

ALCISTON BERWICK SELMESTON  
**VILLAGE NEWS**  
MARCH 2023



## ◇ VILLAGE NEWS

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**Advertising** is coordinated by Brian Calcott. Tel. 07999 788618.

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

**The Production Team** is Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers.

**Contributions, Photos, etc** (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month by email: [empty.sea@outlook.com](mailto:empty.sea@outlook.com)

They 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.

## ◇ CHURCH CONTACTS

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### 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](mailto:peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk)

**Revd Shirley Pearce** Assistant Priest

The Vicarage, Wilmington, Polegate, BN26 5SL

Tel: 01323 318231 Email: [revshirley@gmail.com](mailto:revshirley@gmail.com)

Shirley Pearce's 'on duty' days are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

### Churchwardens

**Alciston** - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623

**Berwick** - Andy Williamson Tel: 01323 870163 / Paul Lewis Tel: 01323 870927

**Selmeston** - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

### Benefice Administrator

Jane Grutchfield Email: [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

## ◇ VILLAGE CONTACTS

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### Parish Council Clerks

**Alciston** - Sandy Thomas Email: [alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:alcistonparishmeeting@gmail.com)

**Berwick** - Alison Stevens Tel: 01323 460007 Email: [berwickparishcouncil@aol.com](mailto:berwickparishcouncil@aol.com)

**Selmeston** - David Quysner Tel: 01323 811515 Email: [selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:selmestonparishmeeting@gmail.com)

### Village Hall / Field Hire

**Berwick Village Hall** - Thea Eastmead Tel: 01323 871218 Email: [theaeastmead77@gmail.com](mailto:theaeastmead77@gmail.com)

**Berwick Field** - Carole Vine Tel: 07341 660046 [berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com](mailto:berwickfieldhire@btinternet.com)

**Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall** Website: [www.southdownsvillagehall.org](http://www.southdownsvillagehall.org)

## Dear Readers...

I thought that I would give you an update on the current state of the 'Village News' in terms of its sustainability. First of all, I would like to thank you for your continued support, as well as the many donations we have received over the last few months. We have been very encouraged by this.

We would also like to thank all of you who have given us feedback on the new look of the magazine. It is always a source of concern when one changes something that has remained the same for so many years. From your feedback, our confidence has grown that the changes we have instigated so far have met with your approval (apart from the odd 'deliberate' mistake - yes, the rope skipping was in Alciston, not Selmeston). We would, however, appreciate more feedback as that is the only way we can judge whether the changes we have made were successful.

In terms of the finances, the situation is looking a lot better. The reduced cost of printing the magazine, allied with the increase in donations and advertising, have improved our finances to the point where we are close to sustainability over the medium term (in other words, we are breaking even).

Finally, we would like to thank all of you who have contributed photos and articles. This is the lifeblood of the magazine, and we welcome all contributions. Keep them coming.

Once again, thank you for all your support, and the team wishes you a happy and prosperous 2023.

*Brian Calcott (Treasurer)*

## Village News Circulation

If you are interested in receiving an electronic copy of the Village News each month, please email

[empty.sea@outlook.com](mailto:empty.sea@outlook.com) to be added to the circulation list.

## Thank You

We are grateful to receive magazine donations this month from Ruth Spiller, Mr & Mrs J Chiswell-Jones, Jean Bradford, Ruth Butlin and MA Jeffery.

## "Life in UK" Quiz Night

*7.00 pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
in Berwick Village Hall*

What does one need to know to be a citizen of the United Kingdom? You might think you know enough to fulfil that role! Come along to compete in a quiz based on the Book "Life in the UK", and the test which must be passed before an immigrant can gain citizenship in this country.

