



Holy Trinity Church Cuckfield

**'Joyfully
Serving
Jesus'**

**Parish magazine
March 2020**

50 pence

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March 2020

**You have only one model, Jesus. Follow, follow, follow him,
step by step, imitating him, sharing his life in every way**

My dear Friends,

Two or three years ago, I was on holiday in Paris and happened to visit the church of Saint-Augustin. A church of great size, it was built 1860-68, and has the unlikely distinction of having a cast iron frame, and designed by Baltard who also constructed Les Halles – the great market of similar construction. Inside, under its huge dome, it all felt a little tired (like many Parisian churches, alas), but one thing caught my eye: an exhibition commemorating ***Charles Eugène de Foucauld*** who had worshipped there. His story proved to be very moving,

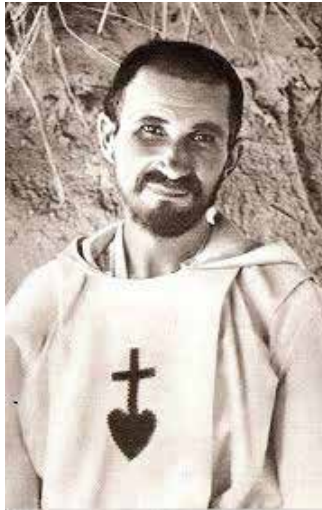
Charles was born in 1858. Orphaned at an early age, he entered the military (where he led a dissolute life upon inheriting a fortune) before an adventure in Morocco led him to turn to God. He became a Cistercian Trappist monk in 1890 and was priested in 1901. After a time in Nazareth as a hermit, he moved to the Sahara in what was then French Algeria. There he befriended the Berber people whilst living a life of utter simplicity and prayer. Greatly loved by them, he studied their ancient culture.

In 1916 a group of tribal Bedouin raiders seized him, and he was shot dead in the fracas which ensued. The Berbers greatly mourned someone who had honoured their ancient Muslim culture without that clash we increasingly see between people of different faith. His extraordinarily rich spirituality of a life focussed on Jesus is an example to all Christians. He displayed the Gospel light, and in doing so build a bridge of love to those he met.

On our Lenten journey, I hope that it might be profitable to contemplate his example, and I finish with another quote from this person of great humility:

Our entire existence - our whole being - must shout the Gospel from the rooftops. Our entire person must breathe Jesus, all our actions. Our whole life must cry out that we belong to Jesus, reflect a Gospel way of living. Our whole being must be a living proclamation, a reflection of Jesus.

With Love,
Michael



Charles de Foucauld – 1858-1916



Charles de Foucauld's hermitage in the Sahara

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Lent Course 2020 Please do join us for our Lent Course this year. Ian Walden has written a most interesting and thoughtful exploration for us in exploring what it means to be part of the Body of Christ – something at the heart of our gathering as a Eucharistic Community. It is entitled '**Though we are many ...**' Ian gives us a flavour as he writes,

What does it mean to be one body, sharing one bread? This course explores how we, with all Christians from all times and places, are gathered together, growing together, and given (together) for the life of the world.

The **Wednesday evening sessions** start on **March 4th at 8.00 pm** in the Committee Room in the Old School, and each session is repeated on **Friday at 3.00 pm** in the church. Do join us! Further details elsewhere in the magazine.

Jazz Concert The Ardingly College Jazz Band will be giving a free concert in Holy Trinity on **Thursday 5th March at 7.30 pm**. All are very welcome, and it goes without saying that the band is excellent!

Lunchtime Recital This month's Lunchtime Recital takes place on **Friday 6th March 2020 at 1.00 pm** and features **Rachel Ellis** (*violin*) This promises to be a lovely recital, and I would ask you to make it widely known. Entrance free, tea and coffee available from 12.30 pm.

The above three seem to provide a very busy schedule for the first week in March!

