

PARISH NEWS

JULY 2022

From the Parsonage – A New Window for Selmeston Church



Leonie Seliger runs the stained glass studio at Canterbury Cathedral where her team works on the conservation of the mediæval windows. She is also an artist and designer and was selected from three artists who were invited to submit designs for a new window in Selmeston in memory of June Mockett. She died in 2018 and is buried, alongside her husband and daughter, in the churchyard. Two close friends are commissioning the window.

The window celebrates the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path, and the collection of images to the left show some of the inspiration behind her design. The brief asked for a window which was abstract and a contrast to the other windows in the church; that it would still allow light to enter and that it would draw a contemplative gaze from the viewer. It's a window for worshippers and those walking the path, an offering for all to enjoy. Stephanie Lewis-Grey has been overseeing the project and it will be completed by the time you read this but only revealed at a special service of dedication by Bishop Will at 3.00 pm on Sunday 10th July, to which everyone is warmly invited.

Within the design are three outline figures of Christ to discover; these are based on painted Crucifixions by Michelangelo – a reference to the Trinity. Leonie has faced and overcome many challenges in the sourcing of her materials and the making of the window and is excited now at the prospect of seeing it in situ. It is a unique design and one which will make people pause, reflect and bathe momentarily in its colours as they make their journey along the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path. From 10th July please do come and see it.

Peter Blee

Church Services and Morning Prayer

Sunday 3 rd July	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion	Morning Prayer at 9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick church.
	09:30	Selmeston Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	Evening Prayer takes place at 5.00 pm each Wednesday at Wilmington church.
	11:00	Wilmington Holy Communion	
Sunday 10 th July	09:30	Alciston BCP	If you would like to receive weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please contact the Benefice Administrator benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk who will add your email address to the mailing list.
	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
	11:00	Wilmington Holy Communion	
	15.00	Selmeston Dedication of New Window	
Sunday 17 th July	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion	
	09:30	Selmeston Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
	11:00	Wilmington Family Service	
Sunday 24 th July	09:30	Alciston BCP	
	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
	11:00	Wilmington Holy Communion	
Sunday 31 st July	10.00	Arlington United Benefice Service	

Memorial Service for Revd Peter Smith

2.30 pm Friday 1st July at Berwick Church

Peter Smith was Rector of the three churches of Alciston, Berwick and Selmeston for 12 years, retiring in 2003. Following the service of thanksgiving his ashes will be interred alongside those of his wife Mary in the churchyard at Berwick. His daughter Alison and the rest of the family warmly invite any parishioners who would like to attend to join them for this celebration of his life and ministry.

Renaissance Singers – Music For A Summers Evening

3.30 pm Sunday 3rd July at Berwick Church

The popular Renaissance Singers return to Berwick Church for the first time since the completion of the restoration and the end of pandemic. The performance will be followed by refreshments.

Dedication of Stained-Glass Window and Tea Party in Selmeston

3.00 pm. on Sunday 10th July at Selmeston Church and afterwards at The Old Vicarage.

Celebrating the installation of the new stained-glass window at Selmeston Church. The service, led by the Bishop of Lewes, will be followed by a village tea party at the Old Vicarage. Everyone is welcome and the event is free, with donations gratefully received. Please let Stephanie know by 4th July if you wish to attend as places are restricted. Tel: 01323 811136 or email: benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk.

Stephanie Lewis-Grey

Cuckmere Croakers Close Harmony Group – Dementia Friendly Coffee Concert

11.00 am Wednesday 13th July at Berwick Church.

A concert of light music in the beautiful setting of Berwick Church to which people can come and relax – including those who may have dementia. Followed by refreshments. For enquiries about access and facilities please contact

peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk.

Firle and Beddingham Women’s Institute

7.30 pm Wednesday 13th July at Firle Village Hall

Our June meeting at Firle was most enjoyable. We had a flower arranging evening led by a member, Valerie. We all took our own flowers and did our own arrangements in a jam jar. We then had a cup of coffee and a chat. A great evening together.

In July we have Trevor Weekes from the Sussex Wildlife Trust giving a talk. I am sure this will interest many people so do come and join us.

Cuckmere Pilgrim Path Walk

Departing Berwick Church at 8.00 am on Saturday 16th July

This is a guided walk along the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path. People are free to join or leave at any church along the route. Approximate timings are Berwick 8.00 am – Alciston 8.30 am – Selmeston 9.20 am – Arlington 11.40 am. – Wilmington 1.00 pm – Berwick 3.30 pm.

The ‘Big Breakfast’ at 9.30 a.m. is again being hosted by Jan and Pete at Selmeston. For catering purposes, if you wish to attend the breakfast, please email Jan: janet.matthews1@btinternet.com or call 01323 811380

The walk finishes at Berwick at 3.30 pm with cream tea in the parsonage garden. All are very welcome (and dogs).

