

# PARISH NEWS

MARCH 2021

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## From the Parsonage

Revd W.D. Parish was vicar of Selmeston. He published 'Dictionary of The Sussex Dialect' in which he collected sayings that he heard locally. One of these was 'Quiddy?'. Often used in the context of 'Quiddy? I didn't hear what you said.' A useful word if you're living with someone who mumbles and tiring of 'pardon?' or 'what?'. Parish reasonably believed that it was one of those expressions that reflected the proximity of this part of East Sussex to the continent and that it derived from the French 'Que dis-tu?' (What did you say?)

Julian of Norwich was suggested as a topic for three Lent online Zoom sessions this month in the run up to Easter. Perhaps the choice reflects the re-evaluation and appreciation of what is local that is part of the consequence of travel restrictions. But she also lived during the Black Death and Peasants Revolt and opted at the age of 30 years to be 'locked down' in a room as an anchoress. Her writings — 'Revelations of Divine Love' — have been read through the centuries and still hold great appeal.

Her teachings on prayer include an instruction to 'await'. In other words, prayer for her didn't consist of what we had to say to God but the other way around. That funny little Sussex dialect word 'Quiddy?' could be used as a reminder that Julian expected prayer to lead to that question being put to the Divine and similar to an approach that is central to Quaker worship today.

To join these evening sessions click on the links below which will also be sent out each week if you ask for them — please contact [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

7.00 pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85377358585?pwd=emtaNFhEV2ExVFZ0S3JrZnc3TWVGZz09>

7.00 pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89411689052?pwd=QmIBNTNUM2Q5RlBwc0tYcEd6VVBXdz09>

7.00 pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March — <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82958768777?pwd=dXFUeXB3ZUI1bVlFMyt0M21oQTAzZz09>

*Peter Blee*

## Church Services and Morning Prayer

Please visit the church website to check on service times: [www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk) or [www.berwickchurch.org.uk](http://www.berwickchurch.org.uk) or subscribe to the benefice's 'Sunday Link' by emailing [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk) / telephone 01323 811136. At present the following services are being held.

**9.00 am Sunday Morning Prayer** (Zoom meeting\*)

**10.00 am Sunday Holy Communion**

Because of the availability of Wi-Fi this is streamed live from Berwick Church on YouTube and a link is sent out\*. It is also recorded and can be watched when convenient. (You can search online for 'Peter Blee YouTube').

**9.30 am Wednesday Morning Prayer** (Zoom meeting\*)

**5.30 pm Monday to Thursday - Evening Prayer**  
(Zoom meeting\*)

\* Please request a link from the Benefice Administrator  
[benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

## Michael Morris, MBE

Those who knew him will be saddened to learn that Mike Morris has died. After a distinguished career that included work on the Isaac Newton astronomical telescope in La Palma, he was awarded an MBE.

After retirement, he devoted much of his time to fitting out a 40-foot ketch, the bare hull of which he had installed behind the house in Selmeston. He completed the project, and the boat was launched a few years before he and Ann moved back to Cheshire. Ann died in 2019.

Mike and Ann were very much involved in village affairs, including the Village Hall and the Church and Mike was Chairman of the Parish Meeting from 1994 to 2001.

Mike's funeral is due to take place at 1.40 pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Walton Lea. If you would like to attend via a webcast, please visit [www.obitus.com](http://www.obitus.com) and sign in with 'Username' Qeg04669 and 'Password 957658'. You can view a test connection, and be able to view the live webcast a few minutes before the service start time.

## Enjoy the Countryside — But Enjoy It Safely

As we are facing Covid restrictions in the short term, many of us will continue to take the opportunity to stay local and go for walks in our beautiful rural spots. We are spoilt in Sussex with some of the most picturesque countryside in England. While, of course, we should enjoy our local spaces by taking the dog for a walk or going for a walk or a run, we need to remember our countryside walks, in many cases, are in working farmland.

With a huge rise in the number of people in our fields and green spaces, our farmers are finding that a significant amount of damage is being done to crops, animals and the local environment because of people not taking care when they are out and about.

