

FREE

A & B NEWS



Laudato Si'
Page 3

Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
No 300 CHRISTMASTIDE

DIOCESAN OFFICES AND BOOKSHOP CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

All diocesan offices, including the DABCEC Bookshop will close on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 December and re-open on Thursday 7 January



St Polycarp's school, Farnham write letters to seafarers
Page 7



Eastbourne, Christ the King Remembrance Concert
Page 10

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A happy and holy Christmas to all our readers



A message from Bishop Richard

'The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.' These words, from the Prologue of St John's Gospel, express for us the wonder of Christmas, the fact that the Son of God, the Word of the Father, in an act of total self-emptying, accepts human vulnerability and is born amongst us. His birth takes place, not in a place befitting God Himself, but in poverty in an occupied land. Soon, the Christ-child is to experience exile, the life of the refugee.

Birth in a land occupied by a foreign power, poverty, exile - these are experiences of the modern age. God is not distant from us in our own age, therefore. Wherever humanity walks on its pilgrimage of life, God - who is all love - accompanies us in the person of His Son.

This Christmas takes place in the Jubilee Year of Mercy and we do well to reflect on the Mercy that we see in the birth of the Saviour. That Mercy is given to us as a free gift and we are called to share it with all around us, especially those most in need.

So, while we rejoice in the Birth of the Saviour and celebrate with family and friends, may the Word made flesh find a renewed place in our hearts and lives that we might be instruments of His Mercy.

With every Blessing for the Christmas Season,

Richard

On another note - Congratulations and thanks go to all on 'Team A&B News' for this is the 300th edition of our Diocesan Newspaper in its current form. It is always good for everyone to keep in touch with Diocesan News and we are blessed to have such a dedicated team producing our very own paper.

A day of reflection for the Year of Mercy

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON kicked off its preparations for the Year of Mercy with a successful day of reflection led by Jeff Cavins on Saturday, 14 November at St Teresa's School Effingham.

The day entitled 'Christ Looks at us with Mercy ... And Calls Us to Discipleship' reflected on how in this Jubilee Year of Mercy we are called to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and to become his followers and disciples, and come off from the sidelines.

Jeff Cavins who is a former Protestant Pastor before he returned to the Catholic Church is well known for his presentations on the Bible for Catholics, helping them to discover afresh the great story of God's love revealed in the Scriptures. Many parishes in Arundel & Brighton Diocese have taken part in his Quick Journey Through the Bible 8 week course and are now tackling his longer Journey Through the Bible 24 week course.

The topics included in the day of reflection were:

God's Amazing Plan for you - Jeff demonstrated the awesome power of God by looking at creation first from the macro level and then at the micro level. By observing God's amazing creation, you will grow in awe and respond in praise. With God's creation as a backdrop, Jeff introduced the astonishing truth that human beings are his most amazing creation and that to top it off, God wants a relationship with us.

The Call to Discipleship. Building on his first talk, Jeff continued to explain God's desire to walk with us as he introduced the first-century relationship between a rabbi and his disciple as the metaphor for God's relationship with us. Jeff described the life of a disciple two thousand years ago and then painted a picture of how that can become a reality for people today. This was a very practical talk about walking with God in a modern world.



Story continues on Page 9

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Fr Chris Bergin's Induction at Bognor Regis

FOR SOME, FRIDAY THE 13 NOVEMBER is unlucky but, for the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Bognor Regis and Slindon. We celebrated with the induction, and symbolic handing over the keys to Fr Chris Bergin as our new parish priest.

Following the departure of Fr Anthony Churchill on sabbatical in September, Bognor parish were very fortunate to welcome two new priests, Fr Chris Bergin as parish priest and Fr David King as assistant parish priest to lead us in our faith. This is the first time we have had two new priests arrive together since the Servites handed over the church to the Diocese of Brighton and Arundel in 1994. A further coincidence was that both priests concelebrated their first, *get to know us* Mass on Tuesday 15 September, the anniversary of, Our Lady of Sorrows, our churches patron Saint.

On the evening of the Induction Mass, the church was busy with parishioners from Bognor Regis, our two satellite churches in Rose Green and Slindon and a number of parishioners from Haslemere, (Fr Chris's previous parish). We were also delighted to welcome clergy from other churches in Bognor and members of our new priests families.

Bishop Richard concelebrated the Mass with Fr Chris, Fr David and several priests from around the diocese. The Mass was complimented by wonderful music from members of the choirs from Bognor Regis, Slindon and Haslemere and large number of servers. In his homily, Bishop Moth spoke of the importance of building on the work that Fr Chris' predecessor had achieved and of the need for the continued support from the people of the parish in both Fr Chris' and Fr David's Ministry here.

We then heard Fr Chris' letter of appointment read, prior to the Rite of Induction in the presence Bishop Moth and the assembled public and witnessed him reading The Profession of Faith then signing it before receiving the Gospel and Keys of the church.

Following the Mass we continued the celebration with some nibbles and light refreshments in the parish rooms.

Story and picture: Fred Alcroft



Award of Catholic Woman of the Year

AT A GLITTERING CEREMONY in London on 23 October, Maggie Burgess from Arundel parish was named as one of four Catholic Women of the Year. This accolade has been awarded for the last 47 years to women who have given outstanding service to the Church, internationally or locally.

Dr Margaret Ann 'Maggie' Burgess is the founder of the charity Promise Nepal which raises funds to help people suffering from leprosy in Nepal. Herself, a qualified nurse specialising in tropical medicine, she was a regular traveller to Nepal over several years and met leprosy sufferers in Kathmandu. Struck by their plight, she pledged herself to help them and has since founded a series of roadside clinics treating some 200 patients a day, plus a 15-bed hospital, outpatient clinic, school and training centre. People who are receiving care and treatment are also given opportunities to train for work so that they can live full lives and care for themselves and their families in a society where they are often treated as outcasts. In addition, Promise Nepal has helped clinics in remote places, providing access roads, clean water, showers, ambulances, and more.

Story and picture: John McDermott



St Barnabas Annual November Mass

ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON ARE STRONG supporters of the St Barnabas Society which makes Fr Richard Biggerstaff, the Society's director, very happy.

The Annual November Mass at St Patrick's Soho Square was a beautiful event. Bishop Sherrington of Westminster was the celebrant and Fr Nicholas Schofield preached about the great St Charles Borromeo and his influence on the convert clergyman, Cardinal Manning.

Fr Gerard Hatton, Roger Williams and Sally Nicholls are trustees of the Society from our diocese.

Fr Richard said: 'We are so grateful for A&B support for our important work. Next year we plan our annual Mass for 9 November at 6pm at St Patrick's Soho Square, London. Bishop Richard will celebrate the Mass and the new vicar general, Fr Jonathan Martin, will be the preacher and A&B supporters are especially welcome. Over the years so many former clergy in Surrey and Sussex from other Christian communities who have become Catholics have been supported by the Society and so many of those who were formerly Anglican clergy have gone on to become priests of the diocese'

You can follow the work of the St Barnabas by connecting with the daily posts on Facebook via the Society's website.

*The Reverend Richard Biggerstaff
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Rgd Charity No 100910*

Our picture: by David White shows (l/r) Fr Richard Biggerstaff, Roger Woodham, Lindsay Willaims, Alistair Ferguson, Bishop Sherrington, Fr Alex Hill, Mgr Newton, Sally Nicholls, Mary White, Fr Gerard Hatton and Alex Tanzier.



