

St Nick's News

The Parish Magazine of St Nicholas of Myra, Brighton

From the Parish Priest

This edition of the parish magazine comes with a slight delay, following the rigours of Holy Week and Easter, and the recess which followed it – including the period of the parish pilgrimage to Rome. Better late than not at all, we hit the press with plenty of news and views from within our congregation and local community. You may also notice that this edition of the magazine is slightly different in format – smaller, and with a new layout, for ease of reading. It is, like all that we do, a work in progress!



Communication is something of a theme in this edition: our editor has contributed a helpful summary of the PCC away day, in which improving our communication emerged as a priority for our developing mission. In his report on the deliberations of the PCC, Stephen Tucker writes about our new Mission Action Plan, and the PCC's endorsement of the Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood scheme, which we will be running at St Nick's during the month of June. This is how the scheme describes itself:

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood (KYCKYN) is a facilitated process that was designed by the Diocese of Birmingham to help churches think about themselves in relation to the local communities they seek to serve, and make prayerful and informed decisions about their mission in those communities. The process gives church members the tools to reflect on how their church is seen by others, to listen to the wider community, celebrate its strengths and have a deeper understanding of its needs. Sharing their findings with the wider congregation, the church is then able to make prayerful and intentional decisions about how it wants to respond.

The idea is that we undertake some serious discernment, as a congregation, about what our gifts are; and how we can put them to use within our local community – and thus grow our ministry. This will require careful

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communication: first of all listening, and then responding with graciousness and imagination.

The scheme will be facilitated by Diane Watts, who is working with the Diocese on behalf of the Church Urban Fund – the Church of England charity with a particular concern for the needs of people in cities, and how parishes can respond to those needs. Diane will be with us on four occasions:

Sunday 2 June - Ascension Sunday, at the 8.00am & 10.30am Eucharist

Thursday 13 June at 3.00pm, at a meeting hosted in St Paul's School

Thursday 20 June – Corpus Christi day, from Evening Prayer (at 6.00pm) and afterwards at a reception in church

23 June – Corpus Christi Sunday, at the 10.30am Parish Eucharist and Procession, and afterwards at the Community Picnic

Do put the dates in your diary.

As we look forward to taking part in this exercise, it's important to remember that it's not a gimmick. Discernment and communication are integral to our Christian faith, and how we live together as a church. They are both Easter themes, and ones which recur again and again through the Acts of the Apostles, which we are reading on Sundays through Eastertide. Through corporate discernment, the first followers of Jesus came to understand what the experience of the Risen Lord meant for them, and for the whole of creation. This discernment led them to start communicating – witnessing in public to the experience of the resurrection, sharing the gift of healing, forgiveness and new life with anybody open to receive it. This is something we are already doing, like the apostolic church before us; we hope that Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood will help us do it better.

And as always, it will be a work in progress!

With love and prayer,

Fr Dominic

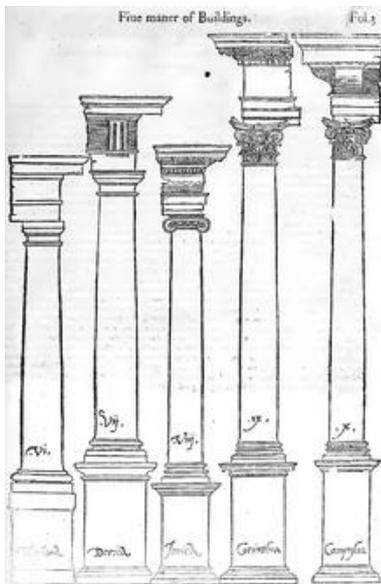
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PCC News

Away Day 2019

On 2 February the Parochial Church Council had an opportunity to meet together to develop the parish's Mission Action Plan. Discussion was set into an extended communion, so at all times participants were conscious of the presence of Christ guiding and inspiring their deliberations. A summary of the Away Day was included in the papers for the APCM and a full report can be obtained from the parish administrator, the vicar or the PCC secretary.



Briefly, the recommendations for action are based around "5 pillars." First as a parish we will be continuing to celebrate our present ministries, with the core emphasis on worship. And we also plan to develop our pastoral visiting and healing ministries, our ministries of teaching and spiritual formation, our ministry shared with St. Michael's and St Paul's at St. Paul's School and explore opportunities for ministry to students. Secondly, we will be trying to increase the visibility of the church through our varied means of communication, both digital and paper-based. Thirdly we hope to re-engage with the surrounding community through new connections and working collaboratively. Fourthly, we will be seeking to re-present the church and churchyard as an urban sanctuary and this will involve working with civic partners. Finally, the church intends to explore in depth a variety of ways to work with local organisations in serving the community. This will include consideration of how best to support the homeless and how best to use the building as a community resource.