Tariro UK We were recently able to send £2,240 to this excellent charity helping children and young people in Zimbabwe. Please do continue to hold Father Nicholas, CR and all those involved in the vital work Tariro achieves in your prayers. Father Nicholas writes:

Thank you ever so much for this. It is a wonderful and much needed boost to our finances. I am off to Zimbabwe on Friday so in due course will be able to report more on how the youngsters are. In the meantime, please do thank your people for their generosity. With all good wishes, Nicolas CR

Mothering Sunday and Easter 2020 Please note that **Mothering Sunday** falls on **Sunday 22nd March** and the 9.45 will be a Family Eucharist. **Palm Sunday** is celebrated on **Sunday April 5th**. This year, the 9.45 am will be the Eucharist for the day including our Palm Procession (which we hope to be led by Dorcas the donkey) and the reading of the Passion. There will be no 11.00 am Sung Communion that day, but I hope that people will attend the **Devotion of Readings and Music** in the evening at 6.00 pm. On **Easter Day (12th April)** the 9.45 am will be a **Family Celebration Eucharist** as it has been in recent years, with a Messy Church running in the Old School concurrently. The Evening Service will be **Evensong** rather than Communion.

Organ Recital I will be giving an Organ Recital in St Mary Magdalene's Church, Bolney on **Sunday 15th March at 3.00 pm**. Entrance is free, and tea will follow. The organ at St Mary Magdalene's was built for John Courage (as in the brewery) for his large house – Gravenhurst (now Farney Close School) within the parish. On his death it was presented to the church in his memory. The builder, T. C. Lewis, built the Apse Organ for Westminster Cathedral at about the same time, and St Mary Magdalene's was restored (also at about the same time) by John Francis Bentley, the cathedral's architect – an interesting connection.



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ONE NEW HUMANITY

Wednesday 4th March @ 8.00pm

repeated Friday 6th March @ 3.00pm

LIVING IN HARMONY

Wednesday 11th March @ 8.00pm

repeated Friday 13th March @ 3.00pm

THE COMMON GOOD

Wednesday 18th March @ 8.00pm

repeated Friday 20th March @ 3.00pm

WE MUST GROW UP

Wednesday 25th March @ 8.00pm

repeated Friday 27th March @ 3.00pm

GO AND BEAR FRUIT

Wednesday 1st April @ 8.00pm

repeated Friday 3rd April @ 3.00pm

***Wednesday Sessions - Old School Committee Room,
Friday Sessions - Church ALL VERY WELCOME***

THE PARISH MAGAZINE Copy Date

The copy date for the **APRIL 2020 Magazine** is no later than
MONDAY 2nd MARCH

Please email contributions *in WORD format (no PDFs, please)* to:

duty-editor@holytrinitycuckfield.org

DR KEVIN CAREY



We are delighted to report that one of the Readers at Holy Trinity Church Hurstpierpoint, Kevin Carey, who regularly takes evensong at Holy Trinity, has been awarded an honorary doctorate from York University to recognise his service to disabled people throughout the world; for pioneering improvements in the life chances of blind children; and for his research and support of Masters' degree students in the University's *Department of Computer Science*.

After attending Cambridge and Harvard Universities, Kevin worked as a BBC journalist before joining *Sightsavers International*, becoming Overseas Director, before leaving to set up his own IT consultancy. Always passionate about improving the life chances of visually impaired children in poor countries, commenting that 'after all, I was a blind child myself', he has advised the UK Government and EU Commission, sat on the Content Board of *Ofcom*, and is currently chair of the *World Braille Council*.

Kevin's braille computer, essential for his working and cultural life, is supplied by the government's Access to Work programme at a cost of £4,000, prohibitive for children and students in poor countries and something Kevin considered unacceptable. In 2011, he set out to cut the cost of braille computers by 90%, putting together a global consortium of organisations working with blind people to raise the \$1.5m needed for the research.



In 2018, the first little Orbit 20 braille computer came out of the factory in India at a cost of about \$400. A year or so later, almost 2,000 blind children in East Africa now have an Orbit computer which allows them to read braille, type, access the internet, play games, and have equal status with their sighted classmates.