We are raising funds for Sanctuary Eastbourne, which seeks to help refugees, asylum seekers and others with uncertain immigration status. Sanctuary has recently obtained registration as a Community Interest Company, which will facilitate its further development. To meet some of the needs of these vulnerable people staying in the Eastbourne area, Sanctuary offers a weekly drop-in centre on Fridays and English conversation classes on Thursdays. Sanctuary Eastbourne works closely with Networx and other charitable groups serving similar client populations. Individuals or teams of 3-5 can compete. Light refreshments will be available. Please let me know in advance if you wish to come - call Ruth on 01323 485463 or email: [drbutlin@yahoo.com](mailto:drbutlin@yahoo.com). There is no admission charge although donations to 'Sanctuary Eastbourne' will be most welcome on the evening. For more information on Sanctuary Eastbourne please visit [www.sanctuarycafeeastbourne.com](http://www.sanctuarycafeeastbourne.com).

*C Ruth Butlin*

*Cover picture: Old Barn by Ludlay  
(at the top of the lane by the village hall) by Carol Palmer*



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## Pickle Ball

*12.00 - 2.00 pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
at A&S Village Hall*

A brilliant, fun and sociable game that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. It's been so successful that we are trialling a further session. All levels of play welcome, just contact my number below and we can arrange a session. Hopefully see you there.

Please contact Helen on 07969 732109 for further details.

*Rachel Lewis*

## Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute

*7.30 pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March  
at Firle Village Hall*

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February we enjoyed a most interesting and amusing talk from Peter White on 'Town Criers and Bellmen - Past and Present'.

He came in his splendid uniform: a coat with gold braid, plus a top hat, which also had gold braid around the crown. He started the evening by ringing his brass bell very loudly with the usual cry of "Oyez, Oyez"!

He gave us a description of how town criers and bellmen had started way back in history and were the first 'public speakers' of their day, as newspapers were so expensive to buy that people needed to hear the news, as well as being the advertisers of what was happening such as hangings, etc!

He brought us up to the present day by telling us about Town Criers' competitions all-round the English speaking world, and how he, himself, had been successful in many competitions over the last 45 years as Seaford's Town Crier.

He answered several questions after his talk, and we finished the evening by enjoying tea and coffee plus homemade cake and a raffle.

Next month we shall be hearing about the work of Chailey Heritage.

*Rosemary Norris*

*President Tel: 07784 707016*

## Curry Night

*7.00 pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
at A&S Village Hall*

The curry night has been re-arranged to take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a choice of meat or vegetable curry cooked by Peter Blee, together with a selection of desserts. Prices are £12 adults and £5 for children.

After the meal there will be a raffle plus an hilarious game of 'Call My Bluff' for everyone to enjoy.

For catering purposes, please call Jan on 01323 811380 or Michèle on 01323 870623 before Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March to let us know if you are coming.

*Michèle Boys*

## 2023 Alciston & Selmeston Village Hall Committee AGM

*7.30 pm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March  
at A&S Village Hall*

The committee invite you to their annual general meeting. Find out what's been happening and what's planned for your Village Hall during 2023. Refreshments available. All welcome.

*Rachel Lewis*

## Introducing the New Village HUB



Join us throughout the year for a regular Monday morning spot from 10.30 am - 12.30 pm starting from March 20<sup>th</sup> at A&S Village Hall.

We will be serving refreshments, delicious tea and coffee as well as homemade cake. So why not join us, pop in anytime during the morning. It is open to all ages, you could bring your little

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ones for a run around and meet up with neighbours and friends, young and old.

There will be a regular stall run by Selmeaton Church selling cakes and quiches so you don't have to go home empty handed. As we develop we are hopeful there will be other things for sale, maybe garden produce, homemade goods, cards, seeds or plants and hopefully a food bank in time.

This is an idea in progress and we can hopefully grow into something our small community will use and participate in.

Any suggestions or volunteers are welcome.

Future dates include: 17<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> May and will be advertised in the Village News, village WhatsApp groups and notice boards. Please contact any of the committee below if you have any questions or need help with transport to and from the hall.

Mairi 07582 938185

Janie 07785 940915

Thea 07772 155772

Helen 07969 732109

## Cake And Quiche Sale

10.30 am to 12.30 pm on Monday  
20<sup>th</sup> March in A&S Village Hall

Once again, a big thank you to all who came and supported our February cake sale in Selmeaton church. It was lovely to see so many of you enjoying a chat over coffee before buying one of the cakes offered for sale.