SOBS – Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide

3.00 to 5.00 pm on Sunday 17th July at Berwick Church

A SOBS meeting at Berwick Church to which anyone who has been bereaved in this way is warmly invited. The afternoon will include a walk, talk and refreshments. If you would like to attend or to find out more about SOBS or this event, please contact Peter Bridgewater: peter@onthedowns.co.uk.

Peter Bridgewater

Refugee Tales

In 2019 a crowd of walkers on their way from Brighton to Hastings passed through the benefice and stopped overnight in Alfriston. Most of the walkers wore bright blue tee shirts emblazoned with “Refugee Tales” to publicise their support for the campaign to bring an end to indefinite detention in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs). Sadly, the objective has not yet been achieved. Since

2019, hundreds more people have been held for indefinite periods of time in prison-like conditions at IRCs. Most of them will eventually be released into the community, as there was no legal justification for their deportation.

Refugee Tales perseveres in its campaign, using true stories contributed by ex-detainees to help people understand what is happening. The Refugee Tales website (www.refugeetales.org) has information about the advocacy work and the findings of the Walking Inquiry conducted last year. Paperback volumes of the 'Tales' are also available.

From 2nd to 6th July Refugee Tales supporters will again undertake a pilgrimage-like walk – mainly for publicity purposes from Merstham to Winchester, but also endeavouring to demonstrate a welcoming community since amongst the walkers there will be ex-detainees who will be joining in the inspiring experience. Each evening along the route there will be a meeting open to local people to share Tales of asylum seekers and others who have personally experienced detention. I plan to walk with them, covering about 50 miles over 5 days.

There is another walk in support of the 'Freedom from Torture' charity on the South Downs on Sunday 10th July. This is an admirable charity which campaigns for a fair and human asylum system as well as seeks to provide care, compassion and support for survivors of torture. If you would like to join it, contact Leah Levane, Chair of East Sussex Freedom from Torture Support Group at ffteastsussex@gmail.com.

C Ruth Butlin

Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show

Sunday 14th August at Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall

Following on from the successful 50th anniversary show last year, we are hoping that this year's show will be even bigger and better. The show is open to anyone living in Alciston and Selmeston and to their friends and relatives, so please do encourage people to put in entries. Don't worry if you're a complete beginner or if you think your entries don't stand a chance. We all think that and sometimes get a pleasant surprise. It's a fun show and a chance to catch up with, or get to know, your neighbours over a cup of tea, a pint of beer or a glass of wine.

By now you should have received a schedule for this year's show. If you haven't already had one, or if you would like an online copy to send to friends and relatives, please contact Jan Matthews.

NB We are always looking for additional help on the day, so if you think you have time, please let us know. Also, we're always keen to recruit more representatives onto the committee, particularly from Alciston, which is underrepresented. If you do feel you're able to help, please ring Jan Mathews (811380) or Margaret Weller (811396). Hopefully, we will see you at the Flower Show!

Jan Matthews-Moulding

Berwick Produce Show 2022

2.00 pm Saturday 20th August at Berwick Village Hall

The Berwick Produce Show is back - please put this date in your diaries! Having decided not to run our show last year we are full steam ahead with planning the 2022 show. The show will be on the playing fields behind the village hall. It is a great family day out with classes for all ages, there will also be our usual family dog show.

Show schedules will be distributed in August; if anyone would like to put an advertisement in the show schedule, please email me at sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com

Sue Woodgate

Benefice Administrator

With the current administrator, Stephanie Lewis-Grey, leaving at the end of July, the benefice is seeking to appoint her replacement. The role supports the ministry and churches' outreach work in Alciston, Arlington, Berwick, Selmeston and Wilmington. The job is mainly home-based and has a very varied workload of between 15-20 hours per month. This includes maintaining the church websites and online calendars, and general administrative duties to ensure that events/services are prepared for in good time and well publicised, so good IT skills are essential. The salary is £12 50 per hour plus expenses.

Further details – including a full job specification and application form – are available from Jan Matthews. Tel: 01323 811380 or email: janet.matthews1@btinternet.com. The closing date for applications is Monday 18th July 2022.

Jan Matthews

Platinum Jubilee Lunch

In honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Alciston and Selmeston village hall hosted a commemorative lunch for over 100 residents, their family and friends, on Sunday 5th June. And what a truly memorable afternoon we had!

The hall looked magnificent decked out in red, white and blue with bunting galore, fairy lights, and white linen covered tables adorned with flags and flowers. We had music from the Queen's reign, a very enthusiastic singalong of Land of Hope and Glory, a

tombola and a mini-quiz while tucking into a fabulous buffet washed down with an impressive selection of beverages. Outside there were lots of activities for everyone to get involved with or just watch. A highlight was certainly the Tug of War. Parked at the entrance we had a beautiful 1952 Jowett Javelin bedecked in regal splendour and on the field a chance to meet Muesli and Bob, two of our local Alpacas, all making this an unforgettable occasion.

