

FAITH IN SUSSEX

The diocesan publication reaching church communities across Sussex



PASSION PLAY COMES TO LEWES

SHARING THE STORY OF CHRIST'S PASSION IN SUSSEX / 20

DIOCESAN
STRATEGY

/ 10-11

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are now by Bishop Martin

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WITH CHILDREN

/ 14-15

Connecting through the
whole family by Dr Irene Smale

COULD YOUR
CHURCH BE A
HEALTHY CHURCH?

/ 27

by Deirdre Schnaar



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MUCH TO CELEBRATE

There is much to celebrate in this February issue of Faith in Sussex. To begin we hear from Bishop Martin about the next phase of the diocesan strategy and vision. 'Aiming to be in practice what we are by the grace of God - a church that is one, holy, catholic and apostolic.' You can read all about it on pages 10-11.

As we move towards Lent it is encouraging to report a good number of parishes took part in the diocesan Lent course last year. Although we have not planned a new lent course for this year we hope you will engage with the Saying Yes to Life - Care for God's Creation, which you can read about on page 30, or take up one of the excellent 'Year of' diocesan courses from the past four years. All the resources for these can be found on the diocesan website. WWW.chichester.anglican.org/lent

You can read about the annual award for lay people on page 16-17. The Order of St Richard, now in its second year, is an initiative from Bishop Martin to reward those whose ministry should be recognised and celebrated. We are also excited to share with you the date for our vocational lay conference at Sussex University on March 14. Empowering Lay Ministry. Registration is now open and details can be found on the diocesan website.

There are articles on fundraising, great initiatives from our parishes, families and children's work, information on legacies and how to make a difference in our communities.

I hope you enjoy all the news and stories in this issue as it encourages us to know, love, follow Jesus.

Rob Dillingham

Deputy Director, Apostolic Life

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Reader Selection

The annual Reader selection conference will take place this year on 13th June 2020. Any candidates for Reader selection will need to be in the discernment process by 10th April 2020 and must have completed their application by 4th May, so please be in touch with Jayne Prestwood as soon as possible if you wish to put forward a candidate for Reader ministry in 2020.

Lay Ministry Conference 2020

Empowering Lay Ministry

On 14th March 2020 we will be holding a day conference for those in Reader and ALM ministry at the University of Sussex.

Full details of the conference and sign up details can be obtained from Sam Grennan. Please email Sam.grennan@chichester.anglican.org Or visit the diocesan website events page. www.chichester.anglican.org/events

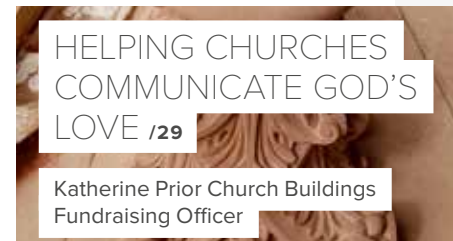
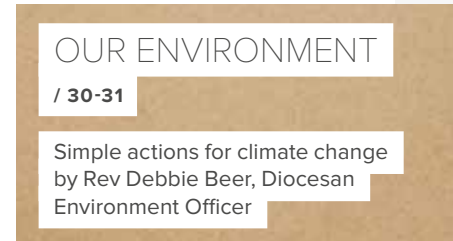
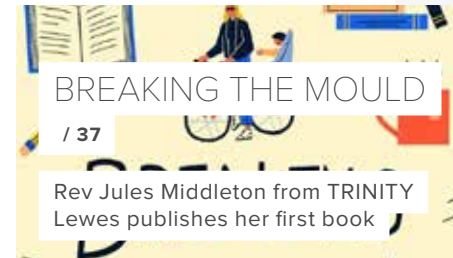


SPEAKERS INCLUDE
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 BEN AND GLORIA KWASHI
 SHARON JAMES
 MARK GREENE
 DUNCAN FORBES
 WILLIAM TAYLOR

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To subscribe to Faith in Sussex magazine, please contact the communications department: communications@chichester.anglican.org

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NEWS

ACROSS OUR DIOCESE

CLERGY CRICKET IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

Chichester Diocesan Cricket Club welcomes women and men, ordained and other church workers, and friends from other denominations, and everyone involved agrees it is good for the soul. Chichester now teams up with Winchester to form the affectionately named "Winchichester Cricket Club" and play against other diocese in the highly competitive Church Times Cup.

The standard is not too high but it is always fun and provides some much needed exercise and friendships outside the parish for all.

Games are always on Mondays in May and June. Everyone is welcome, if you would like to play please do get in touch with Jane Inglis <jane@inglis3.org> or Will Kemp <will@thepointchurch.co.uk> or Jonathan Swindells <jonathanswindellsrector@gmail.com>

CURSILLO IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER

A three day discipleship course to be held at Wychcroft Retreat Centre, Redhill, Surrey on 23rd - 26th April 2020. Find out if a Cursillo weekend is for you? To find out more plus all the new dates in the coming year, please visit the website <http://chichestercursillo.co.uk/>

FREE EVENT TO FIND OUT ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Local mental health organisation, Sussex Oakleaf, is celebrating its 25th anniversary and has teamed up with Mid Sussex District Council, Together in Sussex, Avtrade and Clarion Futures for a free, all day public event on 6 February 2020 at Clair Hall, Haywards Heath.

The event is aimed at anyone who is worried about their mental health or just wants to find out what support is available to them, their friends or their family.

The venue will be open to the public from 10.30am until 7pm with a range of activities taking place throughout the day.

FISHBOURNE LOVES BOOKS!

Fishbourne's 5th Literary Festival takes place on Saturday 28th March and Sunday 29th March. Eleven authors will be talking at this exciting event over the whole weekend including Nicci French, Phil Hewitt, Paul Kerensa, Deborah Moggach and Kate Mosse. All welcome

More information about the festival can be obtained on www.fishbournelovesbooks.com Authors' talks can be booked online. Alternatively call 07718 512860.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL WELCOMES NEW CANONS

Bishop Martin installed six new Honorary Canons in two separate services at Chichester Cathedral in recognition of the contribution that they make to the apostolic life of the diocese.

The Revd Judith Egar will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Eartham. It is an affirmation of her ministry as Rural Dean, extending the supportive role she has exercised for many years in Lewes. It also to recognise her legal work for the church, both nationally and locally.

Judith is assistant Curate at Lewes St Anne and St Michael and St Thomas at Cliffe with All Saints (Benefice) She is the Rural Dean for Lewes and Seaford.

The Revd David Gillard will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Mardon. It is an affirmation of the patience and imagination with which he has sustained the mission of St Elizabeth's bearing with uncertainty and delay. It is also recognition of the skill which he has exercised as Rural Dean.

David is the vicar of St Elisabeth's Eastbourne and Rural Dean of Eastbourne.

The Revd David Twinley will take the Stall of the Prebendary of Iphorne. It is an affirmation of his faithful and fruitful ministry as a parish priest and his contribution to the wider life of the Diocese both as a Rural Dean and during the vacancy in the Archdeaconry.

David is vicar of St Nicholas Arundel St Leonard's South Stoke. He was Rural Dean of Petworth until 2016.

The Revd Mark Standen to take the Stall of the Prebendary of Fittleworth. It is an affirmation of many years of fruitful ministry in Angmering, his diligent ministry as Rural Dean and the generosity with which he served during the vacancy in the Chichester Archdeaconry.

Mark is vicar of St Margaret's Angmering and Rural Dean of Arundel and Bognor

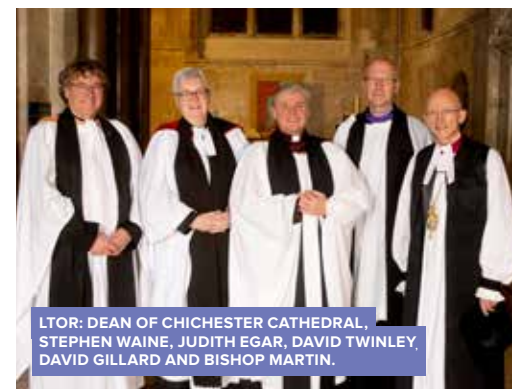
The Revd Nigel Mason to take the Stall of the Prebendary of Thorney. It is an affirmation of years of faithful parochial ministry in Rotherfield. In particular, this is recognition that the parishes that are some distance from the Cathedral in Chichester are no less part of the life of this Diocese and household of faith.

Nigel is the vicar of Rotherfield with Mark Cross in East Sussex.

The Revd Kathryn Windslow to take the Stall of the Prebendary of Seaford. It is an affirmation of her contribution to the wider life of the Diocese, especially as Rural Dean. It is also a way of affirming the importance and the quality of her ministry in Storrington.

Kathryn is vicar of St Mary, Storrington and Rural Dean of Storrington.

Revd Dr Keir Shreeves was also licensed into his role as Diocesan Director of Ordinands.



LTOR: DEAN OF CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, STEPHEN WAINE, JUDITH EGAR, DAVID TWINLEY, DAVID GILLARD AND BISHOP MARTIN.



LTOR: KEIR SHREEVES, MARK STANDEN, KATHERINE WINDSLOW, BISHOP MARTIN, NIGEL MASON AND THE DEAN OF CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL, STEPHEN WAINE.