It is proving very popular, and we have to apologise to those who came for a specific cake or quiche that was sold out. To prevent the same thing happening in the future we would advise you to send Michèle an email with your request ([michele.boys@live.com](mailto:michele.boys@live.com)) and she will put one by to avoid disappointment.

In March we have been asked to join the Village Hall Committee at their HUB coffee morning (see above). The new cake will be spicy apple, and the new

quiche filling will be ham and tomato, plus, of course, the old favourite ones.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in March in the village hall.

*Michèle Boys and  
Jan Matthews-Moulding*

## Mad March Village Quiz!

From 6.30 pm Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March  
at A&S Village Hall

It's the Mad March Quiz: same brilliant format, same delicious food.

Tickets are limited and going quickly, so book now to avoid disappointment.

Thea 07772 155772, Helen 07969 732109, Mairi 07582 938185, Janie 07785 940915, Phil 07538 187552



2.00 pm Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April at St Mary & St Peter's Church, Wilmington

Join in the fun with our Easter Egg Hunt - Refreshments will be served, and everyone's welcome.

*Shirley Pearce*

## Canterbury Cathedral Miracle Windows

6.45 for 7.30 pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April at  
A&S Village Hall

An illustrated talk on the Miracle Windows by Leonie Seliger (Director of Stained Glass Conservation at the Canterbury Studios and designer of the Selmeaton Pilgrim Window) promises to be a fascinating evening.

The "miracle windows are a triumph of

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*early Gothic pictorial narrative and an unparalleled storehouse of medieval pilgrimage imagery”.*

The evening will begin with drinks and canapés from 6.45 pm. Tickets are £10 each on the door and all donations to Selmeaton and Alciston churches will be welcome.

*Stephanie Lewis Grey*

## **Date for your Diary: The 2023 Alciston and Selmeaton Flower Show**

*2.00 - 4.00 pm Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August  
at A&S Village Hall.*

Well everyone, the time is fast approaching to start thinking about the flower show again and we hope that this year's show will be even better than the show last year, which was itself magnificent and a real achievement given the difficult growing season.

For newcomers to the village this is the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the show and features classes for fruit and vegetable, flowers, flower arranging, housekeeping and home produce, photography and handicrafts, as well as classes for children from 1-12 years.

Entries need to be staged by 11.00 am on the day of the show. Doors are then closed for judging and the doors re-open at 2.00 pm to enable people to view the produce and take part in a variety of activities, e.g. welly-whanging, chipping and putting, tug of war and a range of activities for children.

Prizegiving is at 4.00 pm. Cups are awarded to class winners, and children winning classes receive a £5 prize for each class they win - which can be quite lucrative if they win several classes!

We will be distributing this year's schedule in April so you can take this into account when planning what to grow in your garden. This year there is an additional class for children to grow their own sunflower and we shall be

distributing sunflower seeds to families with children.

A fact sheet on tips for growing and showing vegetables is available on request.

This is a great family event. We were a little disappointed last year as there were very few children's entries from the village and we would love to improve this. If you are going to be away, we would be happy to receive your entries before you go and to stage them for you on the day. (Clearly not entries which will go off before the show!)

We are also keen to encourage exhibits for the flower arranging classes and will be running a session on flower arranging for anyone who (like me) is nervous about this, later in the year.

Finally, we would be grateful for suggestions about activities for the afternoon and also please can we ask for volunteers to help run activities on the day of the show. It doesn't have to be the whole afternoon, an hour would be fine, but it would increase the range of things we are able to offer.

*Jan Matthews-Moulding  
Raina Brody*

## **Lambing Season**

There has recently been a sheep attacked by a dog and it subsequently died so we need to make everyone aware of keeping their dogs under control as the lambing season has now begun.

So please could all dog walkers put their dogs on a lead when they walk through the local farmland. And please can all walkers with or without dogs keep to the designated footpaths. Thank you.

*Victoria Burroughs*

## **Thank You**

Jean, Peggy and Linda would like to thank everyone who gave and supported us with our fundraising in 2022.

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The Chalk Farm Project  
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Children with Cancer (Polegate)  
The Berwick Produce Show  
The Selmeaton Produce Show

Since the beginning of our fundraising in 1992, we have raised £69,741.73

(We are sorry we are unable to accept items to sell at the moment as we have plenty in stock).

