

PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2022

From the Parsonage

WB Yeats' poem '[The Second Coming](#)' was written in 1919 in the aftermath of the First World War. It begins: "*The falcon cannot hear the falconer; things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.*" At this moment in the 21st Century, as everything seems more uncertain and precarious than since the end of the Second World War, his words take on a new intensity. As I read it, I realise that 'anarchy' extends now to the climate and the breakdown of those things which maintain the balance of life of the planet.

These words also came to mind when there was such an outpouring of affection for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Though death is never welcome, it felt as if she died at a moment just when the country needed a force that would hold and bring everyone together, at a moment when things feel as if they are falling apart. And, in mourning, people of all backgrounds - across the Kingdom and further afield around the world - were brought together peacefully, and out of deep respect and admiration for the Queen. This included people across divisions in politics, race, and ethnicity. For the days of lying in State, when the public could see, either in person or by livestream, the Queen's coffin on its catafalque it felt as if there was a centre that was capable of holding things together.

What was about the Queen that had that power? People have spoken of her humility, her commitment to her promises, her service of others, her outreach through charities to those on the margins of society, the sacrificial aspect of accepting her role as a Constitutional Monarch, one that she had not chosen for herself. The Queen was open about her faith and the way in which the life of Christ was her role model, and she acknowledged her human frailty and that she could only fulfil her vows with God's help. The Christian faith contemplates the forces at work in the world, those of division and death and that which generates order, beauty, life - the power of the cross, the self-giving love of God in the person of Jesus. And the experiences of disciples of Christ were, and still are, that '*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*' (Colossians 1:17).

As the emotion around the death of the Queen subsides one hopes that, as she modelled her life on Christ, so her memory will continue to be a force that unites and reconciles, a force for good in a precarious world. The Queen represented all who, without the public attention or the privileges she enjoyed, do the same as she did and in humility, service, and sacrifice help to hold our world together.

Peter Blee

Church Services and Morning Prayer

Sunday 2 nd October	11:00	United Service at Berwick Feast of St Michael and All Angels with Bishop Will, Bishop of Lewes (No other services in the Benefice)	Morning Prayer at 9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick church.
Sunday 9 th October	09:30	Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)	Evening Prayer takes place at 5.00 pm each Wednesday at Wilmington church. 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	
Sunday 16 th October	09:30	Selmeston Holy Communion	Continued on next page...
	10:00	Arlington (Joint service with Wilmington)	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
Sunday 23 rd October	09:30	Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)	Continued on next page...
	10:00	Wilmington (Joint service with Arlington)	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
	11:00	United Benefice Service at Berwick	

Sunday 30 th October	15:00	Service of Commemoration at Alciston	
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Talk on Ethiopia

3.30 pm Sunday 2nd October at Berwick Church

Colin Turlle is a doctor who has worked in some of the poorest parts of the world, and he is also a keen photographer and bird watcher. Through beautiful photographs and personal account of his time there he will talk about some of the more remote areas of Ethiopia. Entry is free.

Peter Blee

Alciston Parish Meeting

The Autumn Alciston Parish Meeting will be held at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 6th October in Alciston Church.

All parish residents are most welcome.

Sandy Thomas

Join Us for Another Evening of Fun, Fish, and 'Finking' Quiz Night

Saturday 8th October at Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall

Come along as a team (maximum 6 people per team) or join one on the night.



Paying bar open from 6.30 pm. Fish and Chips (delivered by The Village Chippy Sussex) served from 6.30 pm. The quiz starts at 7.30 pm.

Entry is £12 by ticket in advance, which includes quiz entry and a Fish and Chips supper (a Veggie option is available). **For catering purposes tickets must be bought by Wednesday 5th October.**

Our paying bar offers a broad selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and we politely ask that all drinks are to be purchased from the bar. This helps generate the funding we need to keep events viable. Thank you.

Tickets are available from: Helen 07969 732109, Thea 07772 155772, Mairi 07582 938185, Janie 07785 940915 or Phil 07538 187552. We look forward to welcoming you.

Rachel Lewis

A&S Village Hall committee

Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute

At the start of the September meeting, members stood in silence in memory of our late Queen.