All this deliberation was laid out in the Mission Action Plan and put into a timetable. The PCC intends to hit the ground running – so watch out for lots of great new initiatives!

--Cynthia Park

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March PCC Meeting

Any meeting of the PCC will have routine business to conduct and the latest meeting on March 12 was no exception. The main routine business was to adopt the Financial Statements and the Annual Report for 2018 ready for presentation to the APCM to be held in conjunction with a parish lunch on Sunday 7 April at 12.00.

The main focus for this meeting was the adoption of the Mission Action Plan that resulted from our discussions on the Away Day. One thing discussed was how we might communicate with a wider audience. The new website is up and running and has been greeted with enthusiasm, though we discussed how it might be made even more user friendly as part of its ongoing development. However, reverting momentarily to the more traditional, we also discussed reviewing the format of the parish magazine and extending distribution. It is already on the new parish website which potentially opens it up to a wider audience but, if more people could be encouraged to read and receive it online, this would also reduce costs.



Looking farther into the future, the Major Project Group had met Diane Watts, Diocesan Church Urban Fund liaison officer, in January for an introduction to her training sessions 'Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood'. This was well received by the group who thought it very constructive, focused and thoughtful. The sessions are tailor-made for each church and focus on core gifts and the PCC agreed that these should go ahead as soon as possible.

Amongst other news we noted that the Diocesan Safeguarding Training Day held in the church had been successful with eight people completing their two levels of training. Nigel Nash, our Safeguarding Officer, confirmed that there are just a very few volunteers who still need to complete their training. The importance of this is that the more people who complete training, the more flexible we can be in response to the needs of the community.

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A major concern last summer was antisocial behaviour in the churchyard, specifically the dealing and use of drugs. Considerable effort has gone in to informing as many people as possible who to contact about any given issue but we are entirely dependent upon everyone reporting anything of concern as soon as is possible. Amanda, who has done a huge amount of work co-ordinating the local community's response to this, once again emphasized the need to follow the correct procedure. Our experience shows that prompt and personal (the police cannot act on third party accounts) action in reporting what is going on is crucial to securing the support of the relevant authorities and in getting that transformed into action.

Have I covered everything? No way – but I would like to acknowledge that Anne Cross, Sorrell Clement and Charlie Clarke have come to the end of their term of office. They were thanked by Father Dominic for all their support and hard work on our behalf. We shall miss them but look forward to another year working with new members in tending the beacon on the hill that is Saint Nick's.

--Stephen Tucker

Michael talks to... Amanda Ogilvie

Amanda is one of our two elected Church Wardens, and is married to Brian who also worships at St Nicholas'. They live the Hove side of Seven Dials, with their children Tabitha (an Oxford University graduate) & Titus (currently at Lancaster University), both servers in our church. She also has an older daughter, Daisy, who now lives in Melbourne (Australia). In their home, they also have Cyd the tortoise. Amanda works as a job-share in a Mental Health Law Practice, whilst Brian, an Accountant, works from home.



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Q How did you find St Nicholas' Church?

A I moved to Brighton in 1986, Daisy was born in August 1987, and that Christmas a leaflet was put through the door informing of a crib service, which we attended. Since then, I have attended St Nick's in varying degrees, and my marriage to Brian was blessed here in 1995. I was confirmed at the Easter dawn service in 2008.

Q What is your favourite place in the City?

A It must be our beach hut on Hove Lawns. It has a clear view of the sea and is a great place to escape to.

Q How do you spend your leisure time?

A For a start, the role of Church Warden, takes up much of my time. I am also a Duty Manager at Brighton Open Air Theatre, and enjoy visiting Art Galleries, including the Towner in Eastbourne.

Q Where do you as a family go on holiday?

A We used to enjoy family holidays in St Ives, but these days Brian and I go to Lanzarote in the Canaries for winter sun and warmth, this year for three weeks. Although not a holiday, Brian and I are going on the Church Pilgrimage to Rome.

Q Surprise us with something that few of us know about yourself?

A I have organised events at the House of Commons

Q What is your guiltiest pleasure?