*Jean Bradford, Peggy Lawrence and Linda Boys*

## Berwick Defibrillators Update

There are three defibrillators in the parish. One is at the railway station, one is on the right hand side as you approach the St Michael and All Angels church door beside the top of the old steps into the churchyard, and the other is at Berwick Village Hall.

*Alison Stevens*

*Clerk to Berwick Parish Council*

## 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.

*Lisa Collington*

## Family Support Work (FSW)



The cost of living crisis is really affecting our current families (almost 250 active families as I write). Our practitioners in the field are very busy trying to help families with budgeting, helping them to access any support funds available to them and acting as emotional support when it all gets too much. We are so grateful for the wonderful response we had to our Winter Fuel campaign, which has meant that we have been able to help so many families with contributions towards their energy bills when these costs are overwhelming. Many of our newer practitioners have begun support groups in their local areas, which are a very welcome way for isolated parents to meet and find mutual help.

With events and meetings really getting into full swing now, we are looking forward to having lots of occasions to talk about our work and encourage support of all kinds.

Our Easter Monday sponsored walk is now open for registrations, so if you would like to join us at Alfriston for what we hope will be a really enjoyable day then please get in touch with the fundraising team by email or phone. If you would like to invite someone to speak at a Sunday service or at any local community group then we would love the chance to let more people know about our work - please email [admin@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:admin@familysupportwork.org.uk).

## Chloe Burrell

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Our Eastbourne shop is currently running low on donations, so if you have good quality second hand items you would like to donate (please no electrical items or anything you wouldn't be happy to buy yourself) then we would be very grateful. We can arrange collections of large quantities of donations so please contact Spencer in the office on 01273 832963 if you would like to discuss this.

January's work in numbers:

- ◆ 274 individual visits and 904 calls with families supporting 257 adults and 210 children.
- ◆ 248 supported meetings with other agencies.
- ◆ 37 group sessions held supporting 492 parents and 172 children.
- ◆ 105 food deliveries made.

Prayer points

- ◆ Give thanks for a recent successful multi-year funding bid that will be a huge support to our core work over the next 3 years.
- ◆ Pray for our two new student social workers, Abbie and Sophie, who are with us until early June.
- ◆ Pray for all our families experiencing mental health struggles in particular, as specialist support is extremely hard to find due to budget cuts and waiting lists of over 2 years.

*Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing*

## **Recipe of the Month - Quick and Easy Microwave Flapjacks**

*Makes 16.*

### **Ingredients**

75 g butter  
50 g light soft brown sugar  
30 ml golden syrup  
175 g porridge oats

### **Method**

Grease a shallow 12.5 x 23 cm microwaveable dish.

Put the butter, sugar and syrup in a large bowl. Cook on high heat until the sugar has dissolved - approximately 2 minutes depending on the power of the microwave.

Stir well and then mix in the oats.

Press the mixture into the dish and cook on high for 2 to 3 minutes until firm to the touch.

Leave to cool slightly and then mark into 16 bars and allow to cool completely before turning out.

*Valerie Shaw*

## **Pilgrimage**

I have brought my friends, my cousins,  
my daughter and my sons, many times,  
To walk the pilgrimage way  
Between the Downland churches, under  
the Sussex hills,  
Undulating, like the flow of sea  
At the beach  
Or the Cuckmere river.

We have walked it in sun,  
Occasional wind, cold, mud and rain,  
Always stopping to ponder the beauty  
of it,  
Sat in the draughty pews,  
Between the flint,  
Transformed into soul space,  
Into rich silence, into enchantment, into  
a deepening of now,  
of what matters...

Each church has its own offering,  
The stained glass splendour  
At Selmeaton, deep magenta reds  
of the angel  
Aquamarine blue of Mary's cloak,  
Like an El Greco painting, luminous in  
the dark, cave like, hollow of the  
church.

