

PARISH NEWS

MAY 2021

From the Parsonage

It is wonderful to see plants opening up in April and May to the rays of the sun. The buds are broken open by the warmth and light of Spring, and then the leaves begin to spread. The more light they absorb the more they expand and the more light they then take in. So God wants to shine upon us, to open us up, so that we can expand and receive more and more life.

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost into the lives of believers was like the bursting of a bud that had waited for so long to receive the warmth and light that it needed to break open and to be able to bring life to the plant. It was this experience which, changing the lives of Jesus' followers, brought a new spiritual 'Spring' to the world. But whereas creation responds naturally to the coming of Spring it is the conscience decision of an individual that determines whether a new spiritual 'Spring' comes to their lives. The word of God shines down on all people but not all accept it. The invitation to say yes to Jesus comes to all who hear the gospel, but not all respond. He is the one who breaks the bud open and makes it possible for them to soak up the life that flows from the Divine. And this year it coincides, we hope, with the opening up of society and people's lives expanding and filling once again following the life-sapping long lockdown of winter.

The joy of Pentecost is like the joy of spring, the Spirit of God soaks an individual who has been opened to Him like light soaking a leaf and the life which the leaf gives to the plant the spirit brings to the individual. At our celebration of Pentecost we pray for God to send His Holy Spirit afresh in order to bring life to His church.

Peter Blee

From the Parish Registers

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Seymour Corkran OBE, late Grenadier Guard's

28th July 1936 – 9th March 2021 - Funeral at Berwick Church on 26th March

When not away at school, Richard spent the majority of his childhood and youth with his Grandmother, Lady Winifred Corkran, whose home was in Hailsham (on the site of the current Tesco!) and then in Hellingly. He was the last of several generations of Grenadiers in his family and was commissioned into the Regiment in 1956. There followed a forty-year career that included serving not only in the UK, but also in Germany, Cyprus, British Honduras (Belize), Singapore, a two-year secondment to the Kings African Rifles in Kenya, and commanding the 8th Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment in Dungannon, East Tyrone in the late 1970s. Richard's final posting led to him being awarded an OBE.

It was following his time in Kenya in 1965 that Richard met his wife Jane at Drusilla's, where he was on leave and enjoying catching up with old friends and where Jane had a holiday job. They were married in 1967 and, 40 years later retired to Berwick, just 2 miles from where they first met.

Following his retirement from the Army, Richard was appointed Chief Executive of Berkshire County Blind Society, a job that he relished. Once he had fully retired and moved to Sussex in 2006 Richard, with Jane's help, ran the Saltdean and Peacehaven Blind Club and he was, for a time, a Trustee of the Sussex Blind Society. Richard was always busy, either studying (he was an OU Foundation Student) or working on his hobbies and projects –building a swimming pool, working on his model railway, editing Rhino Link (the magazine for the East Africa and KAR Association), playing croquet or walking the full length of the East Sussex coastline. In 2017 Jane and Richard celebrated their Golden Wedding with a small Thanksgiving Service in Berwick Church together with their daughters Claire and Alexandra.

Sadly, Richard was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about five years ago and spent his final two years being wonderfully cared for at Blatchington Manor Care Home in Seaford.

Jane Corkran

Church Services and Morning Prayer

Please visit the benefice websites to check on services: www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk or www.berwickchurch.org.uk or subscribe to the benefice's 'Sunday Link' by emailing benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk / telephone 01323 811136.

Rogation Sunday 2 May

9.00 am Morning Prayer (Zoom meeting*)
10.00 am Alciston Rogation Service

10.00 am Wilmington
11.00 am Berwick — Holy Communion

Sunday 9 May

9.00 am Morning Prayer (Zoom meeting*)
9.30 am Selmeston
10.00 am Arlington
11.00 am Berwick — Holy Communion

Pentecost Sunday 23 May

9.00 am Morning Prayer (Zoom meeting*)
10.00 am Arlington — Holy Communion

Sunday 16 May

9.00 am Morning Prayer (Zoom meeting*)
9.30 am Selmeston

Sunday 30 May

9.00 am Morning Prayer (Zoom meeting*)
10.00 am Wilmington
11.00 am Berwick — Holy Communion
(Joint service with Selmeston and Alciston)

Wednesdays

9.30 am Morning Prayer (Zoom meeting*)

* Please request a link from the Benefice Administrator benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk

Parish News Advertising

Now that Parish News is being printed and distributed again, the inclusion of the advertising is being resumed.

We are including the advertising as it appeared in the March 2020 issue and payments originally made for the 12 issues up to and including the January 2021 issue will be extended to cover the 12 issues starting with that for May 2021. In future, the "advertising year" will run from the May issue.

If any of those who were advertising in March 2020 no longer wish their advertisement to be included, or wish to change it, we shall be grateful if they will contact us at jvshaw@btinternet.com, on 01323 811567 or at Selmeston House, The Street, Selmeston, Polegate, BN26 6UD. Thank you.