A short report was given on the highly successful afternoon tea provided for a group from Seaford Blind Group at Selmeston Village Hall where we entertained 28 guests who had a thoroughly pleasant afternoon and a great tea,

We were updated by our 'Green Ambassador' Jen, on issues surrounding the environment. Earlier in the year she asked us to take some small personal action to help with climate change. Several differing courses were mentioned, using environmentally friendly cleaning materials, lowering the temperature when using the washing machine, drying washing in the garden, etc. It is essential these continue to help the ever-increasing need. It was requested individuals write to our MP, Maria Caulfield, asking what action the government is taking on the climate change promises that have not yet been acted upon.

Our next meeting is the AGM at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th October in Firle Memorial Hall.

In November there will be a talk by Peter Allen entitled 'Watching the Detectives.'

We would be delighted to welcome anyone who would like to come along. we can be assured of a warm reception.

Margaret Hughes

Berwick Produce Show AGM

The show's AGM is at 7.00 pm on Friday 21st October in Berwick Village Hall.

All are welcome and show cups will be awarded after the meeting.

Sue Woodgate

Is That a Bolt in Your Neck?

At 3.00 pm on Sunday 6th November the Gonzo Moose Touring Theatre Company present 'Is That a Bolt in Your Neck?' at Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall.

A castle looms dark and foreboding over a small mountain village. Inside Dr Chekhov - the brilliant and reclusive scientist - works in secret. What unimaginable horror might emerge from his laboratory?

All will be revealed in this wonderfully inventive and gripping comedy horror featuring three fearless actors playing over 20 roles in 75 minutes of fast-paced fun and thrilling action. Suitable for audiences from age 8 to 80+ the show is packed full of hilarious slapstick, verbal wit and magical illusion.

Tickets cost £12 for adults; £5 children and students. They are available from Michael Weller: Tel. 01323 811396 or Email mwellerselmeston@gmail.com.

The Giving Tree - Priceless Gifts at St Pancras Church, Arlington

Strictly speaking, Christians don't get too much into celebrating Christmas itself until Christmas Eve, but we do love to share the season of Advent, with all the planning for Carol services, and Christmas Day itself. Of course, Advent, preparing for Christmas, can also be a time of stress in different ways especially this year when we are all feeling the pinch financially. So, we are repeating our Advent Event, "The Giving Tree" again, in the hopes of offering you a chance to do some Christmas "shopping" in peace, in the church from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm on Saturday 3rd December.

We will have a tree in the church, decorated with small gifts (e.g., handmade Christmas decorations, lavender bags, small, knitted toys, etc). Around the church we will have larger gifts - cushion covers, wreaths, handsewn hats, mittens, etc. All gifts are handmade or homemade, and will include cakes, jams, fudge, and other eatables (either to be kept for Christmas or consumed earlier to keep your strength up!) All these gifts will have been made or donated by the congregation, friends and family, and you are most welcome to donate too. (Please ring or email if you would like to do this, so I know in advance what gifts we are going to have – it is actually possible to have too much fudge, though I know several people who would disagree...) As before, we will have live music, tea, coffee and refreshments.

The gifts are priceless – that is, they have no prices. The gifts are from us to you, to pass on to someone else if you want to, and again if you want to, you can give us a donation, which will go to church funds and help our costs during the coming year. At Advent, we think about the joy of receiving the greatest Gift ever – this is our way of sharing that joy with everyone.

Nicola Bloom

Tel: 01273 487867, Email: bloomnicola@yahoo.co.uk

Berwick Currently Has Vacancies for Parish Councillors.

What is a Parish Councillor?

A Parish Councillor is someone who is interested in the area they live and wants to look after the interests of the people who live in that area.

What is a Parish Council?

A Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government and is consulted on any issues in their area. Berwick Parish Council is a small but friendly Parish Council and represents the residents of Berwick.

What does it involve?

Meetings are every other month and regular attendance is recommended.

Is the role paid?

The role is purely voluntary although agreed expenses are reimbursed.

Why not come to a meeting and see for yourself or contact the Clerk Alison Stevens on 07501676569 and find out more?