And the new pilgrims window,  
like an illuminated map,  
marking the emerging journey,  
the draw of the old,  
the sea and the Downs,  
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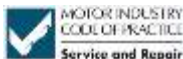
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On across the road and over the brow,  
past the friendly horses, the vast tiled  
low lying roof, to Alciston,  
where we are asked to strike  
the pilgrims' bell, let its rich sound  
reverberate, take us to the edge  
of quiet, in the simplicity of this  
early church.

Onwards and over the open fields,  
sometimes lavender blue, sometimes  
gold, sometimes green, sometimes the  
red brown earth is raw and overturned.

The path is clear, below the slopes and  
crevices, the dancing shadows of the  
Downs,  
Stretched above us like a female form,  
curves and crevices, hollows and dips.

We enter the porch,  
open the heavy door at Berwick  
to see the majestic Bloomsbury  
paintings on the walls,  
the Oh-so-English nativity, bohemian  
feathered Gabriel, the lush fruit, flowers  
and Sussex scenes,  
depicting the seven sacraments and my  
favourite warm, long haired couple,  
pulled around their child, in stone.

Then downwards and upwards over the  
wheat filled brow to Alfriston,  
past the beamed pubs and shops to the  
village green  
And the surprising Cathedral  
of the Downs, open and celebratory.

Over the meandering tidal Cuckmere  
river, sometimes a stream,  
sometimes a sea  
Up the path to watch swallows  
swoop above the corn  
To the tiny church at Lullington,  
Reminiscent of a front room,  
a hideaway chapel, amongst  
the swollen hills and sloping green.

Onwards and upwards over Windover  
Hill, past the great bowl of the heath,  
the hidden door to the aquifer,  
to hear the Skylarks, hovering high  
above the grassy chalkland,  
full of Scabious, blue butterflies,  
the froth of Cow Parsley, wild orchids.

Looking out across the open Weald,  
under the loom of the chalk long man,  
etched into the hillside.

Then down the path into Wilmington, my  
old home,  
the priory church, the priory ruin,  
white Doves flying from the chantry, the  
ancient sprawling Yew, propped up with  
nails and planks of wood,  
And in early Spring,  
swathes of Snowdrops,  
symbolising light returning.

Finally through woods and fields to Milton  
Street , back across the road and  
railway line  
To St Pancreas at Arlington, its leafy  
church yard, its protective Beech  
And inside such luminous peace,  
Such deep stillness,  
such prayerfulness, as if the Veil  
between heaven and earth  
Had lifted.

*Lucy Calcott*

## **Common Frog**

My friend Alf passed away a few years  
back. He loved Sussex and he loved  
wildlife, but Alf's real passion was  
amphibians: newts, frogs and toads. Alf  
loved them so much his funeral service  
ended with that Paul McCartney 'Frog  
Chorus' song. That's commitment for  
you. I spent the rest of the week with that  
annoying 'bom-bom-bom-aye-e-aye' tune  
rolling 'round my head. I'm sure Alf was  
laughing somewhere. While I was helping  
Alf's family clear his house, I was  
honoured to be given one of his prized  
possessions: a clock that chimes each  
hour by playing a variety of frog croaks.  
Long ago Alf's wife Iris had made him  
take the batteries out because it was  
unbearable.

But there was no silencing Alf's pond  
each spring. Each year it would come  
alive with the sound of a real frog chorus.  
Alf was proud of his pond. Creating a  
garden pond, no matter what size, is one  
of the best things you can do to help

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wildlife in your garden. If you're lucky, in March it will turn into a hotbed of activity as Common Frogs return to mate and lay their eggs. After spending the winter hidden away in the garden, it's time to go a-courting.



Approach the pond quietly with a torch and you can observe the mating frogs. Look closely and you may be able to identify the male frog (darker with a bluish tinge to his throat) and the female (white granulations on her flanks). But if you can't notice these features then the males are on top, and the females are on the bottom. The lustful male will hop on the female and grasp her as tight as he can. He even develops special extra-grip pads on his forearms, and he'll use those powerful back legs to boot off any rival males who try to muscle in. In theory, the males with the longest and loudest croaks are the most attractive, but with females sometimes outnumbered ten to one by males the pond party can get loud, chaotic and confusing. Amorous male frogs will grasp anything: a log, a fish, even another male (males have a special croaking signal which politely informs other males there has been a misunderstanding). Female Common Frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs, although 1,000-2,000 is more normal. These are fertilised by the male as they emerge and form into those familiar clouds of jelly spawn.