Towards the end of the afternoon we gathered around our beautiful 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' Prunus 'Pink Perfection' flowering cherry to honour the Queen's Green Canopy. The Revd Peter Blee gave a blessing, placed a plaque and representatives from the younger and more senior members of our community added a ceremonial handful of soil to finish the planting. It is to the left side of the hall for us all to enjoy, for present and future generations, throughout the seasons.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you all for making this such a tremendous success and we look forward to welcoming you again soon at the next event.

Helen Shaw

Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall Chair

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.

Lisa Collington

Through the Stained-Glass Window



It was damp and dismal as we set off on our journey to Canterbury in a coach full of people and chatter. We were all excited about going to Leonie Seliger's workshop in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral to see the stained-glass window being assembled that had been commissioned for Selmeston church. Leonie, who is the Director of Stained Glass Conservation at Canterbury Cathedral, had kindly agreed to a group of us meeting with her.

The sun had appeared as we arrived through a very narrow entrance to the grounds of Kings School. An amazing hour was spent learning about all the tricks of the trade involved with stained glass and what an intriguing material it is to work with. It sometimes appears to have a mind of its own — especially in what colour it wanted to be, which sometimes was the opposite of the initial intention! A great deal of skill is needed for such intricate and painstaking work.

Moving on, above the workshop was another room where the glass for our window had been laid out for us in the pattern it would be, once completed. I am lost for words to describe the feeling that the window evoked as the vision of Christ that had been incorporated into the design became visible. Such vision and skill involved in bringing to life an idea can only be attributed to a genius — so take a bow Leonie.

As we left the studio students were in full flow as they processed into the cathedral for their graduation ceremony. Because of this, part of the cathedral was out of bounds to visitors. Our way in was by ascending a steep flight of steps into the Quire where the majestic sight of the cathedral was laid out before us.

I felt lost in the vastness of the great cathedral and found it very difficult to feel a connection to God. He seemed so out of reach even in the beautiful miracle windows that appeared to stretch into the sky. Lighting a candle was my way of reaching out and sending a prayer on behalf of a little girl I know who needed help that day.

Lunch followed in the sunshine, and we all met up later in the afternoon to start our journey home along the leafy lanes of Kent, tired but happy people who had had a fascinating day.

In conclusion, it was the privilege of meeting Leonie in her workshop where all the magic happens, where visions are brought to life, where skill is seen at its very best, where Christ appeared through a stained-glass window, which said it all.

Michèle Boys

Recipe of the Month – Fat Rascals

Serves 6

Ingredients

300 g self-raising flour
1½ tsp ground mixed spice
125 g butter cut into small pieces
100g caster sugar
150 g mixed dry fruit
2 eggs beaten
About 3 tbsp milk

To decorate

9 glace cherries halved
18 whole blanched almonds

Method

Pre heat oven to 200°C, Fan 180°C, gas mark 6. Grease and line a large baking sheet.

Sift the flour and spice into a mixing bowl and then rub in the butter until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar and dried fruit and then bind together with half the egg and sufficient milk to form a soft dough.

Divide the mixture into 6 equal portions. On a lightly floured surface, form each into flattish scone shapes about 7 cm (3½ ins) in diameter.

Place on the baking tray, spaced apart, brush with the remaining egg and decorate with cherries and almonds to make faces.

Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. Best served warm.

Valerie Shaw

Family Support Work (FSW)

It has been a bit of a whirlwind over the last month as our new practitioners have settled into their roles. Thank you to everybody who lives in one of our new areas and has made contact or offered support to their new practitioner; it really means a lot to us. As a result, our new colleagues are already building up quite substantial caseloads and it is wonderful to be able to support so many new families who have been needing help. We have also been working with some Ukrainian refugees in certain areas who have been attending our drop-in sessions. The half term and jubilee celebrations meant some very busy days – we had stands at many carnivals, town fairs and the like, and were able to talk to lots of people about our work. Keep an eye out on our social media pages for the photos!

Looking ahead we are planning our summer holiday activities, which this year will include a day at Ashburnham for our East Sussex families. We are also working with Lodge Hill Activity Centre near Pulborough, which offers some incredible opportunities which we hope to be able to access for our families.

We are still in need of donations for our foodbank, particularly jams, sauces and toiletries. With the increase in the number of families we support with food deliveries, our stocks are running lower more quickly, so any contributions are very gratefully received.

Please keep Saturday 1st October in your diaries – this will be our AGM which, this year, will be at Chichester Cathedral and be followed by a full Eucharist and lunch. We do hope to see as many of you there as possible. Thank you for your continued support of FSW's work.

