

# FAITH IN SUSSEX

*The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex*



www.chichester.anglican.org.uk

## THE ORDER OF ST RICHARD SERVICE HELD IN CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

**"I FELT OVERWHELMED THAT KIND PEOPLE FELT I WAS WORTHY OF THE HONOUR."  
PETER THOMPSON, WADHURST STONEGATE AND TIDEBROOK.**

**THE ORDER OF ST RICHARD WAS BESTOWED ON PETER AND OVER 40 OTHER INDIVIDUALS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR FAITHFUL COMMUNITY SERVICE. READ WHAT SOME OF THEM HAD TO SAY ON PAGES 10-15**

**"I'D LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR HAVING DONE A GOOD JOB**

**/ 16 - 18**

Diocesan Secretary Gabrielle Higgins reflects on her legacy after 9 years at the helm.

**CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION**

**/ 36 - 37**

Read how one church is working towards meeting the net zero carbon goals set by General Synod.

**USE THEM OR LOSE THEM**

**/ 28 - 29**

Why you should support Christian Bookshops

# SLAVERY ON OUR DOORSTEP

**Hidden in Plain Sight**

**Wed 18 Oct**  
Anti Slavery Day

**6.30 - 8.00pm**

Fitzherbert Community Hub  
2 Bristol Road  
Kempton  
Brighton, BN2 1AP

**Come and find out how modern slavery  
is very much here in our local area, and  
how we can respond.**

Speakers from Sussex Police, Justice and Care,  
Hope at Home, and Sussex and Surrey Modern  
Slavery Ambassadors.  
Light refreshments provided.

For further information please email:  
**E: [tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tessa.ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk)**



**The  
Abolition  
Initiative**

Fighting Slavery Ecumenically



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scan QR code  
to book

In a world so often consumed by self-interest, the virtue of service shines brightly. We are all too easily focussed on meeting our own needs and desires. The shift to images of ‘the selfie’ is just one example of our self-obsessed culture. And yet our calling is towards leading lives of service to others, and this comes from Jesus Christ himself, who washed the feet of his followers, and taught that greatness is found in the posture of servanthood.

This edition of Faith in Sussex celebrates this year’s recipients of the Order of St Richard; an award for lay people in our churches who have made exceptional contributions to their parish, local community, or the Diocese. Within these pages, you will find inspiring stories of those across Sussex who have answered the call to serve. Whether it’s through acts of charity, outreach to the marginalised, faithful pastoral care, or sacrificial leadership, their experiences exemplify the transformative power of service. Their witness serves as a reminder that service is not just a serious obligation but also a blessed privilege—a way to express our love for God and our neighbours.

This thread of selflessness weaves through the rich tapestry of our household of faith, connecting us to the countless saints of generations past who have dedicated their lives to serving others. At this time of year we are also preparing for civic commemorations of the great act of self sacrifice, as we look towards Remembrance Sunday being marked in all our communities.

As we journey together through these pages, may we be inspired to renew our commitment to serve others, as, in the prayer of St Richard himself, we seek to ‘know, love, and follow’ Christ day by day.

+Ruth



# Our Lady of Walsingham

# Festival

Saturday 14th October 2023



*A day of  
worship,  
fellowship  
& teaching*

## Programme

- 10:30 Solemn Mass  
*Celebrant: The Bishop of Lewes  
Preacher: Fr Graeme Rowlands*
- 11:30 Tea and coffee
- 12:00 'Mary in the Old Testament?'  
*The Revd Dr Earl Collins*
- 12:45 Lunch\*
- 13:45 'Mary in our lives today'  
*The Ven Dr Edward Dowler*
- 14:30 Healing ministries
- 15:15 Benediction  
*\* there will be no charge for lunch,  
but donations gratefully received.*



For more information and to book your free place, visit:

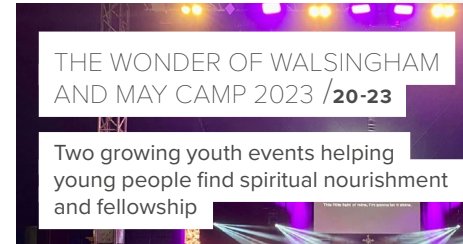
[www.olwfestival.uk](http://www.olwfestival.uk)

Or call Fr Chris Brading on:

01243 641775

Venue:

St Bartholomew's Church,  
Ann Street,  
Brighton,  
BN1 4GP



THE WONDER OF WALSINGHAM AND MAY CAMP 2023 / 20-23

Two growing youth events helping young people find spiritual nourishment and fellowship



TWO NEW MEMBERS / 45

New Family Support Work members reflect on their calling



A GEM IN THE HEART OF BRIGHTON / 31 - 33

Read how a town centre church with royal patronage is gearing up to celebrate its 200 year anniversary.



REIMAGINING MINISTRY IN CRAWLEY / 28 - 29

Bringing the church back together

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 Chichester Diocese

 @Chichesterdio

 Diocese of Chichester

# NEWS

## RURAL CONFERENCE GIVES HOPE

A CONFERENCE hosted by the rural officer for East Sussex, Gary Cregeen, gave delegates hope and encouragement. The event, Renewing Hope In Rural Mission And Ministry, was held in Vicar's Hall, Chichester, which was filled to capacity with laity and clergy from across the diocese and beyond.

Speakers including Simon Mattholie, CEO of Rural Ministries; Rob Walrond, farmer and rural adviser in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, and Trish Bancroft, a rural rector in West Sussex who gave a local perspective.

The day concluded with a short service of thanksgiving in the cathedral led by Canon Jack Dunn. It included a homily by Archdeacon Angela Martin. Gary said: "All in all, a great day with lots of encouragement, hope and inspiration."

## JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY

Nine clergy from eight parishes reflect on their different journeys of generosity giving, offering helpful insight to encourage you, no matter where your parish is starting from, to begin a journey of generous giving. The video is over 20 minutes long but every minute is great value. We hope you enjoy it. Watch it [here](#)

## CHURCH BUILDINGS

The church buildings team will be hosting a series of free events for churchwardens. They will include an introduction to permissions needed for building work and the online faculty system, along with some information about fundraising, larger projects and the Church of England's net zero target. This is an ideal opportunity to meet and talk with members of the team. Please contact the buildings team on 01273 421021 or register your place with the link below.

Date and venues:

**Tuesday, October 17**  
Horsham – Holbrook, St Mark  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/714652433667>

**Monday, November 6**  
Brighton and Lewes – Aldrington, St Leonard's  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/714655683387>

**Wednesday, November 8**  
Hastings – Battle, St Mary the Virgin  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/714659926077>

## DIOCESAN WALSINGHAM FESTIVAL

St Bartholomew's church, Brighton, will be holding a day of worship, fellowship and teaching on October 14. For more information call Fr Chris Brading on 01243 641775 or to book a place, visit [here \(olwfestival.uk\)](http://www.olwfestival.uk)

## RECOGNISED FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

Seventeen Readers from churches across the diocese were thanked for their commitment to parish ministry and awarded a specially designed badge and certificate by Bishop Will during a service in the cathedral on September 30.

Readers assist parish clergy in a range of tasks including leading worship, preaching and pastoral ministry.

During the service, James Askew, from the Benefice of Old Shoreham and Kingston Buci, was licensed as a reader.

Those recognised were:

- Ann Bates**, St Mary the Virgin, Battle
- Brian Moore**, All Saints, Crawley Down
- Carol Cooper**, St Mary the Virgin, Eastbourne
- David Olby**, Slindon, Eartham and Madehurst
- James Gatherum**, Westfield
- John Charman**, Jarvis Brook
- Jon Rotheray**, Slaugham and Staplefield Common
- Karen Ind**, Horsham
- Marian Framroze**, St Mary Magdelene, Coldean
- Peter Blencowe**, The Octagon
- Peter Rhodes**, St George, Worthing
- Peter Thompson**, Wadhurst, Tidebrook and Stonegate
- Richard Maylam**, Waldron
- Roger Clayton-Pearce**, Bexhill St Stephen
- Rosemary Cordero**, St Mary's, Balcombe
- Simon Quail**, St Mary's Horsham
- Tony Idle**, Trinity in Lewes

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

As parishes across the diocese plan their services for Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday we reflect on the many war memorials across Sussex which are often the focus for gatherings and services.

A new war memorial is planned for St Nicholas Church in the village of Middleton-on-Sea, near Bognor, which aims provide a "clear focus during the season of remembrance". Plans have been submitted for the memorial. An existing World War Two memorial roll of honour currently stands at the churchyard in Elmer Road. It includes details of residents from the parish who died in the conflict and is read out on Remembrance Day each year.





THE REV PAUL DOICK, THE REV MARK REDHOUSE, AND THE REV DR KEIR SHREEVES



THE REV RACHEL BENNETT AND THE REV ANDREW HAWKEN



THE REV HELEN GARRATT, THE REV MARTHA MUTIKANI AND THE REV DAVID KING

## HONORARY CANONS

The bishop has appointed eight new honorary canons of the cathedral in recognition of the contribution each makes to the apostolic life of the diocese.

The Rev Rachel Bennett, chaplain at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Sutton. The Rev Andrew Hawken, vicar of St Swithun, East Grinstead, and Rural Dean of East Grinstead, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Selsey.

The Rev Helen Garratt, dean of women's ministry, associate vicar of St Peter's, Brighton, assistant rural dean of Brighton and an assistant diocesan director of ordinands, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Wisborough. The Rev David King, vicar of St Richard's, Haywards Heath, and rector of St Mary's, Balcombe, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Bury. The Rev Martha Mutikani, associate vicar of the Uckfield Plurality, assistant dean of women's ministry and racial justice officer, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Bracklesham.

The Rev Paul Doick, vicar of St Peter's, Henfield, with St Giles, Shermanbury and St Peter's Woodmancote has the Stall of the Prebendary of Bishopshurst. The Rev Mark Redhouse, vicar of All Souls, Eastbourne, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Sidlesham. The Rev Dr Keir Shreeves, diocesan director of ordinands, has the Stall of the Prebendary of Hampstead.

## NEW ORDINANDS PREPARE FOR MINISTRY

We welcome three disciples who have begun their training in theological colleges this autumn.

Keir Shreeves, diocesan director of ordinands, said: "We are very pleased to have sent three disciples of Christ to prepare for ordination at theological education institutions. These candidates have been through a new two-stage national process of preparation and discernment. Their training takes place in community and will help deepen their theological understanding, spirituality and practical skills."

Harri England is from Holy Trinity Hastings and starts her three years full-time residential training at Ridley. She said: "I'm looking forward to spending time in an environment of study and worship of God and meeting new people. What a privilege to spend three years doing this."

Andrew James from All Saints, Hove, starts two years full-time residential training at Ripon College (Cuddesdon) and Carly Taylor from the United Benefice of East Blatchington and Bishopstone will be starting her three years part-time training at St Augustine.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

The cathedral will be hosting a service to celebrate Black History Month on October 7 at 11am with Guy Hewitt, the Church of England's first racial justice director. All welcome.

