

PARISH NEWS

JULY 2021

From the Parsonage – ‘Strangers’

Two men turned up outside Berwick church late Sunday afternoon at the end of a busy weekend in June. They had backpacks and were hot and tired. They were pilgrims walking from Southampton to Canterbury, one was Czech, the other Irish. They asked for water, food if possible and if there was somewhere they could sleep. They had only £5, and this was ‘emergency money’ that they were trying to save.

Having travelled in the mountains in Greece when I was young, the tradition of giving hospitality to strangers had made a big impression on me. The generosity of poor people living in small villages towards us even though they had never met us before has stayed with me. The two men got their food and overnight accommodation. And they helped take down a marquee and clear up after a church event.

A certain hesitancy and awkwardness in their initial request arose from the fact that they were two Jesuit novices and had been given the task of walking the route and depending on the help of others and faith in God as part of their formation. They never knew what kind of response they were going to get, and they had had some negative experiences. Perhaps some were more fearful of letting them into their personal sphere because of Covid and nervous about getting involved with two vulnerable people. As well as depending on the hospitality of others they also had to travel without phones.

It was interesting meeting these two people who had chosen such a path in life and were now finding it quite a tiring experience, not knowing what was coming each day and how people were going to respond. Their pilgrimage became a task in trusting God, as well as in the kindness of strangers. The encounter reminded me just how much Covid can influence the way people respond to strangers and how easy it is to close your own personal world to others. I wonder how many people have become strangers through Covid as a result of lack of social contact, just how many strangers would really welcome the kindness of others. And it also made me think of the path of trust and faith in God, rather than plans and strategies, and just how uncomfortable and tiring it can be to live in that way. Also, of how Jesus first disciples must have experienced that difficult call of Jesus ‘come and follow me’. It’s encouraging and challenging to meet people who are still responding to God’s calling in the way those young men heard it.

‘I Do Set My Bow’ Talk by Julian Bell

Julian Bell in discussion with Peter Blee talk about development of his new painting ‘I Do Set My Bow’ for Berwick Church, which celebrates the completion of the restoration of the paintings in the church. <https://youtu.be/EFs4E547URU>

Peter Blee

Church Services and Morning Prayer

Sunday 4 th July	08:00	Alciston BCP	Sunday Zoom Morning Prayer will be held at 9.00 am. You can be sent a link to join these services – please contact the Benefice Administrator at benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk to be added to the mailing list to receive this link. Wednesday Zoom Morning Prayer will be held at 9.30 am each Wednesday. Please request a link as above. If you would like to receive weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please email: benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk and the Administrator will add your email to the mailing list.
	10:00	Arlington Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
Sunday 11 th July	09:30	Alciston Morning Prayer	
	10:00	Wilmington Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
Sunday 18 th July	09:30	Selmeston Holy Communion	
	10:00	Arlington Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
Sunday 25 th July	09:30	Selmeston Morning Prayer	
	10:00	Wilmington Morning Prayer	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	

Cake Sale at Alciston Church in Aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Society

The weather was perfect for the fundraising cake sale at Alciston church for the Lewes branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Society in memory of Linda Hallums. There were coffee sponges, chocolate ones and plain ones filled with raspberry, strawberry and apricot jams, lemon drizzle cakes and fruit ones. Also, a variety of quiches as well as cheese and fruit scones.

People came bought cakes, sat and chatted, and enjoyed the sunshine. The response was amazing and in all the money raised was over £437.20p.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all who came, and to all who contributed to the cause. Linda was a very special friend.

Michèle Boys

Roads and Housing

I welcomed the news recently that between the 24th and 27th May, litter removal along the westbound carriageway of the A27 took place. This comes after meetings with the local councils and Highways England, during which I, along with other local representatives, lobbied strongly on behalf of local residents to ensure that the litter was removed.

Highways street cleansing crews were deployed over these four nights to remove as much litter as possible from the westbound side. It is hoped that litter removal on the eastbound side of the carriageway will also have been addressed in late June. Once the work has been completed in each area, roadside communication encouraging motorists to "Keep the A27 Clean" by taking their rubbish home with them and ensuring their cargos are safely secured will be installed.

Residents have been contacting me all year about the state of our roads and how bad it looks for visitors. It is really welcome news that this is finally being tackled and we all look forward to our roadsides being cleaner.

I know that large scale housing developments are of great concern to local residents around the constituency and I am pleased to say that recently both Caroline Ansell, the MP for Eastbourne, and I called in the Mornings Mill and Hindsland developments in Willingdon near Polegate.

Most people accept that new housing is needed, but this site is simply not an acceptable location, especially for the number of housing units proposed. Across Polegate, Willingdon and many other areas in the South of Wealden we have seen vast new housing developments over the last few years, so we are more than taking our fair share.