May's work in numbers

- ◆ 238 individual visits and 724 calls with families supporting 360 adults and 358 children
- ◆ 47 supported meetings with other agencies
- ◆ 35 group sessions held supporting 409 parents and 199 children
- ◆ 185 food deliveries made

Prayer points

- ◆ Give thanks that our new family support practitioners have quickly settled into their new roles.
- ◆ Pray for all the volunteers who are supporting our busy events schedule over the coming weeks and give thanks for their commitment and dedication.
- ◆ Pray for all the refugee families we support, from Syria, Ukraine and other areas of conflict, that we will provide reassurance and stability for them.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Noise Cameras

One of the biggest issues I get from almost every village is the problems caused by noisy vehicles and motorbikes. I am not talking about ordinary cars travelling from A to B, but those who deliberately use our villages and country lanes as racetracks, or an open road to speed on. This seems to have got increasingly worse over lockdown in almost every part of the constituency.

Recently noise cameras have been developed and used by the Department for Transport as Roadside Vehicle Noise Measurements. The Department is trialling these to see how effective they could be as a deterrent. Like speed cameras they will record a vehicle's details if it triggers the camera at a certain noise level. Each MP can bid for one site in their constituency, but only four will be chosen across the country in the initial pilot.

I am working with the MP for Eastbourne, and we have put in a joint bid to the Department for Transport for the new 'noise cameras' to be installed on Beachy Head Road and Birling Gap Road at East Dean, which link the two constituencies and are used by both souped-up cars and motorbikes as a racetrack. Should the pilot be successful I am keen to bid for more cameras for the constituency and I would be keen to hear from parishes about the areas where these would make the greatest difference. If you have a stretch of road where a noise camera would make a difference, then please email me on maria.caulfield.mp@parliament.uk.

Thank you.

Maria Caulfield, MP

Hobby

Recently I've spent a lot of time on the beautiful West Sussex heaths, where I've been lucky to encounter an animal which always gets my heart beating as it speeds past: the Hobby. Around about now, high in a twiggy tree-top nest, two eggs will be laid. The proud parents have flown all the way from the Congo Basin to raise their family in the Sussex countryside.

Hobbies look debonair and dashing. With their black 'eye mask' and drooping 'moustache' there's a touch of Zorro about them. And, like that enigmatic swordsman, Hobbies are famed for their speed and dexterity. Superficially, the Hobby looks similar to the Peregrine, which, along with the Kestrel, makes up the trio of falcons that breed in Sussex. But Peregrines are very different birds. They started raising their families way back in April and adult Peregrines are up to four times heavier than a Hobby. Peregrines hunt by putting their weight behind their attack, whereas Hobbies use aerial agility and acceleration; the ninja to the Peregrine's sumo. The Hobby's slender, scimitar wings slice the air as they twist, turn and tumble to pluck their victims from the sky in their talons.

These victims are the reason for the Hobby's 4,000 mile journey from Africa, and for their late egg-laying. The birth of the hungry Hobby chicks is perfectly synchronised with their food supply, which is most abundant in Sussex skies in July and August. Hobbies specialise in catching the uncatchable; swallows, martins, swifts and dragonflies - all accomplished aviators themselves, who probably thought they were invincible whilst airborne. Watching a Hobby hunting is watching an accomplished predator at work.

If you've been on a wildlife walk with me you've probably already heard my favourite piece of Hobby trivia. In 1946 Mr Adolph of Langton Green, Kent had an idea. Presumably, with a name like that, the preceding seven years had been a tough time for Mr Adolph, but now he was free to unleash his incredible invention upon the world; a game which involved flicking wobbly model footballers up and down a tabletop. This game, he insisted, would be a great hobby for boys and he named his invention just that: 'Hobby'. But when it came to registering the name, the Patents Office said that 'Hobby' was too general a term. Instead, Mr Adolph took the scientific name from his favourite falcon. And so the agile Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) became forever linked to wet Saturday afternoons flicking headless Crystal Palace midfielders around the dining room.

Michael Blencowe Sussex Wildlife Trust

Benefice Priests

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.

Revd Shirley Pearce - Assistant Priest
The Vicarage, Wilmington, Polegate, BN26 5SL
Tel: 01323 318231 Email: revshirley@gmail.com
Shirley's 'on duty' days are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

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

Brian Calcott coordinates this. Tel. 07999 788618.

Parish News Distribution

Jeremy and Valerie Shaw coordinate this. 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, Brian Calcott at 2 Railway Cottages, Station Road, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6TA.

Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to Barclays Bank - Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.

We are grateful to receive donations this month from Margaret Wilmot, Anne Johnson, Elliot Vaughn and Colin Horswell.