr John Hull and the Archbishop's private secretary, Fr Phillip Glandfield.

This is always a very special time of the day and even more so this year. Archbishop Peter (pictured on the right with delegates) warmly thanked the organisers for their dedicated work and said that he had seen some good ideas which he was going to take back to Southwark, especially the GiftWise system. On our bishop-in-waiting, he said 'I have known Bishop Richard for a number of years and, in fact, I taught him at the seminary. He will be excellent for A&B – he likes horse riding and also enjoys a pint of Harvey's Best Bitter. In fact, I asked him the other day if he would swop jobs with me. "No way" came back the quick response!'

Story and picture: Peter Burholt

Dang retires from Bishop's House

PROBABLY THE ONLY BUDDHIST to have worked for the diocese retired on 16 April. Dang Wenham joined the Bishop's House team through a chance conversation with the secretary of St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School in Brighton, where her son was attending - Dang's husband is a Catholic. The secretary referred Dang to the late Mgr Jeff Scott and, following an interview, he offered her the job. 'You asked about Thailand, my home country. I think it is a bit like Marmite – you either love it, or you hate it!'

Dang joined in 1985 and is the longest serving member of the Bishop's House team. 'Possibly Mgr John Hull beats my record', she reflected. Her first job at Bishop's House was to work in the Tribunal office. Later, on the retirement of John Woodland, she joined the Gift Aid team too. 'My life at Bishop's House has been a happy one and I have enjoyed the company of the team I work with – we joke a lot!'

With the question as to what she will do in retirement, Dang had to think for a while before giving her considered response. 'I don't know! After 30 years at Bishop's House, I will have nothing to get up for. I like travelling and cooking and am contemplating another hobby!' To say that Dang is modest is a bit like asking if the Pope is Catholic! She leaves with the affection of her team mates and, to whichever God she relates to, all her Diocesan family hopes that her retirement is long and rewarding.

Thank you Dang for all the years of your dedication.

Story and picture: Peter Burholt



Story and picture: Peter Burholt

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The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Pastoral Team

Serving the communities of our Diocese



Pictured above at a fundraising dinner at Weybridge: Fr Con Foley, Aidan Cantwell and Clare Wordsworth

Would you like to help rebuild the broken lives of victims of Human Trafficking?

THE MEDAILLE TRUST was founded in 2006 by a number of religious congregations in response to the plight of thousands of people who are being trafficked into the UK each year. The Trust was established as a charity and opened its first safe house in January 2007. A major part of the Trust's work is to raise awareness of the plight of those who are enslaved and exploited in the trafficking industry, and campaign on their behalf.

Many of our parishes have actively supported the trust since it was founded and we are always looking at ways to promote knowledge about Human Trafficking in parishes and/or secondary schools. This can take the form of a parish talk, appeal or retreat.

The Trust has already exhibited at this year's Annual Justice & Peace assembly and you can visit their stand at FESTIVAL50. If you'd like to learn more about arranging a Parish or school visit contact: Aidan Cantwell, Social Action Adviser aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org 01293 651154 or visit the Trust's website and download their Easter newsletter <http://www.medaille.co.uk/>

Retreat Day for Grandparents

led by Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB at Worth Abbey on Saturday 20 June
from 10am to 4pm

Booking and details: katherine.bergin@dabnet.org 1293 651152

FESTIVAL 50

on Sunday 5 July 2015 at the Amex Stadium, Village Way, Brighton, BN1 9BL

Please complete this form and return it to:

Mrs M Fraher, Inclusion Adviser, DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley,
West Sussex RH10 6RP 0-1293 651136

or by email to margaret.fraher@dabnet.org Thank you.

Name: Address:

Telephone: Email:

Your parish name & town:

An opportunity to celebrate the culture of through dance,
song, music, information, traditional costume & handicrafts.

My group would be willing to dance at Festival 50.

You would be welcome to perform one or more dances during the morning.
There will be a designated space for the performance and you would be given an actual time slot for the performance so that you are free to enjoy all the other activities available on the day.

My group would be willing to sing at Festival 50.

You would be welcome to perform one or more songs during the morning.
There will be a designated space for the performance and you would be given an actual time slot for the performance so that you are free to enjoy all the other activities available on the day.

My group would be willing to run a Market Stall at Festival 50.