### After the flood

Black History Month – October. The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell is encouraging parishes during Black History Month to show *After The Flood*, a film on the Church, slavery and reconciliation. He said it could help people "reflect on the meaning of us being truly one in Christ". You can watch online

<http://vimeo.com/churchofengland/bhm2023>

## SLAVERY ON OUR DOORSTEP

One of the projects initiated by Together In Sussex is the network of anti modern slavery ambassadors, a groundbreaking collaboration with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton which is now being extended to the Anglican Diocese of Guildford. Currently there are 20 ambassadors who have all received basic training in issues related to modern slavery including how to recognise it and what to do if you have concerns. They are points of contact for their locality and are available to help raise awareness of modern slavery in churches as this is a hidden injustice which could be taking place in your neighbourhood. Examples of exploitative employment practices which can be classed as slavery have been found among people working in car washes, nail salons and on farms, care workers, delivery drivers and even people in church congregations. To find out more please attend the event at the Fitzherbert Centre in Upper Bedford Street, Brighton, on Thursday, October 18, 6.30pm to 8pm, and hear from a range of speakers.

## BREAKING NEW GROUND

A conference for deacons takes place in Birmingham on Saturday, October 21, led by Richard Tiplady. The organisers, the Church of England Network of Distinctive Deacons, is an informal network of "distinctive" or "vocational" deacons in the UK, run by a national steering group who give their time voluntarily. All deacons, enquirers, training incumbents and vocations advisers are welcome. Visit the diocesan website events page for more information: [www.chichester.anglican.org/events/](http://www.chichester.anglican.org/events/)

## GOOD CHILDHOOD REPORT 2023

A flagship research project from The Children's Society has been published. This is a valuable report regarding young people's wellbeing. You can read it [here](#)

### PLAN A WATCHNIGHT IN OCTOBER TO VIEW AFTER THE FLOOD

As part of **Black History Month**, the Church provides this unique opportunity for its members, individually and collectively, to watch *After the Flood: The Church, Slavery and Reconciliation*.

The 67-minute documentary aims to be educational and redemptive, addressing the historical neglect of slavery in British Christian history. It explores biblical principles for racial reconciliation in our churches today.

Recommend this to Bible Study and other small groups to help reflect on the meaning of us being truly one in Christ.

Archbishop Stephen

A beautifully made, informative and moving documentary, well worth 30' of your time.

Premier Christianity magazine

We can't be the people of God unless we are willing to take a lead in terms of what it means to be fully human.

Prof Robert Backford, Norwich



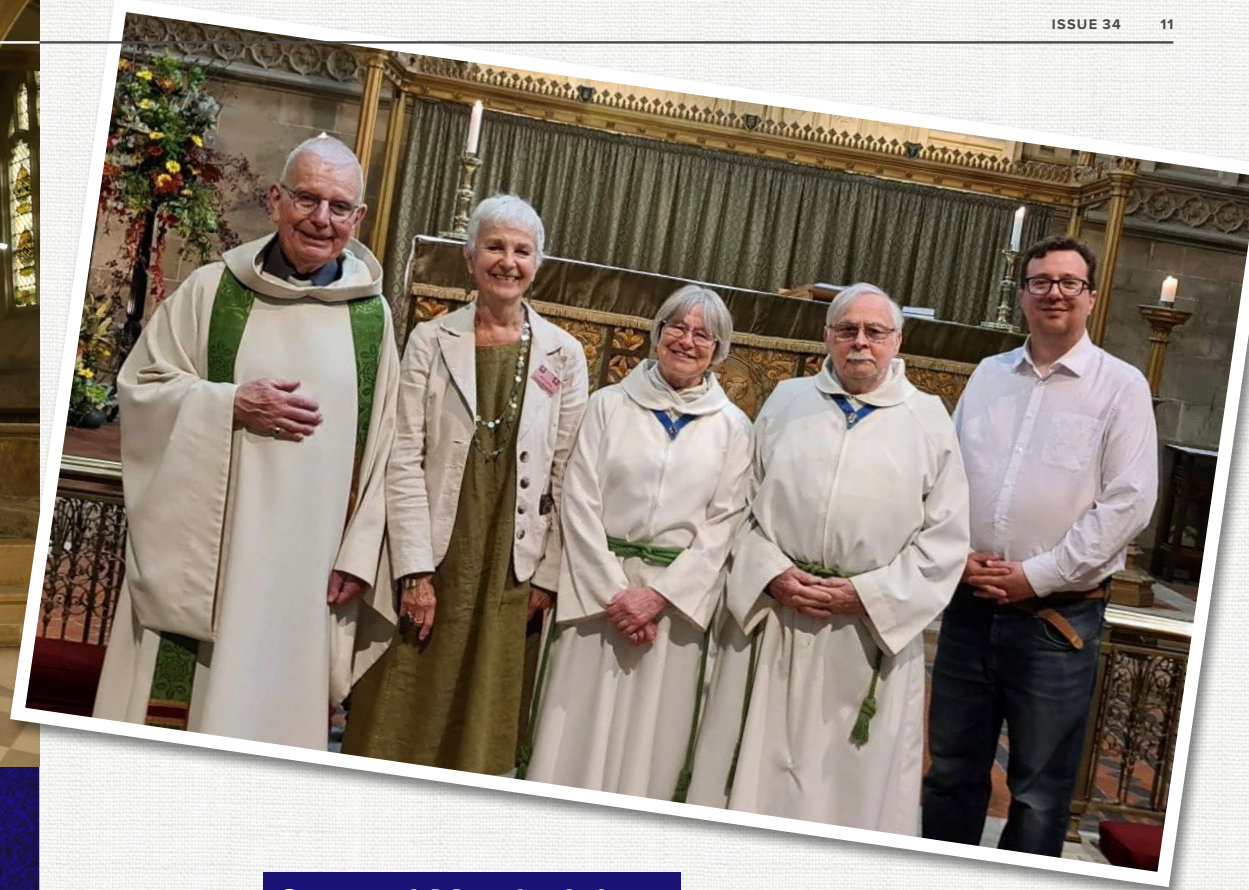
Watch online at [vimeo.com/churchofengland/bhm2023](http://vimeo.com/churchofengland/bhm2023)



## In thanks for their service

Forty lay people from churches across Sussex are to be welcomed into the Order of St Richard at a ceremony in Chichester Cathedral on Saturday, September 30. The Order of St Richard Awards were launched in 2019 by Bishop Martin Warner to recognise exceptional Christian service in deaneries, parishes and communities. Each recipient is nominated by their parish clergy and one other supporting person.

Many of those awarded will be attending the ceremony, travelling from parishes in the east and west of the diocese with friends and supporters from their churches. Bishop Ruth will welcome them and present them with a lapel badge and a certificate.



### Sue and Mowle Atkins

Among those receiving the order will be Sue and Mowle Atkins. They were married in 1974 at All Saints, Hove, and have continued serving faithfully in the same church ever since.

Sue, 69, has held several roles including safeguarding officer, serving on the Parochial Church Council and as a server, a role she has shared for many years with husband Mowle. They have also been instrumental in maintaining a vibrant culture by running the 1st Hove Scout Group for more than 45 years and volunteering for the many activities in the church that support vulnerable people in the community.

Sue said: "It is a lovely thing to receive. We were not expecting it and we are really pleasantly surprised to get the award. It is nice to know that we have made a difference.

"We are all called to serve in one way or another and one of the highlights for me has been to see many fellow servers over the years go on to be ordained into the Church of England."

Sue works as the PA to the Archdeacon of Chichester and Archdeacon of Horsham and is the stipends administrator at Church House Hove, a role she will retire from in December.



## Ebenezer (Eb) Cottingham

Ebenezer (83) has been worshipping at St Mary the Virgin, Barcombe, for about 25 years. He has had many roles including serving as a church warden and as a wedding and funeral verger as well as being a grounds keeper and gardener.

On receiving news he was to be awarded the Order of St Richard he said he felt blessed, adding: "Our rector read the letter I received from Bishop Martin at the end of our morning service and the applause I thought would never end. I just felt so humbled to feel the congregation agreeing with the award. I do want to say, not unto me but unto our Lord Jesus Christ be all the glory, for my prayer is to imitate Jesus in my service to our church and parish."



## Gerald Gresham

Gerald (82) moved from London to Tillington, near Petworth, and found the community he had always been looking for.

He was quickly involved in the local church and continues to sweep the path and wind the clock. He also is involved with the local Churches Together at Petworth and is a member of 28 other community organisations.

His faith became real and relevant when he went forward at a Billy Graham event at Earls Court in 1966.

He said: "I am amazed and thrilled to receive the Order of St Richard, thank you on behalf of the community."



## John Bourdon

John Bourdon from St Michael and All Angels, Eastbourne, became a member of the church on Easter Sunday 1996. He said: "I became churchwarden in 1998 and continued until 2011 when I took a break. In 2017 I took on the position once again where I remained until 2022. I spent 12 years as Eastbourne Deanery lay chairman working with three different rural deans and I was on the Diocesan Synod for six years.

"During my time as churchwarden, I project managed the reordering of the church, working closely with our PCC, architect, contractors and the Diocesan Advisory Committee. On the completion of the reordering we had a new central altar and the congregation worshipping in the round.

"I feel very privileged and humbled to have been nominated and selected to receive the Order of St Richard. I was most surprised and delighted when I received the letter from Bishop Martin in June informing me of the award."



## Christine Allington

Christine Allington from Holy Cross, North Bersted, was surprised when she was notified of the award as she I did not feel she really deserved it.

She said: "On my father's side I have a number of rectors in my ancestry and, although my father wasn't a priest his father was and my father and mother always went to church and so did my two sisters and I. So, when my husband and I came to live here almost 50 years ago it seemed normal to join in with activities in the church and so it's continued to this day.

"At 90 I don't do so much now but am still a lay minister and enjoy taking communion to housebound parishioners."



## Peter Thompson

Peter Thompson is from the parishes of Wadhurst, Stonegate and Tidebrook. He said the work he had willingly undertaken, firstly in the Methodist Church and then in the Church of England, was in response to God's calling. He said: "I was admitted as a Reader in 2014 and also became a member of the finance committee of the PCC and retired as a Reader on April 30 this year at the age of 77.

"I was so surprised to receive the letter from the bishop telling me I had been awarded the Order of St Richard. As well as surprised, I also felt overwhelmed that kind people in the benefice felt I was worthy of the honour."



## Robert Bailey

Robert Bailey of All Saints Church, Crowborough, was brought up in a Christian household in Hastings just after the Second World War and was a boy chorister for four years. Soon after he was confirmed he moved away from the area for work. He moved to Crowborough with his wife Cynthia in 1988, with both becoming members of the All Saints Church family and undertaking a variety of roles within the church.

Robert was amazed to receive an official looking envelope with a letter from Bishop Martin saying he had been awarded The Order of St Richard. He said: "Without doubt I was astonished, greatly moved and felt most humble in receiving the award recognising my contribution to the local community and the church."



## Sheila Massey

Sheila Massey from St Laurence, Falmer, has worshipped in the church, part of the parish of Stanmer with Falmer for more than 40 years.

She believes being part of the laity in the Church of England is about being part of a team and that, she says, has been her fortunate experience.

In the 1960s Shirley was a member of the Guild of St Richard (for young communicants) and secretary of the branch of what was then her church, St Thomas a Becket, Lewes. She said: "The mutual support of the congregation in recent long vacancies reinforced the strong feeling of community and as a PCC secretary I welcomed the friendly and skilled assistance of staff at Church House.