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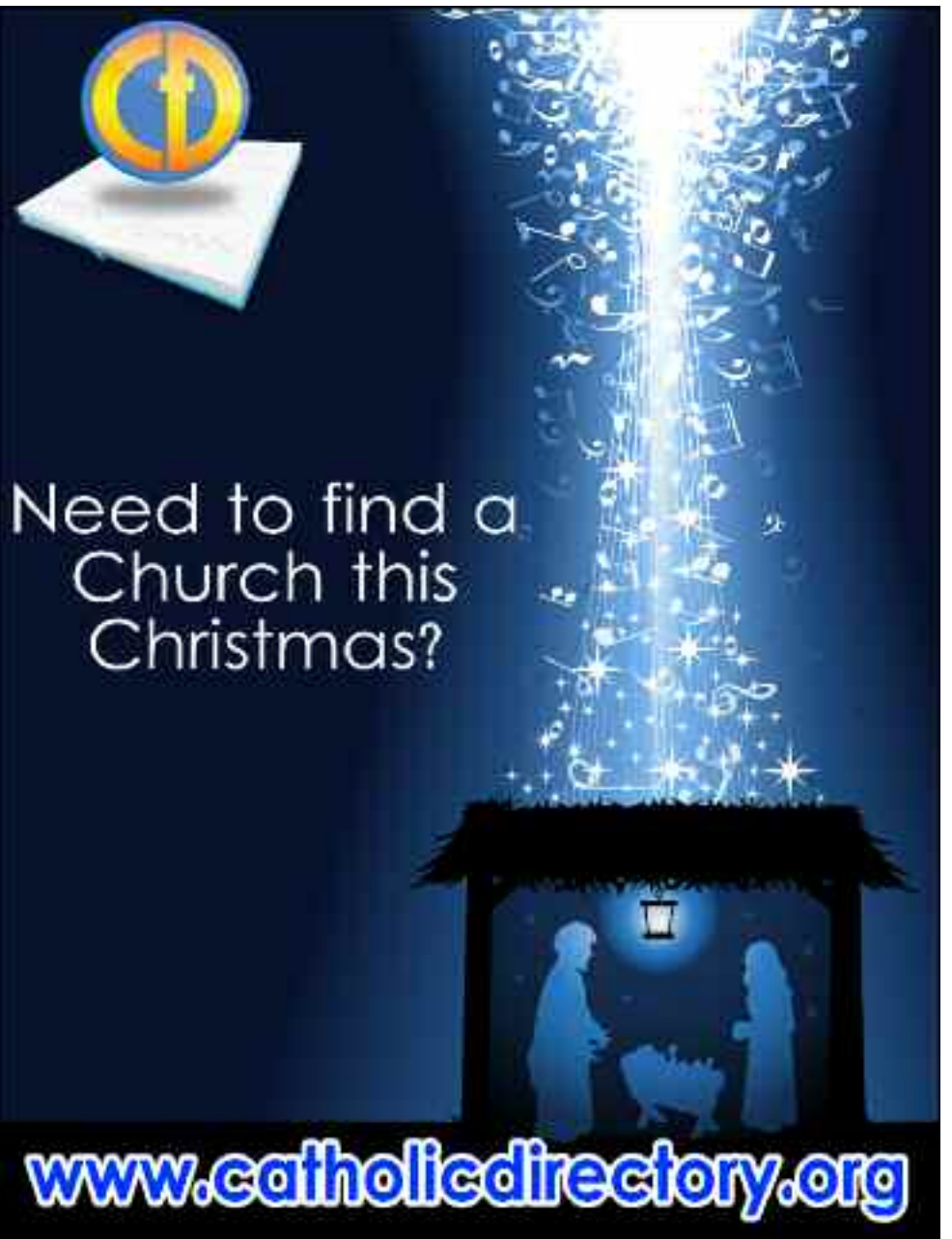
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Visit to Calais Refugee Camp

WADHURST SACRED HEART parishioners Noel and Claire Kent and Stephen Stordy from the Anglican church (pictured) left for Calais on Saturday 14 November with a van load of blankets, sleeping bags and clothes. They took the blankets and sleeping bags straight to the camp where they were desperately needed and then returned to test their neck, back and arm muscles sorting the mountain of clothes.

They were fortunate to meet Laura a legal social worker to lead them into the camp. Their first sight was a shock; mud, squalor and makeshift tents, but with a spirited atmosphere of making do (pictured below). There was a small village street of well stocked shops, a restaurant and library, medical centres, a community centre and an acting troupe. Many of the workers and volunteers actually live in the camp. There are even portaloos which now get regularly emptied!!

By far the most moving part of their visit was taking off their boots to visit the church of St Michael built by Ethiopian Christians and lovingly decorated with pictures and candles. Pictured below from the outside and inside.



On Sunday they felt privileged to share in the worship, veiled women on one side, men on the other. They felt part of something real and spirit filled and joyous in such atrocious conditions.

Afterwards they managed to speak to one of the congregation and give him a woolly hat and a little money. They felt they shouldn't take photographs of the refugees to preserve their privacy and safety.

Story: Noel Kent Pictures: Noel and Clare Kent



Hunger Fund's sustainable support in Kenya

AS WE READ this article, the thought of Christmas fare will, no doubt, be uppermost in our minds. Here we learn about another part of the world where hand-to-mouth survival is the norm and how an A&B parish is making a difference.

Vincent Musiko (pictured) is a Kenyan farmer, trained in sustainable agriculture and an enthusiastic promoter of bee-keeping as a means to alleviate poverty cheaply in his locality. With a donation from the St Paul's Haywards Heath Hunger Fund, Vincent has held training sessions for poor local farmers, equipping them with bee hives, protective suits and expertise. The ten farmers, who paid to attend the course, were recently joined by many more too poor to pay for the session - in the knowledge they would not be able to have a hive, but were just so excited to learn about this source of income.



Bee-keeping is simple and relatively inexpensive, complimenting existing farming systems as the bees pollinate local crops. The honey they gather is a source of income, food and medicine, and the trees cut down to build the hives are replaced with fruit trees, also providing food.

With this source of income, requiring little land, low labour and capital costs and no adverse environmental effects locally, bee-keeping is a thoroughly worthwhile project to support. Ultimately, Vincent would like to set up an international bee-keeping network to encourage bee-keepers throughout Africa in this low-tech, reliable source of income.

If your parish does not have a Hunger Fund and wants to know how to set one up, contact Deacon Dave Turner: david.turner@dabnet.org

Story: Lucy Morrissey

LAUDATO SI' - On Care for our Common Home NOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL ENCYCLICAL!

THE RECENT ENCYCLICAL BY POPE FRANCIS, 'Laudato Si' - on care for our common home', has rightly been hailed as a masterpiece. The Pope graphically highlights the ways mankind is destroying the natural environment and draws on science to show that the climate is changing and that this is mainly being caused by human activity. He emphasises that this is already having a devastating impact on those in developing countries, who have done least to cause it, and asks us to think about what kind of world we are leaving for future generations. He strongly asserts that humankind's dominion over creation does not mean we are free to thoughtlessly exploit nature for short-term profit. Instead, we have a responsibility to cherish creation as a gift from God, to care for it and to live in harmony with it as we are all interconnected with all creation. He calls on us to change our lifestyles so that we protect nature and halt climate change - and he emphasises that this is not an optional or secondary aspect of being a Christian but 'living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue'.

Yet Pope Francis has said that Laudato Si' is not an environmental encyclical - it is a social encyclical. Why did he say that? Because he sees the impact on creation as just one consequence of a much deeper problem, which is the main thrust of the encyclical. The problem is with our whole way of life in the developed world. We think that progress means constantly producing more and consuming more without acknowledging that the resources of the earth are finite and are meant for all to share. We think we have the right to take natural resources from poorer countries and to leave them with environmental destruction and toxic pollution. We think that success is acquiring as much wealth and material goods as possible, more than we need or even could possibly use, and to deny less successful people their basic necessities for life. We think that the rules of society are determined by market forces to maximise company profits for the few even if this means most people living in hardship or absolute squalor. (the picture shows scavenging at a refuse tip).

Pope Francis says we need to undergo a complete conversion, both as individuals and as society. This calls for gratitude, recognising that creation is God's loving gift and that 'we are called quietly to imitate his generosity in self-sacrifice and good works'.

We need to foster an attitude of awesome contemplation of creation, as every creature bears an imprint of the Creator, and this applies above all to our fellow human beings. We need a commitment to the common good, to throw off the shackles of consumerism and learn that less can indeed be more. The Trinity is relationship and, reflecting this, all creation is interconnected. Pope Francis says that we humans will grow more, mature more and be sanctified more to the extent that we enter into relationships, go out from ourselves 'to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures'.



I encourage everyone to carefully and prayerfully read Laudato Si', to discuss it with others and to strive to answer the Pope's call for conversion in our lives. To help you start thinking about this, CAFOD has produced a short study guide looking at four themes from the encyclical. It can be used as an individual or in a discussion group. Copies can be ordered from CAFOD or downloaded at www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/One-Climate-One-World/Encyclical

Roger Morton

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our Lady Immaculate & St Michael Roman Catholic Church, Battle

Christmas Mass Times

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

10.00am - 4th Week of Advent - Battle
6.00pm - Christmas Vigil Mass - Battle (especially for families)
10.30pm - Night Mass - Battle (preceded by Carols at 10.00pm)

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.00am - Dawn Mass at St Teresa's, Northiam (preceded by Carols at 8.30am)
11.00am - Day Mass at Battle (preceded by Carols from 10.30am)

Saturday 26th December - St Stephen's Day

11.00am - St Stephen's Day Mass - Battle (we invite our altar servers to this celebration on their Patron's Feast Day)

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A & B NEWS

The official monthly paper of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

A & B NEWS shows off!