NEWS

DIOCESAN HEALING CONFERENCE

Each year since 2000 the Diocese of Chichester has resourced a high-profile day devoted to the Ministry of Healing. Around 200 people attend each year making this event a regular date in the diary.

The conference is on 7 March and is open to anyone, no matter what their personal beliefs may be, so please feel free to invite those who may be outside of your personal church circles. God is there in His power to bless and restore. It's held at the Victoria Baptist Church in Eldon Road, with very good access, facilities and parking. There is a charge of £10.00 for the day which includes tea, coffee but not lunch.

Book on Eventbrite <https://cutt.ly/RrxUYvP> or postal booking is also an option.

NEW INTERIM ROLE FOR MU PRESIDENT



At the Mothers' Union Provincial Conference in November 2019 Kathryn Anderson, the current Diocesan President of Chichester MU, was voted in to be Caretaker Provincial President for Canterbury

Province from January 1st 2020 while the new Provincial President, Susan Baker, is on sick leave. Meanwhile Michele White is Acting Diocesan President for Chichester Diocese. (michelewhite601@hotmail.co.uk).

2020 ORDINATION DATES

The Ordination of Priests will take place this year on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July.

Four venues will be hosting the ordinations:

St Bartholomew, Brighton on 4 July at 2.30pm

St Mary's, Horsham on 4 July at 2.30pm

St John Meads, Eastbourne on 5 July at 2.30pm

St Pancras, Chichester on 5 July at 6.00pm

The Ordination of Deacons will take place on Saturday 27 June at 3.00pm in the Cathedral.

NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED



Tim Redding has been appointed as the new Diocesan Finance Director.

After 16 years in accountancy practice, Tim has spent the last 17 years working in a Diocesan Curial office for a

Roman Catholic diocese. He brings with him the knowledge and experience gained over those years to the team at Church House and the wider Diocesan Household of Faith.

Tim takes over from Catherine Dawkins at the end of February.

The Diocesan Secretary Gabrielle Higgins said: "Catherine will be sorely missed, and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for the remarkable job she has done overseeing all financial aspects of the diocesan accounts. But we look forward to welcoming Tim, and teaching him the ways of the Church of England!"

BISHOP RICHARD'S LEAVING SERVICE



After 25 years of ministry, clergy, laity and friends from across the diocese came together to say goodbye to Bishop Richard as he moves into his new role as the Diocesan Bishop of Hereford.

During the service held at All Saints Eastbourne, Bishop Martin gave a dedication and blessing to Richard and his wife Deborah and presented them with a bouquet of flowers and a gift from the diocese. A sumptuous cream tea followed where Mothers' Union Chichester President, Kathryn Anderson, presented Bishop Richard and Deborah with a gift for all their unstinting support of Mothers' Union work.

We wish Richard and Deborah the very best of health and all God's blessings for their future ministry

BISHOP ATTENDS SCHOOL'S 50TH CELEBRATIONS



The 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone at St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School, in Eastern Avenue, was marked at a special assembly.

Bishop Martin was joined by Father James Grant from St Nicolas' Church and the Rev Canon Ann Waizeneker from St Mary's Church for the occasion.

Other invited guests included former pupils from the school who were there when the new building opened in 1971.

PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

Dates: 13th - 18th July. People across Sussex are encouraged to take part in the South Down Awakening - 5 days of prayer walking, starting simultaneously with two groups, one in Eastbourne and the other in Winchester, to walk and pray over the South Downs. Each day we will gather and prayer walk two sections of around 6 to 10 miles along the Downs pausing at key points to pray.

The invitations is for all to join, whether as individuals, small groups or entire churches, to sign up. This can be for one particular section (maybe your local area), all 5 days or anything in between! The walk will start simultaneously from Winchester and Eastbourne, joining together on Chanctonbury. Register www.southdownsawakening.com



DIOCESAN STRATEGY

Where we are now

By the Bishop of Chichester

OVER the last five years, we as a diocese have been following a strategy which flowed out of the goals set nearly a decade ago by the Church of England. They were: facilitating church growth, numerical and spiritual; re-imagining ministry; and contributing to the common good.

The next phase builds on this work as we aim to be in practice what we are by the grace of God - a church that is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. We aim to be more open, more converted to Jesus Christ, more generous and more engaged.

Targets have been set for the next five years. We will shortly be sending out a survey which aims to capture where we are as a diocese on the more measurable targets, with a view to repeating it part way

through the five-year period to see where things are going well and where more resourcing and encouragement is needed, then repeating it at the end.

During May and June, I plan to meet the clergy of each archdeaconry to set out my vision for the next five years and in particular to look at how it can be implemented. The dates have been communicated to the clergy.

DEANERY PLANS

Like many others, the Diocese of Chichester is facing some tough financial challenges. Costs are increasing at a faster rate than income. We also have a significant and very encouraging increase in the number of candidates for ordained ministry and the cost of training them. Meanwhile, we need to sustain

our commitments to provision of adequate clergy housing and the excellence of education in our Church schools as the period of their additional funding from the Pastoral Fund comes to an end.

An important part of our planning for the next five years focuses on how we move in a managed and orderly way to a financially sustainable future with balanced budgets.

In response to this, work is well advanced on a cautious and effective reduction in expenditure. Our costs in every part of diocesan life are being carefully examined. This includes operations based in Church House Hove, and the cost of sustaining priests in parishes and chaplaincies and those who support support them. Every level of the hierarchy is being examined.

The second part of our response lies in increasing income. It has been very encouraging to hear such positive responses to the video shown at the autumn deanery meetings, explaining how we all share in the Diocesan household of faith, with an increased sense of our common life together where we each support each other financially and in other ways. Parish share pledges received so far indicate a firm commitment to this, and we remain extremely grateful for the generosity of all who give.

Finally, we will be working closely with deaneries in the review and development of your deanery plan. This work will be supported by a partnership with the bishop and the archdeacon, and with the support of analysis and information from staff at Church House. We are committed to supporting you in forming a deanery plan as the guide to a sustainable future, identifying the appropriate deployment of clergy in the deanery, how to cover the costs of that deployment, and what contribution you can realistically and generously make to the overall costs of our diocese.

All this offers an exciting opportunity to reflect on and plan for our life together, helping the people of Sussex to know, love and follow Jesus.

BUILDING ON PREVIOUS GOALS

Canon Rebecca Swyer is the diocesan director of Apostolic Life, based in Church House. She describes the strategy as a tool to help us set priorities and goals for mission rather than being an end in itself.

She said: "We're not being asked to set aside the goals identified in the first stage but to build on them. Most parishes pledged 'one thing' related to the three strategic goals they were going to initiate or do more effectively and in many parishes, it may be that the same 'one thing' will need to be developed further or consolidated.

"The identified needs of mission must be the driving factor for how we use and deploy our financial and practical resources, including the sort of lay and ordained ministries we call out and how we train them. The themed years, introduction of Living Faith and the Setting God's People Free initiative have made good progress in affirming baptismal calling and the development of lay discipleship.

"We have begun to 're-imagine' ministry in a way that is appropriate for this diocese at this time. We continue to license lay people to a preaching and teaching ministry as Readers and have introduced several authorised lay ministry (ALM) routes. We envisage further growth

in these, in response to the needs of parishes. This will sit alongside a review of self-supporting ordained ministry in the diocese, including how we ensure those parishes in more rural areas receive effective priestly ministry."

"We have begun to 're-imagine' ministry in a way that is appropriate for this diocese at this time.

Under each of the "four mores" are targets and initiatives or areas parishes are encouraged to engage with. The department for Apostolic Life has a particular role in supporting clergy and parishes in this work of ministry and mission. We will be producing or recommending a range of resources, including the introduction of an online virtual learning environment. Members of the team are available for individual consultancy, to speak to deanery synods or chapters and to lead PCC away days. The new booklet What Does Church House Do for Your Parish? gives details about the support Apostolic Life and other Church house staff can give and is available at <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/what-does-church-house-hove-do-for-your-parish/>



Fifty-eight people from across Sussex were commissioned as lay ministers, by the Bishop of Chichester Dr Martin Warner, at a special service in Chichester Cathedral on Saturday 11 January, the second year the event has been held.

The individuals, from Anglican churches in the Diocese of Chichester, will now form the largest group ever to be recognised for the completion of their studies - the culmination of skills-based training for Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM).

Authorised Lay Ministers share in the public ministry of the local church, as they serve their local parishes.

The Revd Jayne Prestwood, Officer for Lay Vocation and Ministry, runs the lay ministry training programme.

She said: "It is wonderful to mark the start of the Year by commissioning the Authorised Lay Ministers. This is our biggest group to date. Last year was our Year of Vocation and I am sure that this has had a big influence on the increase of numbers for this cohort.

"Authorised Lay Ministry is now recognised across the Church of England as a vibrant and growing expression of lay ministry. I am delighted that we will be expanding our ALM training programme further to provide flexible and affordable skills-based training in a variety of different ministries."

We offer our prayers for all those commissioned and the parishes in which they serve. Those commissioned were:

ALM Candidates January 2020 can be found on the diocesan website. www.chichester.anglican.org/news

MANDY MULFORD

Parish of St Elisabeth in Eastbourne.



PICTURED IS MANDY MULFORD (LEFT) WITH JUDE MURRAY

"It was great to be at the cathedral, to meet the other ALM's. It was a wonderful celebration of how the church is encouraging and using lay ministers to further God's kingdom.