On the Market Stall you may like to display information and / or sell cultural handicrafts.
The Market Stall would need to be set up on Saturday 4 July and manned on Sunday 5 July from 10.00am - 2.00pm.

INCLUSION – the story so far!

DIOCESAN WEBSITE:

www.abdiocese.org.uk/PastoralTeam/inclusion

The Inclusion section has been developed and updated. It is a valuable resource and gives advice, website links and suggestions for adapting parish resources for people with disabilities. If you are using resources in your parish that provide greater access to resources and parish life for people with a range of disabilities please let me know so they can be put on the website to spread the word.



FESTIVAL 50:

As Organiser for Inclusion and Diversity for Festival 50 I am currently liaising with people with a range of disabilities who have contacted us with queries regarding parking and access, as well as how they can be actively involved on the day. If you know anyone who is feeling anxious about coming to Festival 50 because of a particular disability or medical condition, please encourage them to contact me. Working with the Festival Team I can ensure that we do everything possible to allay any anxieties and put into place any necessary support to enable everyone to participate as fully as possible in the diocesan celebration.

To celebrate the diversity in our diocese I am looking for groups of parishioners from different cultures to sing traditional songs or perform dances. Alternatively, Market Stalls are available to display information and / or sell cultural handicrafts. We want to actively involve as many people as possible throughout the day, so do contact me if you would like to be involved. (See cut out form below left)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

I am continuing the work that John McManus did in supporting families, catechists and clergy in preparing individuals with disabilities for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. So far I have worked with five families from three different parishes and am aware that there are probably many more people with a range of different disabilities in other parishes who may need support in accessing sacramental preparation, resources, liturgies and parish events. I am also available to support adults preparing for sacraments.

WHAT'S NEW?

*Advice and support to parishes about Equality Law and the related legislation.

*Inclusion Awareness Training for Parish Clergy, Pastoral Teams, Catechists, Welcomers and Group Leaders - including what needs to be considered when working in the parish.

Margaret Fraher, Inclusion Adviser 01293 651136 margaret.fraher@dabnet.org

Mental Well-Being: Listening with Compassion

Where: St Mary's University, Twickenham
When: Saturday 6 June, 2015, 10am - 4pm
Cost: £35 (including buffet lunch)

Contact: For more details and booking contact Steph Modak
at inspire@stmarys.ac.uk, call 020 8240 4082
or see www.stmarys.ac.uk/inspire

A day exploring themes related to mental health and the spiritual life bringing together those engaged in ministry, service-users, practitioners, researchers and specialists in the field.

Guest Speakers Include Prof Chris Cooke, Julia Head, Prof Geoff Hunt, Dr Pia Matthews, Bishop Richard Moth, Sr Mairead Quigley, Dr Trevor Stammers.

In collaboration with: The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales; The Bishop John Robinson Fellowship (South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust); Multi-faith Chaplaincy, University of Surrey; Project for Spirituality, Theology and Health at Durham University

To book online please go to:

<http://www.stmarys.ac.uk/news/events/event/mental-well-listening-compassion/>

#Rockingurteens!

INCREASING YOUNG GIRLS ASPIRATIONS was the aim of the #Rockingurteens day and I think they may have succeeded. On the 12 March 2015 two hundred young girls, including 10 from the St Philip Howard Catholic High School, went to the Thomson Reuter main offices at Canary Wharf in London to take part in an action-packed, entertaining day of motivational speakers, workshops, performances, and interesting conversations.

The day started with the three main motivational speakers and the first was Emma Barnett, who told us about her work as a journalist with the Daily Telegraph. She told us how she created the majority of her work there and how if there seems no place for you in the job you want to do, make one as she did when she restarted the women's section of the Telegraph with great success.

Next was the chemical engineer Yasmin Ali who was the Young Women Engineer of the year in 2011. She really put forward her love of science and engineering and motivated us to not worry if our chosen career does not seem right for us, but to take another opportunity.

Last up were the Mandeville sisters made up of Grace and Amelia Mandeville, two vloggers and actresses who were very funny. Apparently they never used their script once, but the whole audience was very inspired with their speech on how you must never give up on your dreams, but work hard to make them happen. Many people said that the Mandeville sisters were their favourite part of the conference!