Jeremy and Valerie Shaw

Arlington Scene Magazine — What's On In and Around Arlington

Arlington Scene magazine is back in print and we are trying to get our 'What's On In and Around Arlington' section going again. This offers a free text entry to show 'when - what - where and contact details'.

If you have any upcoming meetings, courses, events, performances, or anything similar of interest to our readers that you would like us to include please e-mail the details to arlingtonscene1@outlook.com and we will be pleased to add it to our list.

Pauline Jackson

Welcome to Alciston

Hilary Masters
Val Saunders and David Aukett
Simon and Stevie Taylor
Brendan and Kerry Webb and their son Ben

Wishing you every happiness in your new homes.

We also welcome Martha Cannings, daughter of Holly and Dave, who was born in December 2020 and Sariel Supiramaniam, son of Samira and Bernard who was born in February 2021.

Jane Anderson

The Lewes to Uckfield Railway

The Lewes to Uckfield line has been closed for decades and there have been many attempts to re-open it. We have made what many now consider a final bid to get it open. I have been working with local MPs and councillors from across the South East submitting a bid as part of the 'Restoring Your Railway' (RYR) programme. This programme funds 75% of costs, up to £50,000, of successful bids to help fund transport and economic studies and create a business case to reinstate 7 miles of former railway line between Lewes and Uckfield, as part of a Brighton Mainline 2 project.

Brighton Mainline 2 would transform the movement of people and freight across Sussex and Kent, covering a population of approximately 705,626 people. The area is currently poorly served by rail mainline access with either single track branch lines or lines in need of third rail electrification. As a result, many residents in Lewes are dependent on car usage to travel. With no motorway and little dual carriageway in the area, congestion, emissions, air pollution and delays are high. This project would significantly reduce car and HGV usage as part of the Governments' net zero carbon emissions target.

The scheme aims to firstly reopen the Lewes to Uckfield line (closed in 1969) and the Tunbridge Wells Central and Eridge (closed in 1985) and Ashurst Triangle (closed in 1969), thereby linking Kent and Sussex as two strategic parts of the South East by rail.

The Lewes to Uckfield line, as a seven-mile missing link, would provide new direct routes from Eastbourne, Seaford & Newhaven, putting some towns on a mainline for the first time since these lines were closed decades ago.

The transport problems this scheme would work to solve are to increase rail capacity across Sussex and Kent in an area that has, according to current train operators reached capacity, as well as provide an alternative rail main line option for residents on the current Brighton Main Line so that if the current line fails, needs repair or experiences an incident that rail services can continue for passengers. It would expand public transport options for residents across Sussex and Kent where the lack of a commercially viable bus service means rail is the only solution, meet the net zero carbon targets by taking cars off the road, and boost tourism to seaside resorts and the South Downs National Park by improving connectivity.

We will find out this Summer if our bid has been successful.

Maria Caulfield, MP

Sherrington Manor Open Day in Aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice

11.00 am to 4.00 pm Saturday 5th June

Sherrington Manor has a large garden with many distinctive areas, from borders of mixed shrubs to a beautiful orchard. Refreshments available – BBQ. No dogs allowed (except assistance dogs). Wheelchair accessible.

At the time of planning the 2021 Open Garden programme, Covid-19 restrictions are in place and it is possible that some level of social distancing regulation will continue during the season. So, we are asking our visitors to pre-book a timed entry slot for each of our gardens this year. www.stwhospice.org/pages/category/open-gardens. This is so we can keep visitor numbers within any imposed limits and keep our visitors, garden owners and staff as safe as possible.

We are asking for a donation of £5 per person per garden, which can be made at the time of booking.

Return of the Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show – Sunday, 15th August 2021

At long last we are able to gather together again and celebrate the 50th A&S Flower Show. We look forward to seeing you, your flowers and the fruits (and vegetables) of your garden labours this Summer. This year will be a very special event, and we will look back over past flower shows and things our villages used to love, and do, each year.

Join us in helping to make our village's Flower Show a marvellous event... would you like to:

- ◆ Have a go at Tug of War and make up a team?
- ◆ Learn to play stoolball, or teach newcomers how to play this traditional Sussex game?
- ◆ Have a stall at the show, or know someone who would?
- ◆ Have a suggestion of something we used to do at flower shows past that we should revive for this special 50th event?

We would love to from you - please contact Raina Thompson-Brody (07595480662) or Jan Matthews (811380). We look forward to seeing you!

Raina Thompson-Brody

May Gardener's Diary

Hopefully, we have planted all our Potatoes by now. Just keep an eye on the weather and if a frost is forecast, try to cover up any leaves that are showing.

Sweetcorn can be sown in pots to plant out, as soon as they are strong enough. Also get your Runner Beans, French Beans, Peas, Courgettes, Marrow, Squash, into pots or modules ready for planting out when it's warmer at night. Tomato plants should be growing well by now in the greenhouse.