"It will be a privilege to receive the award, a good reminder of my formative years in the life of the Church in Sussex."

The full list of all recipients and the parishes they represent:



## Mavis Marwood

Mavis Marwood, from St Swithun's East Grinstead receiving her 2022 award from Bishop Ruth. Mavis was unable to attend last year due to family bereavement.



Gabrielle and Mark, a retired Barrister, plan to travel.

# Back on a firm footing

**Gabrielle Higgins steps down from her role as diocesan secretary in the new year after nine years in the role. The former lawyer said she is leaving the diocese on a firm footing.**

When I was appointed in 2014 I was given a briefing on what the diocesan staff said they wanted in a diocesan secretary. I didn't know where to start with some of it, for instance "someone who will mend bridges". But others' comments resonated more. For example, I made an effort to remember

everyone's name because our names are part of our identity. When somebody knows your name it is the first step to knowing you, appreciating and valuing you. I read that long list of names and reread it repeatedly in my first weeks and months.

My father's advice was also really useful: "Be careful because people think that working with the church means everything will be sweetness and light. It won't. You can sometimes encounter more difficult people in Christian

contexts than elsewhere. Make sure it doesn't challenge or damage your faith."

I can't pretend there haven't been any difficult people to deal with during the nine years I've been in post but by and large that hasn't been my experience. I have been so impressed by how willing people are to go the extra mile, to volunteer, to serve. The inspiration of all the fantastic work that's going on in parishes and schools far outweighs the few disheartening encounters.

In terms of what has been achieved over the last nine years I think the service we provide from Church House Hove is on a much more stable footing than it was when I arrived. One thing I remember Bishop Martin often saying in my early years was that "we're living in flat pack city". It felt as if we didn't have any of the infrastructure that we needed to function properly. For example, we couldn't reliably find out from our database how many clergy we had, let alone how many were on freehold, how many were incumbents etc. The only thing that we could rely on in respect of IT was that it would break down. I'm proud that he doesn't talk about flat pack city any more.

I can't take much credit for this because all the work to make these things happen and get the infrastructure in place has been done by other people. But I hope my role has been a supportive and enabling one. My general approach has been that when people come to me with things that they want to do, I'm disposed to let them do it. I do however expect people to have thought it through fully before they come to me because they should expect me to ask the searching questions to make sure it is a good idea.

Another thing I think has changed is the culture of Church House Hove. I see the role of Church House as being facilitative: our only purpose is

**My father's advice was also really useful: "Be careful because people think that working with the church means everything will be sweetness and light. It won't."**

to facilitate and support what goes on in our parishes and in our schools. I have tried to instil that sense of service and I think that has taken root. Some clergy, in particular some who had left the diocese and came back, have fed that perception back to me, so I hope it is being felt out in the parishes.

I also think Church House is a happier place and it does have more of a family feel with a lot of mutual support. By and large people enjoy working here and I am glad that several times we've had staff recommend vacancies to family and friends, which is a good test. I think when people are happy where they're working their work is better and there is a lot of goodwill for my successor to draw on.

Turning to challenges, one of the biggest as I came into this role was that I'd been self-employed for my entire working life. That meant that not only had I never managed anyone, I had never even been managed so I didn't have any role models to draw on. My previous work as a lawyer had given me a lot of other useful skills though. My attention to detail is one of them but also the ability to absorb

large amounts of written information, understand it and analyse it. The presentation skills from standing up in court and presenting information and arguments clearly and comprehensively has been useful for things like the autumn deanery meetings. I think they have improved a lot over the years and I hope they have helped to build a sense of trust as we have tried to be transparent, to improve the quality of the information and put ourselves out there to be asked questions.

Another is communication. One thing I have learned in this job is that is an awful lot harder than you ever think it could be. As with so much else, I've managed because I have such a good strong team around me and when people say you need to communicate this or that, I have tried to respond. I look around the management team and the rest of Church House and frequently think I could not hope for better people in those posts. I'm very proud of the team.

For me personally the biggest challenge has been safeguarding, particularly in my early years with a huge volume of very difficult and high-profile cases. At one point we had four major court cases in the same month. One of the things I find hardest about safeguarding cases is that they revolve around people getting hurt. I don't think I'm unusual in wanting everything to be all right, in wanting people to be happy and safe and thriving. The fundamental problem with safeguarding cases is that the starting point is that someone has been harmed by someone connected to the church. The only way it could really be made all right is to turn back the clock. But it happened and you can't. I think Bishop Martin and Colin Perkins, our safeguarding adviser, and his team have been exemplary but while the church collectively and the individuals within it must accept our responsibilities and respond as best we can, we can never undo the damage.

Looking to the future, I think the biggest challenge for my successor will be financial. There has been a big impact both in terms of less money coming in and expenditure increasing caused by a number of factors, not least the cost-of-living crisis. The interdependence of finance and mission is critical and there will need to be an evolution in how the diocese is managed in order to close that funding gap.

I'd like to be remembered as generally having done a good job. We are all part of a grand sweep of history, we are looking forward to celebrating 950 years of the Diocese of Chichester. I'm a blink of the eye in that and if I've just been part of gradually getting things better, that is enough of a legacy for me.

As for my own future, I've never had a break from work. I didn't have a gap year between school and university, went straight from university to training for the Bar, then straight from training into practice. So I am looking forward to a career break. The decision was prompted by personal circumstances. As soon as my other half, Mark, spoke about retiring and travelling, I knew I wanted to go with him at some point but it was seeing the extreme pain he was in from his rheumatoid arthritis on getting back from one trip that made me realise I should take the opportunity to go with him now while we know he still can rather than waiting until I retire too by which time it may be too late. I know so many people who have said "we were going to do such and such when we retired but my health/his health/looking after my mother/whatever meant we couldn't" and I really don't want to join their ranks. Sometimes, you just have to take the plunge.

The other interest Gabrielle will be pursuing is croquet. She is currently ranked tenth in the UK with hopes of improving further. Her

dream is to represent England in the next World Team Championship in 2026.

#### John Booth

former chair of the DBF  
(Diocesan Board of Finance)

"I have the happiest memories of my years as DBF chairman largely because of the great pleasure of working with Gabrielle. She has steered the administration of our diocesan affairs with enormous diligence, forensic intelligence, patience and warmth."

"Her dry sense of humour lightened many a challenging burden and her Christian fortitude has been a source of steadiness and inspiration to us all. We shall miss her greatly. She bequeaths to her successor a team and an administration that is testimony to her many remarkable achievements."

#### NEW DIOCESAN SECRETARY APPOINTED.

We welcome Dr John Preston who joins the diocese on 27th November. John served previously for five years as Diocesan Secretary in the Diocese of Worcester. Before that he was for thirteen years National Stewardship Officer for the Church of England.



## Bridging the age gap

Age is no barrier to friendship as a partnership between a parish church and a primary school is proving.



Children from Chailey St Peter's Church of England School have been helping to serve lunch to the elderly patrons of a lunch club, inspiring many of them to join a reading project in the school.

Petrina Ferris, deputy executive headteacher of three schools in the Bluebell Federation which includes Chailey, said pupils are keen to engage with the elderly.

She said: "The children are enthusiastic and engaged and we have been inspired and impressed by their openness and warmth towards the older generation who have now also joined the school community to strengthen reading for pleasure. Both the lunch club and our reading project encourage communication and build positive relationships between the two generations. Our reading project also helps to boost wellbeing among children and the elderly.

"Chailey St Peter's Church run the lunch club which is held on the third Thursday of each month from 12.30pm to 2pm. The school children join in and

say the grace before the meal, help serve the food and share stories with their community."

Rio was one of the pupils who got involved. He said: "I was very happy when my teacher asked me to help with the lunch club. We walked up to the church. When we arrived, we helped lay the tables. We led the grace before the meal and then we helped serve their lunch.

"They had gammon with coleslaw and potato salad. We then helped clear and serve pudding. The pudding looked really nice. It was meringues with strawberries and cream. After lunch was finished, I chatted with some of the people."

Emily, another child who took part, said: "All the elderly people were so nice and grateful. I really liked serving the food and being helpful and it was very generous that at the end they gave us the amazing pudding to say thanks. I had some good conversations and I'd definitely like to be chosen to go next month too."

Petrina said: "We try to vary the groups of children attending each month to ensure more children experience the intergenerational opportunities to converse and build relationships with the older generation.

"Many of the elderly are past pupils of Chailey St Peter's school and they were delighted that we asked them to come to the school to read with the children."

Ten adults from the lunch club now visit the school every week to enjoy a reading for pleasure session.

#### What next?

The school federation is now about to enter its third year with another Intergenerational project. Children in Year 6 join with the elderly and those with dementia in their local area to complete a six-week opera project. Here is a snippet from Chailey St Peter's website:

<https://youtu.be/lhAckpKEgDk>

# Unity

**By Dani Taylor**  
Interim youth officer

This year's Maycamp theme was unity and being part of the Maycamp family.

It was felt strongly by the 400 plus people at Plumpton Racecourse for the 2023 event, through the worship, talks and general atmosphere across the site. Even the security company commented on how much they felt included.

As we looked at unity, we looked at how it related to God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, the Church and the world, encouraging everyone that they had a relationship with each of these and free access to belong to the family.

In each main session, we had time to respond and reflect on what we had heard and encountered. These times were so precious and sacred as young people and their leaders came forward for prayer and conversations, encouragement and time in the presence of God at the foot of the cross.

We saw at least 15 people make a first-time commitment to Jesus and others renew their relationship with him. There was laughter and tears as people went deeper into their journey of faith.

Thank you to everyone who came and took part, from the young people and the youth leaders to the support teams, especially the diocesan leadership team for their energy and enthusiasm.

Some of our young Maycampers and youth leaders spoke about their experience:

"Maycamp is a life-changing event for our young people."

"It helps to build a closer relationship with our youth."

"It is great to find the small moments to chat with other youth group leaders and just see church in a bigger context."

"Having young people lead from the front inspires our young people to keep going."

## Building Excitement!

For 2024 we want to invite everyone to come along to Maycamp. Every young person is required to come along with their youth leader/vicar/youth volunteer team. It is for year 6 – year 13.

New for Maycamp 2024 will be a young leader's stream. They can come and serve on a team with us but also have some teaching input just for them during our seminar time. The rest of the time they get the opportunity to flex their serving, ministry muscles.

If you have any young people in your church family, get in touch! We can link you with local groups who have been coming to Maycamp for years, who can give you advice or invite you into their group. We would love to welcome you to our family.

Mini Maycamp is a taster/reunion for Maycamp. It is Friday, November 17th, 2023, at St Andrew's Church Burgess Hill for just 2 hours, 6.30pm – 8.30pm and is just £2 per person. Do get in touch if you would like to come along and see what it is all about.



## Too old to be a young person at Maycamp?

Do you love the idea of serving the next generation as they walk towards leadership? Then please consider coming on team. You do not have to be there the whole weekend or even sleep in a tent. Get in touch if you would like to come and chat about how you could take part.

### Would you like to give financially?

Many groups fundraise throughout the year to make sure they can bring everyone along and feed them for the weekend. Every little helps as we encourage this next generation to walk a life with Jesus and not give up.