The rest of the day consisted of: workshops on leadership, being an entrepreneur, and technology; an inspiring presentation on making good choices; an interesting talk by young people on the benefits of volunteering; rounded off by an excellent performance from Tendai, a singer/songwriter. This was all presented by Rimmel London, a TV and radio presenter who linked together the items with her chatty style.

At the end of the day, we reflected on the best parts of the conference and what we were going to take from the day. We all had a lot to think about, and we wrote down pledges about what we were determined to do in the future. These pledges probably contained a lot of things we'd never think about doing before the conference, so we were left with lots of new ideas about the future. The whole day had a really good, exciting and inspired vibe, which I'm sure will be constant through all of #Rockingurteens work. There was one really solid thought we were left with though, which is that **GIRLS ROCK!**

Story: Emma Hattersley



Tercentenary Celebrations at The Towers Convent School

A VERY SPECIAL WEEK in the life of The Towers Convent School and in particular of The Sisters of The Blessed Sacrament, who were celebrating the tercentenary of their religious order which began in France 300 years ago under the leadership of Blessed Peter Vigne, commenced on Monday 9 March 2015.

As is usual in many schools, the community is extending the festivities across the whole academic year but a focus week for pupil activities was held during March. The week set off to a flying start with girls and staff wearing posters attached to their jumpers displaying details about prominent people who had lived, or events which had happened during the preceding 300 years. The variety was huge but there was one common theme, that of strong, high-achieving women.

Some of the other activities were food-centred with staff and pupils enjoying French favours (small bags of pretty sweets) on one day, and plentiful French pastries on another. Pictured are Year 7 receiving favours.

Several pupils were inspired to invent their own mark of respect for the longevity of the order. Bella, in Year 10, distributed delicious cupcakes accompanied by votive candles and a prayer card especially written for The Sisters' tercentenary; Jasmine, in Year 7, composed a musical start to a lesson and Chloe, in Year 10, performed a drama piece. Others had different ideas like Olivia, Kathryn and Abigail, in Year 9, who put together a quiz for their class mates, and a number of Year 7 pupils, who gave historical presentations about events over the last 300 years. A stunning exhibition of pupils' work was on view in the hall displaying a poster with 300 quotes by Bella in Year 8, and others outlining how things had changed during this period.

The Towers kicked the tercentenary year off with special Founders' Day celebrations in November 2014, to which guests of the Sisters were invited. The year will be punctuated with more occasions such as Corpus Christi, the Sisters' Feast Day and a pilgrimage in October to Boucieu in France, where the order started. It will culminate in the November Founders' Day celebrations bringing the festive year to a close.

Congratulations Sisters!

Story and picture: Clare Trelfa, Headmistress



Fairtrade at St Francis' School in Crawley

GLOBAL AWARENESS COUNCIL ran their 'Afternoon Tea' for Fairtrade on Friday afternoon, 13 March. This was a very successful event with over 100 of our family and friends attending. The focus for this year's campaign is the 'Stock it' challenge and the aim of the Council is to promote this not only through the Fairtrade fortnight but all through the year. With this in mind, all the coffee, tea, hot chocolate and biscuits sold at the event were Fairtrade products. The children had a chance to sit with their families and enjoy food that has been produced by farmers who get a fair price for their goods.

The council have collected lots of ideas from their peers and are working on these to ensure Fairtrade is not just an annual event but a well known feature throughout our school at all times. The children have completed lots of excellent work, persuading shop owners to stock Fairtrade produce. One of our behaviour values at St Francis is 'Fair' and this has really helped get the message of Fairtrade across to our younger children in key stage 1.

The Global Awareness Council put a lot of effort and hard work in to planning, organising and running the tea party and Miss Keating and Miss Murphy are extremely proud of them. On behalf of the council, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came and made the afternoon such a success.

Story and picture: Shareen Murphy



Art Week at Annecy School in Seaford

Annecy School in Seaford has had a memorable Art Week which included sculptor Dominic Parratte working with each class to produce a fantastic willow dragon (pictured with some of the children). The children enjoyed a truly creative week with parents and helpers coming into school to support the children with their work. The parents were invited to view an exhibition of all the wonderful work produced at the end of the week and the PTA provided refreshments.

Story and picture: Debbie Berridge



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Timetable update

The doors of the stadium will open at 9.30am to give you time to be seated for Morning Prayer at 10am

What happens if it rains?