"We are a community centered church in Eastbourne's Old Town and our focus is very much about reaching out to people with an ethos of radical hospitality, something we believe is central to a Christian faith.

"Our doors are metaphorically very wide at St E's and using collaborative lay ministry in that context, where people become members of the church though foodbank and outreach projects works particularly well.

"I would encourage anyone who is discerning where God may be calling them to serve to sign up for the Living Faith course and then, in turn, if relevant to go for Authorised Lay Ministry. I'm glad I did, and I am looking forward to putting in practice the skills I have learnt in my new role at St Elisabeth's."

PHILIP MORRIS

Parish of St. John's Crowborough



"For the past six years I have been leading children's work mainly focused around Sunday School and children's involvement in some all age services.

"I found the Living Faith programme helped me focus more on how I could serve our church better and to begin to discern what God wanted me to do now I had given up full time employment.

"Although early days there has been many encouraging signs that families are becoming regular members of our church and that they value some of the initiatives we have been introducing. The Families Ministry elective within the ALM programme was both timely and very helpful in helping me take a leading role in developing our family support around this emerging congregation

"The ALM programme has been a great strength in helping us as a church to develop ideas and to make use of the good practice that is happening around the diocese. Our hope and prayer is that God will richly bless the families at St. John's and that soon we can see the small shoots of personal and spiritual growth as well as our whole church family coming together to be a stronger witness to God's love and presence in our local area."

DAVID WHITEHEAD

Parish of Thakeham and Wakinghurst



"Studying to become an ALM has been enormous fun. I've really enjoyed the course and

met many great people. In some ways, my Alpha course, the Living Faith course, and this ALM course represent a logical progression, which has really helped me to understand more about my faith, and to develop a passion to share the Good News.

"My ALM course was on "preaching". The teaching has been great. We've been taught, challenged and stimulated, and always encouraged to think for ourselves. We learned about well-recognised patterns of preaching but we were always encouraged to develop our own style.

"I'm proud to have this qualification and am looking forward to being able to help serve our parish. I've "got the bug" and hope to continue my studies. The course is definitely to be recommended"

LOUISE CLARK

Parish of St Peter's Church Henfield

Louise studied for the Family Elective part of the ALM programme. "I think the real value of the ALM training is that it gave us the opportunity to stop, share and reflect on voluntary work we have been doing often on a weekly basis for a long period of time."

Church

(but not as you know it)

Rev Dr Irene Smale explains why we will see more children's work in the Diocese of Chichester

THE importance of church-based children's work has, for some years now, been taken very seriously, not only by children's and family work leaders but by clergy and laity, theologians and theological training colleges and senior members of the Anglican Church.

In 2016, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "It is still the case that the majority of those who profess faith do so before the age of 21. Imagine seeing hundreds of thousands of young people thriving as disciples, as whole lives are lived towards him. God has the eyes of his heart on every young person, and so should we. This is the task of the whole church. We are all called to be witnesses to Jesus Christ."

A decade ago, a national report by the Church of England entitled *Going For Growth* set out a vision for the Christian nurture of children and young people. It challenged churches to:

- Work towards every child and young person having a life-enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ
- Recognise and welcome the capacity of children and young people to transform the Church and the world
- Provide support and development for all those working with children and young people.

Since then the focus on the importance of upgrading children's work has been highlighted significantly, not only through the production of contemporary practical resources but academic publications throwing new light on subjects such as *A Theology Of Childhood* and *Childhood Spirituality*.

Children's work leaders applying for salaried church-based employment are now expected to hold a professional qualification at degree level. Academic training and resources not only give a theological and Biblical underpinning for children's work but enthusiastically encourage the spiritual

nurture of children and also the importance of mission in reaching out to children growing up in today's often frightening and confusing society and culture.

The Diocese of Chichester has sought to support those who work with children and families through various training initiatives. One successful area of mission is Messy Church. Although the title is sometimes off-putting (who wants their church to look messy) the method can be adapted to fit another title. For example, one of our parish churches calls the event *Tea @ 3*. Families gather in the church building at 3pm on a Sunday and share tea after a 30-minute devotional time which includes a talk on a Bible story, a hymn or song and a multi-sensory prayer activity.

Messy Church was initiated by Lucy Moore, who works for Bible Reading Fellowship. She is responsible for developing the work nationally and internationally, writing, speaking, reflecting and developing its projects.

She said: "We were very concerned about the lack of

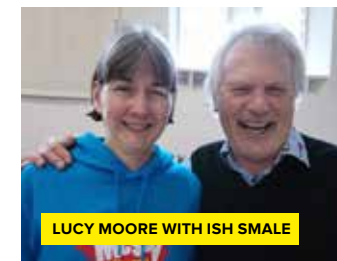
children in our church. We wanted to reach them but we soon realised the best way was to reach them through the whole family."

The title was developed from the idea that life is "messy" and often our lives are "messed up" sometimes through no fault of our own. Messy Church is a mission tool which aims to engage with ordinary people who would never normally cross the threshold of a church but who might identify with the messiness of life. It is used by churches to respond to people's pastoral and practical needs by showing

them the love of Jesus. It offers the opportunity for families to worship, play and eat together, which is not always easy.

At the beginning of January we hosted a Mega Messy Church at St Paul's in Chichester, which offered its building and children's team to host. Our theme was Epiphany, beginning a new year on a new journey with God. More than 140 people attended and it was a great success.

Lucy Moore led teaching sessions for 40 children's leaders and clergy. There are now some 500,000 people attending a Messy



LUCY MOORE WITH ISH SMALE

Church, which has become worldwide. Other initiatives have developed, for example, a Vintage Messy which offers genteel worship, crafts and homemade sandwiches and cakes for more mature people in care homes or their church.



Irene Smale contributed a chapter on "The Pastoral Implications of Messy Church" in the latest Messy Church book edited by Ian Paul, *Being Messy Being Church*.

Rev Smale is the Chichester diocesan children's and family work adviser, chaplain to the Prebendal School, cathedral deacon and lecturer in practical theology.

She has served children and young people inside and outside a Church context for 47 years. She has trained and managed teams of children's leaders and coordinated children's work programmes for major Christian festivals here and overseas.

Her research on children's spirituality led her to publish a study on children and religion in society from the ancient world to Jesus Christ. She has published a book on multisensory ideas for children's prayer and worship. Her first degree in theology and history led to her dissertation on the origins of the Sunday School movement. Her MA research resulted in a qualitative study, *Missing Children: A Case Study In The Theology And Practice Of Parish Church Children's Ministry*. Her doctoral thesis, *The Child In The Midst - Theological Themes And Ideas In Children's Evangelical Literature c1780-1900*, studied 70 authors who wrote both fiction and non-fiction texts and taught the Christian faith and theology to children through their publications.

As adviser for children's and family work, Rev Smale has focused on supporting children's leaders and clergy in mission and best practice. Her aim is to establish networks of hubs across the diocese to support leaders as part of a strategic development plan for children's and family work 2020-25.

For children's leaders continuing professional development, training, individual or group consultations, support with resources, hosting workshops and introductory sessions to Messy Church, Godly Play, all-age worship, theology of childhood, families and faith, toddler groups and much more, email irene.smale@chichester.anglican.org.



RECOGNISING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

2019 saw the launch of the Order of St Richards where each year lay people from our churches across the diocese are recognised for the exceptional contribution to their parish, the local community or the Diocese. They were presented with a specially engraved medal and lapel badge by Bishop Martin at an awards ceremony which took place at Chichester Cathedral in November.

We heard from some of the recipients of this special award in an earlier publication of Faith in Sussex and we have since spoken to others. They shared their thoughts with us about receiving the prestigious award.

The closing date for nominations is 31 May 2020 and the award ceremony will take place on 10 October 2020 at 3.00pm in the Cathedral.

AWARD WINNER: SUSAN AYRES

Nominated for her loyal service in a range of voluntary positions, her love and care for her church, her warm welcome and her quiet, selfless dedication.

Job and Parish: Churchwarden at St Mary Magdalene, Bolney

"Most of my church life has been spent at St Mary Magdalene – it just grew from Sunday School through multiple tasks to being elected churchwarden!"

"I was very surprised and honoured to receive the award and am truly grateful to those in my home parish who felt my name should go forward. It was a very enjoyable and moving service in the cathedral."

AWARD WINNER: PATRICIA BAILEY



Nominated for her unstinting and generous youth and pastoral work as leader of Dancing for Fun & Fitness and Knit & Natter, and creator of the hugely popular interactive nativity service.

Job and Parish: Deanery Synod member St Mary, Newick

"It was a perfect opportunity not only to celebrate all the work done by so many church volunteers but also a chance to network and to exchange experiences, some moving and many very uplifting. Although there was time for refreshment and a chance to tour the Cathedral, the day seemed to

be over all too quickly. It has left in me the very definite belief that I have chosen the right path in doing God's work supporting our parishioners."

AWARD WINNER JILL AUSTIN

Nominated for her unstinting and long service to the PCC and the whole church community – a model of professionalism, kindness and patience.