I am continuing to oppose the North Barnes Farm development in East Chiltington which is being proposed by Eton College. I am working with local campaign group 'Don't Urbanise the Downs' on this, and I will be calling this in with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government when a planning application comes forward.

Maria Caulfield, MP

Open Days at Follers Manor Garden, Alfriston

At last summer has arrived and Follers Manor Garden will be open for 3 days this year. The charities are in desperate need of funds so please pop along for a cup of tea with homemade cake and have a browse around the garden and stalls. The cost is £8 per adult (children free), sorry but no dogs.

The garden is open from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday 27th June in aid of the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice; and on Saturday and Sunday 3rd and 4th July in aid of the National Garden Scheme, Children with Cancer Fund (Polegate) and the Wolo Foundation in Seaford who help families affected by cancer.

If you are new to the garden, please take a look at Follers Manor Garden website www.follersmanor.co.uk for more information. The garden is ½ mile south of Alfriston: Follers Manor, White Way, Alfriston, BN26 5TT. Heading south, it is next door to old Alfriston Youth Hostel, immediately before the road narrows.

Anne and Geoff Shaw

Clay Play Day with Jonathan Chiswell-Jones

10.00 am to 4.00 pm Friday 16th July at JCJ Pottery, Peelings Manor Barns, Hankham Road, BN24 5AP

Cost £20. To book a place please email jo@jcjpottery.co.uk or call 01323 469009.

Jonathan Chiswell-Jones

Alciston and Selmeston Summer Party

The party has moved to the evening of Saturday, 24th July (COVID restrictions allowing) - Alciston and Selmeston are welcoming everyone back to village life. We'll have live music, lovely food, a cash bar and fun at the A&S Village Hall. Entry is free, but you'll need a ticket to attend, so watch for more information through your letterbox.

Questions? Want to request a ticket? Contact Mari Thomas - 01323 811600 or Raina Thompson-Brody at 07595 480662.

Raina Thompson-Brody

Pilgrim Path Walk

Saturday 31st July

We shall be walking the Pilgrim Path round the churches of our benefice again this year. If you would like to join us, please make a note of the date. Brief stops at each of the churches in the benefice will be made. You can come for part or for the whole walk. We shall leave Berwick at 8.30am – those wanting to start from Alfriston would need to allow an extra half hour. We aim to return to Berwick by mid-afternoon, but everyone can join and re-join the walk as they wish during the day, bringing their own picnics and refreshments in line with Covid rules at the time. Timings are approximate.

8.00 am Alfriston

8.30 am Berwick

9.00 am Alciston

9.40 am Selmeston – ‘Big Breakfast’ here – to book please contact the Benefice Administrator: benefice.admin@btconnect.com or call 01323 811136.

11.45 am Arlington

1.30 pm Wilmington – Please bring your own lunch.

3.30 pm Berwick – Cream Tea – All welcome including those who have not walked.

Jonathan Chiswell Jones and Charles Anson

Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show

Sunday 15th August 2021

This year marks the 50th Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show, and we hope you are all busy in your gardens, thinking of what you'll enter and looking forward to this year's show. A&S residents should already have received a flower show schedule, with entry form. If you haven't received one, please feel free to request one from Jan Mathews (811380) or Margaret Weller (811396).

This year will be full of fun, bringing back some traditions from years past and starting some new ones. The more categories you enter, the more fun you have, so have a go and come along for a great day out.

The A&S Flower Show Committee

Recipe of the Month – Cool Minted Chicken

This recipe from Mary Berry was a favourite with the Selmeston Sewing Group – it serves 6 people.

Ingredients

350 g /12 oz freshly cooked chicken meat

150ml/5 fl oz crème fraîche

150ml/5 fl oz light mayonnaise

2 tbsp fresh mint, chopped and a sprig to decorate

1 spring onion finely chopped

Juice of ½ a lemon

¼ tsp sugar

Salt and freshly ground pepper

Method

Cut the chicken into bite-size pieces having removed the skin and any gristly bits. Mix together the remaining ingredients, except the salt and pepper, fold in the chicken pieces, then taste and season carefully. Cover and chill in the fridge for 12 hours or overnight.

When ready to serve, taste and check the seasoning again; spoon onto a dish and decorate with the sprig of mint.

It can be served with hot garlic bread and salad.

Valerie Shaw

July Gardener's Diary

The vegetable plot should be really starting to stir in July! Now is the time to be nurturing the results of all your hard work from the last few months. Watering, weeding, staking and supporting should be on the agenda. Climbing beans will be growing skyward along their frames and will need some regular, gentle intervention to keep them there.

Continue to fill temporary gaps that appear between crop cycles with quick growing varieties such as radishes or lettuce, so there's no wasted space in the garden.

Throughout the month you can dish up on the table some veggies that have been the labour of love for the past six months and taste the difference.