Contact us on [youth@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:youth@chichester.anglican.org)

# Wonderful Walsingham



**Covid changed many things in the life of the Church and the Youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham certainly felt the effects of two missed years. However, this year we were blessed with the beginnings of renewal and revival. We hear from three church leaders who took groups on the 2023 pilgrimage.**

Father Ian Edgar, vicar of Lancing, said: "It really was quite a lot of work but it was all worth it. The list was endless: arranging transport for our 23 pilgrims from across the diocese, planning for breakfast and snacks (our group availed ourselves of the Shrine's catering services for lunch and dinner), ensuring that risk assessments were

done and that we had enough first aid qualified leaders as well as collect our camping equipment which is stored for us at St John the Divine in West Worthing.

"But we went to offer prayer at a holy place where countless pilgrims over the centuries have prayed. We went to deepen our faith in Jesus Christ and all our pilgrims were at daily Scripture study and the daily Eucharist was our opportunity to meet Jesus in that wonderful Sacrament.

"We went to worship and pray with fellow Christians from other parts of our diocese and across the Church of England and it was a true blessing to get to know other leaders,

both lay and clergy, who are committed to serving their local worshipping communities as well as being part of the diocesan family. I think our struggles against the adverse weather during the time we were there brought us together. I truly believe pilgrimage has a very important role in encouraging discipleship among the youth of our communities. I am looking forward to another blessed time in 2024."

**"I am already looking forward to next year!"**



**"It really was quite a lot of work but it was all worth it."**

Danny Pegg, associate vicar for mission and discipleship at the parish of Hampden Park and The Hydneys and the parish of Willingdon, said: "The great thing about the diocesan youth pilgrimage is that it is diocesan. We share the load and work together for whole plan that is the 'Chichester camp' to come to fruition. We do all this hard work so that the young people can have the best time possible without all the practical stuff getting in the way. They are there to have a week of worship, study, fun and friendship - and we don't need a tent collapsing to get in the way of that.

"We were taking plenty of young people this time who had never been to this event.

"We saw friendships form, we had young people volunteering to serve at massive services in the big top (we weren't quick enough to volunteer this year but next year we will be) and we saw our young people encountering God in all sorts

of ways. I even know of one lad still wearing his prayer wristband now.

"The Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage really allows young people to access the sacramental life of the church on their terms, at their pace and we saw this among our teenagers. If you've never been, if you're not sure this is for you or for your church reach out and ask one of us to pop along. We took young people from Anglo-Catholic parishes and more middle of the road/evangelical parishes too. You are welcome in our camp - whether you're a Walsingham veteran or a newbie."

Laura Darrall, curate at Rustington, said: "Having never been on the Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage before I had no idea what to expect but I came back glowing - which was a mixture of spiritual nourishment, fellowship and windburn from the 40mph winds which whipped up the campsite.

"Each morning there was beautiful, reverential and accessible worship, music that vivified the soul and enriching Bible study.

"Leading one of the teaching sessions was a definite highlight for me as we explored through story and testimony how we can take our faith out into the world as lights for the Gospel.

"The peace and holiness of the Shrine and the prayers of those who had journeyed there before meant that our group felt completely held by the Spirit and it was a privilege to witness the young people grow in their faith - and us too."

Bishop Will spoke of his joy to be on pilgrimage with such a wonderful group of young people and leaders from across the diocese. He said: "To experience together, through joyous worship, Bible study and relationship with one another, the God of light who wishes each of us made and known by him to shine in His eternal unquenchable light was infinitely precious.

"I am already looking forward to next year and would love Year 6 leavers and above to join our fast-growing diocesan group, August 5 to 9, 2024."

More pictures available [here](#)



# 2024

## Year of the New Testament

Join us for a year of study, reflection and discovery

Following on from our diocesan Year of the Old Testament in 2023, we will focus in 2024 on the Year of the New Testament.

The format will be similar. There will be an ongoing series of Zoom seminars (beginning in Advent 2023) on various New Testament topics (e.g., what the New Testament actually is, the theology of St John, the spirituality of St Paul, the Psalms in Christian prayer, etc.). There will also be a group online reading of New Testament books throughout the year offering an opportunity for joint reflection and discussion.

The 2024 Lent Course will be called, 'You are the Christ' and will focus on the person of Jesus in each of his wonderful works - enlightening, forgiving, healing, etc. The course will draw on relevant New Testament passages and each section will highlight the actions of Jesus by using well-known and much-loved prayers from the Book of Common Prayer, accompanied by evocative images.

The aim of the entire year will be to build on how the full Mystery of Christ, prefigured in the Old Testament but fully revealed only in Jesus' death and resurrection is witnessed to and recorded for us in the writings of the New Testament. Its ultimate goal is to strengthen us through the

teaching of Paul, John, and the other New Testament writers in making the confession of faith that Peter made in the name of the apostles: 'You are the Christ!' (Mark 8.29).

That is the ringing announcement that all the promises God made to us in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New, in the person of Jesus Christ Our Lord and in the sending of the Holy Spirit - proclaiming the mystery of faith!

At the same time the Year of the New Testament will look ahead to 2025, when we will consider the deeper implications of this revealed faith for our understanding of God, the Church, and the world.

# LIVING TOGETHER AS BROTHERS & SISTERS...

*a visit to mark the Windrush anniversary*

To mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush, the ship bringing Caribbean people to a new life in the UK, Bishop Leon Golding, Suffragan Bishop of Montego Bay in Jamaica, was invited to visit the Diocese of Chichester.

Bishop Martin accompanied Bishop Leon during parts of his five-day trip. As well as schools, he was invited to address people in churches and the NHS as well as preaching at two services including the Holy Communion Sunday morning service at Chichester Cathedral.

Bishop Leon, who was born in the UK, used his time in Sussex to visit four schools. He asked the students "why are we celebrating Windrush?" and told them it was more than just a date.

He said: "Nine hundred people of colour were invited to come and help rebuild Britain after World War II."

They came to the UK as British citizens with British passports. They contributed as nurses, doctors, factory workers, bus drivers and many other professions. They have also contributed to the rebuilding of areas using their skills.

The students were told how the Windrush community faced racism here. They learned that according to the Book of Revelation, people of all nations and tribes will be living together for eternity. Bishop Leon said: "It is best that we learn to live with each other as brothers and sisters now."

He concluded his talk by saying there is no room in the Christian Gospel for racial injustice or discrimination of any kind. He said: "Through this event and other events we can build a Britain in which people of all colours are accepted and treated equally and that the contribution made by other people of colour is affirmed and celebrated."



**"It is best that we learn to live with each other as brothers and sisters now."**



# BUBBLE CHURCH

## IS COMING...

The Church of England wants to see the number of children and young people attending services double by the year 2030. Are you a church who would love to join in that mission but have no idea how or where to start? Or are you a church with big ideas but a small team?

Bubble Church might be your answer. It is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers and young families. It includes action songs, a Bible story, puppets and a simple activity and it lasts for around 30 minutes. This is church in a new way which grew out of the “bubbles” people created during Covid.

If you want to know more, watch the video to hear from those who have set it up and have been running it for a couple of years. Visit the link [here](#)

If this is something you think your church could be encouraged to explore, contact Keli Bolton via the website form Run Bubble Church at [www.bubblechurch.org](http://www.bubblechurch.org)

We would love to know if you are keen to start Bubble Church so please contact Dani Taylor and let her know.

She is available to help get you up and running as a church, talk to your PCC and your team and answer any questions you might have. Dani will also help you apply for a small grant which could help with the initial costs of setting up Bubble Church, available from the Diocesan Mission Fund.

## DEVELOPING LEADERS at CHARACTER SCHOOL

ST JOHN'S Church in Crawley has just completed the first year of a successful leadership development programme called Character School. It grew out of the church's vision and it aims to play a key part in its mission for sustainable congregation growth across Crawley and beyond. Reninca Hill, the leadership co-ordinator at St John's, explains what it is.

The need was realised that to grow the church here in Crawley, to build the kingdom, we needed to develop leaders of character so Character School was born.

The easiest way to describe Character School is to think of an apprenticeship scheme. Simply put, it is initially a one-year programme (with the option for a second year) in which apprentices encounter an exciting mix of prayer, teaching, mentoring, leadership development, external experiences and formation. This is underpinned by a team walking alongside them as they discover who they are in Jesus and what he is calling them to do.

In our first year we have seen that our apprentices from all walks of life and all ages have been formed and changed as

they have encountered the transformational presence of Jesus in their lives.

It's from this we have seen leaders develop and new ministries formed and equipped. One of our apprentices has been involved in developing a new service at St Richards, part of the family of Church Crawley. It is here they are being formed, challenged and equipped as lay leaders. Other apprentices have been supported to start a new ministry running a recovery course to come alongside those struggling with addiction.

### RICHARD'S STORY

Richard had been attending the traditional church Sunday service for some time but after a series of events he found himself lonely and broken and looking for something more in his life. He knew the answer was Jesus but didn't quite know how to start the journey with Him.

Richard joined the Character School in September 2022 and it has been transformational for him. Having a supportive team around him to call out his gifts and develop character means he now works in Christian ministry, fulfilling his passion

to bring Jesus into everything he does. It means he gets to talk about Jesus in all he does. He has found family and community but more than that, he has found out how Jesus sees him and, through Jesus in him, how he can be the hands and feet of Jesus to Crawley.

### ADRIANA'S STORY

Adriana is another apprentice. She said: "The true growth has been and is still being done in my heart and character. It's been so painful yet joyful. At one point I even wanted to quit because it felt like too much was happening but I thank God I stayed because it felt like I stepped over the threshold that started the real training. I've also enjoyed our teaching sessions."

New leaders are being developed and equipped which is what we want to see in the church - new leaders who authentically pursue holiness and have a Godly character that can stay the course to proclaim the kingdom. It's an exciting journey of lives changed and seeing God on the move.

The Character School is open for applications for September 2023 at [churchcrawley.com/CharacterSchool](http://churchcrawley.com/CharacterSchool)

# PARISH NEWS

## RAINFALL ON CRACKED EARTH

By Clare O'Driscoll



**Like a bereavement... that is how it felt to some when the churches closed for Covid. When we returned the outward appearance of St Andrew's in Furnace Green, Crawley, was normal but the aftershocks had more of an impact than anyone could have imagined.**

For some the experience had gone dry, like hard cracked earth desperately needing water. And perhaps those metaphorical cracks represented actual gaps where friends had once sat: people who wanted to come back but felt nervous; people who had got into the habit of watching online; people who had simply got used to life without church. There were those who, faced with the difficulties thrown at them, had questioned their faith. Sadly there were also those we lost during Covid. People were missing and we missed them.

Those who did return had, in many cases, reappraised where they served in the church. Volunteering dipped significantly in all areas, increasing the pressure on those trying to keep things afloat.

"As the vicar I felt we needed a vision that would bring the church back together and reignite our faith as a whole body after lockdown," said Rev Richard Poole.

A few years earlier, before Covid became part of our everyday vocabulary, the church had run a Sunday Alpha course in place of the main morning service. Like many churches, St Andrew's had been running Alpha for years on weekday evenings. Numbers had gone down but rather than giving up, Richard wanted to expand the experience and the idea of Alpha on Sunday began to take root. Many were excited but some felt it was too radical and risky. However, they supported it and every Sunday morning from January to April 2019 St Andrew's took on a vast café style layout, bringing a renewed sense of community. Despite initial opposition, Alpha on Sunday was hugely fruitful, galvanising the church as well as bringing in many new people.