A It must be Friday nights at 'Paris House' in Western Road. A remarkable pub - convivial and in some ways an old-style Brighton boozier.

Q What do you pray for each day?

A The people on the streets, the homeless, addicted and marginalised community in our city.

Q What did you give up for Lent?

A My birthday always falls in Lent! This year I tried really hard to give up unkind thoughts.

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The Friends of St. Nicholas'

This year is the 25th Anniversary of The Friends of St Nicholas' and in celebration the membership fee for this year is reduced to that of 1994, ie £7.50 per single membership and £12.50 joint. Several events are planned for the year and, even if you are not a member, you are very welcome to buy a ticket and come along. Ticket prices are not yet fixed but will be widely advertised when they are, including on The Friends' website:

<http://stnicholasbrighton.wixsite.com/thefriends>

29 June	19.00	Mr Tucker's Amazing Quiz, with supper
27 July	tba	AGM and The Friends' Annual Garden Party
8 September	tba	Lecture by Alexandra Loske followed by tea
30 November	19.00	25 th Anniversary Candlelit Dinner with special guest speaker
October (date tbc)		Lunch with brandy tasting

We hope to see you at some of our events!

--Josephine Baker, Membership Secretary,
The Friends of St Nicholas'



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Seasonal Flowers

Mothering Sunday: Many thanks to Gaye Harris and all her helpers for providing mothers and others with such beautiful posies on Mothering Sunday. They were most gratefully received.

Easter Sunday: Once again we celebrated Christ's resurrection in the church with beautiful flower displays organized by Gaye and her team. Warmest thanks to all our arrangers for the stunning floral decoration of the church!



Summer Walks – 'St Nick's to St Nick's' - Save The Dates!!



Father Dominic and I will be leading three leisurely walks along the beautiful South Downs Way after the 10.30 am Sunday Service on the following dates:

23 June: approx 6 miles

Bus or train to Lewes - Mount Harry - Old Lewes Racecourse – Black Cap – Plumpton Plain – Streathill Farm – Ditchling Beacon – Bus home (after an ice cream!)

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14 July: approx 5.5 miles

Bus to Ditchling Beacon – Keymer Post – Jack & Jill Windmills – Pyecombe Golf Course – Pyecombe Church - Newtimber Hill - - Sedlescombe Farm – Devil's Dyke – Bus home

25 August: approx 7 miles

Bus to Devil's Dyke – Edburton Hill - Truleigh Hill - River Adur – riverbank - ancient church of St Nicolas (tour by arrangement ?) – well-earned pub stop - bus home

All are welcome, including children and dogs. Walking clothes, good footwear and a packed lunch are essential. Look out for the signing up sheet in church, and sign up for any or all of the walks. If you have any questions, have a word with me.

--Brian Ogilvie

Sexuality, Gender and Faith Group



OneBodyOneFaith

The ministry of the sexuality, gender and faith group began at St Nicholas' in February 2018. It came out of requests from members of the congregation, and beyond, to have a forum where these issues could be safely discussed.

The group has been meeting monthly since last year on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. At first, the meetings took the form of exploring what members were looking for. This was a safe space, where people could share their thoughts and feelings with people who would understand or have similar experiences, particularly in the context of Christian faith. We recognised that for many, this was a life and death issue, going to the core of our identity.

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The membership has grown to around 15 at each meeting, and many are attending from other parishes in the area, or even from churches of other denominations. Some have reported that they wanted somewhere they could feel comfortable discussing such personal matters, especially when they have felt less able to openly share in their own communities.

Speakers have included Luke Dowding, Deacon from Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London, a very inclusive Baptist Church; Dr Sam, a transgender man, and a member of the Roman Catholic Church; Fr Andrew Woodward, rural Dean of Brighton and Diocesan LGBT liaison office, and, not least, members of the group who have shared their own very powerful and moving stories. In June of this year, we are looking forward to welcoming the Very Revd Dr Jeffrey John, Dean of St Albans.

So, our group continues, through discussion, debate and prayer to minister to each other, and to recognise Jesus in our midst, both for ourselves and in reaching out to those who may struggle to find a home in the Church, where they can be welcomed and embraced.