So, in tribute to Alf I decide to restore his croaking clock to full working order. I re-installed the batteries and nailed it proudly on my office wall. After two hours I turned

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it off. That croaking was unbearable! I'm still sure Alf was laughing somewhere.

*Michael Blencowe*

*(Picture © Derek Middleton)*

*Sussex Wildlife Trust*

## From the Vicarage

There is a legend of a king who decided to honour his greatest subject. A large gathering was held in the palace and four finalists were brought forward.

The first person presented was a wealthy philanthropist. This man was deserving of the honour because of his humanitarian efforts; he had given much of his wealth to the poor. The second was a celebrated physician, deserving of the honour because he had rendered faithful and dedicated service to the sick for many years. The third person was a distinguished judge, deemed worthy as he was noted for his wisdom, his fairness, and his brilliant decisions.

The fourth person presented was an elderly woman. The quiet little lady hardly looked the part of someone who would be honoured as the greatest subject in the kingdom. People were puzzled: who was she? What chance could she possibly have, when compared to the others who had accomplished so much?

The king was intrigued; he walked over to her and asked who she was. She smiled and answered: "You see the philanthropist, the doctor, and the judge? I was their teacher!" The king nodded and turned away. He gave the award to the judge.

We need people of integrity, of courage, and ability, especially at times of upheaval, uncertainty and division. In society with strikes and financial stresses, and further afield, places of earthquakes, hunger and war. At present, only one person stands out as award-winning: Ukraine's President Zelensky, and yet there are so many who are giving so much, even risking their lives to help others.

The Church too, has times of crisis, as now. At the time of writing, the Church of England's Synod\* adopted proposals from the bishops to offer blessings in church for people in same sex marriages. No decision ever satisfies everybody; what is seen as a triumph for some will be viewed as weakness, surrender, even betrayal by others. But, as Richard Coles wrote, (Sunday Times, 12<sup>th</sup> February 23) 'I suspect most people without a dog in the fight think it a sensible move.'

From his body language seen on TV, Archbishop Welby knows that this decision may well cause an irretrievable split in the worldwide Anglican Communion. This will affect thousands of Christians in their worship, and in their walk with God. Jesus prayed for his followers, that 'they may be one, just as we are one'. How can we seek unity in such times? I will draw an analogy, an anecdote, that I would like to share with you.

Leonardo da Vinci had started working on a large painting in his studio. He worked on the picture for a while, outlining its composition, colours, detailing etc. One day, he stopped working on the painting and asked one of his students to complete the work. The anxious student protested that he was both unworthy and unable to complete the great painting which Leonardo, his master, had begun. Da Vinci summoned him and silenced him: 'Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?'

So to the nurses, the shop assistants, the bin collectors, the bankers, the farmers, the politicians, the teachers and the baristas making morning coffee to get people going, thank you, and God bless you.

*Rev Shirley*

*\*The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It came into being in 1970 and considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at a national level.*

## CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING PRAYER

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Please visit the benefice websites to check on services and times:  
[www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk](http://www.sussexdownlandchurches.org.uk) or [www.berwickchurch.org.uk](http://www.berwickchurch.org.uk) .

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion  
09:30 Selmeston Holy Communion  
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion  
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)  
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion  
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion  
11:00 Wilmington Holy Communion

### **Mothering Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

09:30 Arlington Holy Communion  
10:00 Selmeston Family Service  
11:00 Wilmington Family Service

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

09:30 Alciston Holy Communion (BCP)  
09:30 Arlington Holy Communion  
11:00 Berwick Holy Communion  
11:00 Wilmington Family Service

### **Morning Prayer**

9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick church  
except on the first Wednesday of the month  
when there is an Holy Communion (BCP) service instead.

### **Evening Prayer**

5.00 pm each Wednesday at Wilmington church.

To receive a weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link)  
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The view from Berwick church.  
Taken by Emma Cooper