



ALCISTON BERWICK SELMESTON

# VILLAGE NEWS

MAY 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 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: [revshirleym@gmail.com](mailto:revshirleym@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)

## Thank You

We are grateful to receive a donation this month from Joanna Lumsden.



## King Charles III's Coronation Celebration at Berwick

*12.00 to 2.00 pm Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
at Berwick Village Hall*

Please come along to the celebration for the Coronation for King Charles and the Queen Consort on the Sunday after the coronation day. The village hall is booked, and teas and coffees will be available.

There will be music, laughter and hopefully lots of cake and sandwiches to celebrate the Coronation a part of history in our time, everyone is welcome.

We ask that each family brings something for the afternoon tea buffet table such as crisps, biscuits and quiche; any donations of cakes and sandwiches will also be gratefully received. Please can you let us know if you are going to attend just to give us an idea of numbers - Email: [sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com)

Any volunteers to help with the teas and coffees would be appreciated.

*Sue Woodgate  
Chair and Secretary 01323 870078*

## King Charles III's Coronation Celebration at Selmeston

*3.00 to 6.00 pm Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at  
Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall*

Mark this historic occasion and join us for a Coronation Celebration Tea with fizz on arrival and a selection of delicious savouries and cake.

Enjoy some outside games, a bottle tombola (we'll be coming for donations!) and a right Royal celebration. Wearing a homemade Coronation crown is highly encouraged with a PRIZE for the best!

The paying bar will be open, and the costs are £10 per head or £5 for children under 10.

Contact us to book your place: Thea 07772 155772, Helen 07969 732109, Mairi 07582 938185, Janie 07785 940915, Phil 07538 187552

*Rachel Lewis*

## Arlington Village Market and Coffee Morning

*10.00 am - Noon, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
at Arlington Village Hall*

All are welcome. There will be bread, cakes, quiches, local eggs and regular stalls. For further information please contact Anne Hope:

Tel. 01323 486219

Email [anntonyhope@gmail.com](mailto:anntonyhope@gmail.com)

Arlington's Pop-Up Museum will also be at the Village Market. May's theme is 'Coronation and Royalty' presented by Wendy Holmes.

For further information please contact Wendy: Tel. 07889 689844

Email [talkingteapot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:talkingteapot@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you to all who support our Village Market, it is a very social occasion and proving to be a popular event.

*Pauline Jackson*

*Cover photo: Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort,  
taken in the Blue Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace*



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## **Firle and Beddingham Women's Institute**

*7.30 pm Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
at Firle Village Hall*

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April our speaker was a geologist, Dr Helena Griffiths, and she gave us an extremely interesting talk on earthquakes and volcanoes - illustrated by various photos and diagrams. It was so good to have it all explained as to why earthquakes, volcanoes and even tsunamis occur, and why they happen more in some parts of the world than others. Although we were a smaller number of members this month, I know we all enjoyed the informative talk very much and learned a great deal.

In May we shall be having a social evening with wine and cheese after our short 'Resolutions' meeting. If anyone would like to come along and join us, you will be most welcome.

*Rosemary Norris  
President Tel: 07784 707016*

## **Village HUB**

*10.30 am - 12.30 pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
at A&S Village Hall*

Join us for the next village HUB - a regular Monday morning spot throughout the year.

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

The next HUB is 19<sup>th</sup> June. Please contact any of the committee below if you have any questions or need help with transport to and from the hall.  
Contact: Thea 07772 155772, Helen 07969 732109, Mairi 07582 938185 or Janie 07785 940915.  
*Rachel Lewis*

## **Selmeston Parish Meeting**

*7.15 pm Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
at A&S Village Hall*

A Selmeston Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> May. The agenda will include:

- ◆ Reports from our ESCC and Wealden Councillors
- ◆ A Treasurer's Report and consideration of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return
- ◆ Reports from the Traffic and Roads Committee and the Planning Committee
- ◆ The election of a new Chair.

Selmeston residents who wish to add any agenda items should let David Quysner know by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

*David Quysner  
Email: [quysner@btinternet.com](mailto:quysner@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01323 811515*

## **Open Day at Sherrington Manor, Selmeston**

*11.00 am - 4.00 pm on Saturday  
3<sup>rd</sup> June at Sherrington Manor*

The garden of Sherrington Manor, Selmeston is due to be open on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June as part of the Open Gardens season of St. Wilfrid's Hospice, Eastbourne.