Job and Parish: PCC Secretary at KINGSTON BUCI, St Julian's,

"It was very unfortunate that I was unable to attend the special service at Chichester Cathedral to receive the Order of St. Richard from the Bishop. I was completely overwhelmed when hearing about this. "Fr. James arranged for Archdeacon Martin to come to St. Julian's Church to preside at our regular service of Holy Communion and make the award to me in person. It was very special with over 40 friends attending, followed by some delicious coffee and chocolate brownies!"

AWARD WINNER: HILARY NORSWORTHY



Nominated for her indefatigable and selfless willingness to meet any and

every need of her church, serving as Churchwarden, Treasurer and Sacristan.

Parish: Churchwarden First St Andrew's Bishopstone

"To be in Chichester Cathedral and receive the Order of St. Richard with all the other recipients will always remain with me as a very memorable occasion. During the service we heard of each recipient's contribution to their parish, the diocese or community, all of us having used our various talents, highlighting Bishop Martin's words "working together in our partnership in the apostolic life of this diocese", which brought home to me the importance of all that everyone undertakes locally in their parishes building up the bigger picture of the diocese when it all comes together".

AWARD WINNER ELIZABETH BROWN



Nominated for her life time's love of God, living that out through service to her local church and encouraging its role at the heart of the local community.

Job and Parish: Deanery Synod member Parish, St George, Trotton with CHITHURST

"The actual ceremony in the Cathedral was really

beautiful and it was especially so because there were so many who attended the service, giving us such wonderful support. It was a very varied group being given the award, for so many different contributions to church life and the general communities in which we live. This highlighted for me the importance of trying to live our lives as fully as possible, responding to Christ's individual call to each one of us."

AWARD WINNER DAVID FITTON



Nominated for offering his wide financial expertise and sensitive interpersonal skills for the benefit of his local parish, community and the wider national church, and for modestly providing a valued source of advice and counsel.

Parish: St Andrew and St Cuthman, Steyning

"On opening the Bishop's invitation to become a member of the Order of St Richard my first thought was: Why me? This led to me thinking about the level of gratitude I showed for favours I have received and in particular for the gifts received from a bountiful God. Perhaps I should do more in His service!"

Join the HEAR HERE Project

TOGETHER In Sussex is a joint venture between the Church Urban Fund and the Diocese of Chichester, aiming to help churches and community-based groups work together to bring hope and God's love to marginalised people and the most vulnerable in our communities.

At the start of January, Together In Sussex launched a new project entitled Hear Here. Amber Jackson has joined to lead and roll out the project across Sussex, alongside her part-time role as the diocesan communications assistant.

The Hear Here project has been up and running in Surrey since 2013 when NHS audiology departments agreed to train volunteers and assess them for hearing aid maintenance duties to implement in the community. This benefits communities and individuals in so many ways. Not only does it reduce the waiting time for hearing aid users to receive help, it

also fosters new and current relationships between churches and their community.

Once trained, the volunteers offer the community a drop-in clinic, usually held at the parish church and attached to an existing social event such as a coffee morning or food bank. Some services are also provided at day centres or sheltered housing.

As part of the role, Amber will coordinate the supply of sundry batteries and tubes provided and paid for by the NHS audiology departments.

In Sussex, Hear Here is in its infancy and is looking for:

- Churches who would like to implement this service
- Hearing champion volunteers who would like to be trained in hearing aid maintenance and provide this service.

This is a great opportunity for churches to connect with their wider community in a loving and caring environment.



TRAINED VOLUNTEERS:
JULIETTE WILLIAMS &
REVD HOWARD SCHNNAR

TOGETHER IN SUSSEX

The project has already recruited and trained six people in the Diocese of Chichester. The first drop-in clinic is due to start in south Crawley in mid-February, launching at pre-existing coffee morning.

For more information on how to launch a clinic at your church or what is involved in becoming a volunteer, email Amber at amber.jackson@chichester.anglican.org



"One guest slept in a proper bed for first time in 29 years"

A place to shelter

A YEAR-ROUND night shelter was among new accommodation that opened in Brighton in December for those in need.

Jonny Gumbel from the city's St Peter's Church was involved with the previous night shelter, which for eight years had different churches hosting one night a week in their own buildings during the winter.

He said: "This has been a big step up for the churches in Brighton and Hove. Working in partnership with 12 churches across five different denominations and in partnership with the YMCA Downslink Hove and the council, it has enabled us to create a space that offers more stability, consistency and community for our guests.

"Many of those who stay with us have no recourse to public funds, which means they are not eligible for benefits and in most cases many housing schemes will not accept them.

We aim to give the best to our guests. They now have solid beds, slippers, homemade hot water bottles.

"The churches night shelter means that they are getting a bed where they would be very unlikely to from somewhere else. We have had one guest who has slept in a bed for the first time in 29 years, having been homeless for all that period. And we have just had our first guest move into supported housing."

The venue provides short-term home for 29 single homeless people while they are helped towards more permanent arrangements. It will also run as a night shelter for up to 15 people with a range of needs.

People wanting to use the hostel or night shelter will only be able to access it after engaging with the city's rough sleeper outreach service. It is not a drop-in service.

The council's lead member for rough sleeping Councillor

Nichole Brennan, said: "We've brought in a lot of new support to help people to move off the streets but we are determined to do more. This good news is another step in the right direction and will bring hope to many people who will find the service a stepping stone to rebuilding their lives.

"We're determined to provide support for those who are unfortunate enough to be homeless, by giving them respect, dignity and help in their struggle to find a home. The homeless of Brighton and Hove are our citizens and our neighbours and everyone should have a right to a home.

"St Patrick's has an important history in the city for supporting single homeless people. Our hope is that the YMCA and the churches night shelter project can write a new chapter of the story for St Patrick's supporting the most marginalised in our community."



Countdown to the Lewes Passion Play

THE search is on for costume makers, soldiers, angels and musicians as the town of Lewes counts down to its latest production of the Easter story.

Lewes Passion Play, which processes through the streets and community gardens, takes place every five years with a mission to “share the story of Christ’s passion with the wider community”.



The weeklong event, which takes place at Easter, is recognised by Lewes Town Council for the positive effect it has on the community and the cultural and educational value it adds.

Preparations for the 2020 production started in

September 2018, from adapting the script to a launch in July last year and casting more than 100 individuals two months later.

Serena Smith, chairwoman of trustees and artistic director, said: “It’s lovely, the different faith denominations that have pitched in. Last year East Gate Baptists allowed space for set building and the costumes are held at Christ Church.

“We had three sets of cast last time in 2015. Some people can’t be in all four performances. There are teams of actors and there are teams behind the actors. Teams include costumes, props, set building, hospitality team and a safeguarding team.

“With casting there is all this excitement and camaraderie in a large community cast. But there is what is underneath it, the story, the message, the faith and of course we have people from all walks of life. When you are at rehearsals and see people who aren’t Christians and when you can sense the presents of God, it’s just amazing.

‘It does get very complex. And that is why faith is so important because you don’t know whether you’re going to get a full cast, right up to the last minute. The main thing is to find Jesus, that is an enormous role to take on. The lord tells you, and you have to wait for that message.”

The charitable organisation is still on the search for soldiers, angels, musicians and people for crowds. If you feel able and called to play a part in the Lewes Passion Play, please contact Serena Smith at thelewespassionplay@gmail.com.

The organisation continually looks for people to offer their skills, talents, space and time in the all areas. If you would like to find out how to help, contact Serena.

She said: “To me, the process is almost more important than the product, because of what we share and the community and working in people’s hearts. There is a family-like support network that is created during the lead up to the week.”

BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

by Martin Auton Lloyd, Director of FSW

WE START the new year with a refreshed desire to expand the work of Family Support Work across the diocese.

The Christmas period was extremely busy with events including a carol service at Holy Trinity Hurstpierpoint, parties for all the families we help and deliveries of hampers and turkeys so they could enjoy a proper festive dinner.

It makes such a difference to families who normally have very little

We received great backing from churches across the diocese, who donated food and toys, and we thank everybody for their generosity.



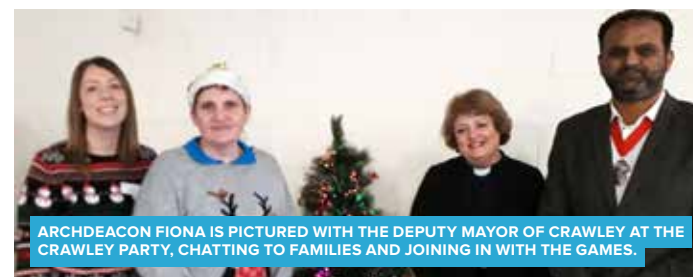
HIGH SHERIFF OF WEST SUSSEX, DAVINA IRWIN-CLARK AT THE CUCKFIELD DEANERY PARTY

It makes such a difference to families who normally have very little, as we heard from one of our clients. They said: “I honestly wasn’t expecting this much. And if I’m honest, we are so not used to this, we feel like we have been spoiled. From someone that normally has had nothing for all these years then to experience this is weird for us but really nice at the same time too. Hope what I’m trying to say is we are very grateful.”

Our current staffing structure, with family support practitioners working within deanery boundaries, enables us to support about 40 per cent of the diocese.

But the last 12 months have seen a marked increase in referrals to FSW from other agencies as so many other services are no longer available to support struggling families.