--Nigel Nash, Co-leader with Fr Dominic

Open the Book

As the Head of St. Paul's, Linda Dupret, has told us in her article, St. Paul's school is now being visited by our Open the Book team. Heather Wilkin was an important member of the team but she has now moved on, so we are looking for others to join us. The training is provided by Scripture Union and we tell the bible stories from *The Lion Storyteller Bible*. Everything is scripted out so there is a minimum of intellectual effort required. But what is needed is a bit of imagination: dreaming up costumes, making props and devising ways for the children to participate. It is great fun – and gives us the satisfaction of knowing that the children are hearing some of the bible's greatest stories in a memorable way. If you would like to join the team, have a word with Fr. Dominic.

--Cynthia Park

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A Poem by Claire



At last I sea
Splashing puddles,
swirling waves
Icy winter's shore
is where I feel most brave
Crunching pebbles, shouting at the wind
I feel so alive when I close my eyes and imagine I'm shaking my slippery fins
Diving and wriggling around my swirling haven,
with the peace that lies within me when my world is shaking
Faces on the beach gazing at my home
I no longer feel shame when in amongst the waves I roam
It's only a day dream that I dive like a fish
But in that moment I sense my spirit soaring to reach my aquatic and earthly
eclipse
Tumbling and falling, letting go of all fear,
for a moment embracing the foam ing and churning around my favourite pier
The laughing and pebble throwing stirs me from my vision and I take a deep
breath
and realize that loving nature and people alike are our highest missions
It's easier to be alone when I'm healing within
The interruptions and strangers draw me back to the present when my
patience wears thin
Why does the laughter of children follow me everywhere I go?
My empty womb makes me sad, but stronger first must I grow
One day I'll see my baby grow, splashing in the puddles, laughing as he goes
The sound of my child's voice will break the silence I so often seek, but
through his eyes,
I'll cherish the freedom of an afternoon at the beach.

--Claire Conway

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Chaplaincy at the University of Sussex

A few years ago a colleague shared an anecdote with me about a recent chaplaincy conference he attended at a University in the north. Another chaplain he met there informed him that he was on the cusp of being made redundant by his sponsoring church denomination. His church had decided to cut funds to chaplaincy and put it into local congregations to help them focus on ministry to 18-25 year olds. (Let the logic and the irony sink in for a moment.)



The story reflects an attitude that sometimes travels across the churches which sees sector ministries – e.g. chaplaincies – as marginal to the ‘real work’ of ministry, thought to be anchored in the local church or parish. ‘Real work’, that is, ‘being gospel’ in the world, does of course take place through churches and parishes – especially after we have left the buildings. (I attended one church where the words “*servants’ entrance*” were signposted above the exit.) But it also happens through those ‘marginal’ chaplaincy ministries based in schools, universities, hospitals, jails, prisons and elsewhere.

I am privileged to work for the University of Sussex as Lead Chaplain. I have daily contact with students and staff and have responsibility for chaplaincy care and outreach across the whole campus community. What does chaplaincy look like? The answer is as varied as the different contexts of ministry and the personality and skills of the particular chaplain. It will also be affected by whether it is a Diocesan or a University appointment. In my case, it is a University appointment and the job takes on a variety of hues.

One aspect of my role is to oversee and support an interfaith team of chaplains comprising Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Quaker and a range of Christian chaplains, lay and ordained. Depending on other pastoral responsibilities, these chaplains are at the University anywhere from one to five days a week

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and are available for students and staff who need a listening ear. Each chaplain, regardless of their faith, sees themselves as being present for the whole campus community regardless of whether or not they belong to their religion or even have a faith. Most people who come to my door would not even regard themselves as religious – but often are interested in spirituality. Or sometimes chaplains may hang out in one of the many cafes on campus, loitering with intent and just being present and available.

The usual kinds of specific religious activities you might expect do take place – regular Masses and other opportunities for collective devotion, a pattern of prayers at the Masjid, Buddhist meditation and chanting, etc. One of our lay Anglican chaplains, with a pastoral emphasis on supporting international students, hosts a 'theology café', an informal gathering where people can explore theological issues. He also hosts a student drop in for Sussex and University of Brighton students in the city centre at the Chapel Royal on Thursday evenings. On Sunday mornings another lay – soon to be ordained a deacon- Anglican chaplain leads a lively youth-oriented service, complete with breakfast.

But we also make space for opportunities for nurturing spirituality that are inclusive in their character. I facilitate meditation sessions several times a week at the Meeting House – where chaplaincy is based – and other venues on campus. These sessions are hugely popular and draw students and members of staff from diverse faiths and none at all, who want to cultivate some stillness and wellbeing for themselves. I also lecture on wellbeing and the benefits of mindfulness for first and second year medical students every autumn and lead seminars for third and fourth year students at the Royal Sussex during the spring. My Quaker colleague likewise leads a couple sessions of distinctive meditations based on Quaker models but open to everyone. I also write a monthly wellbeing column for the University's newsletter.