Alison Stevens

Clerk to Berwick Parish Council

Call For Local Archaeological Finds

Amanda Hearn lived at Forge Cottage, Berwick and was a skilled archaeological draughtsman. She collected objects from her garden and from fields near Berwick. These were presented to me by her father in a couple of shoe boxes. They included a part of a beautiful polished neolithic axe head found between Berwick and Alciston.

As part of the Restoration Project at Berwick we held a community archaeology initiative. In partnership with Chris Butler Archaeological Services, we are now putting together a mini 'pop-up' museum of local finds to include those made by Amanda Hearn that tell us about human life in this locality through the millennia. This museum will be used with schools, and with some visiting groups and on open days. If you have anything small that would like to donate to this collection, then we would be glad to receive it. You can email me peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk or post items or drop them into The Parsonage, Berwick, BN26 6SR.

You can do so anonymously if you wish but please, if you can, include the location of the find. We may not be able to include all items so please indicate if you would like them returned to you if, for reasons of space, we can't include them. The finds do not need to be 'special', small objects, such a coin, a button or thimble are of interest. Finds must be received by the end of October, please.

Thank you.

Peter Blee

October's Gardener's Diary

This month it's mainly preparation for next year's crops, but first a few tips on getting more from this year's plants. If you grew peas this year, just cut off the top and leave the roots in the ground. As they rot, they produce nitrogen, which will be good for next year's crops.

When you cut cabbages, leave the roots in the ground, and cut across the top with a knife. This will encourage new leaf growth.

Plant your garlic this month for a bumper crop next year and autumn onions can now be planted as well. For the rest of the month get clearing off any weeds and perhaps prepare trenches for beans in the spring, digging in manure at the same time.

Lisa Collington

Recipe of the Month – Sloe Gin

Ingredients

500 g ripe sloes
250 g caster sugar
1 litre gin

Method

Wash the sloes and dry them. Using a stainless-steel fork or cocktail stick prick the sloes and tip them into a 2-litre glass jar.

Add the sugar and gin and seal the jar. Shake well and then shake once a day for 7 days. Store in a cool, dark place and leave for 2 to 3 months.

Line a plastic sieve with a square of muslin set over a bowl and strain the sloe gin through it. Place in clean, dry bottles and then seal and label them. It will improve with keeping.

Valerie Shaw

Family Support Work (FSW)

I am writing this in a period of uncertainty — a brand new prime minister; continued concern about the cost-of-living crisis and further worries about energy price rises. These are of course not unique issues to FSW's families, but whatever happens over the coming months is likely to impact our families more than most. With the summer family activities now a distant memory, our practitioners are turning to more intensive support for families who are incredibly anxious about their financial situation. There is also a lot of work happening with children who are finding the new school year difficult to manage — particularly those children on the autistic spectrum for whom change is incredibly difficult. It is times like this when the long-term availability of our support makes such a difference, and we are so glad that we can be there for families for as long as they need us.

Away from our direct work, we have been having meetings with many other local organisations and agencies, particularly in the areas where our newest practitioners are working. It is really encouraging that our name is becoming more recognised, and we are incredibly grateful to anybody who has made links or suggested contacts for us. If you are aware of a local group, charity or agency which would be beneficial for us to talk to, then please get in touch with Nikki by email nikki@familysupportwork.org.uk — she would be delighted to hear from you.

Our focus will shortly be turning to the Christmas planning – incredible to think we are already at this point in the year. If you are planning a toy service, Christmas food collection or any similar activity for FSW, then please let us know as we would love to support these in any way we can.

We continue to do our absolute best for our families, but as ever this isn't possible without the huge support we receive across Sussex, so a huge thank you to everybody for your continued commitment to helping us in this endeavour.

August's work in numbers

- ◆ 278 individual visits and 791 calls with families supporting 448 adults and 407 children
- ◆ 24 supported meetings with other agencies
- ◆ 48 group sessions held supporting 502 parents and 573 children
- ◆ 170 food deliveries made

Prayer points

- ◆ Pray for a number of families we are supporting who have suffered sudden and unexpected bereavements of a parent.
- ◆ Pray for the increasing number of refugee families we are being asked to support.
- ◆ Give thanks for the new volunteers who have joined FSW recently and are contributing so much in terms of support to families and to practitioners.