Now, in a different year and rather different world, Richard looked at the needs of the church and community and realised there was potential for running the course again.

He said: "The highest goal for us is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to help people come to faith in Jesus but Alpha was also for the congregation to gel and be inspired again."

"This time when I took it to the church there was no opposition really. Because of what people had seen before I think they trusted me. I felt it was a key thing to refocus on the basics of the Christian faith all together and strengthen our faith that for some had become shaky following Covid."

For the first three months of 2023, Sunday mornings at St Andrew's again became a noisy joyful hub of Alpha. The more formal early communion service went ahead as always for those who wanted a more traditional experience but from 10am things were different, with volunteers laying on a breakfast of bacon baps, sausage sandwiches, pastries and fruit for up to 250 people.

**"As the vicar I felt we needed a vision that would bring the church back together"**

The first half hour was spent eating, chatting and being together. The church was set out in small groups of 11 with a leader and co-leader in each and people could go wherever they wanted, with no obligation to stay in the same group every week. The church was packed with members old and new, not to mention a fair number of guests.

The actual sessions began after breakfast with a short time of worship then an update from the children's leader about the previous week, partly to involve the children but also to jog the rest of the congregation's memories about themes covered. We prayed for the children as they went off to their own version of Alpha. We also continued to run a crèche so parents could engage in the course. After this we watched the Alpha video and had 20 minutes' discussion time before finishing with intercessory prayer and more songs.

Tea and coffee were flowing again afterwards and nobody was in a rush to go home. People wanted to stay together, praying or chatting. There was the gentle goodness of simply spending time together but there were powerful moments too, like the man who found himself crying after one session and chose to become a Christian there and then.

**“As a church it united us around a common vision and people were motivated, people volunteered. It has really helped us to get back into working well together.”**

On Palm Sunday there was a post-Alpha service when Richard gave a talk explaining the sacraments and giving the opportunity for people to share testimonies. Among other things, St Andrew's was treating Alpha as a confirmation course and Richard had asked Bishop Ruth to come on Easter Sunday and conduct full immersion baptisms and confirmations.

The invitation to be baptised or confirmed had an overwhelming response. On top of 27 confirmations, there were five baptisms. Among these was a young mother who was baptised by full immersion and then remained in the water to be passed her baby son who was also being baptised. It was a moving moment, reinforcing the church's mission to “tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord” (Psalm 78:4).

Richard said: “As a church it united us around a common vision and people were motivated, people volunteered. It has really helped us to get back into working well together.”

Fellowship deepened, with people getting to know each other better or for the first time.

He said: “We've kept this time of discussion at the end of the sermon as these days people learn by engaging rather than listening in a passive environment. It's a chance to think things through with the people around them.”

This was a time of personal discipleship for all and it's had a knock-on effect. More volunteers have come forward and new leaders have been raised up across the whole church. It helped people who had gone stale and brought new people in. Where terrain had become dry and cracked, God poured out holy rain, the water of life, bringing new growth and reviving those who were wilting.

“People want to be part of a church that is going somewhere, that makes you feel you're making a difference, that God is at work, Jesus is alive and this Gospel message is really good news,” said Richard. “It's left our church much stronger, with an optimism about the future and an openness to try new things to take risks for the sake of the kingdom and the Gospel.”



## ST GEORGE'S... SO MUCH MORE THAN A BUILDING

**ST GEORGE'S was built in the 1820s as a place for worship for Brighton's newly constructed Kemp Town enclosures, Lewes Crescent and Sussex Square.**

By Dr Hilda Ruth Beaumont, PCC member and lead on St George's Communication Strategy.

It has been attended by Robert Peel, son of Sir Robert Peel who established the Metropolitan Police, and Queen Adelaide among others. The vicar at the time was tutor to the children of Queen Victoria at the Royal Pavilion.

The church has always tried to be relevant to its community and more than 20 years ago it was realised that the area needed a community focus. Under the auspices of the vicar Father Andrew Manson-Brailsford, who is still vicar today, work began on excavating beneath the church to provide community facilities.

We worked with the community and asked people what they would like. The church's maxim was that what happened in the community should be reflected in the community centre. The inspiration was, and still is, “church as serving community”.



## Cash boost

St George's Community Centre has been awarded £67,500 by the Veolia Environmental Trust under its community facilities improvement scheme. Laura Chatburn, the former centre manager, successfully bid for the grant and work began in June. The money is being used to refurbish the toilets and more, including adding a much-needed shower room so people can freshen up after exercise classes before work and for concert performers. The centre, along with the church, is an integral part of the Kemp Town community and hosts many activities and organisations, including a dieting club, U3A events on local history, science and engineering and foreign languages, yoga, zumba, children's dance classes, support groups and drama classes for adults.

Laura, who has since moved on, said: "I am delighted that after many months of work by all parties involved we are able to proceed with this vital and much anticipated work to have all the toilets renovated and the new toilet and shower installed in the community room. Thanks to the generosity of the Veolia Environmental Trust we will be able to provide considerably better facilities to all of our wonderful community groups and commercial hirers."

## The need for a café

When we started building our community centre we soon realised we needed a place for people to socialise and that it would be a good idea if they could eat together as well. Hence it seemed sensible that we should develop a café, which we did, and it turned out that for some in Kemp Town their weekly visit to the café provided their only really good meal of that week. Over time we developed a strong relationship with St John's College, providing work-based experience for its students, many of who are autistic, have learning disabilities and other complex needs.

They were able to work very effectively in the café but as time went on the needs of the college outgrew our café so the students now get their work experience elsewhere. But we are happy to say that we have maintained the relationship and students return for special occasions such as their Christmas concert. Of course we needed to find someone who could run the café. This was not easy but very fortunately we eventually found Sandro Da Mota. He is incredibly enthusiastic about food and an extremely talented chef. He creates all the food for the café and enjoys talking with his customers.

## New organist

At the end of May St George's was delighted to appoint new organist Michael Tester. Our small choir meets before the Sunday morning service to practise the hymns to be sung by the congregation plus an additional hymn to be sung immediately after communion to support meditation.



Michael Tester  
Organist



Sandro Da Mota,  
the café manager

## Live performances

Melting Vinyl is an independent live music promotions company in Brighton. Anna Moulson, the owner, promotes and stages high quality local, national and international artists from a range of genres at venues across the South East including at St George's. The church is hired out through Anna's expertise to creative international touring artists. Anna, with her experienced staff, successfully manages the production, ticketing and marketing of the live music events. The church has a fantastic reputation for stunning concerts in a spiritual setting, which is partly why it is a popular venue with audiences and artists alike.



Anna Moulson of  
Melting Vinyl

## Communication strategy

St George's is extremely fortunate to have the services of graphic designer Matthew Maxwell to help us implement our new communications strategy. He has made a very impressive start in developing a strong visual identity based on the church's stained glass windows

## A final word from Father Andrew

We are blessed with a wonderful church building but, as you can see, St George's is so much more than the building, providing the focus for embracing all those who live and work in Kemp Town, enhancing their lives and bringing them closer to God. And the breadth of our work will be celebrated next year which is our 200th anniversary. As you may imagine we are in the midst of planning suitable events and activities so watch this space for more details.



Father Andrew

## Stop press

We were sad when Laura, our centre manager, decided to move on to pastures new and of course we wish her well. But we are delighted to announce the appointment of a new manager, Paul Andrew Simmons. Paul knows quite a lot about St George's already as he acts a caretaker for the community centre supporting those who perform in the church. He starts work on October 2.

## God's beauty in our garden

The garden is maintained by volunteers from the community and in addition to providing a wonderful place to relax and have lunch it has a bee friendly section





## EVERY STEP COUNTS... REFUGEE TALES CALLS FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT IMMIGRATION DETENTION

For the past eight years, Refugee Tales walkers have been embarking on walks in solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and people who have been held in immigration detention. They have been met with kindness and hospitality every step of the way.

Working in collaboration with migrants and those who have experienced the UK asylum system - and taking Chaucer's great poem of journeying as a model - established writers and people with experience of detention share their tales with communities at evening events.

Many people across the diocese took part in the **Refugee Tales walk in 2019**, including the former Bishop of Lewes Richard Jackson, now the Diocesan Bishop of Hereford.

This year, the vicar of St John the Evangelist in Brighton Emma Ham Riche invited the

group to stay overnight in the church as they journeyed from Three Bridges to Worthing over a five-day period.

She said: "The walkers arrived at St John's on day three, having walked from Burgess Hill. They enjoyed an evening meal prepared by volunteers before connecting with the local community for a Refugee Tales evening event of readings and stories as well as performances from musicians.

"The event was well attended. Everyone enjoyed a great line-up of speakers and musicians, including a moving contribution from Guy Gunaratne, who has lived experience of detention."

The walkers, volunteers and other guests were joined by host Enver Solomon, the chief executive of the Refugee Council and a passionate advocate for social justice.

Emma joined the group on their walk to Shoreham on day four of their journey.

The tales told at the evening events are **published in four volumes by Comma Press**.

Some have been written collaboratively with authors such as Ali Smith, Nobel Prize winner Abdulrazak Gurnah, Kamila Shamsie, Patrick Gale, and Bernardine Evaristo. Others are first-hand accounts told directly by the people who experienced them.

In sharing these stories, Refugee Tales gathers and communicates experiences of migration, seeking to show the reality of immigration detention.

You can join our Friends Scheme to support the work of Refugee Tales and take steps towards a future without immigration detention. Click **here** or visit [www.refugeetales.org/friends-scheme](http://www.refugeetales.org/friends-scheme)

# Mission Fund News

The aim of the Mission Fund is to help more people in Sussex develop Christian faith and commitment to worship.

**Its grants to parish churches support imaginative new forms of local mission or new developments of current mission. The committee meets twice a year to administer the money.**

Recent grants have been made for a variety of projects including £30,000 towards a children and families worker for St Bartholomew's in Maresfield and £11,000 for an education and outreach worker for St Michael and All Angels church in Berwick. We will hear more about these projects in 2024.

The fund recently issued some smaller grants to enable mission projects to get off the ground. Albourne, Sayers Common and Twineham (ASCaT) applied for one to help with the setting up and running costs of its parish publication called Ups and Downs. The project's key mission objectives were to raise the Church's profile in villages in the parish.

Rachel Cornish is priest in charge of ASCaT and rural dean of Hove. She said: "The magazine will help us increase visibility in the community. It is a tool for us to engage with those who might be on the fringes of church or village life to help them think through how they might engage in the life of the church and also to be part of the community.

"There are many new houses being built in Sayers Common across various estates with planning applications in the process for further building.

"The project's overall vision was to contact every household in the parish by distributing the magazine to each home. Also, to increase the size and content of the magazine once the profile of the church and community life/needs are raised.

"There is always a letter from the priest in charge which seeks to link Christian values with life and current affairs and we include photographs of services



and events in and around the church where people might recognise themselves and where we can be seen in the hope we are making ourselves more accessible. We have included wedding photos, baptism photos as well as carol services, harvest etc and pictures of people in our pop-up village bar for example.

"Hard copies tend to have a longer life in the home and are welcomed by those not online or who enjoy a break from the screen."

The next Mission Fund meeting is on October 24. Applications closed on October 6 and will open again in the new year.