Many referrals have come from areas where we do not have staff. In 2020 we are determined to widen our reach and serve some of those



ARCHDEACON FIONA IS PICTURED WITH THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF CRAWLEY AT THE CRAWLEY PARTY, CHATTING TO FAMILIES AND JOINING IN WITH THE GAMES.



The Sussex Charity for Children
Since 1890

communities currently unable to access our support.

Later in the year we will be able to take the first step by recruiting a new practitioner to support Midhurst and Petworth deaneries. This is possible thanks to a generous legacy from someone with a connection to the area.

We are also hoping to establish a presence in other parts of Sussex not currently supported by an FSW practitioner but this will depend on our ability to secure funding.

We are strengthened by all those across the diocese who currently walk with us and support us in so many ways, from individuals to whole church communities. We will be launching an appeal during Lent to encourage more people to engage with us and help achieve the diocesan vision for growth, so do keep an eye out for further information.

familysupportwork.org.uk

Tackling child poverty

FORMER teacher Fiona Mackay has been commissioned as the Children's Society diocesan ambassador.

She had been a speaker ambassador since retiring from her career in 2016 and last year was asked to develop her role into diocesan ambassador.

The Church of England based Children's Society aims to fight child poverty, tackle neglect and support victims through working with local authorities, dioceses around the country and planting 100 plus hubs in major cities. Hubs are where children are able access a hot meal, costing the Children's Society £4 per child.

Funds not only come from individual fundraising but Children's Society charity shops. In the Diocese of Chichester they can be found in Brighton, Shoreham, Horsham and Chichester.

Fiona, who was commissioned by Bishop Martin Warner at the Diocesan Synod, said: "The happiness of children is of

fundamental importance. If they're not happy then they can't succeed and they can't concentrate in school, they don't see the point in education.

"I believe that education is the absolute key thing for not just happiness but for future development."

Fiona is touring the diocese raising awareness of the charity. She said: "Prayer is the strongest weapon of all."

Some four million children are in poverty in the UK alone, with predictions of that number increasing in 2020. 'Fiona said: "Many children, even in this beautiful county of Sussex, live in poverty, and that is why I have chosen to do this."

To find out where your nearest hub is, email supportercare@childrenssociety.org.uk. If you would like to set up a hub for children in your community, fully funded by the Children's Society, Contact Ruth Andoh-Baxter. Ruth, Relationship Manager for the Children's Society Ruth.Andoh-Baxter@childrenssociety.org.uk



MIKE TODD, RUTH AND FIONA FROM THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Looking ahead to May Camp

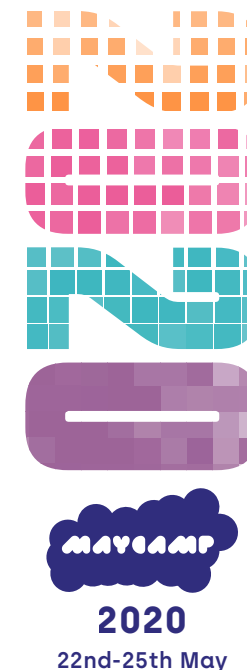
by Dan Jenkins

I CAN'T believe that we are in 2020 already. As a child I remember thinking about what life would be like in the future and 2020 seemed so far away I never really thought it would arrive. But here we are, living in the future.

Looking ahead is both exciting and daunting, laying plans and trying to build a future. It was interesting to read last year that the most popular Bible passage has changed from John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life - to Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

John offers a message of hope framed in the long term and the eternal but Jeremiah appears to offer a message of hope and prosperity that we can believe for now. It's no wonder that people are finding more security in the Jeremiah passage when all they see around them appears to be debt, mental health issues and environmental crisis.

For those who don't know, May Camp is our flagship youth festival held at Plumpton Racecourse in May



every year. It runs over one weekend and is packed full of workshops, sports, games, worship and teaching. Every year we kick off the weekend with a hog roast on the Friday night, a great way to bring everyone together.

Last year we welcomed 26 groups from across the diocese from all four archdeacons. Archdeacon of Horsham, Fiona Windsor said: "It was fantastic that so many young people from across our diocese come to May camp for this joyous, fun-packed and prayerful weekend. To see so many young people

coming to know Jesus is truly exciting and reflects the hard work of the team that put this mammoth and well-organised event together."

You can see the highlights video from last year at www.maycamp.org/media and tickets for this year's event (May 22 to 25) are on sale now through the website.

This year we are thinking about vision – 2020 vision, how to see God more clearly, what hope does the good news of Jesus offer us in 2020 and beyond? I think the prayer of St Richard of Chichester summarises what we want for young people: to know Him more clearly, love Him more dearly and follow Him more nearly.

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,

for all the benefits thou hast given me,

for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

may I know thee more clearly,

love thee more dearly,

and follow thee more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

PARISH NEWS

BEAUTIFUL RED ANTHURIUMS INTERWOVEN WITH PAIRS OF FORCEPS, SCALPELS AND OTHER ITEMS TO REPRESENT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

CALLED TO SERVE... WITH FLOWERS

HUNDREDS of churches across Sussex host flower festivals each year as a way of raising funds for vital church work or awareness of an important issue.

They are only possible because people come together and use their gifts to create beautiful floral arrangements, usually on a theme, and show these displays alongside other activities and hospitality involving many people and serving the whole community.

Last year was the Diocesan Year Of Vocation, the strategy to encourage people to celebrate God's calling in different ways and examine how those in different walks of life express their faith.

So the 2019 flower festival staged by the parish of Sutton with Seaford had an apt theme - Called To Serve, a verse from Peter ("Each of you should use whatever gift you have received

to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms", 1 Peter 4:10).

The festival appealed to the wider community with nearly 30 professions and trades represented, from artist to undertaker.

The celebrations and activities over four days at the town centre church of St Leonard's also included recitals by local musicians.

Those who visited the church, some for the first time, were appreciative of the wonderful arrangements which took many days to organise.

Visitors commented on the special atmosphere and many returned for another look with family and friends.



VISITORS COULD STAND IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR AND SEE THEMSELVES IN THE MIRROR "CALLED TO SERVE" JUST AS THE FIRST DISCIPLES LEFT THEIR NETS TO FOLLOW JESUS



THE MECHANIC WHO REMAINED UNDER THE CAR WITHOUT A BREAK

HAPPY 900TH BIRTHDAY

A CELEBRATION of Newhaven's oldest building - St Michael's Church - will take place this year, the 900th anniversary of the Norman church.

It is hoped a programme of events planned for the whole year will provide something for everyone in the town.

The project has already attracted Arts Council funding, allowing local composer and musician Mike Flood to write a suite of music, narration and song, telling many stories of the history of Newhaven over the past nine centuries.

Rt Rev Dr Bill Musk, chairman of the committee planning the events, said: "We would love the celebration to be a town affair for everyone to get involved in as well as the church celebrating 900 years of Christian witness in the town.

"Our goal is for those living in and around Newhaven to remember the past, celebrate the best of past and present and together shape a good future for the church and the town."

Bishop Martin will attend the official "launch" service on Sunday 26th January at 10am when the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff and other dignitaries will be joining members of the Sea Cadets and many other local organisations.

Artwave in August will provide a focus for some of the planned events, including an exhibition of the social history of local families and photographic portraits of familiar faces around the town centre.

Other highlights of the year will include:

- A physical timeline around the church showing national and local historical events
- A stained-glass window art project with Harbour Primary School
- A book on St Michael's church and Newhaven town due for launch in May
- A flower festival in July with the theme Heritage, Haven and Hope
- Breathe - a creative space to step into and find stillness and peace in June.

The events have been planned by members of the congregation of St Michael's over the past two years. The celebrations will also include opportunities for people to explore the Christian faith through Start courses, meditative readings of St Matthew's gospel and a study of some of the Old Testament prophets. There will also be special church services during the year.



ST MICHAEL'S, NEWHAVEN

St Michael's was built in 1120 by the monks of Lewes Priory on land given by William de Warenne who also ordered the building of Lewes Castle and Lewes Priory. Newhaven was originally Mecinge or Meeching until the name changed to Newhaven when the River Ouse broke through the shingle banks that ran to Seaford. The earliest recorded vicar is Robert in 1253.

There are two interesting memorials in the churchyard, one to Thomas Tipper, a famous local brewer in the 18th century, and the other a memorial to the 75 seamen who lost their lives when HMS Brazen was blown into the cliffs nearby in January 1800.

The church has been extended three times throughout its nine centuries of history.



FESTIVAL PLANS GET GREEN LIGHT

A funding grant will help make a Chichester church ‘truly welcoming’ for those who are disabled or infirm and paves the way for an all-inclusive ten-day festival this summer.

St Paul’s Chichester, in Churchside, has been awarded almost £74,000 in Heritage Funding to help improve its disabled access.

The church will use the funds to support the disabled and vulnerable in the parish.

At the same time, the church will be able to press on with its plan to organise and deliver an inclusive ten day Heritage Festival for the community, celebrating

the 40th anniversary of the amalgamation of St Paul’s with St Peter’s the Great.

This is set to take place from June 13 to June 21.

The Rector, Canon Simon Holland, said: “We are delighted that the Heritage Fund has recognised our work in this way.

“St Paul’s Church and Parish Centre are open every day of the year, and we are keen to make them as safe and accessible as possible.