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

Action on Sewage Discharges

We have all been rightly angered by the recent sewage outflows by water companies in recent weeks. Storm overflows have existed as a safety valve for combined sewage systems for over 150 years since the Victorians created the sewage system, but they are only supposed to be used in extreme circumstances. Now, under pressure from population growth, water companies use them far too often, threatening the environment and sea users.

Last year, I voted to end the use of storm overflows in our sewage system. You will read in the media that we voted against this, but it is simply not true and this month the Government published its “Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan” in response to the change in the law with £56 billion capital investment to tackle storm sewage discharges. It will revolutionise how water companies tackle the number of discharges of untreated sewage, which the Government and public have made clear are completely unacceptable.

This plan will mean that water companies now face strict targets and must completely eliminate the harm sewage discharges cause the environment as the new legislation requires water companies to protect everyone who uses water for recreation and ensure storm overflows pose no threat to the environment.

Because we have always had storm overflows in our sewage system, it will take time to change the infrastructure to end their use. The controversial vote in Parliament, which proposed to end sewage discharges immediately, was well intentioned, but without an alternative system in place, would have meant sewage backing up into peoples’ homes, gardens and roads. The new Government plan, backed by £56 billion of investment, will change our sewage system so that sewage outflows end but our homes and communities are protected too and I for one welcome this change.

Maria Caulfield, MP

Wasps

Legendary protest singer Woody Guthrie had the slogan ‘This Machine Kills Fascists’ emblazoned across his guitar. The lead singer of John Peel’s beloved Half Man Half Biscuit had ‘This Machine Kills Wasps’ across his. Fascists and wasps. Equally hated and despised. But while one is a bunch of loathsome invertebrates that should be slapped every time that they start to agitate us, I have to confess I have some empathy towards the wasps.

The wasps’ world was created way back in April. A single pregnant queen emerged from her winter-long hibernation, flew, fed and founded a new colony. She single-handedly constructed 30 hexagonal homes from chewed-up wood, laid an egg in each and lovingly tended to her new babies which, when grown, became her workers. Through sheer determination, spit and sawdust they enlarged the colony, constructing an impressive, suspended structure. Other workers collected food – caterpillars, flies, spiders – to feed the now-flightless Queen as she produced more eggs.

June was the golden age of the Empire. The colony swelled to almost 6000 wasps. There was a real buzz about the place. An entire self-contained Utopian society in matching yellow and black uniforms working together to serve their illustrious leader. Inside the dome, the temperature was maintained at 32 degrees. When the temperature rose on hot days, the workers united and the whole colony whirred their wings creating a community-powered air-conditioning unit.

But dark rumours started. The Queen was becoming crazy for power. Workers’ eggs were being destroyed to ensure only the Queen’s offspring were raised. She had started to create other Queens in her image. With no more workers being born, work levels in the colony increased. The wasps were slaves to a tyrant.

Then came the news. The Queen is dead. Her mesmeric hold over every wasp was lost. Revolution! The virgin Queens fled to mate, hibernate and start a new colony next year. Meanwhile the colony falls into anarchy. Paper walls are torn down, the temperature plummets. Rome burns. There is fighting and cannibalism. Those that stay face death from cold and starvation. One wasp manages to escape. Alone, betrayed by his leader, without family, without purpose he is confused and lost in an unfamiliar world. Like so many he turns to alcohol to quieten his pain and the fermented fallen fruits of Autumn provide temporary relief. Intoxicated and hungry he stumbles around searching for sugar.

And now in his dying days he bumps into us: giant creatures with sweet drinks and snacks. Our reaction to this 15mm political refugee? To swat him away with rolled up copies of the Daily Mail. So, this Autumn, have some sympathy for the lowly wasp.

*Michael Blencowe
Sussex Wildlife Trust*

Thank You

We are grateful to receive donations for the Parish News this month from Mavis Newton, Ann and Tom Mount.

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: revshirleym@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

Post is being filled – email is monitored.

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.