We are showing off a bit this month as the rest of this page indicates. It is interesting to reflect on the huge developments in methods of communications which have come about since 1999 and how the role of A & B NEWS and all printed news has changed.

We have never been instantaneous because of our long production schedule. In a funny sort of way we are more in step with the style of the big newspapers today. Instant information comes by all sorts of electronic methods often in short soundbites. Newspapers now write the background story and tell us the detail.

So our 'news' is not so out of date as it used to be and we carry more features giving background information and filling out what we have learnt about elsewhere.

Despite all, people do still seem to like having a sheet of paper in their hands with the ability to browse back and forwards.

Incidentally, despite the use of tablets to read books, real books are still loved.

So A & B NEWS will endeavour, alongside other media outlets in the Church, to continue to give our readers a good read on a comforting piece of paper!

Pauline Groves

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JUST A THOUGHT

Fear not for I am with you even to the end of the world

THERE IS a great confusion in our communications world these days. Newspapers and broadcasts have difficulty distinguishing the meaning of the terms immigrant, asylum seeker and refugee; It is implied that they are all things to be somehow frightened of.

Perhaps the imminent arrival of the Christmas festival of goodwill to all men might be an appropriate time to give the matter some thought. Just before the birth of Jesus, Joseph had to take Mary on a journey from Galilee to Judea to register his own birthplace. Thus it could be said that even before He was born, Jesus was an immigrant and not exactly welcomed with open arm; His mum and dad had to set up home in a stable. Very soon after His birth the family were forced to flee and seek safety in Egypt; thus Jesus, Mary and Joseph became refugees. We have no idea how well or badly the Holy Family were treated in Egypt but at least the precious Baby was made safe for a few years.

A couple of relevant quotes 'Depart from me ye cursed for I was a stranger and you welcomed me not' (Matthew 25.35); 'Be not forgetful to welcome strangers for thereby you may welcome angels unawares' (Hebrews 13.2)

Vince Gartlan



300 issues as a newspaper and still going strong



Pictured above at the top is part of the September 2007 200th edition and below left to right are the December 1990 Silver Jubilee edition - No.66 in the last in the old series, the February 1991 edition - New Series No.1, and the May 1999 - 100th edition

ONCE UPON A TIME there was an Arundel & Brighton Newsletter. Almost invariably parish accounts were written by a priest - these days that is unusual. Next there came in the A & B NEWS. It didn't look like the present paper, but was in magazine style and edited by Fr Tony Churchill and Sr Victoria of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood and printed at Ladywell Press, which was run by her Order.

Then, just in time for the Silver Jubilee of the diocese came the paper we know now. Gabriel Communications Ltd offered to publish it. The first editor was Canon John Stapleton (RIP). Initially Gabriel prepared the electronic presentation for the printers, with material supplied by us.

Then when Gabriel were no longer able to publish for us, Bellcourt Ltd, owned by the editor of our sister paper for the diocese of Nottingham offered to take us on. This change meant that the volunteers working at DABCEC had to learn the electronic skills to do this. A steep learning curve indeed!

And here we are 300 issues later and still going strong. We thank God for our continuing progress and ask him to continue his support to us in producing this monthly miracle!

Story: Pauline Groves

Pictured below on the left at the 80th birthday celebration of Snowie (Charles Snowdon) in 2007 are from left to right, Frances Rourke, Tony Northeast, Snowie, Snowie's wife Wyn, Canon John Stapleton (RIP), Pauline Groves and Vince Gartlan. Pictured individually are those who have joined the team since then - Ruth Gerun, David White, Peter Burholt and Harry Robertson.



Peacemaking In The Year Of Mercy

by Fr Rob Esdaile, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton

POPE FRANCIS has asked the Catholic community to live 2016 as a **Year of Mercy**, inviting us to 'contemplate the mystery' revealed in Jesus Christ. He reminds us that Jesus' parables of mercy show the nature of God to be 'that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy;' and that Jesus personified that mercy in his dealings with all, friend and foe alike.

Mercy, The Power Of New Hope

Our task, therefore, is to make God's mercy visible in our world and to show the creative power of that mercy, as 'the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.' As a first step, everyone who visits a Christian home, parish, school or community should find there 'an oasis of mercy.' But then, says Pope Francis, we have to take that mercy out beyond the confines of Church life, by opening our eyes to see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and to recognise that we are compelled to help them. And we must extend the quality of God's mercy to the natural world as well, by the way we reverence creation in both its beauty and its fragility. The way of mercy must be a seamless robe, affecting all of life.

Overcome Indifference To Win The Prize Of Peace

I hope you can hear the urgency in Pope Francis' appeal, his 'burning desire' that we re-engage with the need around us, 're-awakening our conscience' by practical actions and by prayer. On Sunday 17 January, the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrates Peace Sunday, our annual day of prayer for peace, using the theme chosen by Pope Francis, 'Overcome Indifference and Win Peace'.

That title shows the same sense of urgency as the Pope's more general appeal that we become bearers of God's mercy to the world. For how can we hope for peace if we do not reject the 'destructive cynicism' which says that nothing can be done to change the world? Yet this is an urgency born of hope: Pope Francis sees Peace as a Prize that is there for the winning; and the way to gain the prize is to choose (individually and collectively) a way of life dedicated to doing justice, God's justice, a justice rooted in love.

Working For Peace Every Day Of The Year

The Catholic Peace Movement, Pax Christi, which facilitates the Peace Sunday celebrations each year, works with a similar urgency to secure the Prize of a peace which is both merciful and just. This it does locally by linking together people who are committed to the work of making peace, providing resources, and fostering prayer and reflection regarding the meaning of the Gospel of Peace. But it also works internationally to build trust in troubled areas of the world and to speak out on issues of war and peace on the basis of Catholic ethics. Please consider joining Pax Christi and getting involved in its work.

Contact: Pat Gaffney, Telephone: 020 8203 4884 Email: coordinator@pachristi.org.uk

A&B News meets with our New Diocesan Financial Secretary - Sarah Kilmartin

SITTING IN ST CUTHMAN'S chapel for Mass, your correspondent, (*Peter Burholt*) looked around to see if he could spot Sarah. There were twelve ladies in the chapel. At the end of Mass courage was plucked up. 'Are you Sarah?' to the lady in the next seat. Before she could reply, a cheerful voice came from a completely different direction. 'Are you from the A&B News?' The interview had started!

To say that the Bishop has appointed a different person from Fergus Brotherton, our outgoing Financial Secretary, is an understatement. First of all Sarah will be one of only four female financial secretaries in the Dioceses of England and Wales. Secondly, her recent background is firmly in finance, whereas Fergus comes from the engineering profession – a reflection on how finance has become a major part of this role.

Completely unaware of Sarah's history, it was time to talk about her background and family. 'I was actually born in Australia. In the 1960s my father worked for the Ministry of Defence in the outback. My parents left England with six children and came back from Australia with ten! I'm the youngest of the bunch'.

'Initially, I attended Farnborough Hill School and then higher education started at Somerville College Oxford, where I obtained a BA Hons English First Class. Whilst considering what to do next, I joined a firm of solicitors in Oxford. Working with forensic accountants on a fraud case was my first taste of finance and I was fascinated. After completing my academic studies with an MPhil from University College London, I joined the accountancy firm Coopers and Lybrand - which later became PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the top four accountancy practices in the world. I was appointed an ACA (Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales - to you and me!) in February 2001'.

'After those enjoyable years in audit I became a business analyst at Hertz. This was followed by other commercial roles and, latterly, my job has been Finance Manager for an educational charity'.

'My husband is Dr James Kilmartin, Head teacher of Cardinal Newman Catholic School in Hove and we have a twelve-year-old daughter and a son, who is eleven. Yes, you are quite correct, the school is next door to Bishop's House, where I will be located. But James is an early riser, so we are unlikely to car share!'