Vegetables to sow straight into the ground are Beetroot, Carrots, Turnips, Radish, Spinach, Swede and all types of Cabbages. Don't forget to sow short rows, so you can add more later, to spread the harvesting.

Pests become active this month so keep a close eye on young plants for aphids on leaves and wash them off with water. Put collars around your Brassica plants to protect them from Cabbage Root Fly.

Watering newly-sown seeds and seedlings is very important. To test if you have been watering enough, put your finger in the soil. If it comes out moist, that's perfect.

Keith Winter

Family Support Work (FSW) – Update

The Easter holidays saw a special day as several of our West Sussex families were able to attend a fun day at Arundel Cricket Club. This is the first organised activity we have been able to arrange for over a year, and it is wonderful to be able to start these sorts of sessions again.

You may remember that we recently held interviews for new practitioner posts. We are delighted to say that we have appointed three new staff members to cover Petworth, Storrington and Midhurst deaneries and hope to have a fourth in place soon to cover Rye. We will be sharing more information about the appointments as soon as we can but we are very excited that we will be able to start work in these new areas very soon.

As the lockdown eases, we are now extremely busy preparing for many Open Garden events that will be taking place over the coming months. We have a record number of dates this year and are in need of support for these, particularly from cake bakers. If your church or parish might be able to help with providing cakes, we would love to hear from you – please contact Nikki by email on nikki@familysupportwork.org.uk. All the dates for our Open Gardens can be found on our website under the Events section and it would be lovely to see you.

March's work in numbers:

- ◆ 297 individual visits and 244 support calls with families supporting 39 grandparents, 365 parents and 321 children.
- ◆ 24 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely.
- ◆ 31 online group sessions held, including Easter activities.
- ◆ 497 food deliveries made.

Prayer points:

- ◆ Give thanks for the new practitioner appointments, and that all vetting procedures will run smoothly.
- ◆ Pray for some of our staff members who have recently been experiencing ill health in their families, that healing will be quick.
- ◆ Pray for our management team, who have many important decisions to make regarding the work of FSW over the coming year.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Searching For Extinct Animals

A wonderful museum lurks unassumingly on Brighton's Dyke Road, the tree-lined residential avenue that connects the city to the rolling chalk hills of the South Downs. It was here, in the illuminated cabinets and cases of 'The Booth Museum of Natural History' that my story started. A display of the bones, eggs, fur and feathers of extinct animals reconnected me with my childhood obsession with lost species. It was the starting point for a journey that led me deep into the caves of New Zealand looking for the bones of the mighty extinct Moa – birds which stood over 12 feet tall. I hike mountain ranges in search of the South Island Kōkako, a bird known as the 'Grey Ghost'; which some believe may still exist. In San Francisco I seek the remaining sand dunes where the diminutive Xerces Blue butterfly once flew and in a dimly lit museum storeroom, I am granted an audience with the holiest of extinct relics – the mummified head of the legendary Dodo. Although my quest leads me to Copenhagen, Helsinki, Paris and New York I was surprised to find that, if I was searching for extinct animals, there was a story right on my doorstep.

Sussex was the last known whereabouts of Ivell's Sea Anemone, declared extinct in 1997. This delicate creature once existed in Widewater Lagoon near Shoreham and is known from nowhere else on the planet. Widewater's faded information panel contains a drawing of this mythical beast. Grey and tubular, the illustration resembles a section of somebody's small intestine or a really long sock with wiry tentacles poking out of one end.

I headed off in search of the only remaining specimens of this species, stored deep in the basement of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Here I was handed a jar with a domed glass stopper. Inside the jar was a solution of 75% ethanol and floating in that ethanol was ...nothing. I put on my glasses and raised the jar up to the storeroom's light bulb and only then could I make out the anemone, a miniscule, thin squiggle suspended in the solution. After giant Moa bones and mummified Dodos there was no disguising my disappointment. I had harboured a hope that maybe I could be the man to gallantly re-discover Ivell's Sea

Anemone in Widewater lagoon. The fact that I couldn't re-discover it in a jar two inches from my face didn't inspire me with confidence.

Undaunted, I carried on my quest and, armed with a snorkel, a faulty torch and an inflatable Lilo in the shape of a crocodile I bravely waded into Widewater. You'll find the rest of this story and many more of my adventures in my new book 'Gone: A search for what remains of the world's extinct creatures', published on 27 April and available everywhere.

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

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

Parish News Advertising and Distribution

This is coordinated by Jeremy and Valerie Shaw.

Tel: 01323 811567.

Parish News

The production team is Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers. Contributions (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin Chilvers by the 12th of the month.

Email: empty.sea@outlook.com; Post: 66 Parkfield Avenue, Eastbourne, BN22 9SF.

You should receive confirmation of receipt by the 15th 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.