Virtually all the activities will be under cover, except for the Funfair

How much do we have to pay?

The event itself is free except for the Funfair and refreshments

What food is available?

There will be a number of food outlets throughout the stadium. They will be open until 2pm, when preparations for Mass will begin. You are, of course, welcome to bring your own picnics.

How do we get there?

Transport arrangements:

There will be no car parking available at the Stadium except for Coaches and Blue Badge holders. You will be able to get there either by coach or public transport.

Coaches

Contact your local parish or school.

Train

There are regular train services along the coast to and from Falmer station. The station is only 250 metres from the stadium concourse. On Sundays there are two trains per hour.

Bus

The Brighton & Hove Bus Company run services (numbers 23, 28, 29 and 78) that stop within easy walking distance from the stadium.

Access for Sick and Disabled

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

Please contact the Festival Office for your transport queries by email

Festival50@dabnet.org or call 01293 651190.

Some more details you may wish to know about Festival day.

Liturgy

Fr Jonathan How

We are looking to build the team of liturgical ministers for Festival 50 and are operating an open recruitment policy so that people from all parishes in the Diocese have an opportunity to be take part and to be considered for certain key roles. I know that many parishes are planning to do some further publicity for the Festival after Easter and would be grateful if you would make this invitation known to those who might be interested.

Musicians and Singers.

The choir and music group for Festival 50 is growing rapidly and is still recruiting. Those wishing to take part must register, **preferably by the end of May** and attend the rehearsal on 20 June. There are other rehearsals on 18 and 25 April to enable people to learn the music..

Contact: festival50music@dabnet.org

Servers.

We are looking for a small team of servers drawn from across the Diocese to act as the core serving team. Those who wish to be considered should email Fr Aaron Spinelli with their name and a brief note about their involvement in their parish. We would particularly like to hear from servers under 30 who have been confirmed and are members of the Guild of St Stephen.

We would also like to invite teams of servers to vest for Mass. All are welcome. If numbers permit, we would like them to take part in the entrance procession. If the parish would like to bring a team they should nominate a responsible adult who will take care of them and the adult should email Fr Aaron Spinelli with their name, the name of the parish and an indication of the numbers likely to come. **These should be received by the end of May at the latest.** Even if you are not sure of numbers please do let us know your intentions as soon as you can. Joining details will be sent out to responsible adults in June once numbers are known

Contact: aaronspinelli@hotmail.com

Readers

We are looking to build a list of good readers, one or two of whom we will approach to read at Festival 50 and other diocesan events. They should be confirmed Catholics. If there are any excellent readers in the parish whom you would like to nominate please send a note of their name and parish and a few words about them to Catherine Christmas. No more than one or two per parish please.

Contact: catherine.christmas@dabnet.org

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

We are grateful for the offers of help we have received, but we expect to have sufficient clergy available to assist with the distribution of communion.

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FROM THE PARISHES

ARUNDEL

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY has been one of shared experience, whether in our numerous study groups or in our weekly Stations of the Cross.

We have joined with our Anglican friends to walk the Stations, meeting alternately in our two churches.

The season was punctuated by a colourful celebration on Mothering Sunday where the Cathedral Centre was transformed with an array of yellow and white decorations. The women were then treated to a delicious breakfast served by our good men amid lots of banter and chatter.

On behalf of all the Churches in Arundel our Oliver Hawkins has decorated a local shop with the Easter message, in the hope that others may share our joy. (See picture below)

Hilary Caws



ADUR VALLEY

A VERY ECUMENICAL month is how I would describe February into March. There have been so many events involving people from all the local churches. In particular the Lent Groups at The Towers looking at 'Praise in the New Testament' and the group in Shoreham at either St Mary's Anglican church or St Peter's who are Working and Praying with Christians of the Middle East. In addition there have been the Lent Lunches at Christ the King, Steyning, each week being for a different cause including CAFOD, AOS, HCPT, a parishioner's home village in the Philippines and St Barnabas hospice. Stations of the Cross have alternated between St Mary's and St Peter's in Shoreham and have also taken place at CTK where our parishioners have been joined by those from other Churches. SPs held a Bring and Buy Sale raising £86 for parish funds and a Traidcraft and breakfast event at SPs raised £112.75 for the Fair Necessities appeal bringing the total for that cause to £325 which will be doubled by the government. Our First Communion children were enrolled this month and children took part in making Easter crafts on Palm Sunday.