Please speak to Rob Dillingham, deputy director of apostolic life, if you wish to discuss an application.

# Caring for God's creation

By Ros Simpson

**General Synod has called for all parts of the Church to be net zero carbon by 2030 and St Michael's in Amberley is looking for ways to achieve this as well as being mindful of our duty as Christians to take a lead in caring for God's creation.**

St Michael's already has an A Rocha Eco Church bronze award and is working towards silver. The church also wants to promote biodiversity and sustainability and, in so doing, strengthen links with the wider local community.

In June, the church held an eco fair and open churchyard weekend which drew visitors from far and near.

The date coincided with the Caring For God's Acre's Love Your Burial Ground week, in which churches are invited to count the species present in their churchyards for entry into a national register.

Amberley botanists counted 160 species (eight more than in 2021) in St Michael's churchyard which has a swathe of wildflower planting looking at its spectacular best in early June.

We combined the fair with a celebration of our beautiful species-rich churchyard, featuring folk music and poetry, bug-hunting for children courtesy of Sussex Wildlife Trust and a display by Amberley's tree and pond warden about her swift project, tree trail and the village pond work she is doing.

Talks in the church covered how to grow a wildflower meadow, an introduction to the Weald To Waves Project which aims to create a wildlife corridor connecting green spaces from Ashdown Forest to the sea at Climping, and a presentation by Karen Park of Horsham Eco Churches on how, by working together, we as Christians can make a difference caring for creation.

Meanwhile, the fair, which attracted some 20 exhibitors, was in full swing. A Repair Café from Arundel fixed people's kettles and toasters, vacuum cleaners and lamps as well as sharpening blades of all sorts. Sussex Green Living came in a re-purposed 1970s electric milk float offering refills of household products such as laundry and washing-up liquid and promoting reuse and recycling. Greening Steyning, a voluntary organisation which hosts a green energy helpdesk in Steyning, demonstrated producing and using energy in a sustainable way from insulation and draught-proofing to solar energy heat pumps.

Local beekeepers talked about their work and sold some honey, while the trustees of Amberley's Millennium Green described how they manage and care for this wonderful green space to increase biodiversity. Staff from Amberley's indispensable Village Stores came to show how shopping

locally and buying produce grown nearby significantly reduces shoppers' carbon footprint, with the health benefits of eating food in its natural growing season thrown in free.

A governor from Amberley Primary School announced their new eco council and explained how the children use their outdoor learning space for growing vegetables.

There were displays about the importance of hedgerows as wildlife habitats and butterfly enthusiasts talked about the butterflies that inhabit wildflower meadows. Folk from the RSPB came to recruit new members and explain the work they do on their important bird reserve at Pulborough Brooks.

Our parish hall doubled as a wildlife photography gallery, displaying astonishing pictures taken by a talented local amateur photographer, who also ran a children's photography competition. It also served as a café as indefatigable members of St Michael's Parish Engagement Group served drinks,

ploughman's lunches and homemade cakes.

The day was a great success, celebrating and promoting education around biodiversity. Our churchyard, with its thought-provoking prayer trail and beautiful wildflower meadow providing a super habitat for the insects, butterflies and swifts living there was the perfect venue.

With positive feedback from exhibitors and visitors alike, we hope it might lead to further collaboration not only with nature groups and sustainability projects but also with other churches seeking to demonstrate their commitment

to the stewardship of God's creation.

On the Sunday morning, Rev Gerry Burgess led a peaceful café church service in the churchyard, telling of how the beauty of the natural world helps us on our life and faith journeys. Breathing Spaces, the new churchyard prayer trail, leads visitors on a spiritually fulfilling tour of this tranquil place. How we need to look after our precious planet and all the species within it.

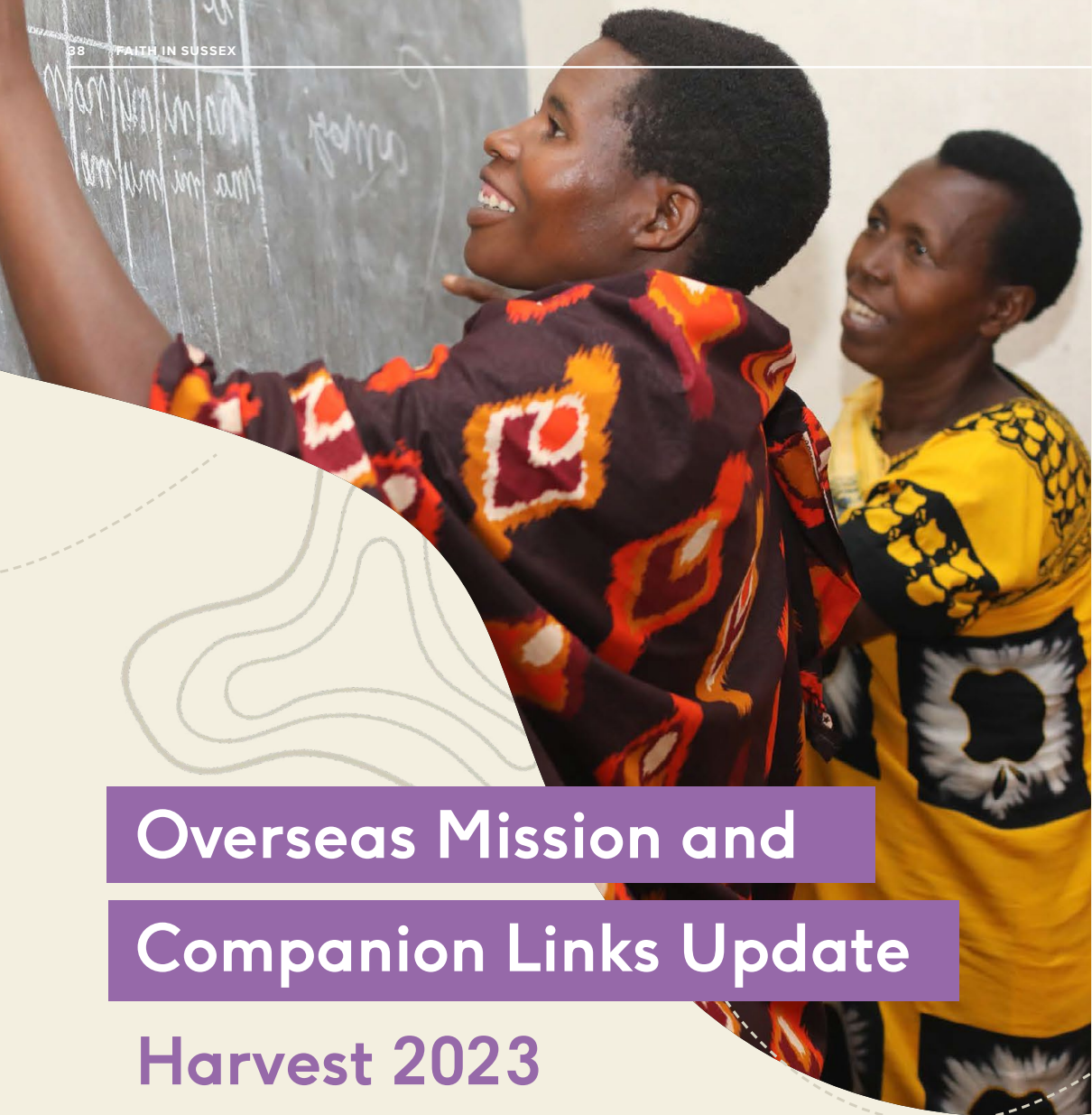
Ros is a member of the parochial church council at St Michael's church in Amberley



Creationtide display



Creationtide waders



## Overseas Mission and Companion Links Update Harvest 2023

In previous years, the Diocese launched an annual Harvest Appeal to encourage parishes and schools to donate to overseas projects and theological training of students in our linked dioceses. Instead, this year, in this Harvest season the Diocesan Overseas Council (DOC) have produced a leaflet, introduced by Bishop Ruth, outlining a mission project you may wish to support or to help fund further theological training.



As well as supporting the work of Mother's Union Bishop Ruth shares a common prayer request from our link dioceses which concerns the great need for education and training for the rising generation of Anglican church leaders - both priests and lay ministers. She said, "It is our privilege to be able to sponsor a number of students in African theological colleges with the scholarships they need for their studies as they pursue their calling to our sister churches. If you would like to give financially to replenish the availability of these scholarships, you will find the details in this leaflet.

We are also honoured to partner with the work of the Mother's Union - and our focus this year is on fundraising for their work to raise literacy levels among women in Sierra Leone."

## How can you get involved?

If you would like to sponsor a student or raise funds for any overseas project then please do get in touch with The Revd James Campbell the Diocesan Companion Links Officer.

Companion Links Officer. You can donate using this link <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/d264e9b1-4223-403c-a54b-7ab3e292e0ce>

Alternatively, if your parish would like to consider supporting a parish or school in one of our link dioceses, please contact the committee via the email below.

[Companion.links@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:Companion.links@chichester.anglican.org)

You can read and download the leaflet [here](#)

## Mixed Ecology Conference 2023

*'Towards a mixed ecology of Church'*

Saturday 25 November 2023 10am–4pm  
Christ Church, Blackfriars Bridge SE1 8NY

Helping parishes to engage with those outside of the church through pioneering and fresh expressions in a post-pandemic world. Everyone welcome.

Book early to ensure your place:  
[swkfxp23.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/swkfxp23)

Cost £15, includes lunch and refreshments (subsidies available)

Email [Rob.Dillingham@Chichester.Anglican.Org](mailto:Rob.Dillingham@Chichester.Anglican.Org)

More information and booking details see [southwark.anglican.org/fxp23](https://southwark.anglican.org/fxp23)

*This day is being run jointly with and hosted by Southwark Diocese. It includes input from practitioners from this and other dioceses & in a range of different contexts. It has been designed for people exploring this to those who are experienced.*

## AN AFTERNOON EXPLORING INTERFAITH MINISTRY

15<sup>th</sup> November Wednesday

Church House, 211, New Church Road, Hove BN3 4ED



Jesus crossed the boundaries of religion and engaged with people of other cultures with love. This shows us that interfaith ministry is not an optional extra but at the very core of Christian life and a life of togetherness in God's world. With three renowned speakers, we will explore ways in which we can engage with people of different faiths and the joy of interfaith dialogue and ministry.

### PROGRAMME FOR THE AFTERNOON

- 1. 45 for 2 pm arrival
- 2 – 2.15 Welcome, Introduction and Opening Prayer (Bishop Will)
- 2.15 - 3.15 – Passionately Christian and Compassionately Interfaith  
(Talk by Prof. Dr Sathianathan Clarke and Canon Dr Peniel Rajkumar)
- 3.15 - 3.30 – Tea / Coffee break
- 3.30 - 4.20 – Christian Ministry in a Multi-Religious World  
(Talk by Siriol Davies)



# Heartfelt thanks from the bishop

More than 800 people from across the diocese joined the Bishop of Chichester during a week of receptions held at the Bishop's Palace.

The Bishop's Marquee Week gave an opportunity for Bishop Martin to say thank you to groups and individuals for their work in parishes, communities and with those on the fringes of society across Sussex.