We also offer material support for students who have hit hard times. We partner with other areas of Student Experience on campus and Fare Share Sussex to run a food bank from the Meeting House. Sadly, this has become

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one of the more successful projects with an increase in the numbers of students referred to the project over the years. On a jollier note we also run regular food based social events – energised largely by our Methodist chaplains. Free brunches are served every first Wednesday of the month, annual Christmas dinners for international students who have not been able to go home for the holidays, Christmas afternoon teas, and free pizza and drink events on numerous occasions.

The Meeting House is itself a pastoral resource. There is a quiet room where people study, a social area where people chat and eat lunch – and enjoy the least expensive coffee on campus. And upstairs we have one of the most beautiful spaces on campus – especially when the sun is shining through the coloured glass windows of our wonderful Sir Basil Spence chapel, transforming it into a magical dance of colour.

One other dimension of ministry that has developed from my previous work in the world of conflict resolution is work place mediation. As a qualified workplace mediator I am occasionally invited to support professional service and academic members of staff who are experiencing challenges in their relationships with colleagues. So periodically I will also facilitate third party mediation sessions that aim to bring healing to working relationships.

That is a flavour of chaplaincy at Sussex – but university chaplaincy will look different elsewhere depending on the context's needs and presented opportunities – alongside personalities, experiences and skills that different chaplains bring with them. I must say, I enjoy the role of Lead Chaplain – which I now combine with being a Ph.D student at the University of Sussex – more than any other post I have held in my working life! The challenges have been great, the opportunities for engaging with an exciting range of people are vast and the variety entailed in the role of University chaplain utterly stimulating. We have an open campus and should you feel the urge you would be most welcome to drop in for a visit at the Meeting House.

--Fr Chris McDermott

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The (not only) Regency Society

Have you ever heard of Brighton and Hove's Regency Society? If not, read on ... and if you have heard of it, please read on too.

Anyone hearing about us for the first time, may well assume we are a group of people who are interested in the Prince Regent and his Brighton Pavilion. That's not surprising, given the name. It's true, we are interested in that bit of history, but only amongst many other things, such as:

- the rest of the city's history,
- plans for 13,000 new homes in Brighton and Hove,
- restoration of the Madeira arches and the Saltdean Lido building,
- protecting the city's conservation areas,
- the new traffic layout for Valley Gardens
- the James Gray collection of historic photographs
- future plans for Black Rock and the Brighton Centre
- and much more ...
-

In other words, we are interested in anything related to the natural or built environment of our wonderful city, past present or future.

So why not change the name? That would avoid the risk of sounding rather over-focused. I think there are two reasons for sticking with our present name. The first is that, misleading or not, the name is recognised by lots of people, many of whom, I suspect, would not want to see it changed. The second is that even if our members did agree that the name should be changed, I doubt very much that we would ever agree what the new name should be!

If you'd like to know more about the Regency Society of Brighton and Hove and all we concern ourselves with, please visit www.regencysociety.org.



--Roger Hinton, Chair of the Regency Society

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St. Paul's CE Primary School. March 2019.

It is many years since I last wrote an article for the St. Nicolas' Church Magazine and it is a pleasure to renew this opportunity.

I have now been the Headteacher of St. Paul's CE Primary School for 12 years and how the school has grown! The fabric of the school has completely changed with new windows, doors, roof, landscaped gardens, office, canopies, electric gates, a learning den and community room, used by many clubs and weekend language schools. This usage helps us build strong links as an international school and extends school use into the wider community.



We are recognised nationally for our teaching of Spanish in which children reach a very high standard by the time they leave us in year six. This is further enhanced by our link to schools in Zaragoza in Spain, where we take our year six children each year for a four day visit and they bring their children to us. We also continue to visit and support St. John Leonard School in Uganda.

St. Paul's really is a community school and our strong links with our three churches, St. Paul's, St. Nicolas' and St. Michael's, have helped us to build our Christian ethos and inclusion. This has been enhanced recently by the introduction of "Open the Book" sessions. This involves trained members of the congregation coming in and acting out bible stories to the children in our acts of worship. This new opportunity has improved our assemblies and brought in people who are passionate about the bible to share their knowledge.