Penny Richardson

BRIGHTON

St Mary's Preston Park

OUR CRIB COLLECTION this year raised £343 to be sent to designated families in the Holy Land.

It was very nice to see our former parish priest Fr Oliver Heaney when he kindly covered for Fr Bruno Witchalls at Sunday Masses on 15 February.

On 6 March St Mary's hosted the Women's

World Day of Prayer which focused on the women of the Bahamas. We welcomed guests from our local Churches Together in Preston and provided them with refreshments afterwards. The collection taken during the service amounted to £215 for Christian charities world-wide and some leftover cakes were served with coffee after Mass the following Sunday, raising £16 in donations for Mary's Meals.

Claire Shelton-Jones

CATERHAM

PREPARATIONS are well in hand for Easter with the children being asked to create an Easter garden and a call for more singers for the men's choir to cover Good Friday.

During Fr Sean Finnegan's absence we are having the Liturgy of the Word and Communion for the weekday services. There were Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The St Patrick's Day breakfast was well attended, about 50 parishioners, not really surprising since those who know Caterham will be aware of the Irish connection through the old St Lawrence's Hospital and the Irish Guards stationed in Caterham barracks.

The CAFOD fast day, once again, showed the generosity of the parish with over £1,000 donated.

Peter Patterson

CRAWLEY

Christ the Lord (LEP)
Broadfield and Bewbush

AFTER MASS on the third Sunday of Lent, Rachel Colbran spoke to us about Festival 50, to be held in the Amex stadium conference centre in Brighton on 5 July. It will be a new beginning for us all in the parish and in the diocese, an opportunity to share the love of God with each other and the wider community. We are travelling by coach and signed our names on the list to reserve places afterwards.

Musicians gathered at the Friary on 11 March for a music workshop with Catherine Christmas to learn the new Inwood Mass Setting, written for the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese. The evening started with home-made soup and rolls and finished with Compline.

Fr Daniele Moschetti of the Comboni Mission celebrated our Mass on Mothering Sunday. In his homily he spoke about his experiences over the last 20 years in Sudan and Egypt. He said though the Christian communities there suffer so much persecution they never give up their faith.

Barbara Winstanley

EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

THE PARISH spring lunch was held at St Bernard's Hall, Lingfield, on Sunday 8 March. Lingfield parishioners once again generously provided a roast lunch and a choice of desserts.

On Friday 6 March, parishioners attended the morning and evening services for the Women's World Day of Prayer held at Moat United Reformed Church.

In an initiative by Lingfield SVP and Friends of the Holy Land, funds are being raised for the SVP Sudan baby feeding programme and for Christians in the Holy Land through the sale of goods during coffee time in St Bernard's Hall after Mass.

Mike and Tina Causton held a fundraising Fairtrade coffee morning and afternoon tea at their home on Tuesday 10 March.

In March, we welcomed in Baptism Anna Christine Artemenkova and Isabelle May Freeman.

Clive Carpenter

EASTBOURNE

Christ the King, The Holy Rood
and St Joachim

THE DIFFICULTY involved in organising times and venues of Masses to suit as many people as possible in an era when the shortage of priests is impacting on our parishes was highlighted by Fr Barry Anderson in a note sent to parishioners in January.

This has meant that as from 11 April the only parish Mass on Saturday will be at 5.00pm at Christ the King, replacing the 6.00pm Mass and the 4.00pm Mass that used to take place at The Holy Rood, Pevensey Bay.

Fr Barry has asked anyone who used to attend the Saturday Mass at The Holy Rood who would find it impossible to get to Christ The King to let him know so that he can arrange transport for anyone in that situation.

During Lent Reconciliation services have taken place at Christ The King and at St

EGHAM



Fr Hugh Flower receiving his award from Deputy Chief Constable Nick Ephraim

LATE IN JANUARY this year, the Surrey police held an award evening for volunteers who worked alongside officers and staff in many and varied departments. Five years ago a Chaplaincy was set up, and five of the original chaplains were invited to the evening, among them was our parish priest Fr Hugh Flower, who were all given a certificate of recognition. Fr Hugh had visited Leatherhead neighbourhood team whilst in the Fetcham parish, then was transferred to Runnymede Neighbourhood team in Addlestone, after his move to St Cuthbert's parish of Egham. He continues to visit the armed response unit and ANPR teams

Preparations have continued through the winter for 'Life in the Spirit', seminars which begin on the 14 April, across Eastertide and Pentecost. This is part of the work the parish is undertaking to be more effective disciples of Jesus Christ.