Sheep worrying is probably the most significant issue, with walkers not putting their dogs on leads, which then chase sheep and sometimes even attack them. Since lockdown we have seen an 80% increase in reports of dog attacks on sheep that often result in the farmer having to shoot their injured animal, which is hugely distressing. Even if a sheep is not attacked, been chased by a dog can still result in death and aborted lambs. Within the law a farmer has a right to shoot a dog that is attacking their flock and there have sadly been a small number of cases where this has happened.

Walking through crops is also an issue. It is important that those out walking don't walk across fields that are planted with crops. The untold damage of people just wandering through fields has left many farmers having to re plough and drill. It costs a huge amount of money to farmers but also does untold damage to the local environment.

Finally, if you do have rubbish with you, please take it home. With lockdown, volunteers who are normally out doing litter picks in our villages are not able to do so, and any plastic bags, bottles or other rubbish will just accumulate in our beauty spots. This not only looks unsightly but causes huge damage to local wildlife.

Our farmers do a wonderful job keeping our countryside looking so well, but we all have a part to play in looking after the animals and environment that we are lucky enough to share in Sussex.

*Maria Caulfield, MP*

## Talk About the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path

A talk about this local walking route was given by Revd Peter Blee via Zoom in February and a recording made. It was hosted by an organisation called 'Art and Christianity'.

If you would like to listen to the talk please click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/w3q7ElhEzCc>

*Peter Blee*

## March Gardener's Diary

Spring is nearly upon us and the soil *should* be warming up, so get ready for sowing and planting. If your soil is workable, rake it over to produce a nice seed bed ready for your Parsnips and, if not already planted, put your Broad Beans in as well. A good tip with Parsnips is to sow 3 seeds every 4 inches and put a few radish seeds in between them. The Parsnips take a long time to germinate and the radishes will come through quicker and mark the row.

By the end of the month plant early Potatoes if the soil is workable. Plant the tubers 12 inches apart in rows 2 feet apart, about 5-6 inches deep. Garlic can also be planted now.

Do not rush to plant anything if the soil is too wet, it will always catch up if it's a few weeks late going in.

Happy Gardening Everybody!

*Keith Winter*

## News from King's Academy, Ringmer

Here at King's Academy Ringmer, we have really settled into remote learning, so much so that it almost seems like business as usual. We have addressed students' IT problems and provided over 50 Chromebook for those who couldn't access their work at home and given SIM cards to students which enable an extra monthly data allowance. We conducted a survey with parents and came to the conclusion that we should go back to the same timetable across all year groups; different break and lunchtimes were not working with siblings working from home. We have also introduced screen-time breaks as we recognised the issues of being sat in front of a screen all day. A handful of students have been invited into school to join our critical workers' children to ensure that all students can participate fully in their learning and make progress.

The school held its first 'remote enrichment day' on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Students' normal timetables were suspended for the day and they were set a number of challenges. The theme of the day was 'Express Yourself' and was in conjunction with Children's Mental Health Week. It was a really successful day.

We are preparing for the students to return to school in March. We don't know (at the time of writing this article) whether it will be a phased return or not. However, the Government has announced that they will give us two weeks' notice to prepare fully for our return. We will also be carrying out mass testing for all consenting students on their return to identify any asymptomatic cases and keep as many students in school as possible.

*Jamie Peacock, Transition and Marketing Manager, King's Academy Ringmer*

## Sussex Police Warning — Software Scams

Sussex Police is urging people to be wary of software scams after the Force has received over 70 reports from vulnerable victims in 2020 with losses totalling £154,454. The average loss has been around £2,000. The scam typically involves the victim being told they have been hacked or their computer has a virus. They're advised they need to install software, pay money or hand over details to protect their device from further damage.