We visit each of the churches once a term for special services such as Candlemass, Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, Harvest Festival and Christingle. Fr. Robert Norbury, Fr. Dominic Keech and Fr. Rob Coupland, as

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well as being our clergy, are all school governors and come every Thursday to conduct collective worship and are regularly in the school. We are about to review our Christian Vision and we have been learning to use the new Understanding Christianity Syllabus for our religious education lessons.

In November 2017, we received an Ofsted inspection visit and were again graded as a "good" school. With our Section 48, church school inspection in October 2015, we were graded as a "good" school too but with "outstanding" for moral, spiritual, social and cultural education. This was reflected in our international work and our celebration of diversity.

As well as developing an international and Christian awareness in our children, we work hard to achieve high standards in literacy and numeracy. In December 2018, our school was number one in Brighton and Hove for our Key Stage Two standards, out of all the schools in the LEA. We were also fifth within East and West Sussex with our year six children, who complete their SAT's at age 11. We are very proud of our children and teachers, who work so hard for this success.

We make sure we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum and we do this through a range of fun and exciting topics. We have stunning starts and fabulous finishes to our topics. We often start with a visit or visitors coming in to set the scene and finish with a celebration of our work or a party. Topics vary from Out of the Egg, Deep Down Under, The Secret Garden in Key Stage one to the Anglo Saxons, The Romans, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Benin in Africa, Italy, The Local History of Brighton, A Crime Scene, as well as having Science and Design Technology weeks.

In July 2018, we sadly closed our maintained nursery as numbers dropped and we could only offer 15 hours. Over the last few years we had lost money and had more staff than children. However, in September 2018, we introduced an independent nursery called Wagtails run by Mrs. Heather John. This has been fantastic for the school, as many of our parents wanted wraparound care from 8am. to 6 pm which is now on offer. The nursery now

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takes two-year olds too. If you have children of nursery age please ring Heather on 01273 778215; she would love to hear from you.

Finally, St. Paul's is a very happy school, with a dedicated staff and wonderfully supportive parents. We love to have people in to visit and support us in our work. If you speak Spanish or feel you would like to volunteer in our school, you would require a new DBS and two references and we would be happy to talk further with you. Please look at our website for more details: St. Paul's Lifecloud.

--Linda Dupret, Headteacher

News from the Methodists and URC

En route in Lent ...

Greetings from Dorset Gardens Methodist Church! As I write we are well into Lent and at Dorset Gardens we are following a theme of Pilgrimage as we journey through this time of preparation. In place of our regular Lenten Cross with its poignant symbols of Jesus' crucifixion, we have a signpost pointing to Bethany in one direction and in the other, Jerusalem. Each week we focus on an element to help us on the journey. The first week it was the signpost itself, helping us to find direction. The second week it was food for the journey; bread and grapes which also tied in with our service of Holy Communion. This week it was a suitcase – posing the question what do we need to take with us and what can we, should we, leave behind? It's both interesting and challenging.

Last time I wrote a bit about the meetings that fall under the Progressive Christian umbrella. Since then "Beyond Belief" has had a change in direction and we have decided to widen our meeting by occasionally attending events that have been organised by other groups.

Most recently in March, we went to a debate on faith vs. science between Dr Zachary Ardern from Munich University and John Richards, Publications Director of Atheist Alliance International. If you're interested in what we're

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up to next you can check our Facebook group "Beyond Belief" or be in touch and we can email information to you.

"Thinking Allowed" continues in its regular slot at 6.30 pm on the second Sunday evening of the month at Hove Methodist church. Last time we heard about a conference in Liverpool on the subject of Progressive Evangelism that the Rev Andy Lowe had attended. If you'd like information on our next gathering please go to the Facebook page "Progressive Christians in Brighton & Hove" or through the Beyond Belief group of the PCN: www.pcnbritain.org.uk/groups/brighton.

Sending good wishes and love from Dorset Gardens and the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit to all at St. Nick's.

--Sue Harrington, Senior Steward, DGMC

Brighthelm URC, including Brighton Earth Church

Here are some events at to draw to your attention – all are welcome!

'Human Flourishing on a Flourishing Earth' – a day conference at Brighthelm on Saturday 8th June, more or less exploring our Earth Church theme but with an emphasis on spirituality. See <https://www.brighthelm.org.uk/human-flourishing-on-a-flourishing-earth> for more details.