Keith Winter

Family Support Work (FSW) – Update

With our staff and our families getting used to being able to meet again, we have been able to provide face-to-face support in our families' homes for the first time in almost a year. This has been invaluable, particularly for complex cases where a phone call or Skype chat cannot provide all the necessary support.

It has also been a joy to welcome our new family support practitioners. Gill joined us in May to cover Rye deanery, and at the beginning of June we welcomed Sara (Storrington), Kirsty (Midhurst and Petworth) and Nidhi (Battle, Bexhill and Sidley). Our practitioner team now comprises 15 members of staff and covers 80% of Sussex. We are delighted to be operating in some totally new areas, as well as being back in areas where we have not had a presence for some time. If you live local to any of our new staff, please do give them a warm welcome if you see them around.

We have also been very happy to organise events for our families. Families from Bognor, Crawley, Rustington and Worthing attended a fun day at Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation last week which enabled them to meet together, get active and enjoy the glorious sunshine.

Our events calendar continues to be very busy with Open Garden dates in East Sussex, as well as the South of England Show from 11th to 13th June, where we ran a stand to encourage people to learn more about our work. We are also welcoming registrations for our Amberley to Arundel sponsored walk on Thursday 12th August. Registration and sponsorship forms can be obtained by email to fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk or by calling the office on 01273 832963.

Finally, our food bank stocks are still running low, and we would welcome donations of any non-perishable goods – except for dried pasta and tinned tomatoes. If you are able to organise a local collection, then we can arrange for our van to come and collect from you – please contact Spencer in the office on 01273 832963.

Thank you for your continued practical support and your prayers as our work grows even more vital.

May's work in numbers:

- ◆ 297 individual visits and 235 support calls with families supporting 37 grandparents, 359 parents and 346 children.
- ◆ 24 supported meetings with other agencies carried out remotely.
- ◆ 24 online group sessions held.
- ◆ 371 food deliveries made.

Prayer points:

- ◆ Pray that our new practitioners will settle quickly into their new roles.
- ◆ Give thanks for the recent opportunities we have had to speak to new organisations about our work.
- ◆ Pray for our volunteers who are providing such vital support to our fundraising and family events.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

News from King's Academy, Ringmer

It was emotional to bid farewell to our lovely year 11 students; they have survived a rollercoaster five years that have seen the school change from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good with Outstanding Features' and have spent their most important year learning from home and having to adapt to become independent learners. We wish them 'all the best' and have our fingers crossed that we can at least go ahead and celebrate their time with us at the Prom!

The rest of the year groups have enjoyed having the freedom of the whole school back again now the 'bubbles' have been lifted. The year 7s have been especially excited to discovered new buildings with classrooms fully equipped with fantastic resources to support them in lessons like Art and Design Technology.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome three new members of staff in English, Science and PE who will join us in September in order to manage our ever-increasing number as 75 year 11s are leaving and 150 year 7s start.

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

Glow-worm

It's not what you look like but what's inside that counts. The Glow-worm knows this. First off, we need to get one thing straight – she's not a worm. Glow-worms are beetles, except she doesn't look much like a beetle - more like a squashed Woodlouse.

She may not look like much, but she knows that she has a certain something that is more alluring than all the brightly coloured feathers, petals, fur and scales that others use in their desperate cries for attention. When the colours of the day start to fade, she undertakes a dignified climb to the top of a blade of grass. She positions herself carefully, turns on her love-light and shines.

When scientists explain this phenomenon, they use words like 'bioluminescence' and discuss the 'oxidation of Luciferin' – but these boffins and their fancy talk ain't fooling me. I know magic when I see it and to look upon Glow-worms shining on a warm summer's evening is just that – magical.

Of course, the Glow-worm is not glowing for our benefit – there's a special someone she's trying to attract. I've been referring to the Glow-worm as 'she' because the female is the one who does the glowing. The male looks like a different species altogether and is Glow-worm by association. Much smaller and beetle-like in appearance, he has bulging eyes which are protected under a see-through rim on his tough beetle-body – imagine a tiny Marty Feldman in a suit of armour and a sun visor and you're not too far off.

On warm evenings he flies over the grass looking down for a female's glow. When her signal registers on his radar he dives, crashing to the ground near her. He then looks up through his visor to locate the female hanging over him, before scuttling the short distance to his new partner.

This amazing little animal has inspired poets through the centuries. William Blake's Glow-worm lit the path for the 'Troubled wilder and forlorn' while in the poem 'Among All Lovely Things My Love Had Been' William Wordsworth woos his sweetheart with a Glow-worm. But surely the most epic verse ever written about a Glow-worm is this anonymous poem: "I wish I were a Glow-worm, a Glow-worm's never glum, 'cos how can you be grumpy, when the sun shines out your bum?"

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.