The graphic is a vertical blue and white banner. At the top, a red bar contains the word 'EMERGENCY' in white. Below this, a white bar contains the number '999' in large blue font, with the text 'When a life is threatened or there is imminent danger' in smaller blue font. A second blue bar contains the word 'NON-EMERGENCY' in white. Below this, a white bar contains the number '101' in large blue font, with the text 'When you don't require an urgent response' in smaller blue font. A smaller line of text below reads '(Calls to 101 cost 15p for the entire call from both mobile phones and landlines)'. A purple bar contains the text 'TEXT OR TYPETALK' in white. Below this, white text reads 'If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired, you can contact us using TypeTalk on 18000 or by sending a text to 65999 (due to the nature of SMS texts, we may not receive your message immediately)'. To the right of this text is a white icon of a hand holding a mobile phone.

A 60-year-old woman in Sussex was contacted by a man purporting to be a security technician from Amazon and said her online security was at risk. She was told had been hacked by someone in California and her IP address was not secure. The victim was advised to download an app which then gave scammers access to her computer. They took her financial and personal details and transferred £7,900 from her accounts. The victim realised and contacted the police.

Similarly, an 80-year-old man in Sussex received a call saying his computer had viruses and security issues. The victim thought this was odd as he had paid around £600 a few months ago to McAfee for anti-virus and computer protection, which was for a three year subscription. The fraudster persuaded the victim to give remote access to the computer and asked him to transfer £900 via Moneygram to sort out the problem. The victim returned to his computer to find that he could not enter his password and had been locked out of it.

Please be wary if you receive an unsolicited call about the security of your computer. There are fraudsters out there who will try to capitalise on your concern to financially profit. Be very careful to make sure you know who you're talking to. Remember - computer firms like Microsoft, Amazon, etc., do not make unsolicited phone calls to help you fix your computer. Fraudsters make these phone calls to try to steal from you and damage your computer with malware.

Treat all unsolicited phone calls with scepticism and don't give out any personal information. If you feel pressured, hang up and talk it through with a friend or family member.

*If you receive an unsolicited call:*

- ◆ Don't allow remote access to your computer.
- ◆ Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision — a genuine bank or another trusted organisation won't force you to make a financial transaction on the spot; they would never ask you to transfer money into another account for fraud reasons.
- ◆ Remember to stop and take time to carefully consider your actions.
- ◆ Don't make a payment.
- ◆ Make sure you know who you are talking to - if in doubt, hang up immediately.
- ◆ Listen to your instincts - if something feels wrong then it is usually right to question it.

Remember that criminals may lull you into a false sense of security when you are out and about or rely on your defences being down when you're in the comfort of your own home - they may appear trustworthy, but they may not be who they claim to be

*Wealden District Neighbourhood Police Team*

## Family Support Work (FSW) – Update

The last months have been very difficult for our families who are finding this lockdown much harder than last year as the pressure from schools is higher and the weather not conducive to lots of outdoor activities. Our practitioners have been working incredibly

hard to give families as much support as they can, and the real-life contact (as opposed to anything which is delivered remotely) is really helping them. With the vaccine rollout achieving such great success, we are able to give parents a sense of hope that this situation may come to an end before the summer.

We are also very pleased to announce that we are currently recruiting for four new roles at FSW. We are currently looking for family support practitioners for Midhurst and Petworth, Storrington, and Rye deaneries, as we are now able to expand our work into new parts of Sussex and support even more families. We are also looking for a co-ordinator for the Family Contact Centre in Eastbourne, which is a joint project between FSW and Mothers' Union. All the details of these vacancies are on our website so please do share with anybody you feel may be interested.

Whilst we are still unable to carry out any face-to-face events, and have no indication of when these might resume, we remain incredibly grateful to all those who are supporting us in other ways. The generosity of our supporters continues to hearten and motivate us all, and we are very grateful for your ongoing support both financially, practically and in prayer.

#### January's work in numbers

- ◆ 203 individual visits and 220 support calls with families supporting 39 grandparents, 271 parents and 339 children.
- ◆ 17 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely.
- ◆ 20 online group sessions held.
- ◆ 199 food deliveries made.

#### Prayer points

- ◆ Thanks that our practitioner who was ill with Covid last month has made a full recovery, and that all of our practitioners are currently being vaccinated as front-line keyworkers.
- ◆ Pray that we will receive quality applicants for our new job vacancies so that we can appoint excellent candidates to our new roles.
- ◆ Strength for the families who are struggling with home-schooling, particularly those who do not have adequate technology to keep up with online learning.

*Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing*

### **Brimstone Butterfly**

This lockdown has certainly felt harder because of the winter. Don't get me wrong, I've enjoyed the bleak beauty of the season: bare trees and frosted landscapes. But now I need something to get my heart racing. I need a sign – some hope in these challenging times, a promise of those dynamic spring months ahead, a flash of colour. In March, my light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming butterfly.

On sculpted, vibrant yellow wings the brimstone butterfly makes his elegant entrance into the new year on those bright March days when you feel the warmth of the sun on your face. Its distinctive yellow wings have given birth to a legend – that this 'butter-coloured fly' was the inspiration for the word butterfly. This claim may be a myth and it's also untrue that these March brimstones are the first signs of the year's new life. By the time brimstones appear in March they are already on their last (six) legs. Fresh brimstone butterflies emerged from their chrysalises in late summer, so by now they could be seven months old – and in butterfly years that's ancient. Admittedly, almost all of that time they've been asleep in a hedge, sheltered from the storms under holly and ivy. Yet despite the worst winter weather they always emerge immaculate in the spring. They must be made of Teflon. When they awake the (bright yellow) males search for a mate, they mate, the (pale yellow) females lay eggs and then both die. Still, an adult life of over ten months earns them the title of our longest-lived butterfly. An insect OAP.

The brimstone's caterpillars feed on the leaves of buckthorn and alder buckthorn, unobtrusive shrubs which, like the butterfly, are widespread across Sussex. When I first became the proud owner of a garden it was only a matter of days before I evicted the gnomes and planted an alder buckthorn. The following spring I was excited to watch a brimstone laying her tiny skittle shaped eggs and I studied the caterpillars as they hungrily defoliated my tree, content in the knowledge that I was doing my bit to raise the following year's brimstone brigade.

My first brimstone sighting each year doesn't exactly mean that spring is starting but it's certainly a sign that winter is starting to end. And, after the tough winter that we've all just suffered, that's good enough for me. Either way, this beautiful yellow butterfly is a welcome messenger of what's to come – the first sulphurous spark to ignite the blaze of spring. Let's hope that with the spring comes hope for a brighter year for us all.

*Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust*

## **Benefice Priest**

Revd Peter Blee - Rector of Berwick and Vicar of Selmeston with Alciston  
The Parsonage, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6SR  
Tel: 01323 870512 Email: [peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk)  
Peter's day off is Saturday.

## **Churchwardens**

Alciston - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623  
Berwick – Ruth Nares Tel: 01323 811186  
Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

## **Benefice Administrator**

Stephanie Lewis-Grey Tel: 01323 811136 Email: [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

## **Parish News Advertising and Distribution**

This is coordinated by Jeremy and Valerie Shaw. Tel: 01323 811567.

## **Parish News**

This "digital issue" is also available on the benefice church's website [www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk) and Berwick Parish Council's website [www.berwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.berwickparishcouncil.org.uk). As the "digital issues" do not include advertising, we intend to include the advertisements in the printed issues until they have appeared in a full 12 month's issues.

The production team is Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers.

Contributions (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin Chilvers by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Email: [empty.sea@outlook.com](mailto:empty.sea@outlook.com); Post: 66 Parkfield Avenue, Eastbourne, BN22 9SF.

You should receive confirmation of receipt by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, but if not, please call him on 01323 507655.

Contributions can also be passed on to one of the coordinators:

Jane Anderson at Old Postman's Cottage, Alciston Tel: 01323 870075.

Valerie Shaw at Selmeston House, Selmeston Tel: 01323 811567.

Laurie Tinsley, Wynsford, Berwick Tel: 01323 870895.

## **Donations**

Financial donations to the Parish News are gratefully received. Cheques payable to "Parish News" can be passed to the Treasurer, Valerie Shaw, Selmeston House, Selmeston, Polegate, BN26 6UD. Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to Barclays Bank - Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.

We are very grateful for a donation last month from Mrs S Jelly.