Marquee receptions were held for deanery lay chair people, deanery secretaries, deanery treasurers, PCC secretaries, PCC treasurers, parish safeguarding officers, refugees and asylum seekers and those who have been

supporting them, mayors and other civic representatives, the NHS and emergency services, representatives of charities, arts and sports organisations, members of the Order of St Richard, the staff and residents of St Mary's Hospital, lay readers, authorised lay ministers, youth and children's workers, honorary assistant bishops, cathedral volunteers and the staff working at the cathedral, Bishop's Palace and Church House.

Entertainment was provided by the Sleepy Lagoon Orchestra from the University of Chichester.

Bishop Martin said: "It has been a great joy to welcome so many people to the palace this week and thank them for what they do in many different ways in our churches and communities across Sussex. Saying 'thank you' is a very simple but important thing to do and it has been my privilege to do that this week. There have been many interesting conversations and links made which we hope to build on as we celebrate almost 950 years of service to the people of Sussex."



MU members and supporters of AFIA welcomed the new veranda

# AWAY FROM IT ALL HOLIDAYS (AFIA)

The AFIA caravans in Winchelsea and Selsey have continued to bless struggling families with the much needed holiday they could not otherwise afford.

This is the primary purpose of the caravans, but we know that it is not only young families that can benefit by getting away from it all. During termtime when families with school aged children are unable to take a holiday, requests to book the caravans can be made by members and friends in return for a donation (£25 per night is suggested) to help cover costs.

Margaret and Harry from Saltdean recently had a break in Selsey which brought back memories of past holidays and gave the opportunity to make new ones.

Margaret writes, "I have fond memories of Selsey as my first holiday after the war in 1946 was in a caravan there. There was no running water, and the loo was at the end of the plot. My brother's job was collecting

water from a tap onsite and mine was shelling peas and peeling potatoes for our meal. We were so excited to be able to walk through fields to the beach and have a swim despite the barbed wire along the coast.

The holiday home of 2023 was very different. It was so well equipped and very comfortable.

Thank you all, we so very much appreciated this welcome break."

The cost of maintaining the caravans is considerable and we are always grateful to members and non-members who support the project in so many ways with prayer, service (preparing the caravans for new arrivals) and financial giving.

A generous legacy from Doris Henley, a member of Brede Branch and a kind donation from a local Masonic Lodge has enabled the caravan in Winchelsea to be fitted with a new veranda adding an extra safety feature for children and more space for dining and relaxing.

**Thank you all,  
we so very much  
appreciated this  
welcome break."**

Doris was passionate about local MU projects, especially AFIA and the veranda is a lovely way to honour Doris's passion and commitment. The Masonic Lodge happened to ask Chris Emson (Bexhill District Trustee) if there were any family focused charities they could help! Chris gave them lots to think about, they especially liked the work of AFIA and have since been very generous donors.

Please continue to pray for those who use the caravans, that by getting "Away From It All" they can enter a place to recharge and where they can know the peace that passes all understanding.

Contact Karen Hill President Mothers union Chichester for further details. 01273-041399

# AUTUMN UPDATE

Family Support Work welcomed two new members of staff in recent months, whose roles are crucial to supporting the recent expansion of the practitioner team last year.

Jane Lyons and Alison Dewdney are the new Community Engagement and Volunteer Co-Ordinators (for West and East Sussex respectively). We asked Jane and Alison to answer a few questions each to find out a bit more about them and what they will be doing at FSW.

**1) Tell us a little bit about your background and what prompted you to join FSW?**

Jane: I am married with two children, Florence and Freddie. My career spans over 40 years working with children and families in various settings from private households to schools.

The prompt to join FSW was from a friend, who sent me the job advert - she said you would be fab at this! Her message to me: "The big man has a plan for you over the next few months; he will place you somewhere you will make an impact. I know he has great plans for you!" And here I am at FSW.

Alison: I taught in primary schools for 27 years, mainly with early years children. I then moved onto being an Adviser

for East Sussex County Council where I supported Nurseries with Special Educational Needs. I am passionate about supporting children and families and feel this job was part of God's plan for me, only spotting the advert the night before it closed!

**2) What have been your first impressions of FSW since joining the team?**

Jane: From my interview to joining the team, everyone has made me feel very welcome and part of a big family. I am very excited to be working alongside Alison who is my equivalent for East Sussex.

Alison: Everyone is super friendly and have given me a warm welcome. There is so much fantastic work going on at FSW and so much to learn. It has been great to meet some of our supporters in the deaneries and attend one of the open gardens. Jane and I will make a great team!

**3) What are your key priorities over the next few months in your role?**

Jane: Recruitment of volunteers to help reduce the workload of our practitioners so that they can support more families in crisis. Building relationships with the members of all our supporting churches, enabling us to strengthen fundraising so

that FSW's important work can continue.

Alison: Getting to know all our Deanery committees and current volunteers. To visit community events and churches to recruit volunteers for all aspects of our work from family support to fundraising.

**4) What can churches do to support you?**

Jane: Raise awareness of the need for more volunteer support to help us continue the work of FSW and reduce waiting times for families in need.

Alison: Ensure their congregations know about FSW and the work we do. Raise awareness of the need for more volunteers to ensure we can continue the vital work. Collect food for our foodbank and, most importantly, pray for our staff and families on the frontline and in the office.

If you'd like to get in touch with Jane or Alison they can be reached by email [jane@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:jane@familysupportwork.org.uk) or [alisond@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:alisond@familysupportwork.org.uk)



The Sussex Charity for Children  
Since 1890



HYMNS WITH REV NEVILLE MANNING

# O GOD, *our help in ages past*

A few years ago a contributor in The Church Times wrote an article headed “The Psalms are dying in the Church of England”. Let’s hope it is not true. The Psalms, after all, are part of the Christian body of Holy Scripture, the hymn book of the people of Israel, and known and loved by our Lord himself. One way in which we often use those Psalms is in hymns which either paraphrase or are inspired by them.

One such hymn is “O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come”, frequently sung at Remembrance Day services and other solemn occasions. Written by the prolific producer of hymns Isaac Watts (1674-1748), it is in part a paraphrase of Psalm 90. The late Canon Frank Colquhoun described it as “one of the finest hymns in the English language”. The original hymn had many more verses than those we usually sing and was first included in a book in which Isaac Watts paraphrased all but 12 of the Psalms.

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## FROM EVERLASTING THOU ART GOD, TO ENDLESS YEARS THE SAME

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The hymn, like the Psalm, contrasts the eternity of God with the fleeting nature of the time-limited life that we live here on earth. The opening two verses (one of which is reprised at the end) affirm God as our help in stormy times: “O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home”. No wonder it is sung on occasions when we remember or face traumatic times. The following two verses affirm the eternity of God, from before even the Creation, “From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same”. Unlike us mortals God is not limited by time. Theologians have sometimes suggested that all time is ever present to God.

The fifth verse has sometimes come in for criticism: “Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all its sons away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.” Some of us know what it is to wake up knowing we have dreamt vividly and yet are unable to remember the content of our dreams. These words in the psalm are surely not meant as a statement of doctrine but as an expression of human feeling, one reason why the Psalms are so valuable as they move beyond praise and lament, enabling us to express both and everything in between. Significantly during the Covid pandemic a number of people came to revalue the psalms of lament.

“O God, our help in ages past” is usually sung to the tune St Anne, composed by William Croft, who was once organist of St Anne’s Church, Soho, hence the title. Among the occasions when the hymn was sung are included a church service on the Titanic in 1912, just before the vessel struck an iceberg and sank. More recently it was sung at the funeral of Winston Churchill.

# A poetic companion

## For The Journey

A poetry pamphlet by Kevin Scully, inaugural poet in residence of the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path.

**THIS collection of 17 poems is the fruit of a year’s residency on the Pilgrim Path which was established five years ago by the Rev Peter Blee.**

The first two poems, Pilgrim and For The Journey, act as preparatory texts which can be read before setting out on the path which takes in seven churches in two Sussex benefices.

The book can be used as a companion to the walk or allow people to travel the terrain from their armchair.

While the poems trace the trip from Berwick, with its astounding Bloomsbury Group paintings, pilgrims can begin by selecting their starting point at Alfriston, Lullington, Wilmington, Arlington, Selmeaton or Alciston.

There are a number of features to see in the churches and at places on the way, such as the Wilmington Long Man, captured in various forms.

Scully spent a year in and about the path, organising events and workshops, and has set out to show the diversity of pilgrimage in the people and places he encounters.

Mark Oakley, author of the Ramsey prize winning book The Splash of Words, writes: “Kevin Scully’s poems work like sandpaper to the soul. Unafraid to embrace the disquiet of both inner and outer landscapes, he nevertheless leads to places of epiphany and radiance. Alerting us to the locality of his residency, he makes the heart local to us too, provoking to wonder at rumours of transcendence.”

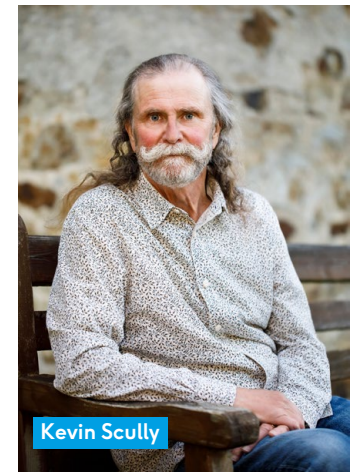
The collection also contains notes on the poems that cast light on some aspects of the pieces.

The book is on sale at Berwick Church or online from Beach Hut Books, click [here](#)

Scully has been succeeded as poet in residence by Hastings-based poet Antony Mair.



**“Kevin Scully’s poems work like sandpaper to the soul”**



Poet on a Pilgrim Path featuring Kevin Scully was featured in the last issue of Faith in Sussex on pages 28-29.



# Christian Bookshops

*Use us or lose us*

**“THANK God you’re still open!”, “wow, what a lovely shop, I never knew you were here”.**

Here at Books Alive in Hove these are two sentiments I hear frequently but because of the second the first may soon change to “Oh no, they’re shut”.

How often do you visit your local Christian bookshop? Do you know where your nearest shop is? Do you have any idea what they stock? Do you think there is any need for a specialist Christian bookshop?

I feel quite strongly that the answer to this latter question is yes – and it is certainly an opinion shared by our customers. We are fortunate in Sussex to have at least seven such shops but some of these have restricted opening hours and a number have closed in recent years.

These shops aim to support and encourage our Christian communities to grow in their faith and help them in

spreading the word of God wherever they find themselves. We obviously do this by selling goods – Christian books, gifts and cards, Bibles, church supplies et.

However, if it’s just a case of buying goods, many of you reading this will be saying “I can do all that online” so what do we offer that you will not find online? The answer could take hours but I will share a few points:

When customers come in to buy a Bible they often don’t know what translation they want and we can advise them about the differences. What does the Bible feel like in my hand, how big is the print, how clear is the print, how well does it lie flat? All these questions require a physical copy. I am sure we all agree that spending time in the word of God is how we develop our relationship with Him and aren’t we going to do that far more if we are comfortable with it?

People often want a card of encouragement for someone going through a difficult time. They want to see it properly to know whether it really suits the occasion.

Customers sometimes spend a great deal of time picking out a gift. They want it to be just right and have often already looked online but decided they need to see it, feel it. Most Christian gifts are not available elsewhere on the high street and yet are so beneficial in encouraging and inspiring us, from a little rubber with a “Jesus loves you” message to a large wall plaque with a Bible verse.