The parish has two 57 seater coaches booked for the diocesan Festival in July.

Palm Sunday gave the parish the pleasure of having Michael Naef and his family design and produce wonderful processional crosses made from evergreens and ferns, the idea originating from his home town in Switzerland

Story: Alice Mabbs, picture Surrey Police

Joachim. Each Friday after the Mass at 12 noon there has been a lunch in the hall at Christ the King to raise funds for CAFOD.

CAFOD has also benefitted from a retiring collection following the performance of 'Jesus My Boy,' a play by John Dowie and performed by our parishioner, Rodney Hunt, on Palm Sunday. £400 was raised.

John Carmody

PETWORTH with DUNCTON

THIS LENT we have been privileged to have had three exceptionally interesting talks. The first was on the mind-set of Pope Francis given by Fr Dermot Power who explored some of the thinking behind the Pope's pronouncements and decisions and how his Latin-American personality is making itself felt throughout the Vatican.

The second talk was by Fr Michael Barnes SJ entitled 'Christians and Muslims: What do we need to learn'. Fr Barnes is much involved with inter-faith understanding and dialogue, particularly regarding Hinduism and Islam. It was enlightening to learn more about where the traditions of our faiths complement each other and where they totally diverge.

Our own Fr Peter Newsam gave the final talk on the topic 'Where shall I put my cross? Faith and the General Election'. It was a thought-provoking evening on the moral and ethical decisions facing Catholics in particular as to how to hold MPs to account on their personal records, as well as those of their parties, over decisions such as gay marriage, faith education and overseas policies on helping poor and displaced persons.

All three evenings were well-attended and led to interesting questions and discussions.

Sally Bohane

POLEGATE and HAILSHAM

MARCH WAS Fr Rory Kelly's 65th birthday, and time for another birthday bash. It was a truly wonderful occasion, which brought everyone together, young and not so young, visitors and locals. In the afternoon, while the children were entertained with games, older folk had a peaceful time in the church with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the opportunity for healing and confession, followed by Benediction. Later it was time for older parishioners, with the Irish Dancers team and Dom and the Flash Company Band. Our thanks to Bill who amassed an amazing collection of items for the auction which he, with his assistants, somehow managed to persuade us to buy! Also to those who set up the hall and prepared the buffet. Over £1,300 was raised for the new church fund.

In Polegate, St George's Social Group held a Valentine quiz on 14 February, with quiz mistress, Felicity, in charge.

The Children's Liturgy Group held a sale of delicious cakes, and all monies raised were donated to that group to purchase resources for the Sunday children's liturgy.

Ruth Ayres and Tessa Truman

WOKING

A GROUP OF 26 parishioners from St Dunstan's and neighbouring parishes enjoyed a memorable Lenten pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March. (See picture below) Staying at the Notre Dame Centre in Jerusalem and in an hotel in Tiberias on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, we visited the main churches and holy sites in Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jericho. Fr Peter Andrews, our Spiritual Director, celebrated Holy Mass daily, most movingly on the tiny site of the Resurrection. Mary Smith, our leader, organised our transport, morning and evening prayers and much else. We followed in Jesus's footsteps on the Via Dolorosa and returned home spiritually refreshed for Holy Week and Easter.

Story: Anne Riddoch, Picture: Margaret Turner



TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS ITEMS for the **June 2015** issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on **Monday 4 May 2015** and for the **July 2015** issue by **Monday 1 June 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.

FROM THE PARISHES

SOUTHWICK with PORTSLADE

LENT HAS BEEN a busy and prayerful time in our combined parish. For those wishing to be part of a Lenten small group, these have been offered at each corner of the parish, St Theresa's Church, Southwick, the Mass Centre, Portslade or St George's Church, Hangleton. In addition every Friday evening we have celebrated Stations of the Cross at either St Theresa's Church or St George's Church.

The Confirmation Group had an afternoon of reflection and worship at Boxgrove Priory. On arrival they had a picnic lunch in the Blaise centre, it was a bit too cold to be outside. Boxgrove Priory has a beautiful Labyrinth on the floor of the church and the group had the opportunity to use this as a way of praying, they also celebrated the Stations of the Cross in the Priory church.