“The grant will ensure that they are truly welcoming for those who are disabled or infirm, as well as for parents with buggies and for young children.

“The grant will ensure that they are truly welcoming for those who are disabled or infirm”

It will enable us to serve the community in a more inclusive way, and we are extremely grateful.”

The church has also received support from the City Council, Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council and the Duke and Duchess of Richmond. You can find out more about the Heritage Festival on the church website www.stpaulschichester.org or follow their Facebook page.



SPIRIT, MIND, BODY

HOW TO ACHIEVE A HEALTHY CHURCH

The concept of Healthy Church was a vision of Deirdre Schnaar, whose husband Howard Schnaar is vicar of Broadfield Church in Southgate. She explains how it became a reality.

IT BEGAN last April after we listened to our parish nurse, Juliette Williams giving an inspiring presentation about her work in Broadfield at our church annual meeting.

She said she had been able to provide worthwhile support and health education for people in the congregation as well as in the wider community and as a result we can have a healthier church.

We were also focusing on Messy Church as we were about to do our regular Messy Easter event, so seeing those words next to each other made me connect them in a different way: “Messy Church... healthy church. Healthy Church. We do Messy Church, we can do Healthy Church.”

In my head I began planning an event in different parts of the church to focus on different areas: spirit, body, mind and physical activity. This would enable us to include a

spiritual activity, some health education, discussions/talks and a physical activity. There would also be the opportunity for everyone to come together for a time of reflective worship and prayer for healing and wholeness. Afterwards, we would share healthy snacks and drinks. Some of the activities would be suitable for children so they could be included and there would also be toys and activities for them.

I shared my vision for Healthy Church with Juliette xxxx who?xxx and also with my husband Howard, our vicar. They both agreed we should go ahead and Juliette and I met to plan our first event.

Our first Healthy Church took place in September. Juliette led a health education session on setting individual health goals and how to achieve them. Howard led a discussion about healing and theology and for our spiritual session I led a woven cross meditation.

Juliette’s daughter Becca led a lively Zumba workout which invigorated us all. We then joined together for the prayer and reflective worship time with music and a reflection

on the Gospel and prayer for healing and wholeness was offered.



We have had time to reflect on what went well and what we could do differently and have planned our next event for the end of January. We aim to draw on the experience and expertise of people we know to lead our sessions. For our next event we have a chiropractor who will be talking about spinal health and a relevant children’s activity to run alongside it. We will also include a game and Bible reading time. We ensure there is always an alternative activity at the same time as the physical exercise in case anyone is unable to join in with that and hope in due course to include some accessible physical activities too.



Leaving a Meaningful Legacy

Legacies account for a quarter of the total amount given to charities each year, and now top an annual £2.24bn.

However, while 35% of people say they would leave a legacy to charity in their will, only seven percent actually do so, according to a recent report entitled “Facts and Figures: Legacies for Charities”, which, it suggests, leaves an opportunity for charities to increase their income if they can solve this challenge.

Of those who have made a will, younger age groups were more likely to have left a gift to charity in their will, such as 50% of 16 to 24-year olds compared to 21% of 65+ year olds. This is also mirrored among those who have not yet made a will. Of this group, 50% of 16 to 24-year olds said they would consider leaving a gift,

compared to 17% of those aged 65+. 61% of this age group said they would not.

Yet, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution reports that over 60% of its income is derived from legacies while the Church of England, only 5%. Clearly, we have some way to go, to convince our parishioners to give towards preserving parish ministry in our towns and villages.

Where do we start? The Church is perceived to be wealthy and not in need of legacies. But our Diocese does not receive income grants for parish ministry from the Church of England.

If your church has plenty, that's a reason to rejoice, but many churches are far from wealthy, and levels of regular giving sometimes do not support a full-time priest. A

gift of a legacy can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, can help keep your local church alive today, and help transform its future.

Eleanor Stead of the Church's stewardship team, with specific focus on legacies, believes that each PCC ought to publish a simple Legacy Policy that assures parishioners that any legacy received will be spent wisely to transform local church ministry.

So, when considering stewardship in your church, why not also encourage your parishioners to write their wills to include a lasting gift to your church. And, why not contact John Kemp for a template of a simple Legacy Policy if you don't have one already.

New decade, new projects

Katherine Prior, diocesan fundraising adviser, offers tips for planning building work

WHETHER it's repairs, reordering or new facilities, there is a knack to achieving the right combination of pragmatism and hope to see a church building project through from rough idea to reality.

Let's start with hope – in its fullest, distinctively Christian sense. Every building project must relate to a church's vision of how it communicates the knowledge of God's love for all. This includes even apparently mundane projects such as repairing the rainwater goods. What is the good of having watertight downpipes if a church has no underpinning sense of mission to reach out and include others?

So the first thing a parish should address with a building project is “how is this going to help us serve others? How is this going to welcome newcomers into our community?”. Nearly all grant-awarding bodies, whether faith friendly or not, will want to see their money is enabling an enhanced level of service and outreach. Few trusts will fund works that are simply going to benefit an existing worshipping community.

Also, keeping mission to the fore will counteract negativity – the wearying sense that a church's building needs are a burden. Our beautiful churches are a blessing, often communicating and transforming lives in ways unseen. When a church is kept in good repair, clean and uncluttered, it will speak by itself of God's majesty, serenity, intimacy and loving acceptance. It always helps to remember that when the gutters are blocked again.

Turning to pragmatism – unfortunately, winning grant funding for capital projects is getting harder. That doesn't mean a parish should do things on the cheap, that is never a good solution for a place of worship. But it does mean tailoring the vision to what is achievable, ensuring what is proposed is necessary, purposeful and proportionate.

Additionally, it means thoroughly researching funding opportunities, both from local resources and charitable trusts. It is never too early to start this research. A lot of trusts have only one or two application rounds a year so to avoid missing out,



NEWLY CARVED STONE CAPITALS IN ST MARY'S CHURCH KEMP TOWN

it pays to plot on a timeline the different windows of opportunity and the conditions for accessing them.

It pays too to be clear about the needs a project is meeting. Many parishes in this diocese rank in the top 30 per cent of wealthiest parishes in England. This often counts against them in competition for grant funding. But most of them will have pockets of real social need. The challenge for a church is to demonstrate that it has identified and is targeting that need.

If your parish would like help in planning a building project, please get in touch with me at Church House on 01273 425690 or katherine.prior@chichester.anglican.org.

NEWS FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

Rev'd Debbie Beer

Lent 2020: Saying Yes to Life – Care for God's Creation

The Church of England's national #LiveLent 2020 campaign focuses on our call to "say yes" to the life God has given us in Creation and in Christ, exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus in a time of global ecological crisis, through prayer, reflection and practical action. This offers a great opportunity for churches and individuals to engage with their local communities as well as for growing in our own faith and understanding.

For each of the 40 days the adults' version has a Bible reading, a short reflection and an action to help us live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature. The children and families version provides a daily challenge to honour and treasure the earth, weekly short prayers and readings on creation themes. Both are available as booklets, as a free App and online, and can also be accessed via smart speaker, email and social media. More details and sign up at: www.churchofengland.org/livelent

#LiveLent – Care for God's Creation is inspired and informed by the Archbishop's 2020 Lent Book, *Saying Yes to Life*, by Ruth Valerio (SPCK, £9.99). The book weaves together practical and theological wisdom in a very clear, accessible and inspiring way. It is structured so it can be used for individual reflection, for study in a small group, or as the basis for a sermon series. Additional free resources will be available on the web, including a study guide, a youth group resource and videos. More details at: www.spckpublishing.co.uk/saying-yes-to-life

Of course these resources can also be used at other times of the year – caring for creation isn't just for Lent!

For the latest information on #LiveLent Care for God's Creation, go to www.chichester.anglican.org/environment or contact the Diocesan Environment Officer, Rev'd Debbie Beer (07530 039299 / debbie.beer@chichester.anglican.org)

Another Eco Church win

I'm delighted that the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach, has achieved a bronze Eco Church award. They join the steadily growing number of churches across the diocese with this status.

This is a national award given to churches which include creation care in their worship and teaching, the management of buildings and land, community engagement and personal lifestyle.

Other churches are working hard to get this recognition. I urge every parish to get this onto the agenda for their next PCC meeting. We look forward to many more of our churches winning awards.

The Church of the Good Shepherd launched its Eco Church initiative in 2018. Since that time they have regularly included environmental issues during prayers and preaching.

Curate, Jane Bartlett outlined the many activities the church has implemented: "We put in a bike rack outside the church hall and the children planted bee friendly flowers. Pebbles

A circular economy for a fairer world

the pre-school in our church hall grew a vegetable garden in the summer on a small patio area.

"We now have a recycling scheme at our church, collecting plastics that can't be recycled by the local council, but can be recycled in other places. During Lent some of us took part in a plastic less Lent campaign. We learnt how difficult it is to avoid the ubiquitous use of single use plastics, and how harmful this is to the environment. There's still much more to be done as we progress towards our silver award."