Mass lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 26th June. We want huge crowds of people to come to London and tell their MP why this climate emergency we're in is so important. Even if your MP is Caroline Lucas and so possibly more convinced than you about the seriousness of global heating, she'll be pleased to meet you and know you support her. We could go as a group, but now might be the time to arrange to have the day off.

Operation Noah, a Christian environmental campaign, is having its Supporters Day and AGM on Saturday 29th June, in central London. I've been a trustee of Operation Noah for several years, mainly involved in their Bright

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Now campaign to persuade Churches to stop investing in fossil fuels. The keynote speaker on the day will be Hannah Malcolm, who recently won the Church Times 'Theology Slam' with her talk about theology and the environment titled, 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.' You can watch her talk

here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GknXxsvqToU&feature=youtu.be>

See <http://operationnoah.org/news-events/3154/> for more information, including booking.

--the Revd Alex Mabbs

Another travel opportunity from Simon Smith

Both of our weekend breaks in 2018 were a great success. Our Netherlands trip to the bulb fields in April was very enjoyable and we were so lucky to find warmth and sunshine after the weather had been so bad. Our Christmas Oxford trip was a delight. We were again lucky with the weather and the Winter Lights trail at Blenheim Palace far surpassed all expectations.

I am now pleased to offer you a mid-week mini-break August 20 -22 to Warwickshire and Derby travelling by coach, staying in a very comfortable four-star hotel and visiting three fantastic National Trust properties. Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House are both gems but the star of this mini break will be Calke Abbey, a magnificent Grade I house. With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. A massive amount of remedial work but no restoration has been done and interiors are almost as they were found in 1985 so the decay of the building and its interiors has been halted but not reversed. Before the National Trust's work of the late 1980s everything had remained untouched since the 1880s. Discover the tales of an eccentric family who amassed a vast collection of hidden treasures. Visit the beautiful, yet faded, walled gardens and explore the orangery, auricula theatre and the kitchen gardens. Escape into the ancient and fragile habitats of Calke Park and its National Nature Reserve.

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The price of the break is £265 with a single supplement of £50 for the two nights. Booking forms can be obtained from simonsmith@btinternet.com or you can ring me on 07777 638 6771

--Simon Smith

Visiting the Festival Theatre, Chichester

Simon Smith is also organising trips to the theatre for some of the festival season's productions. The dates are:

"Shadowlands" by William Nicholson, May 13

"Plenty" by David Hare, May 17

"Oklahoma" by Rogers and Hammerstein, August 5

"Macbeth," October 7. The tickets which have been booked usually cost £49 but having made an early group booking, Simon is able to offer them as well as coach travel for £37. For further information be in touch with Simon on the address given above.



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Advertising

Stefan Holmström - 7 Dials Singing Teacher

Stefan runs a vibrant singing community with individual singing lessons, vocal groups and performance workshops. He came to the UK from Sweden to do his opera training at the Guildhall in London and is now increasingly focused on training a wide range of singers.

Stefan says: "Singing is a fascinating journey and an amazing way to express yourself, whether you want to become a professional, improve your choral singing, sing with a jazz band or prepare for an exam or audition. I work with singers of all ages and genres. Part of the beauty of the Estill model I use involves isolating and training different structures of the voice, meaning it can be applied to any style. Safety comes first for me – all singing, including opera and belting, should feel comfortable in the throat."

Fees are £25 for a half hour lesson and £45 for an hour. If you would like to contact Stefan, please go to his website www.stefanholmstrom.co.uk or contact him directly at holmstromstefan@yahoo.co.uk or on 07970 057 660

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From our Jokester

Personal Insurance

For you and your spouse

For you and your telephone

For you and your partner

For making friends

For those seeking weight loss

Legal & General.

Direct Line.

Standard Life.

Go Compare.

More Than.

Travel Insurance

For travel in Ladies Only vehicles

For Sailing risks

For holidays in old Monasteries

Sheilas Wheels.

Maritime.

Abbey Life

Miscellaneous Insurance

For Old Age matters

Merging your business with spouse's company

(Employer Liability may be declined on this)

Saga

Commercial Union

Spotted on a Funeral Parlour bill board advert:

SEE YOUR LOVED ONES ON THEIR WAY - IN A GLASS COFFIN.

Underneath someone had scrawled: Remains to be seen!