'What will I bring to my new post? Well, I waited a long time before the right position came along. I wanted a job where I could make a difference in a not-for-profit environment. Challenges? Yes, I'm sure there will be many – it is my first time as a financial secretary and some aspects will be new for me, but I will have excellent colleagues within the diocese and will find a way. I am taking over from a brilliant predecessor and the diocese is in great shape. Fergus will certainly be a hard act to follow!'



Celebration of St Teresa

CHIDDINGFOLD'S CHURCH of St Teresa of Avila celebrated the 500th anniversary of St Teresa's birth with a Flower Festival. Arrangers came from every church in our parish of Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold, from Holy Cross Convent in Haslemere, and from the Anglican and Baptist churches in Chiddingfold. It was an event for the whole village of Chiddingfold. Visitors entering the church were given a booklet relating each flower display to an aspect of St Teresa's life, her work in reforming the Carmelite Order, her writing and teaching on prayer, and her advice to her Sisters in the new Order. There was a display on the Carmelite Order, another on Teresa's experiences in the Convent of the Incarnation in Avila, that 'stormy sea'. Another depicted her success in establishing a new reformed convent, St Joseph's in Avila. Others reflected her teaching on prayer and the stages of prayer. One reflected Teresa's image of the 'Interior Castle', another showed the stages of prayer through the butterfly emerging from its cocoon or the different methods of 'watering the garden of one's soul'. The children of 'Little Church' displayed a map of Spain showing all 17 of the new convents established by St Teresa. We are very grateful to the Carmelite Forum of Britain and Ireland who generously gave us posters, leaflets and prayer cards.

Story: *Iola Christian, Gill Kenny, Fran Lunn, Faith Reynolds*

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage

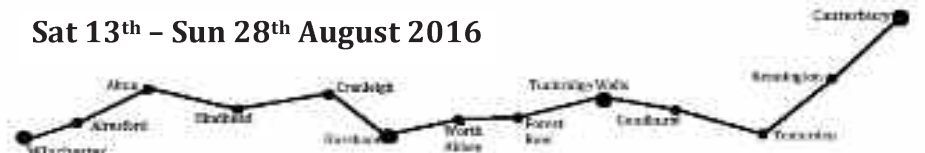
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Winchester to Canterbury 2016

'Walking a Prayer for Peace'

Sat 13th – Sun 28th August 2016



Are you interested in walking? Do you want to join a travelling Christian community? The Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage are making its way from Winchester to Canterbury following parts of the St Swithuns and Pilgrims Way.

This year we are offering our pilgrimage as a prayer for the people suffering the effects of conflict or fleeing persecution.

Come and explore our faith and Christian heritage, as well as the English countryside and churches we pass through. The journey will be as important as the destination.

We sleep in church, school or community halls, dine together, walk, laugh, sing and pray together. We follow footpaths rather than roads wherever possible.

Come and walk with us! Two weeks for under £200.

You need to be over 16 (or accompanied by an adult), able to walk an average of 15 miles per day at a moderate pace and make your own way to Winchester and home from Canterbury. Our luggage is carried by van to each overnight destination so only a daypack is needed for supplies. Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner are included in the price, all organised by past pilgrims on a voluntary basis.

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www.thepilgrims.org.uk or contact our

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Serving the communities of our Diocese

Advent Family Festival Journey to Bethlehem

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF GUILDFORD prepared to enter the mystery of Christmas and begin the journey to Bethlehem on Saturday 21 November with an Advent Family Festival day at St Joseph's Church. Children aged from 0 to 11 dropped in with their parents and grandparents to make an Advent wreath, create a family Advent calendar and even enjoy a milkshake in the new café area.

There were crafts for everyone to get involved in, most popular being the peg leg donkey as well as making the crib scene to take home. There were sensory boxes filled with hay for younger children and a reading corner and Bethlehem train track mat for those calmer moments. Families also prayed for peace this Advent, colouring candles and adding them to the world map. Children made Christmas cards for sick in the parish, reflected on getting ready for a new baby in Mary's house and raced around the road track to Bethlehem stopping at the Census office and the Magi's tent on the way.

Parents and children wondered who was staying at the inn that night and whether the shepherds were frightened of the singing angels. Children enjoyed John the Baptist's proclaiming station and even used a mega phone to prepare the way for the Lord!



Run by the Parish Children Youth and Families Team, (CYF Team) this was a really interactive day and a fantastic way for both adults and children to begin their journey to Bethlehem this Advent.

Pictured are the shepherd's field and prayer in Mary's house.

Story and pictures: Parish CYF Team

The Refugee crisis - an update

OVER 300 INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENTS to Bishop Richard's pastoral letter on the 13 September have now been thanked personally by him.

We have established a Diocesan Steering Group drawn from across the Diocese to help advise and support myself, Aidan Cantwell, and Mary Jane Burkett to manage our diocesan response. Mary Jane and I will keep in contact to give more information as it becomes available in regards to utilising the support people have so kindly offered.

The diocese is principally working with Brighton Voices in Exile (BViE), a regional charity that have excellent links with the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration, Local Authorities within the Diocese, The Diocese of Chichester, other Church & Faith Groups, as well as secular groups such as the Brighton City of Sanctuary Movement. Our diocese has a history of supporting BViE which has been based at St Mary Magdalen's Church in Brighton since 2009.

Brighton & Hove will be the first Council within our Diocese to be welcoming refugees through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme. It has been agreed that BViE will be the principle partner working alongside Brighton & Hove City Council providing casework support to those newly arrived within the UK, with the first few families now set to arrive before Christmas. We are sure this experience will help us in our discussions with other local authorities within the Diocese with whom we are currently liaising.

We are now in a position to start to draw upon some of the financial support that has been offered. (We anticipate our funds will soon exceed £20k).

This is just the beginning of course, over the next five years we want to be in a strong position to help many local authorities and agencies in our diocese meet with the demands of this ever growing humanitarian crisis. It will prove very useful to have stored a range of offers on our database that can demonstrate how quickly we can galvanise offers of support; this in turn can be used to influence policy in the UK on how we could and should respond in future.

As the picture unfolds we will share details and continue to communicate ways that parishioners can help.

Aidan Cantwell, Diocesan Adviser for Social Action

Following Bishop Richard's appeal, St Dunstan's in Woking donated £10,000 in support of refugees at a recent second collection.

Diocesan Supporting the Bereaved Course 2015/16

Does your parish offer support to the bereaved?

Could you befriend someone who has been bereaved?

Why not speak to your Parish Priest about setting up or helping with a group. The next diocesan course, which is led by a CRUSE trained Counsellor, will take place over several Wednesdays in January, February and March 2016 at DABCEC in Crawley.

Limited places - book early to avoid disappointment

For more information contact Katherine Bergin,

Telephone: 01293 651152,

Email: katherine.bergin@dabnet.org

Farnham Life in the Spirit Prayer Group

THE PARISH OF ST JOAN OF ARC in Farnham Life in the Spirit Prayer Group celebrated its 35th anniversary in October. It has been meeting weekly with almost no breaks since 1980.

Thirty six present and past members of the group and their guests gathered in the Parish Centre for a shared lunch and a chance to catch up with each other (pictured).

Alastair Emblem, who has led since 1992, gave a quick history of the group since its foundation by former parish priest the late Fr Michael Albon. Fr Michael, who was known as *Smiler*, used to have a poster on his wall with the words 'JOY: Jesus first, Others next, Yourself last'. Joyful praise has been a feature of the group throughout its existence. Greetings were read out from past members, as well as from other notable Catholic speakers who have helped with the growth of spirituality in the parish over the years.

There was also a greeting from Bishop Richard Moth, thanking the group for their prayers for the diocese, parish and community

A time of joyful praise and worship was followed by a talk on the *Joy of the Gospel* by former prayer group member Carol Harnett, now a trainer of catechists. She encouraged everyone to pay attention to the powerful teaching of Pope Francis in his Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. She pointed out that each of us needs to deepen our personal relationship with Jesus, so that, as a joy-filled and welcoming community, we can be more effective witnesses of God's love. The afternoon ended with tea, a time of Adoration, and evening Mass in the Church.

Story and picture: Alastair Emblem



The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Pastoral Team

Serving the Communities of our Diocese



Justice & Peace Assembly 2016

"A summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters" *Laudato Si*

What does it mean to be A Poor Church for the Poor?