Year of the Burial Ground

2020 is the 'Year of the Burial Ground', and the 20th anniversary of Caring for God's Acre, which works nationally to support groups to keep burial grounds beautiful, accessible and connected to their communities. As part of the year they are holding two Beautiful Burial Ground Conferences, offering inspiration and practical knowhow for making your

churchyards or local burial ground a haven for wildlife, heritage and people, and for investigating and recording its wildlife and cultural heritage:

Thursday March 12th National Museum, Cardiff

Thursday March 26th The Circle, Sheffield

For more information on these day conferences (cost only £15!) go to: www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/our-work/year-of-the-burial-ground/yobg-conference/

And if you can't make it to one of the conferences, the website has a great Resources section – do check it out.

A circular economy for a fairer world

Finally, I wanted to share with you an excellent local initiative of villagers in Lindfield working together for action on climate change.

Fairer World Lindfield aim to raise awareness of climate change and encourage simple actions that can bring about meaningful impact. In the

autumn they held an event entitled "Your Climate – Your Choices" attended by 150 people.

Peter Desmond and Chris Lee, members of the Group, presented some of the science behind climate change and possible solutions.

The audience heard about the various initiatives being undertaken to mitigate climate change in the area such as buying products with less plastic packaging, switching to pre-loved clothes and natural beauty products. There was also a presentation by pupils from the Eco Committee at Blackthorns Community Primary Academy which is working towards Plastic-free School status.

Peter and Chris summed the evening up: "Even though the climate and ecological crisis can feel overwhelming at times, we can make a difference both individually and collectively in our own lives. We all have a voice, so we need to make sure those in positions of power hear us".

LAMBETH CONFERENCE

God's Church For God's World

This year we will be hosting guest bishops and their wives from our overseas link dioceses during the Lambeth 2020 conference in the summer.

There have been some changes over the years so this is a good opportunity to share with our readers an overview of who and where the partnerships are.

As a diocese we have partnered with the Anglican Churches in West Africa (since 1965) and Kenya (since 1967). Our West African links include The Gambia and Senegal. The Diocese of Guinea, The Diocese of Freetown (which covers the northern and western half of Sierra Leone), the Diocese of Bo (which covers the southern and eastern half of Sierra Leone), the Diocese of Liberia and the Diocese of Cameroon. Our Kenyan links include: The Diocese of Nakuru; The Diocese

of Nyahuru; The Diocese of Kericho; The Diocese of Maralal and the Diocese of Baringo.

Revd Andy Birks a curate at Sidley, Bexhill, is a member of the Diocesan Overseas Links Council. He said: "Although we may have different traditions, styles, cultures and, in some countries significant challenges, our Dioceses come together in various ways and we work together with our brothers and sisters in Christ which allows us to share our message together, to learn from one another, to grow the faith, and draw ourselves and others closer to God.

"It can often be said today that the world is getting smaller, thanks to ease of travel and technology which means we can talk, or even video call our link groups in all parts of the world. That, for me, is not the demise of church links abroad, but the rejuvenation

of those links and the ability to set up and establish more - not just with our churches but with our local schools too. The opportunities are opening up to us in this world - I implore you to ensure you maintain your links abroad and/or develop new ones."

Other members on the council led by Diocesan Companion Links Officer, Revd Christine Keyte, are Lionel Whatley From Chichester, Revd James Campbell from Hastings and Revd Isaac Pain from Horsham. Elected laity are Mr John Head from Brighton and Lewes, Ms Margaret Lumley from Chichester, Miss Alison Marchant from Hastings, Ms Pat Wallace from Horsham. Individuals nominated by the Bishop's Council also include Ms Christine Emson and Mr Geoff Morris.

The council meet regularly to discuss how we as a diocese can aid and develop our

“Over the years people from Sussex have discovered the rich diversity of people, cultures, languages, customs and spiritual traditions, sometimes very different from our own,

partnerships and diocesan links. They comment 'our hope is to develop parish to parish and school to school links with our Kenyan Companion dioceses'.

Over the years people from Sussex have discovered the rich diversity of people, cultures, languages, customs and spiritual traditions, sometimes very different from our own, that is Africa. They have experienced African hospitality and generosity. They have participated in joyful acts of worship in churches that are growing faster than we can imagine.

Other ongoing activities to support partners are parish and school visits to our link diocese. There are strong links with schools. For example, in 2017 a group of people from the Parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate took a trip to Nyahururu, in Kenya.

They were so affected by all they saw and on learning that the diocese wanted to sponsor a number of orphan children who would not otherwise have any secondary education they set about raising money to sponsor that project.

They also learnt about God's activity and transformative love. In short their perceptions of Africa and themselves and God have been transformed.

In the last 5 years alone, Churches and individuals in Chichester Diocese have:

- Funded the ordination training of 4 priests in Cameroon
- Raised money to help the Church in Guinea minister to refugees
- Helped fund a building extension at All Saints' School in Conakry, Guinea.
- Sent a container of equipment (including over 20 computers) to schools in Sierra Leone
- Set up an office in Sierra Leone to organise the linking of schools in the UK with Schools in Sierra Leone;
- Funded an emergency famine relief grant for the Farm Field schools project
- Funded the training of 1 priest for Baringo Episcopal Area (now Baringo Diocese), Kenya
- Supported the Farm Field schools in Kericho, Kenya

- Funded ordination training for 2 priests for Maralal Diocese, Kenya

- Funded post-ordination training for 2 priests in Kericho Diocese

In the issues of Faith in Sussex this year we will focus on each of our companion links, to show where we are building stronger parish and school links and where the parish and school donations to the Diocesan Harvest Appeal in past years has made a difference to training people for ordination and funding sustainable projects to build thriving communities.

In the meantime, Rev Canon Mark Payne, vicar at St Pancras Chichester, will be overseeing the Chichester Diocese hospitality programme of our companion link bishops and their wives when they visit the UK for Lambeth 2020 Conference this summer. Mark worked for many years alongside our overseas partner diocese. Contact for Lambeth hospitality 2020 is canon Mark Payne rector@stpancraschichester.org.uk

The Conference is taking place in July and August 2020 in Canterbury

HYMNS UNPACKED

BY REV NEVILLE MANNING

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE in Jesus

CANON Frank Colquhoun remarked of this hymn: "Clearly it is a hymn born of experience."

Joseph Scriven, the Irish author of What A Friend We Have In Jesus, repeatedly knew the meaning of heartache and sadness. Early hopes of a military career were dashed through poor health. At the age of 25 he was due to be married, only to have his fiancée accidentally drowned just before the wedding day. As a member of the Brethren but grief-stricken he moved to make a new beginning living in Canada where he worked as a teacher. In time he planned again to marry only for his second fiancée to die from ill health. He died by drowning in 1886.

No stranger to sadness, Scriven wrote the words of the hymn to console his troubled mother. The hymn, usually sung to the tune Converse, seems to be missing from some mainstream hymn books, which suggests it is not favoured in certain quarters. However, many people have an affection for its simplicity. Many well-known performers have sung renditions of it over the years, including Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney,

Ella Fitzgerald and Aretha Franklin among others. It was also sung by a Baptist church choir in Georgia USA in the film version of Driving Miss Daisy. It has also been translated into several other languages.

WE SHOULD NEVER BE DISCOURAGED, TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER

It is one of only a few hymns which speak of Christian discipleship in terms of friendship with Jesus. Traditionally Christians and Churches in Creeds and elsewhere refer to Jesus with terms such as Lord, Son of God, Christ, Saviour, Master and King. Yet Jesus in the Gospels at times clearly spoke of the relationship between himself and his disciples with friendship language. In John 15 v13-15 Jesus says to his first disciples: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends...I do not call you servants any longer...but I have called you friends."

Real friends are those we trust and with who we share the innermost parts of our lives. As v1 reminds us we have the privilege of carrying everything to him in prayer. If we do not do so we forfeit the peace we can have and suffer needless pain. In v 2 we find that sharing everything with that friend is a way through the discouragements and trials of life: "Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged: take it to the Lord in prayer". The one to who we come is one who in his full humanity has known the experiences we sometimes face.

As the writer of Hebrews 4 v14 reminds us "we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin". As the final verse makes clear, even when other friends forsake us Christ is still the one to whom we can bring everything in prayer: "Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there."

Nourished by faith

Bradley Smith is churchwarden in the parish of Aldingbourne, Barnham and Eastergate, manages St Olav bookstore in Chichester and represents the diocese at General Synod. Here he tells his vocational story.

I SPENT my early years in rural Yorkshire and, looking back as a 36-year-old, those days are not filled with happy memories. Some of my early life remains a mystery to me and it's only since meeting my brother for the first time in 2018 that I've come to understand something of the dysfunctional nature of my upbringing.

There was one constant in life, however, and that was faith. I don't remember a time I didn't believe in God and the Church provided the stability I lacked in every other area. It was the one place I knew I belonged and I'll always be grateful for the solid Christian foundation I received as a teenager, which gave me an excellent framework for adult discipleship.

My confirmation in 1996 was an occasion of real commitment and since then the Mass has been at the heart of my faith and life.

Despite not being successful at school I moved south to study theology in Chichester in 2002 and was fortunate to find myself living within walking distance of a thriving Catholic parish, a village church not dissimilar to the ones I'd grown up in but with one of the largest Eucharistic communities in the diocese. I took a full part in parish life and was very happy but in 2005 felt a strong pull towards another church not far away in a more rural setting.