As part of their preparation programme, the First Holy Communion children led the Mass at St George's, Hangleton. We look forward to Easter as we come together as one worshipping community to celebrate together with joy.

Gill Sajnog

WORTHING**St Mary of the Angels**

ON SUNDAY 1 March we had our international Mass and shared lunch afterwards. There are at least 23 nationalities in our congregation! People brought their national dishes to the shared lunch in Sion school hall.

On Saturday 21 March there was an evening of song and dance as part of our jubilee celebrations. There was a shared meal to which everyone attending contributed. The highlight of the evening was a ballet dance by Rosabella Murphy followed by a song and dance with her father playing the piano.

On Thursday 26 March there was a reflection on the Passion of the Lord 'The Cross of Christ'. This was performed by a choir comprising of members of the Worthing Choral Society, our own church choir and St Michael's church choir. It comprised of readings from the Passion and hymns and motets including Mozart's Ave Verum and works by J S Bach, John Hilton, John Goss and Johann Cruger. This was conducted by Donovan Brown and the organist was Philip Bailey.

Astrid Gibson

WADHURST

THE AVERAGE AGE in Wadhurst parish seems to be getting lower each week as more young families are arriving. There is even going to be competition to play baby Jesus next Christmas! This made Mothers Day very special; some children arrived late as they were making breakfast for their Mum. During Children's Liturgy they made butterfly-shaped cards, inside which they placed a wrapped tea bag to enjoy later. (See picture below) After Mass the children handed out daffodils to all the ladies in church as they left. They decided to give them, not just to mothers, but to aunts and cousins, amongst others. The children also decided to give Fr Martin O'Connor some daffodils as he helps everyone in the parish too!

Earlier in the month Fr Martin and his fellow priests went to Ars in France on retreat. They came back so full of zeal that they organised a special family service for first Confessions on the afternoon of the England v Ireland Six Nations rugby match - 'greater love than this hath no man!' but God smiled and the luck of the Irish held!

Peggy Purslow



It is helpful to us if correspondents can include their telephone number when sending in their contributions

Hockey success at St George's College, Weybridge

IT HAS BEEN A TREMENDOUS few weeks of success for both girls and boys on the hockey pitch at St George's College, Weybridge.

Both the Under 16 and Under 14 girls' hockey squads competed in the National Hockey Championships held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on the 24-26 February. The Under 16 XI topped their pool, winning the final pool match v Grammar School at Leeds 1-0, and taking them through to the final v Repton School. Three goals in the first half gave Repton a strong lead that St George's tried to overcome but even a goal by Jozie Rooman-Downs was not enough and the final score was 4-1 to Repton.

The Under 14 XI from St George's College started the competition as defending champions, and were determined to keep hold of the trophy. Similarly to the Under 16s, they also topped their pool winning their final pool match v Grammar School at Leeds 2-0, and taking them through to the final v Cranleigh School. A first minute goal by Year 1 student Alice Grainger gave St George's an early lead. The match was even, with both teams creating opportunities to score, and a strong defensive performance allowed St George's College to maintain the score line and retain the title as Under 14 Girls National Hockey Champions.

The boys hockey teams at St George's College have also been on a winning streak. The Under 14 XI won the County Championships, the first St George's team in almost a decade to do so, beating Reeds School in a nail-biting final, which went to penalty strokes. The team progressed through the regional heats without conceding a goal and beat Langley Park School 2-0 for a place in the South semi-final.

More recently, St George's College hosted its 37th annual St George's 6s boys' hockey tournament on 4 March, welcoming 27 teams from across the South of England. In the cup semi-final, St George's College played Woodbridge, winning 4-2 in extra time. The final was a fantastic display of hockey between St George's and Tonbridge, with St George's coming out 3-1 winners.

On top of all this, the future is looking bright for St George's with both the Under 12 and Under 13 boys' hockey teams winning the County Championships along with the Under 12 girls. The Under 13 girls were runners up in their County Championships and now qualify for the Nationals.

Finally, both boys and girls from St George's College have qualified for the National Championships which will be held in May at Beeston Hockey Club.

Our picture shows the girls' team becoming Under 14's National Hockey champions

Richard Morris

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