Saturday 16 January 2016

Christian Education Centre (DABCEC)
4 Southgate Drive
Crawley RH10 6RP
10.00am – 4.00pm

with Bishop Richard

Speakers will include

John Battle

Former Minister of State at the DTI and Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Patron of the National Justice & Peace Network

Alison Gelder

Chief Executive of Housing Justice

More speakers and local exhibitors to be confirmed

To book your place at the assembly please contact Ruth Gerun ruth.gerun@dabnet.org or telephone (01293) 651164
NB: Refreshments will be available, but please bring a packed lunch

Aidan Cantwell – Justice and Peace/Social Action Adviser

Email: aidan.cantwell@dabnet.org

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

Guildford Catenian meets the Justice Secretary

GUILDFORD CATENIAN, Brother Geoff Bignell, met Michael Gove, the Justice Secretary, when he visited Disability Initiative (DI), the Camberley day centre for physically-handicapped adults from Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire on 23 October. Geoff, a trustee, and Lucy Brown, Chief executive, had a meeting with Michael Gove before showing him around the facilities which serve 90 clients and offer up to 60 activities including boxing! The Surrey Heath MP met clients and heard how much they valued the support they received from DI. A stroke victim told him that, but for DI, there was no way he could have walked his daughter up the aisle or made a speech at her wedding.

Lucy Brown explained how a partnership with Cisco Systems was proving very beneficial on both sides. Michael Gove agreed to help the charity develop more relationships with big companies. During his presidential year, DI was one of Bro Geoff's charities. So, if any brother in business is interested in exploring mutually beneficial links with Disability Initiative, please speak to Bro Geoff.

Story and picture: Mark Wilson

Our picture shows (l/r) Bro Geoff Bignell, Lucy Brown and Michael Gove



Some of our schools' achievements

First prize for student at St Philip Howard in Barnham

FOR THE THIRD YEAR in succession a student from the St Philip Howard Catholic High School has won the first prize for the prayer writing competition. This is a fantastic achievement for the school and the student.

This competition is held by the Knights of St Columba and is a nationwide competition. The theme of the prayer for this year is 'A Prayer that we shall all be one before Almighty God, regardless of faith'.

The prayers from across the country are judged by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool who is the Ecclesiastical Advisor to the Knights of St Columba. The Bognor

Regis Council of Knights invite the school each year to take part. The school presented about 80 prayers from which the Bognor Knights then picked the three they judged as best and to whom they gave a £5 token each. The outright winner received a framed certificate and a cheque for £100. This was presented to Lucy at a special Mass for deceased Knights at Arundel Cathedral by Bishop Richard and Lucy then read her prayer to those present.

Story: Charles Yarham, picture Geoff Breeze

Lucy is pictured receiving her certificate from Bishop Richard. Headteacher David Carter looks on



Prizes for students at St Polycarp's in Farnham

THREE STUDENTS at St Polycarps Primary School in Farnham were recently presented with prizes for the best letters written to seafarers as part of Sea Sunday 2015.

Catholic charity Apostleship of the Sea, which provides practical and pastoral help to seafarers visiting British ports, had asked the school to participate in their annual fundraising day last July by writing letters with poems, drawings and prayers for seafarers.

The school responded enthusiastically, with all students submitting a wide range of colourful compositions. About thirty of the best were displayed around the walls of St Joan of Arc church on Sea Sunday, resulting in the largest ever collection for the charity from the parish. Head teacher Ann Gunn said 'the school always enjoys being part of the parish celebrations, and the children were delighted that they were able to make such a valuable contribution'.

The prizes were presented by parish representative for Apostleship of the Sea, Alastair Emblem, who also works part time in the charity's fundraising department, who said 'The prizes are just a small way of saying thank you to the school, and the competition is a way of encouraging the young people to think about the importance of caring for the seafarers whose work is so demanding yet so unappreciated. The majority of seafarers are from places like the Philippines, and are away from home nine months at a time working in terrible conditions to bring us 95% of all the goods we consume and use in this country'.

Pictured are Alastair with prize winners Martha, Ana and Wilf and St Polycarps Head teacher Ann Gunn.

Alistair Emblem

Further information about the charity can be found at www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk



Shoebox appeal at St George's in Weybridge

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, pupils at St George's Junior School in Weybridge have been taking part in the Shoebox Appeal for Operation Christmas Child.

The boys and girls have been busily filling shoeboxes with a variety of new gifts each of which will bring delight to a child in an underprivileged part of the world. On 16 November, 292 shoeboxes have been collected from the school and will be taken to a convenient drop off point before being sent to different countries around the world. Two pupils are pictured with a shoebox.

Credence Pym



New CD release from St George's in Weybridge

FOLLOW THAT STAR is the title of St George's Weybridge choir's new CD which retells the story of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The school has a strong choral tradition and over the past six years has released three CDs of music spanning both schools and encompassing music from every tradition.

Follow that star is being sold in support of St Joseph's African Aid (SJAA), and half of all proceeds will be donated to this charity which is very close to the hearts of the children and staff. The aim of SJAA is to support our fellow Josephite schools in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as the people in the local villages near the schools which they run.

Some recently completed projects include a science laboratory, a local dress making co-operative, and the provision of a medical centre offering healthcare facilities. Every year, SJAA sends funds to support the work of the parishes where the Josephites have schools, and funds to augment the salaries of our Kasai teachers.

For more information please contact Jo Chahal, Music Administrator by email on jchahal@stgeorgesweybridge.com or telephone 01932 839364.



Bishop visits St Joseph's in Cranleigh

BISHOP RICHARD MOTH made his first visit to St Joseph's Specialist School and College during Arts Week, 19 - 23 October.

Two learners escorted Bishop Richard on a tour of the school, showcasing some of the artistic activities available for learners to express their natural talents in a range of fun and imaginative ways. Workshops included animation, dancing, drumming, and an amazing Arts Carousel, a revolving series of workshops for learners to take part and apply their creativity to projects such as decorating a 'book bench', creating a six-foot-high textile daisy, or an animal-themed mural, and sculpting pottery insects that will eventually become part of an installation.

During his visit Bishop Richard kindly agreed to be interviewed by a learner for our St Joseph's Radio Station (pictured). The radio station is a fabulous facility enabling learners to enhance their communication and self confidence.

Mary Fawcett, Principal, said 'We were delighted to welcome Bishop Richard, especially during Arts Week when there are so many extra special and innovative activities to see'.

Arts week was rounded off in style with the glitz and glamour of the fabulous St Joseph's Oscars award ceremony. Each class created their own film, from concept to completion, including the scripting, storyboarding, directing, filming and editing, leaving the judges with some very difficult decisions to make!

Elizabeth Lickess, teacher and Arts Week coordinator, said 'We have been delighted to be able to offer such a variety of activities throughout the week, fuelling learners' imaginations, St Joseph's colourful celebration of creativity was a massive success, and hopefully it will be even bigger, bolder and brighter next year!'

St Joseph's Specialist School and College is an Independent Non-Maintained co-educational residential and day school catering for children aged 5 to 19 with moderate, complex and severe learning difficulties. The majority of our learners are on the Autistic Spectrum.

Story and picture: Hilary Clark



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OBITUARIES

Fr Martin Breen



IT IS WITH REGRET we announce the death of Fr Martin Breen parish priest of St John the Evangelist, Tadworth on Wednesday, 4 November 2015.

Fr Martin was born on 7 July 1933 and was educated in the CBS School, Co. Limerick, and the Thames Poly in Woolwich. He joined the De La Salle training college in Manchester and became a Brother, F.S.C. Among his teaching posts was one in Burma which ended at Independence.

Between January and June 1978 he studied for Priesthood at St John's Seminary, Worsesh before joining the Beda College in Rome, October 1978 – June 1981. On the 14 July 1981 he was ordained a priest along with Canon Bill Davern by the then Bishop Cormac in the parish church of Hospital, Co. Limerick.

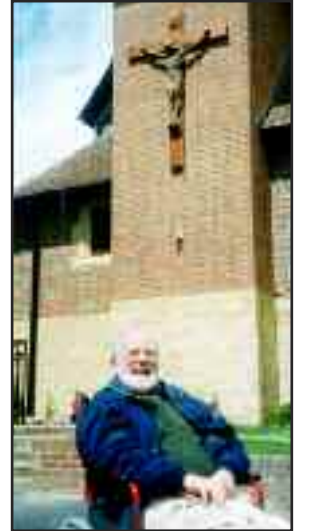
Following ordination he was appointed as Assistant Priest to St Paul's, Haywards Heath 1981-1984. The Sacred Heart, Caterham 1984-1985 and St Joachim's, Hampden Park 1985. His first post as Parish Priest was to St Charles Borromeo, East Worthing 1985-1991 (on his Feast he died), followed by Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Frimley 1991-2000.