--Ray Lambert



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Future Events

BRIGHTON FESTIVAL

(Contact Brighton Festival for further information and tickets)

Lunchtime Concerts:

Thursday 9th May 2019 1pm

Siren Duo: Claire Wickes and Tomos Xerri play a mixed classical programme (flute and harp)

Monday 13th May 2019 1pm

Guitarist Michael Matthews performs music from Italy and Africa.

Monday 20th May 2019 1pm

Saxophonist Jonathan Radford and pianist Ashley Fripp mix eras and styles

Saturday 11 May 1pm

Tales from the British Isles

(please contact Brighton Fringe for further information and tickets)

The Wandering Bard is an ensemble that merges qualities of early music with delights of immortal folk music. Inspired by the traditions of bards, the ensemble tells stories during the performances. Their programme 'Tales from the British Isles' consists of narratives ranging from court to countryside, with all walks of life explored through music and storytelling. Come to hear, among others, the horrors of Henry VIII's wives, the exploits of a saucy sailor, and the friendship between two of England's finest composers.

Saturday 1 June 7.30pm

Big Swing Face by the South London Jazz Orchestra

(please contact Brighton Fringe for further information and tickets)

SLJO are very excited to introduce their new conductor, James Keirle, to Brighton Fringe.

You can expect big band favourites as well as some more surprising choices in an evening of jazz, funk, Latin, and classic swing.

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Saturday 29th June 7 for 7.30pm

Friends of St Nicholas annual quiz

Don't miss this annual favourite.

Sunday 7th July 4pm (time to tbc)

Brighton Voices – Celebration of Handel

This promises to be a wonderful afternoon with a selection of pieces by Handel.

ST. NICHOLAS' RECITALS (WEDNESDAYS AT 12.30PM)

May

8 – Soprano Mehreen Shah returns to St. Nicholas' Church to present a programme of favourites and new discoveries

15 – Giorgos Vardakis (piano) – pieces that will include Brahms Fantasie

22 – Gemini Duo, violin duo

29 – Yvonne Patrick (soprano and piano) - 'Rhymes and Fables in Song' A selection of songs based on well-known rhymes from childhood.

June

5 – Trio: Antonio Oyarzabal (piano), Emma Besselaar (cello) & Nadine Nigl (violin) play Lili Boulanger's Trio (2019 marks the 100th year anniversary of her death).

12 – Constance Chow: Piano music by Schumann and Ravel

19 – Christopher Hundhun: solo guitar.

26 – Fumi Otsuki (violin): Fjords and Fiddles with piano accompanist Sarah Kershaw

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The Last Word.....

Once again, I am extremely grateful to all who have contributed items to our newsletter. As always it is such an interesting read. For this issue, we also asked a number of outside groups to tell us about themselves. Not all responded, but we are very grateful to those that did for they will be helping us get to know our community better. We have also included an advertisement for the first time. If you know of anyone else who would like to advertise in our pages for a small fee, please tell them to be in touch. The next issue of the newsletter is planned for early June, with copy due by May 20. If you want to "talk" to our church family about anything of interest, feel free to use the pages of the St. Nick's News. They'd love to hear from you!

--Cynthia Park, Editor



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Regular Services at St Nicholas'

Sunday Masses

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am The Parish Eucharist
with Junior Church and Refreshments

Weekday Masses

Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 12.00pm; Weds 10.30am

Meditation and Evening Prayer

Thursday 5.45pm

Confessions may be heard after any Mass, or by appointment



People and Contacts

Parish Office, St Nicholas' Church, Church Street, Brighton, BN1 3LJ

Parish Administrator: Mrs Joanne Morrell

Tel: 01273 205360, email: parishoffice@stnicholasbrighton.org.uk

Office Hours: Weds 10.30am-2.00pm; Thurs & Fri 9.00-11.45am; 12.45-3.00pm

Vicar: Fr Dominic Keech

Tel: 01273 770324, email: frdominickeech@gmx.co.uk

Fr Dominic's rest day is Monday

Churchwardens:

Mrs Amanda Ogilvie

Tel: 01273 709385, email: a.j.ogilvie94@gmail.com

Mr Stephen Tucker

Tel: 01273 453169, email: sfjtucker@gmail.com

The Friends of St Nicholas'

Formed to support the PCC in maintaining the building (Charity No. 1046054)

Contact: Josephine Baker, Membership Secretary c/o The Church

For further details of membership and events see:

<http://stnicholasbrighton.wixsite.com/thefriends>

Website: www.stnicholasbrighton.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StNicsBrighton

Twitter: @StNicsBrighton Charity No.: 1131831

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