The 'Ukeholics' ukulele band will be providing entertainment on this date, from 2.00 pm. To find out more, see [www.stwhospice.org/opengardens](http://www.stwhospice.org/opengardens).

## **You Are Warmly Invited to a Pimms and Canapés Drinks Evening**

*6.00 - 7.30 pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June in the  
garden of Geoff and Rosalind Daintree  
at Wellstead, Caneheath, Arlington,  
BN26 6SJ*

All are welcome and donations will be invited towards the work of Eastbourne



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Networkx supporting refugees living in the local area.

Music will be provided by The Melodic Brass Ensemble.

Parking is either on the layby opposite Wellstead or in Tye Hill Road on the grass verge opposite Bates Green Farm.

For further details and RSVP please contact: [geoff.daintree@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.daintree@gmail.com) or 07921 722403.

*Geoff Daintree*

## **The 2023 Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show**

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

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.

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*

## **Berwick Produce Show A Fun Family Afternoon Help - We Need Volunteers!**

*19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Berwick Village Hall*

The produce show committee continue with the planning for this year's show: show schedules will have been delivered and hopefully everyone has received one, but there are some available at the Berwick Post Office if you need a copy.

We are still hoping that a few more volunteers will come forward to help us on show day please, if you think you can help please call or email Sue to discuss further what help is needed- Tel: 01323 870078 or

Email: [sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com), or speak to any of the committee members.

For those who don't know about our lovely show it is held every year at the village hall and playing field. We aren't just a produce show there is lots for everyone to see and do. We have a great band called Recycled, side stalls, tea room with loads of cakes and sandwiches, craft tent, mini car boot sale, not forgetting the family dog show and much more.

The main marquee is full of the produce show entries, you really don't have to be an expert to enjoy what's on display! There are classes for everyone. We also have open classes for entries from outside Berwick.

The children's classes are always great fun, it's amazing to see their artwork and imagination, these classes are open to all the children in the village, they love winning the cash prizes and we are increasing the cash prize this year for children's classes, and they can win a cup as well!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the show.

*Sue Woodgate*

*Chair and Secretary 01323 870078*

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## Berwick Village Hall '100 Club'



Due to increasing cost of running the village hall, we are trying to re-launch the Berwick Village Hall 100 Club. Members of this club would pay a yearly subscription to have the chance of winning a monetary jackpot prize, which would be awarded 2/3 times per year.

Currently we have a number of residents who have expressed an interest in joining the new club, however further new members are needed in order to move forward.

3 - 4 residents are also needed to help with the administration of the club. If you are interested in joining the club and/or assisting with the administration team for the new 100 Club, please contact Lyn Hayward [linda\\_hayward@live.co.uk](mailto:linda_hayward@live.co.uk). Thank you.

*Lyn Hayward  
Berwick Village Hall Management  
Committee*

## Reducing Sewage Outflows

I just wanted to update on the work locally to improve the quality of our waters both inshore and coastal.

Recently, as a group of Sussex MPs, we met with the Chief Executive of Southern Water to discuss sewage discharges into Sussex rivers and the sea. These overflows, which discharge out to sea when our sewage system is at capacity, have been in place since Victorian times and it is only recently, since the Government introduced new laws to monitor their use, that we all realise how often they are used.

Most of the sewage discharge systems locally are a dual system, meaning they collect both sewage and rainfall. It is the

rainfall element that causes the system to fill up, with sewage being only a tiny percent. Sewage on its own would rarely cause the need for overflows to be used. With heavy amounts of rainfall, we have seen more discharges than usual.

While the Government has produced the £56 billion Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, with work starting at once to decouple it from rainfall collection, this will take time. In the meantime, there are steps we can all take to help reduce the amount of rainfall entering the overflow system and thereby reduce the number of times systems reach capacity and discharges happen. From retaining grass soakaways on properties to the use of water butts and not flushing wet wipes that clog up our drains, all help to ensure our sewage system can cope with rainfall so that outflows remain limited. In the Isle of Wight, a recent campaign which encourages the public to help reduce rainfall entering the sewage system saw an 80% reduction in the use of storm overflows.