Marking the Millennium he took a sabbatical at Marianella for the Pastoral Ministry Programme. On return he ministered as parish priest of St John the Evangelist, Tadworth from 2002 to his death.

The Diocese has lost a faithful, prayerful and gentle priest – and a gifted golfer.

May they rest in peace

Fr Robin Mountford



IT IS WITH REGRET we announce the death of Fr Robin Mountford, retired priest of our diocese, who died on 9 November 2016. Fr Robin was born in 1938 in Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, of South African parents. Always a keen sportsman, he captained the Northern Rhodesian Under-19 Rugby Team. It was in Rhodesia that he did his national service before moving to South Africa, where he worked for nearly three years in the mines as a management trainee.

He was received into the Catholic Church in 1958 and joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate as a novice. He entered St Joseph's Theological Institute in Natal in 1963 where he spent seven years studying for the priesthood and was ordained a priest in 1970 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

While working in parishes including Soweto, Fr Robin came to feel that his true vocation was to be a secular priest and, with the agreement of his Order, he came to England in 1987 to become a priest of our diocese. He served in Chichester, Burgess Hill and Worthing before coming to Oxted in 1994. Shortly after his arrival, on January 28 1995, he celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of his ordination.

It was during Fr Robin's time at All Saints' that the parish finally agreed to undertake the reordering and extension of the church, something he was fully committed to and deeply involved in throughout the whole process. He was passionate about liturgy and the catechetical work of the parish, encouraging all to use their individual gifts. He paid great emphasis to the importance of preparation for the Sacraments and of those seeking to become Catholics. Even today, many remember the encouragement he gave to their individual spiritual development.

Very sadly, he was taken seriously ill in 1999 and since then has resided at Holy Cross Hospital in Haslemere. In the early years there he spent much of his time continuing his pastoral ministry visiting the patients, enriching and enlivening their days and the days of all who worked there.

The Diocese has lost a devoted priest who, through his humanity and deep personal faith, has touched the lives of many and encouraged them on their faith journey.

Philip Stephens ('Tish'), organist and teacher

PARISHIONERS of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Rottingdean, former pupils of Catholic schools in Brighton and Hove and other past local students were saddened to learn of the passing, on 5 November, of Philip WJ Stephens (or 'Tish' as he was known to many), a much-loved church organist and former teacher and solicitor. He was aged 88.

Born in Greenwich in 1927, he came to Brighton with his family at a young age, living first in a mews house off St James's Street and from around 1960 until his death in Kemp Town. It was during the war years, when a pupil at the Xaverian College, Queen's Park, that he first learned to play the organ. Music was always his first love. Practicing as a solicitor by day, he would regularly spend his evenings playing the piano in the orchestra in the Brighton Hippodrome or the organ in the Odeon Cinema at London's Marble Arch.

He sometimes played at Arundel Cathedral and on one occasion, on one of his pilgrimages, in Lourdes. At Rottingdean, he played for Mass as resident organist from the first Mass in 1957 until retiring in 2011. In February 2003, the Pope had awarded him the Bene Merenti medal in recognition of his long and faithful service. In his working life, he imparted his legal and musical knowledge by teaching law at Brighton Technical College and the University of Brighton and also finding time to help out with music lessons at St Pancras RC primary school in Lewes and St Thomas à Becket in Eastbourne. On his visits to schools in the Brighton area in his earlier days, 'Tish' was frequently mobbed by pupils but took it all in good spirit.

In honour of this beloved 'character', local resident and celebrated organist John Mann played the organ at Philip's funeral, which is held at the church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Rottingdean,

May he rest in peace



What about volunteering for CAFOD in 2016?

AT CAFOD this year we are focussing on parishioners becoming more involved with the work of CAFOD and therefore we ideally need volunteers in every parish in the diocese. Volunteers are vital to our work and we work in partnership with them committed to building a world free from poverty and injustice.

Would you be able to volunteer with us?

There are many ways you can volunteer with us. We need people to work in schools to help children and young people learn about global poverty and inspire them to take action. We need people to contact their MPs on issues of importance. We need people to run events and fundraise for us and of course pray for our work. But most of all we need parish volunteers to promote our fast days and campaigns, and ensure that all parishioners are aware of the work of CAFOD.

So please join our team of volunteers across the Diocese as your new year's resolution? We provide support, resources and training where needed, we aim to make your volunteering a life giving and joyful experience.

If you are interested contact us and let's try and make this a happy new year for all.

Jo Lewry, Community Participation Coordinator

CAFOD A&B 01483 898866

Email: arundelbrighton@cafod.org.uk

Blog: <http://cafodarundelbrighton.wordpress.com>

D e' E

NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESAN OFFICES AND BOOKSHOP CHRISTMAS CLOSING DATES

All diocesan offices, including the DABCEC Bookshop will close on the afternoon of Tuesday 22 December and re-open on Thursday 7 January

Mass for the deaf and hard of hearing

Each first Saturday of the month at 1pm at St John the Evangelist, Springfield Road, Horsham RH12 2PJ
Contact: Mrs Maria Booker
c/o The Christian Education Centre
email mag.booker@gmail.com

BISHOP'S DIARY

DECEMBER / JANUARY

Sun 20 December	12 Noon	Blessing at Queen's Jubilee Hall, Ardingly for the Indian Community in Uckfield and Crowborough
Mon 21 to Wed 23		Community Retreat, Worth Abbey
Thu 24	11.00pm	Carols followed by Mass at Arundel Cathedral
Fri 25	8.30am	Mass at HMP Lewes
Sun 3 January	9.30am	Epiphany Mass at Arundel Cathedral
Tue 5	5.00pm	St John Vianney Group, High Oaks
Thu 7	9.00am	Visits St John the Baptist Secondary School, Woking
	3.00pm	Meeting at St Mary's University, Twickenham
Fri 8		Education Service Retreat Day
Tue 12	3.00pm	Meeting at High Oaks
Thu 14	10.30am	Clergy In-Service, St Bernadette's, Crawley
	pm	Meeting
Fri 15	7.30pm	Vespers at The Friary, Crawley
Sat 15	10.00am	Justice & Peace Assembly, Dabceec
Mon 18 - Tues 19		Trustees' Meeting, St Cuthman's
Wed 20	1.30pm	Visit to Stonepillow, Chichester
Thu 21	12noon	Retired Priests lunch, High Oaks
Fri 22	9.30am	Primary Heads Conference, DABCEC
	7.00pm	Catenian Dinner for the Reigate Circle

THE YEAR OF MERCY



Year of Mercy reflection day (continued from page 1)



Pictured above - some of the around 300 people, who attended the Day

Mary, Mercy and Mission - At the centre of Israel's worship was the Ark of the Covenant, which housed the presence of God. This most precious of temple furnishings played a central role, both as the source of God's presence but also his mercy. Jeff showed that the Ark, once hidden in a cave in the Old Testament, is discovered in the New Testament in a cave in Bethlehem. Mary, the new Ark of the Covenant, is the person that God used to introduce his mercy to the world.

Disciplines of a Disciple - In this talk, Jeff introduced some practical disciplines in the life of a modern-day disciple. He explained how to talk to Jesus on a daily basis by utilising the ancient practice of Lectio Divina (divine reading). This practice of talking to God in Scripture and hearing his daily direction will transform your walk with Christ and enable you to meet problems with real direction and comfort. In addition, Jeff shared some of his personal practices that lead to a more fruitful relationship with Jesus.

You can see pictures of the day see the Diocesan Flickr site.
For further details of Jeff Cavins and his materials see <http://ascensionpress.com>

Story and pictures: Mark Woods

Mercy: A Meditation On Etymologies by Fr Rob Esdaile

IT IS INTERESTING TO reflect on the roots of the words used in different European languages to describe the experience of mercy, the focus of this Holy Year.