This church had little going for it. Although historically in the Catholic tradition, the daily Mass had long since ceased, the congregation at the twice-monthly Sunday Mass was often in single figures and the threat of closure never far away. But this is where I felt called to be and over the past 14 years we have seen church life flourish beyond all our hopes in a distinctly Catholic ethos.

We have a thriving Sunday Mass, daily worship and a flurry of adult baptisms and confirmations.

We are one of three churches in a team but now have the ministry of a society priest licensed with special



"The Church provided the stability I lacked in every other area."

responsibility for St Mary's and I'm pleased to work alongside him in teaching, pastoral care and community outreach.

Since we have been assured of an honoured place in the life and structures of the Church of England we must step up and seize that. For me that includes serving on national and diocesan bodies including General Synod. I also serve on the society steering group in Chichester as well as being a churchwarden and Fan The Flame Missioner. With a full-time job as bookshop manager and having recently completed an MA in Christian ministry, I am pretty busy but delighted to play a small part in helping others discover the life-giving richness of the faith that has nourished me throughout my life.

Setting priorities to increase school governors

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor, please get in touch to find out more

School governor recruitment is high on the list for the education team of the diocese.

The Bishop of Chichester, the Education Team, alongside staff, children and governors at our church schools, have been working together to promote the valuable role of Foundation Governors in Church schools.

Trevor Cristin, Diocesan Director of Education, said: "We have been working to produce a short recruitment video and leaflet that can be used by schools and parishes to highlight this important role and encourage more people to step forward and serve in this way.

"Our Church schools and academies across West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton & Hove play a crucial role in the education, development and well-being of children,

young people, families and communities across the Diocese.

"However, we do need more people in our Church communities to come forward to become Foundation Governors. So please do get in touch if you are interested in finding out more about this valuable role."

We want to say thank you to the schools that have helped us with the development of our governor recruitment plans: Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary (West Sussex) St Martin's Church of England Primary school (Brighton & Hove) and St Nicolas & St Mary Church of England Primary school (West Sussex).

The video and leaflet will be available shortly. Watch this space!



TREVOR CRISTIN PREPARING TO FILM THE GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT VIDEO AT ST MARTIN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY, BRIGHTON.

If you are interested in becoming a Foundation Governor or just want to have an initial conversation to find out more, please contact the Education Team on 01273 425 687 or email: schoolgovernors@chichester.anglican.org

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

REVIEWS BY CANON JOHN TWISLETON



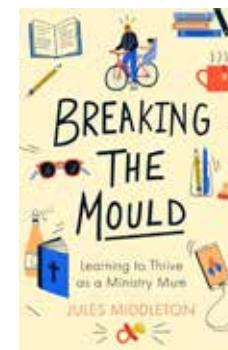
OUR FIFTH SUNDAY HYMN SERVICES

DAVID ELLIS, PETER EVANS, TONY HILLS & PHILIP NEWMAX

The creativity of a St Mary, West Chiltington lay team is broadcast in their publication of 55 services they constructed and led for fifth Sundays 2003-2017. The services were built from people's choice of favourite hymns with provision of 'chats' about things like science and the bible, society needing wealthy people, what beliefs you'd put on a postage stamp and why so few come to church.

The book is autobiographical of the venture and contains the full services with scripture, devotional readings, chats and prayers. It demonstrates Anglican diversity stretching from stories of personal transformation to suggestions for doctrinal transformation as in the Don Cupitt service. As clergy cover grows scarcer this resource might get church members thinking of how they can make their own DIY service provision.

D.J.Ellis 2019 £10 ISBN 978 0 9554944 1 3 378pp



BREAKING THE MOULD: LEARNING TO THRIVE AS A MINISTRY MUM,

JULES MIDDLETON

You really are a breath of fresh air.' If Rev. Jules Middleton had a penny for every time she'd heard that, she'd be able to hire someone else to put on her kids' birthday parties! Even as a compliment its message is clear: you're different to what we expect.

Jules is one of hundreds of mums in ministry across the Church today, and yet against a predominantly white, middle-class, male-dominated history, they can still be something of an anomaly. Bringing together stories from all different walks of life - Pentecostal to Methodist, single mums to adopters, RAF chaplains to disability advisors and everything in-between - Jules maps the highs and lows ministry mums may face as they seek to 'break the mould' and challenge the 'shoulds' and stereotypes that surround both roles.

From identity and expectations to prayer and prosecco, this book will inform, entertain and ultimately encourage women that though you may not be able to 'do it all' perfectly, by God's grace (and the help of some good friends and gin!) you can learn to thrive as a ministry mum.

Paperback (9.99) SPCK Publishing 9780281083275

CATHEDRAL NEWS

Spring Lectures

2020 SERIES

**Jan – March continues:
God and Great Britain**

Exploring religious thought in national crisis, from the civil war to Brexit. Held in Vicar's Hall, free to attend but booking essential.

GOD & GREAT BRITAIN LECTURE 3

March 5, 6.30pm

Dr Mark Vernon, psychotherapist and broadcaster and author of *The Secret History of Christianity*, explores the thought of Owen Barfield in the years after the First World War.

GOD & GREAT BRITAIN LECTURE 4

March 19, 6.30pm

Dr Sam Brewitt-Taylor, Darby Fellow in Modern History at Lincoln College, Oxford, explores how the Church responded to, and was a catalyst for, the sexual revolution and secularization in 1960s Britain.



with the eternal love between mortal shepherd Acis and goddess Galatea doomed by the jealous cyclops Polyphemus. Tickets £15 to £30 from the cathedral website or call 0333 010 2850.

TERRIFIC TALES – FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**Friday, February 21
10am to 3pm
(last entry 2.30pm)**



Design and make creative craft for accompanied children aged three to 11, £2.50 per child. No need to book, just drop in. Free.

TRANSFORMATION OF A 20TH CENTURY CATHEDRAL

**Guided Tour:
Friday, March 6,
11am to noon.**

Specialist guided tour by Alan Bradford, cathedral guide, £7.

SHOWCASE

**Saturday, January 26
11am to 3pm**

Chichester Cathedral has a choice of stunning historical venues where you can celebrate your wedding reception. From the beautifully restored former archdeaconry at 4 Canon Lane to the medieval Vicars' Hall, there is something to suit all styles. If you are planning a wedding reception this is an event not to be missed. No need to book, just drop in.

THE SIXTEEN – HANDEL'S ACIS & GALATEA

**Wednesday, February 12
7.30pm**

The Sixteen present the most popular dramatic work of Handel's lifetime, a tale of love, tragedy and liberation,

CREATIVE CANVAS WORK ADULT CRAFT WORKSHOP

**Wednesday, March 18,
10am to 3pm**

With Susan Fletcher, leader of the Seffrid Guild, the cathedral's embroidery group, £50.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

**Tuesdays from January 21
1.10 to 2pm.**

The cathedral's popular lunchtime concerts take place on Tuesdays at 1.10pm during term time in the spectacular setting of the cathedral nave. They are free and last about

50 minutes. You are welcome to come and go as you please. Coffee provided, all welcome. Full weekly details on the cathedral website.

A WARM WELCOME



CHICHESTER Cathedral is delighted to announce the appointment of Duncan Irvine as a new lay member of Chapter, the body of clergy and lay people that determines the policy for administering the cathedral.

Duncan already serves as chairman of the finance committee. He was born and raised in Canada to Scottish parents and his strong attachment to Britain and love of history was instilled from birth.

Duncan came to the UK when he was 18 as an undergraduate at St Andrews University, followed by a postgraduate course at the London School of Economics. A 35 year banking career then followed in both the UK and Canada.

In addition to the cathedral, Duncan serves on the boards of a variety of charitable

organisations including the West Pier Trust in Hove and the Council of Christians and Jews. He is chairman of his local secondary school in Uckfield and mentored with The Prince's Trust for ten years.

Duncan said: "All the work I do for charity revolves around children, history or religion, areas to which I am passionately committed. I am humbled and honoured to have been asked to join the Chapter of Chichester Cathedral and to continue the work that I started doing with them some months ago. God has blessed me with a satisfying job and a wonderful family including six children and four grandchildren, and I hope that I am able to give some of that back to the community and the cathedral."

The Dean of Chichester, the Very Reverend Stephen Waine, said: "Duncan brings a wealth of skills and experience to his new position and we look forward to working with him at this essential strategic level, supporting the sustainable development of the cathedral and the delivery of its mission."



Oliver Tubb has joined Chichester Cathedral's team as Marketing and Communications Manager.

Ollie was formerly Marketing Manager at Aspex, a contemporary art gallery and educational charity in Portsmouth. Ollie's background is in design, having completed a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Research at the University of Portsmouth – where he has also acted as a part-time Lecturer on their BA (Hons) Illustration course.

Ollie is excited to be working alongside the Cathedral team and Volunteers to deliver creative and engaging marketing strategies, campaigns and materials to help the Cathedral achieve its aims.

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- **tapestries from the William Morris looms**
- **the Walker and Frobenius organs**
- **the moving story of the fallen 1911 pupils**

OPENING TIMES

10am–4pm Monday to Saturday

12 noon–4pm Sundays and Bank Holidays

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Tel 01273 465 949 for further information and to book group tours

**Lancing College, founded by Nathaniel Woodard in 1848,
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for boys and girls aged 13–18**

www.lancingcollege.co.uk/chapel

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