Southern Water told us at our meeting, which work to decouple to sewage system from rainfall, will start imminently and will involve digging up every road across Sussex to replace the dual system we currently have. Water companies are investing £3.1 billion to deliver the 800 storm overflow improvements across England by 2025 and in the meantime, Ministers have taken forward plans to lift the Environment Agency's maximum civil fine for individual breaches of the rules. Fines for water companies who seriously breach rules will be increased 1,000-fold, from £250,000 to up to £250 million. Meanwhile to reassure residents and visitors our coastal waters in the area from Seaford to Birling Gap remain rated as "Excellent" by the Environment Agency.

*Maria Caulfield MP*

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## May's Gardener's Diary

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

Sweetcorn can be sown in pots to plant out as soon as they are strong enough.

Also get your Runner Beans, French Beans, Peas, Courgettes, Marrow, Squash, into pots or modules ready for planting out when it's warmer at night. Tomato plants should be growing well by now in the greenhouse.

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

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

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

*Lisa Collington*

## Recipe of the Month - Elderflower Cordial

### Ingredients

1 Kg granulated sugar

1 litre boiling water

50 g citric acid or juice of 2 large lemons

Zest of 2 large lemons

15 Elderflower heads with stalks removed

### Method

Put the sugar in a container which can withstand boiling water. Pour over the boiling water and stir to dissolve the sugar. Add the citric acid or lemon juice and zest.

Shake the elderflowers to remove any insects and add the elderflowers to the sugar syrup.

Cover and leave to stand for one to two days, stirring morning and night.

Strain the elderflower cordial through muslin and decant into sterilised bottles.

It is now ready to use. Add to water and ice for a refreshing long drink or top up with Prosecco or Champagne.

The cordial can be kept in the fridge for up to 6 weeks or can be frozen in plastic containers or ice-cube trays.

*Valerie Shaw*

## Family Support Work (FSW)

It seems that every time I write I am telling you how busy we are, but it is particularly true at the moment. We have been inundated with referrals to our service as so many families are finding life a real struggle now, which is negatively impacting on mental health, family relationships and finances. We are doing as much as we can to support as many families as possible but are sadly having to put some on a waiting list until we have capacity.

For those families we are supporting, we ran lots of Easter holiday activities to keep children entertained, including trips to Aldingbourne Country Centre, cinema and bowling, Arundel Castle cricket and various messy play and craft sessions. These have all been supported brilliantly by volunteers, so thank you to everybody who has supported any of these events. We also had our first Dalesdown residential weekend in the middle of April, where many exciting activities were planned including archery! Thank you to everybody who kindly donated Easter eggs for our families - these were very gratefully received and much enjoyed by all.

For anybody living in the Littlehampton, Uckfield and Heathfield areas please be aware that we are currently in the

## Chloe Burrell

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running for support from the Tesco blue token scheme (until 30<sup>th</sup> June). If you shop at Tesco then please do think of us and collect tokens for our box, as we would love to come first in each area and win £4500.

We have a busy calendar of events coming up over the next few months including Open Gardens across East Sussex, Prosecco afternoon tea in East Hoathly, a barn dance and metal detecting rally (both in Rye). If you'd like any information about any of these then do check out the events page of our website [www.familysupportwork.org.uk](http://www.familysupportwork.org.uk) or contact the fundraising team by email [fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@familysupportwork.org.uk) or 01273 041401.

March's work in numbers

- ◆ 319 individual visits and 1057 calls with families supporting 288 adults and 189 children.
- ◆ 68 supported meetings with other agencies
- ◆ 46 group sessions held supporting 510 parents and 265 children.
- ◆ 117 food deliveries made.

Prayer points

- ◆ Give thanks for a very generous and unexpected donation we received recently.
- ◆ Pray for all the children we support who are about to sit GCSE and A-level exams,
- ◆ Pray for the right people to come forward and apply for our current vacancies and strengthen our team.

*Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing*

## **Criminals Have Been Posing as The Archbishop of York**

Scammers and fraudsters are targeting churchgoers - some have been posing as Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York or as church leaders or church wardens, and have been

asking people to send them Amazon vouchers or money via Western Union or MoneyGram. There are reports of people losing hundreds of pounds. Nevertheless here are some tips to avoid getting caught out:

### **Take Time to Consider**

If you receive a message that feels odd in any way, take some time to think it through before responding. Scammers begin by building a rapport with you before asking for money, using phrases such as "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly".

### **Be Alert to the Emotional Response**

Train yourself to be alert to the reaction scammers want to elicit, often a tug on the heartstrings and a sense of urgent need. If a message on social media or email provokes an emotional response, that should trigger you to check.

### **Check the Email Address**

If the message is claiming to be from someone you know, contact that person by another means and ask them about it. Never use the details sent to you in the original message and ideally telephone them directly. It will often look similar to that of someone you know, but it won't be exactly the same.

### **Stop The Communication**

If you realise you have been defrauded, stop the communication at once and contact your bank to stop any payments still pending. You should also report the incident to the police through Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040, or anonymously via the Action Fraud website.

### **Don't Be Ashamed**

Try not to feel ashamed if you have been caught out, instead talk about it with people you trust. People wanting to make money will constantly be looking for new tricks to deceive generous people. Anyone can get caught out by a scam, but by following this advice we





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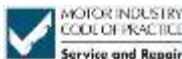
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should all be able to keep one step ahead of the fraudsters.

## Nightingale



My bottom desk drawer is a graveyard, the final resting place for the obsolete. A broken calculator, foreign coins, buttons and a Maxell C90 cassette given to me a few years ago. I had no means of playing it until I recently discovered my clunky cassette deck hiding in the garage.

An accompanying note says the tape contains "The song of a Nightingale in the churchyard of St John sub-Castro, Lewes, spring 1985". It was recorded by a lady called Barbara from an upstairs window in neighbouring Lancaster Street. After some dusting, re-wiring, buzzing and hissing the sweet sound that swirled from my speakers transported me back over three decades to a time when Reagan negotiated with Thatcher, Paul Hardcastle's na-na-na-na-Nineteen topped the charts, and a Nightingale sang in St John sub-Castro.

To be frank, Nightingales aren't much to look at. Small brown birds; a Robin without the redbreast. However when they open their beak there's a Susan Boyle-like transformation. These drab birds become the world's most celebrated vocalists. For centuries, poets have praised their performance. Homer, Shakespeare, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Clare, Keats, Dylan and Cohen. Shelley claimed, "A poet is a

Nightingale who sits in darkness, and sings to cheer its own solitude with sweet sounds". Trust young Percy Bysshe to believe the bird was wallowing in its own self-pity. The Nightingale's song is actually both an aggressive war-cry and a sweet, structured sonnet. A hymn to the silence in the hope of enticing a passing female.

The Nightingale's optimistic warbles have inspired everyone from the late Vera Lynn to Roxy Music. A BBC recording of a bird singing in Oxted in 1942 inadvertently captured the roar of Lancasters, Wellingtons, Stirlings and Halifaxes passing overhead laden with bombs destined for Germany. The contrast between innocence and beauty, terror and destruction make it the most powerful sound I have ever heard.

Nightingales will sing by day but are most famous for never letting up when the sun sets, their beautiful phrasing carrying loud and clear over the muffled grunts and hoots of other nocturnal animals. Once the Nightingale has hooked a partner his nocturnal performances will stop, so there's a narrow window to hear them. Our Nightingales spend the winter south of the Sahara in a wide belt between Senegal and Kenya, usually returning in late April.

Due to habitat destruction the UK population of this amazing bird -so entwined in our cultural heritage - is in a steep decline. The sound of a Nightingale singing in the centre of Lewes may have been relegated to the bottom drawer of history, but we are blessed to still have this bird performing in our Sussex woodlands. We must never let their song of hope be silenced forever.

*Michael Blencowe*  
(Picture © Derek Middleton)  
*Sussex Wildlife Trust*

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## From the Vicarage

During my curacy\*, Thursdays used to be a challenge for me, because on those mornings I helped with foodbank deliveries. I was glad that this was part of my ministry, a time of learning, but why this great need in a first-world country? And every year, it seems to get worse, and I need, from time to time, to think more deeply about it; should my money not rather go to those who have nothing and no recourse for even a small pay-out from their government? I am venturing on, as Rowan Williams puts it, eggshell territory.