People often want to just browse through the books. They don’t want some anonymous person giving them a review, they want to sample it. As they get to know us they may ask us for advice, which we happily give when we can.

## “Thank God you’re still open!”

On a number of occasions I have had customers ask for prayer and we at Books Alive have a book to record prayer requests where appropriate so that any of our volunteers can add their prayers.

Hopefully I have made a convincing case and most of you probably agreed with me anyway but I also need to make it clear that it really is a case of use us or lose us. Customers who come in and browse but then go and make their purchases online, perhaps because it may be cheaper, must understand that the browsing opportunity depends on us making enough money to continue in business.

So how can you help? Check out your local Christian bookshop and make sure your church regularly reminds its members of the shop’s existence. If it’s a long way away ring them and see what postal services they offer (still better than online because you can still speak to a person) or maybe, like Books Alive, they will even bring a selection of goods to a pop-up bookstall after the service on a Sunday morning. Do be aware too that when churches come to us for large orders we almost always manage to match or even improve on online prices so we can save you money too.

To help you find us, here is a list of the shops in our diocese.

### BE THE WORD (ASHBURNHAM)

Ashburnham Place, Battle, TN33 9NF, 01424 894201  
Tuesday to Saturday 11am-4pm and Sunday 11am-3pm  
<https://www.ashburnham.org.uk/resource/bookshop/>  
salesandshop@ashburnham.org.uk.

### BEXHILL EVANGELICAL BOOK CENTRE

Bexhill Indoor Market, 28 Western Road, Bexhill,  
TN40 1DY, 01424 722083  
Monday to Saturday 10am-1pm

### BOOKS ALIVE

86 Elm Drive, Hove, BN3 7JL, 01273 738818  
Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5pm  
[www.booksalive.co.uk](http://www.booksalive.co.uk)  
info@booksalive.co.uk

### CHAPEL GIFTS AND BOOKS

64 Chapel Road, Worthing, BN11 1BN, 01903 213133  
Monday to Saturday 9.30am-1pm  
Barbara.burling@worthingtab.org.uk

### CROWHURST (HEALING CENTRE)

The Old Rectory, Forewood Lane, Crowhurst, Battle TN33 9AD,  
01424 830204, shop in the Howard’s Well cafe,  
open Monday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm  
<https://www.crowhursthealing.org.uk/>

### LIVING WORD

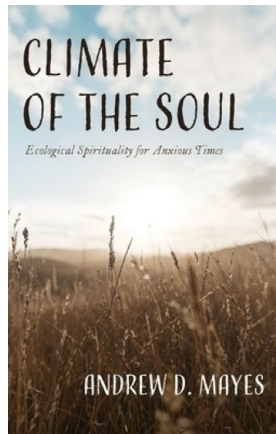
30 Crescent Road, Bognor, PO21 1QG, 01243 828223  
Monday to Saturday (not Wednesdays) 9.30am-4.30pm  
<https://www.livingwordbooks.co.uk/welcome.htm>  
livingword@uwclub.net

### ST OLAV’S

St Olave’s Church, North Street,  
Chichester, PO19 1LQ, 01243 782790,  
Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5pm  
<https://www.stolavchristianbookshop.uk/>  
mail@stolavchristianbookshop.uk

# BOOKS AND REVIEWS

BY REVD JOHN TWISLETON

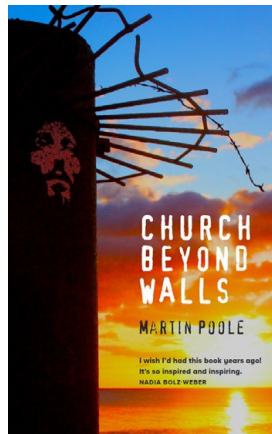


## CLIMATE OF THE SOUL - ECOLOGICAL SPIRITUALITY FOR ANXIOUS TIMES

Andrew D Mayes

Former diocesan spirituality adviser Canon Andrew Mayes, who has worked in the Holy Land, draws us into marrying our experience with what the Bible says and how saints through the ages have interpreted its relevance here and now in regard to climate change. I was drawn in his new book to recurrent references to Elijah whose call in 1 Kings 19, associated with drought and the anticipation of rain, is seen as a pointer to Christ and Christian discipleship. “Elijah’s waiting in the silence leads to speech and action. Prayer that listens to God with attentiveness can thus become transformative, changing and reshaping our priorities and plans”. Climate Of The Soul is a good read and outward looking in its encouragement of prayer and action addressing the climate crisis.

Resource Publications 2022  
£15.75 ISBN-13 978-1666737134 158pp

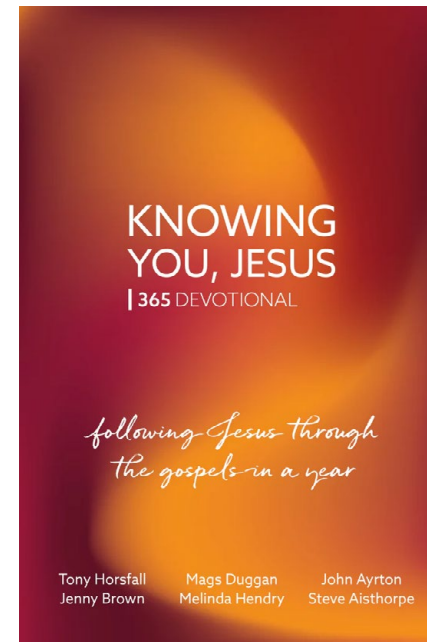


## CHURCH BEYOND WALLS- CREATIVE CHURCH IN PUBLIC SPACES

By Martin Poole

Brighton-based priest Martin Poole is founder of Beyond Church with a vision for helping introduce people to God in public spaces through art. When I was diocesan mission and renewal adviser I recall celebrating his 2009 initiative making Hove beach huts into an advent calendar bringing prayer on to the promenade. Church Beyond Walls is from an evangelistic stable seeking to “do Go” away from church buildings through art, symbolic action and theatre to engage with those uninterested in religion and faith. This timely book is a stimulant for churches to build partnerships within their communities drawing in artists like “spiritual shop window trails” and walking meditations to celebrate church festivals in secular space. I liked the story of the X Factor cross box set up to receive Lenten biddings and how even its vandalism led to business with God.

Canterbury Press 2023 £13.99 ISBN 978-1-78622-482-8 198pp



## KNOWING YOU, JESUS

Published by Bible Reading Fellowship,  
due in late September

This daily devotional book has an emphasis on spiritual formation. The 365 readings have been arranged to follow through the life of Christ chronologically drawing on all four gospels.

Jenny Brown, a reader at Holy Trinity Hurstpierpoint is one of six contributing authors. She said: “The inspiration for this approach is a 12th century prayer from Richard of Chichester (1197–1253), a bishop well known for his godliness and care of the poor. He expressed his own longing for spiritual growth like this ‘Our invitation is for you to make this prayer your own, asking God that as you read and pray you may come to understand Jesus more fully (see), be attached to him more deeply (love) and apply his teaching to your life more completely (follow).”

“The potential for a parish church to use the book as a way to engage with Jesus through the Bible together for a year. House groups or, potentially, the whole church, could decide to take the journey with Jesus together, discussing as they go.”

The Bishop of Horsham, Ruth Bushyager, has commended the book, saying: “This wonderful collection of daily devotions will help you know, love and follow Jesus as you journey through his life in Scripture and with prayer. The reflections here will enrich anyone seeking intimacy with God and would work wonderfully for a home group or a whole church community. Enter in and be blessed.”

The other contributing authors are Tony Horsfall, Mags Duggan, John Ayrton, Melinda Hendry, Steve Aisthorpe.

Peace Doves by Peter Walker  
Sculptor at Rochester Cathedral.

## Cathedral News

### CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL TO HOST MAJOR IMMERSIVE ART INSTALLATION PEACE DOVES

Chichester Cathedral will be hosting artist Peter Walker's immersive art installation, Peace Doves, this autumn (30th September - 14th October & 21st October - 12th November) with several special evening viewings & events.

Peace Doves is made up of fifteen thousand individually handmade paper doves which are suspended above the Cathedral's historic Nave. Each dove contains a message of peace, love, and hope, written by local community groups, schools and members of the public.



The new Chichester Workshop for Liturgical Art. The studio was blessed by the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton during an event in September with Bishop Martin. Find out more about the workshop here: [www.chichesterworkshop.org](http://www.chichesterworkshop.org) (photo courtesy of Russell Sach)

### MEETING THE NEWEST LAY MEMBERS OF CHAPTER.

Anita Rolls and Howard Castle-Smith were appointed as Lay Members of Chapter earlier this year.

Chapter is the body of both clergy and lay people that determine the policy for administering the Cathedral. We asked them to introduce themselves and say why they were interested in the role.

Anita has always had a connection to the Chichester area and moved down from London with her husband during lockdown. She said: "I've worked in law, finance, marketing, and people development, before setting up my own business in 2014 which I am still operating.

"We were worshipping at the cathedral, and I was very keen to get involved in some way. I really felt I wanted to give back to the local community, so when the opportunity came up to contribute in a more formal way as a Chapter Member, I accepted the offer.

"As a lay chapter member, I am currently serving on the nominations and risk committee and supporting diversity & inclusion initiatives where I can. I think it's a very exciting time for Chichester Cathedral with the 2025 anniversary coming up and the new vision and am excited to be part of the team that will be making this happen."

Howard Castle-Smith was Hon. Secretary of the Chichester Cathedral Friends, serving the

community for five years; a role that he stepped down from in June 2023.

He said: "I view the Cathedral as my spiritual home and over the years the place, and the people who worship there, have come to mean a great deal to me.

"I am pleased to have joined the Chapter and to be able to contribute to the Mission of the Cathedral. Towards this, I would hope to be able to use my knowledge of the Cathedral afforded me from my time as Secretary of the Cathedral Friends, together with the experience I gained from working in the energy business sector for over thirty years.

"Currently, I am serving as Chair of the Cathedral's Health & Safety and the Net Zero Committees. I am also involved in the development of an Action Plan that will help us deliver the Cathedral's vision.



Howard and Anita join the Cathedral community as it continues to discern its new vision ahead of its 950th anniversary in 2025

### CATHEDRAL COUNCIL DISBANDS AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE.

The Cathedral is currently transitioning from the 1999 Cathedrals Measure to the new 2021 Measure. As part of this change the Chapter are required, with the permission of the Bishop of Chichester and the Cathedral Council, to make amendments to the Constitution and Statutes, and to register with the Charity Commission.

In line with this transition, the Cathedral Council will be replaced by a Community Committee, made up of representatives drawn from a wide range of stakeholders from across the communities that the Cathedral serves.

Interim Dean of Chichester, The Reverend Canon Simon Holland, said:

"We are grateful to the current and past members of the Cathedral Council for their contribution to the life of the Cathedral over the past two decades, and especially to the outgoing Chair, Harry Goring. This final meeting of the Council represented an important step on the journey of the Cathedral fully registering as a charity. It is hoped that this process will be completed by December 2023."

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

# Service for Black History Month

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**7th October 2023 (11.00am)**

Join Chichester Cathedral for a special service to mark Black History Month on 7th October 2023, with guest preacher Guy Hewitt, the Church of England's first Racial Justice Director.



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