The German Barmhertzigkeit implies drawing someone to your breast. The Latin (and French and Spanish and Italian) Misericordias unites the heart (Cor) and the poor and suffering (Miseria). The English Mercy harks back to another Latin word, Merces (the rewards merited by kind acts). Jesus' compassion in the Gospel is described by Mark's Gospel in terms of his guts being twisted (splagchnizomai).

And Jesus' story, allowing himself to be compromised, polluted by our impurity, reveals most fully the mystery of God's own mercy.

This poem attempts to explore the different ways in which we've understood mercy across the centuries and across different cultures. Perhaps it should be read as a question to the reader: what do you think mercy is and what does it demand of you?

Mercy, misericordias,

A poor-heartedness that is content
to be beside and to be touched by others' pain,
and not from any need for thanks
or thought of some reward.

A visceral response of gut and breast, not head,
that does not seek to judge but reaches out to heal
by the contagion of compassion,
that being hit by others' hurt.

Affected, infected by an understanding
of how their wrong might feel
and how our God might deal
with all our disorder - with love alone.

The Catholic Truth Society leaflet illustrated above contains many facts about the Year of Mercy. It can be obtained from the DABCEC Bookshop price 20p each

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FROM THE PARISHES

ADUR VALLEY

NOVEMBER being the month for memorials saw a Book of Remembrance set up at each church to remember all our loved ones. The blessing of the graves took place at both Mill Road cemetery in Shoreham and at St Botolph's. Fr Graham Ricketts took part in the Memorial Service, for the victims of the Airshow disaster, at Lancing College Chapel.

Traidcraft held their sale of Fairtrade goods together with Christmas cards and gifts. St Peter's held their Christmas Fair which was well supported with a great atmosphere and raised an amazing £1,362.

The parishioners at CTK in Steyning were invited to a meeting to discuss the refurbishment of the Parish Room. Soup for Syria has started in Steyning; this has been organised by www.steyningrefugeehelp.co.uk where soup is served in a local house for donations to the refugee crisis.

Rehearsals are gathering pace for the various events taking place in December. Candidates for Confirmation and for first Holy Communion are attending their programmes. St Peter's older generation are again enjoying their fish and chip lunches.

Penny Richardson

CRAWLEY

Broadfield and Bewbush

ON OCTOBER 25 we were pleased to welcome Fr Simon Dray to the parish when he celebrated our Mass. Our talented Blue Sash Choir led our singing.

We are happy to report that our roof fund appeal has been very successful and we have almost reached our goal.

Barbara Winstanley

EAST GRINSTEAD and LINGFIELD

VALERIE MAYNARD, a member of our Justice and Peace Group, recently received an MBE for her work in Lewes Prison Chaplaincy, particularly for introducing to the prison Sycamore, a successful restorative justice initiative. Sycamore is highly regarded by prison governors as reoffending rates among those who have taken part in the scheme have greatly reduced. At Our Lady and St Peter, Val is organising an *Angel Tree*, a Prison Fellowship programme by which parishioners provide small gifts for prisoners to send to their children this Christmas.

Proceeds from recent charity meals have raised £716 each for Crawley Open House, Crawley Prison Fellowship, East Grinstead Street Pastors and Age UK.

Parishioners at Our Lady and St Peter and pupils at St Peter's School participated in a project to send shoeboxes packed with gifts for underprivileged children in Moldova and Ukraine. This annual scheme provides a welcome surprise for children living in difficult circumstances, children who might otherwise receive very little at Christmas. A total of 226 boxes were sent from East Grinstead this year. In November, we welcomed in Baptism Sofia Jasmine Hodges.

Clive Carpenter

EPSOM

A LARGE GATHERING filled St Joseph's Church Epsom on Saturday 3rd October to say thank you to Fr Simon Hall who is now the Parish priest in Oxted and Warlingham.

TO ALL OUR CORRESPONDENTS ITEMS for the **February 2016** issue must reach the Editorial Office at Crawley by 10am on **Monday 4 January 2016** and for the **March 2016** issue by **Monday 1 February 2016**. 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.

Fr Simon spent five very happy years with us and is a popular and very loved priest by us all. He reminded us during his sermon that he was ordained in St Joseph's church (12 years ago) and that he has loved his life as a priest and encouraged others to consider their vocation.

We joined in the celebration of a Mass with 20 altar boys and girls and a party in the hall afterwards. Canon Bill Davern formally thanked Fr Simon for all his work and he was presented with a present from the parishioners.

Audrey Ardern-Jones

EASTBOURNE
Christ the King

FR BARRY ANDERSON, parish priest, organised a Remembrance Concert at Christ the King Church, Eastbourne, in aid of two CAFOD Projects - the recent disasters in Chile and also in the Philippines. Music was provided by the Patcham Silver Band, conductor James Benka-Coker, with soloist Margaret Thompsett. The audience enjoyed an eclectic mix of classical, jazz and popular music and participated enthusiastically with the final numbers, 'Jerusalem' and 'Land of Hope and Glory'.

John Carmody

HASLEMERE, HINDHEAD AND
CHIDDINGFOLD

THE PARISH HAS BEEN delighted to welcome Fr Fergal McGuinness who, after 30 years ministry in California, is now on official loan to the A&B diocese.

Fr Fergal has immediately got involved in the local churches' network with Our Lady of Lourdes recently hosting a joint Taizé service. He acted as final arbiter for the annual quiz, where the many contestants were served a delicious meal cooked by ladies of the parish. This made a useful sum for church funds, as did the latest parish lunch. For the first time numbers at the lunch topped 100, everyone enjoying the roast pork and appetising display of desserts.

A busload of parishioners from all three churches were happy to attend the installation of their former priest, Fr Chris Bergin at his new parish in Bognor Regis, with the choir honoured to join the Bognor choir to celebrate the occasion.

Fay Foster

POLEGATE AND HAILSHAM

THE EASTBOURNE CATENIAN Association, their wives, widows and friends, together with the communities of St George and St Wilfrid held a Beetle Drive Fun Evening at St George's,

LEWES

WE WERE HONOURED with a visit from our new Bishop Richard on All Saints' Day, when he came to St Pancras for Vespers. The Church was packed, and we were very happy to welcome our friends from the other Churches in Lewes. Our Schola Choir enhanced our singing. After the service we adjourned to our Parish Room for a glass of fizz, and an opportunity to meet the Bishop. A lovely way to end this glorious Solemnity!

Ffion Wilkes



Polegate, on Friday 20 November. Everyone entered into the spirit of the evening and the sound levels made it obvious how much people were enjoying themselves. It was an occasion when the Parish Communities of St George and St Wilfrid joined together for an evening of fun and friendship. A cheque is to be presented to Fr Rory Kelly for £601, the amount raised by the event, for St Wilfrid's new church building project.

On Sunday 22 November our young altar server, Alen, was presented during Mass with his Guild of St Stephen medal as he was enrolled into the Guild by Fr Rory to the delight of the congregation. Alen had attended Mass and worked well for a year to earn his medal.

Deacon John Truman

ROTTINGDEAN/WOODINGDEAN

ON THE 2 OCTOBER our parish honoured one of its stalwarts Mr Larry Halley with the presentation of his long overdue Gold Guild of St Stephens Medal.

Larry moved to St Patricks in Woodingdean in 1983 but his first Mass as an Altar Server was in Bordeaux Cathedral on Easter Sunday in 1955. His second Mass followed one day later at the Grotto in Lourdes. Larry was called to serve regularly at St Swithin's in Southsea on Ascension Day in 1955. His years of dedicated service were first honoured in 1973 when he was awarded the Guilds Silver Medal.

In addition to serving Larry has for the last 50 years performed many different duties including Sacristan and parish MC at St Swithuns, deputy MC at Corpus Christi in Portsmouth and a Special Minister. More recently he has dedicated himself to our twin Parishes as MC at St Patricks and Deputy MC of Our Lady of Lourdes Rottingdean. In addition to his service to the Church Larry spent 28 years teaching at Catholic Schools with 20 years as a Deputy Head. He also served for 14 years as a School Governor for Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School.

So we raise a glass and say a huge thank you to Larry for his ongoing service.

Jonathan Sharp

RYE

DURING NOVEMBER Fr Mathew Chadwick called a meeting of the parish at which matters both spiritual and practical were discussed. On the practical front, a recent survey has shown that there is some substantial repair work to be done both in the church and in the friary. Fr Mathew will keep parishioners informed about the cost of the work and the general financial position. As he said, our church is a gem and we must look after it.