My concept of poor, before I came to the UK, is framed by what I saw in communities, towns, and cities in South Africa. Poor to me was the ragged, thin, barefoot children begging at traffic lights, the meths-befuddled man pushing an equally incapacitated woman down the road in a shopping trolley, their worldly goods beside her; the families living all their lives in cardboard boxes under the overpass in Cape Town. And the domestic worker delighted to have my son's old school shoes for her boy, and he so grateful that he slept wearing them all night.

Poverty, I know, is relative, yet despite a very advanced social model in this country, there are still children going hungry. I admit to deep frustration, even anger. When I dropped off groceries for the family of nine, the dormant nurse within me raged silently at the worn-out woman in the doorway without enough sense to access free contraception. When I dropped off food for the family of five, I restrained myself from asking the mother why she didn't get her children to pick up the rubbish outside her front door and put it in the bin - opposite her front door. And why she had yet another tattoo, proudly shown to me. When I climbed the staircase to drop off groceries at another house, I stepped over the remnants of the previous week's

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delivery; open cans, cold pasta, eggshells, teabags and empty cartons. None of it in rubbish bags, but even the rats didn't venture up there. Then I would go home to a warm house, with well-stocked cupboards and feel guilty.

This you see, is my challenge. As a Christian I cannot, must not, make any judgement; 'there, but for the grace of God, go I', as my mother would say. But it goes beyond that. Seeing someone as undeserving because they are irresponsible, don't or won't work, or are ungrateful, lets us see them as the authors of their own dire situations, and gives us an excuse to qualify what help we will render. Also, is it helpful to expect the government to pick up the tab. What call is that making on us as individuals?

During the pandemic, it was interesting to observe the result of a decision in parliament not to extend free meals to children over school holidays. Amid the raging political storm, restaurants, shops, cafes, organisations, foodbanks and sports clubs suddenly came out of the woodwork and provided food. A lot of food. Suddenly the efforts of Make Lunch and other Church initiatives that have been going for years, feeding children and families, looked paltry.

School dinners are unknown in some countries, but when my children were at school in South Africa, parents were asked to provide an extra sandwich (that was the sum total of packed lunches, way back). These extra sandwiches were collected at the start of the day, and a driver would take them to a school in the township, so the children there had something to eat. There was no expectation, no free-loading, just gratitude. And everyone would do their bit. I imagine it was like that in Ancient Palestine in Jesus' time, people helping each other out. Indeed, it was written in the Jewish Law, e.g., Leviticus 19:9-10, instructing people to leave the edges of

the field un-harvested, so that the poor may gather food. There are many references to the poor throughout the Bible: [Luke 12:33,34](#); [Proverbs 19:1](#); [Deuteronomy 15:11](#). Indeed Jesus said: *'the poor will always be with you.'* [Mark 14:7](#)

Maybe it has become too easy to pour a never-ending stream of money into benefits, whatever shape or form they take. There never seems to be enough to go around. Yet if I look at places where there is no government help, that world is very bleak. Christian organisations and aid agencies quietly work away month after month, year after year, without any fanfare or football stars, making a difference. Jesus himself was poor, unable to make grand gestures, yet in all his dealings with the needy he showed great compassion. It is for us to discern how we address the needs of those around us, locally and beyond our borders, and naturally, our starting point would be to do things out of love.

I think we must all, at some time, stand in the marketplace and be torn with compassion for all who have material need, whatever their circumstances. To feel helpless anger and completely defeated because, for all the pity we feel, we cannot change things. And then go home, and try to make a difference, one sandwich at a time, reaching out to those whose lives we can touch, near or far away.

*Rev Shirley Pearce*

*\* Curacy is a time in which newly ordained ministers serve at least three years in a training post where they continue to learn and grow in the roles to which God has called them.*

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### **Rogation Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

10:00 Alciston United Benefice Service

### **Ascension Day Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

19:00 Selmeston United Benefice Service

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

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

### **Pentecost Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### **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) please email the Benefice Administrator at [benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

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Commemorative tree planted on Berwick playing field on 27<sup>th</sup> March.