Fr Mathew then reminded us that as our parish priest his principal concerns are with the sacraments, the spiritual direction of his flock and the liturgy which should be imbued with sanctity, beauty and dignity. He wishes to promote devotion to Our Lady and the Saints. Indeed, his excellent homilies make clear his own profound love for the Mother of God. In future the Rosary will be said before weekday Masses.

We were all happy to hear of Fr Mathew's proposals for future plans and to discover his obvious concern to reach out both to existing parishioners and to those who need encouragement to return to the fold.

Jocelyn Rowe

SOUTHWICK WITH PORTSLADE
AND HANDLETON

THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME in our combined parishes of Southwick with Portslade and Handleton is now in full swing. Last Saturday we journeyed to Chichester, where we all had lunch together and then visited the Cathedral for a guided tour. We all travelled back on the train and attended the six o'clock Mass at the Mass Centre, Portslade as a group.

This Saturday the Confirmation group took an active part in the Mass at Portslade, focussing on Christ the Universal King. They assisted Fr Alis-tair Simmons with his homily with readings and lead a reflection on the Lords Prayer.

Also on Saturday over 30 members of the parish attended a day of recollection at Compass House in the grounds of Worth Abbey. The day was led by Fr Stephen Haylett, parish priest of St Catherine of Siena, in the Archdiocese of Southwark. It was a very prayerful and spiritual day concentrating on John 6: 1-21 the feeding of the five thousand and the miracle of Jesus walking on the water. After lunch Fr

Stephen lead us in a guided meditation based on the Gospel of Luke Chapter 24: 13 -35, the road to Emmaus.

As we embark on Advent we will be busy in the parish with the Christmas Fayre, at St George's hall and we have the opportunity to attend one of three advent groups on various days across the larger parish in preparation for Christmas.

Gill Sajnow

WADHURST

THIS MONTH WADHURST has been celebrating the achievements of two of its more senior parishioners. We were delighted to learn that Gordon Wise was to be presented with the Legion of Honour by the French Ambassador on 11 November. The French government gave him this decoration in gratitude for his part in the liberation of France in 1944. As a young Australian pilot Gordon flew Sunderland flying boats protecting the invasion fleet from enemy U-boats in the English Channel and halfway across the Atlantic, as far south as Spain and north to the Norwegian coast. He feels both honoured and humbled by this award.

Last Sunday the parish got together with nibbles and bubbly to celebrate Ann Glenney's 80th birthday. We heard how Ann spent many years working for LIFE and has been awarded a certificate of thanks by the chief executive of the organisation for her persistent and determined efforts to promote the organisation especially in schools. She is now on the Wadhurst Parish Council checking that the Burghers of Wadhurst do not allow the building of houses without taking account of the extra facilities that will be needed. Fr Martin O'Connor presented Ann with a beautiful bouquet and a word of thanks on our behalf (pictured).

Peggy Purslow.



WEYBRIDGE

WEYBRIDGE PARISH of Christ the Prince of Peace is about to complete a spectacular year of celebrations to mark the 25 years since our lovely church was built. We have enjoyed a wide variety of events - pilgrimages at home and abroad, stimulating talks, fabulous social events, a series of 25 house Masses and, yes, even a bake-off contest. But among the most enjoyable was a recent Italian Evening during which we were entertained by our own *Three Tenors* from the parish, Richard Lee, Antony Hudson and Cecil Wilson. As the Chianti flowed and the glorious scent of Lasagne filled the packed parish hall, classic Italian arias rang out, and even the most conservative of parishioners found themselves vigorously joining in the choruses. We are fortunate indeed to have such talented tenors in our parish. Bravo, Signori, Bellissimo. Over £2,000 was raised for the benefit of youth projects and our local charity, the Shooting Star Chase Hospice. The year will end with an International Mass and lunch on the Feast of Christ the King.

Peter Clapham

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

Bexhill parish in the Holy Land



THE PROSPECTS WERE NOT GOOD - some skirmishes in the Holy Land, a poor weather forecast and the concern that not everyone would make the coach at 2.30am especially as the clocks were due to change 30 minutes earlier! The sceptics among us were proved so wrong as we had the most perfect week possible! The weather was fantastic, as were the guide and driver and the hotels and food were pretty good too.

Fr David Parmiter, the parish priest of St Mary Magdalene's parish, was our spiritual director and transformed the week from a Thomas Cook experience to a deeply spiritual and moving pilgrimage which will, I am sure, stay with all of us for the rest of our lives.

Fr David carefully prepared the Masses and these became the focus of each day with the first being on the banks of The Sea of Galilee. This was followed by a lunch of St Peter's fish - most of us opted for the filleted variety with chips! Drifting on the Sea of Galilee in a traditional fishing boat while Father read the account of our Lord walking on the water was a truly uplifting experience.

Prior to this the raising of the Union Jack on board while singing the National Anthem was nostalgic. Other Masses for our group were celebrated in Cana, where marriage vows were renewed, the Nativity Church in Bethlehem (see picture above), Bethany Crusader Chapel and Dominus Flevit on the Mount of Olives.

In Jerusalem our Mass in the Crusader's Chapel in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was so meaningful but the wait to visit the Tomb of Jesus was around 2-3 hours and while queuing to touch the Rock of Golgotha it was exceedingly hot and crowded. Those who returned in the evening or early the next morning found this church, which has such a fascinating history, transformed into a wonderful haven of peace and spirituality.

Every day we listened to readings from the Gospels in the appropriate venues which were so moving and really brought the Bible stories to life.

Our final Mass was in the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem, a very beautiful church, and this was a celebration and thanksgiving for our wonderful week. Finally, the group must rate as 5***! We prayed together, laughed and cried together, supported one another and listened to one another. As the week progressed we began to realise that our relationships had become a crucial part of the experience and when saying our goodbyes at a foggy Heathrow everyone asked 'Where next?'

Story and picture: Ron Brazier

£3,500 raised for Iraqi refugees

IN SEPTEMBER the parish of Oxted and Warlingham hosted an organ and piano recital for the charity 'Iraqi Christians in Need' and raised the handsome sum of £3,500 for caravan shelters and medical aid to help those who are forced to flee from their homes but remain in the region.

People turned out in force to support the event held with our neighbours at the United Reformed Church. Generous sponsorship from church organisations enabled the full collection to go to the charity. It is one of a series of recitals given by talented young musician, Carl Bahoshy. Carl is a London born Iraqi Catholic who has been so touched by the plight of our suffering brothers and sisters in the Middle East that he has been giving his talent and time freely to a series of recitals to raise funds for this desperately needed cause. In an unforgettable night, Carl read a letter from an Iraqi girl describing the terror of having to flee her home in the middle of the night when ISIS invaded her town.

The event happened on Oxted and Warlingham's new parish priest, Fr Simon Hall's, first day and he gave a powerful speech of the importance of beauty on our lives and how the beauty of music can awaken all that is noble in the human heart. He rejoiced in the unity experienced in working with our neighbours. Fr Simon spoke of his time at college in Rome with Fr Ragheed Aziz Ganni who was later murdered by ISIS after he refused to close the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mosul which was then destroyed. Fr Simon is pictured with Cllr Rose Thorn, the Chair of Tanbridge District Council.

The charity created the Mosul Crisis fund in June 2014 to provide emergency relief for those displaced but still in the region and the fund provides help to displaced Christians and indeed Muslims persecuted by the invading regime. It is practical help on the ground in the affected countries with aid arranged through the Bishops in the region.

Story and picture: Brenda Dennison
It would be wonderful if other parishes in the diocese consider supporting Carl Bahoshy's tireless effort to raise funds for displaced refugees by hosting a concert.
Contact at c.j.bahoshy@googlemail



Catholiaty Fair at Brighton Racecourse

BISHOP RICHARD opened the Catholiaty Fair at Brighton Racecourse on Saturday 14 November. After the opening he walked around the fair greeting all the stall holders. He was very interested to see a stall run by the Knights of St Columba. He met the three knights on duty, Rey D'Souza, Georges Jouce and The Grand Knight Paul Lowry (pictured with the bishop) and was pleased to learn that the three knights were on duty at his installation on the 28 May at Arundel Cathedral.

The knights were raising money for Mary's Meals and the Martlets Hospice. Nationally, over the past two years, The Knights of St Columba have raised approx. £175,000 for Mary's Meals. Over all the Day was a great success for all the stall holders and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Story and picture: Paul Lowry



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