Cuckfield Museum reopens on 15th February with a new exhibition to celebrate 2020:

A HISTORY OF CUCKFIELD IN 20 OBJECTS

Visitors can expect to see some unusual items, some from our reserve collection and therefore rarely displayed, each chosen to represent an aspect of local life over the centuries, such as the immense wealth generated by the iron industry, the impact of the early 19th C golden age of stage coaches passing through between London and Brighton and, not least, the one thing that prevented Cuckfield becoming a town like Haywards Heath.

Cuckfield's clock making tradition is highlighted by a new acquisition, an Edward Bates silver pocket watch dating from 1793 and also by a Gatland long case clock dial and movement from the 1740s, loaned while awaiting restoration. We commemorate the Cuckfield men who went to war in 1914-18 and celebrate the goodwill extended to servicemen stationed here in WWII.



A World War I Tipperary Scarf

What is noticeable is Cuckfield's long-standing fund raising tradition, from Richard Bevan's *Improvement Association* and the building of the Queen's Hall to today's *ISOC*. One of the dinosaur bones excavated at Whiteman's Green, an unusual relic from the Union Workhouse, and a more recent reminder of life at Cuckfield Hospital, all give an idea of the scope of what we have put together.

However, we fully expect our visitors to have their own ideas about what else should have been included - and we look forward to hearing them!



Cuckfield iguanodon bone



Cuckfield Union Infirmary - men's bedpan

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CUCKFIELD MUSEUM'S NEW DINOSAUR DISPLAY



Donations to museum funds from other organisations or from individuals are always gratefully received and we give much thought into how best to spend the money we are given. Our latest idea, which we hope will be popular with younger visitors, was to re-vamp our dinosaur display by installing a diorama of Cuckfield in the Cretaceous era when our famous iguanodon roamed the landscape.

Local prop-maker Christopher Sutton was commissioned to create a model to fit the existing case on our landing and it will now be the first thing children will see as they come up the stairs.

There is plenty of detail to spot, such as a family of herbivores wading peacefully along the river, a guarded nest of eggs, and some rather realistic carnage down in the swamp. There's also a refreshed dinosaur quiz based on all there is to see in the display, and a new activity table for fossil-handling, etc. So, do bring your children or grandchildren in to see us soon!

MUSEUM TALKS

Our first Museum talk of the year, ***The Revd Francis Sewell - Benefactor***, a talk by Richard Bryant of the Lindfield History Project Group, will be on **Thursday 5th March at 2.30 p.m.** at The Queen's Hall. Richard looks at the life of the Revd Francis Sewell, born in 1815 in India of a wealthy family, and his personal involvement and benefaction in financing a major restoration of All Saints Church, Lindfield, and his impact on the village and its community.

Thursday 30th April, 2.30 p.m. at The Queen's Hall, *Reflections on the early postal service in Mid Sussex*, a talk by Peter Cockburn. Peter gives a fascinating collector's view of the early postal services of Cuckfield and district, with

references to a personal collection of early local memorabilia, postcards, anecdotes and some unusual facts.

To book a place, please phone Mike Nicholson on 01444-457448 or email events@cuckfieldmuseum.org

Museum opening hours: Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 10.00-12.30 p.m.
Saturdays 10.00-3.00 p.m.
More information from www.cuckfieldmuseum.org

GOD IN THE ARTS



He gave us eyes to see them - a woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478

The RSPCA, the first national animal welfare society in the world, was founded in 1824 by an Anglican priest, the Revd Arthur Broome. He asked the question, 'Can the infliction of cruelty on any being which the Almighty has endued with feelings of pain and pleasure be consistent with genuine and true benevolence?'

The woodcut above focuses on the story of Balaam and his donkey in *Numbers 22*. Balaam has not heeded God's will, and as he journeys, an angel bars his way.

Balaam cannot see the angel, but his donkey can. Three times the animal turns away. Three times he is beaten by his owner, and eventually the donkey asks, 'Why are you beating me when I have served you faithfully?' Balaam's eyes are opened: he sees the angel and his heart repents.

This story is captured in this vivid woodcut from the Cologne Bible of 1478, a translation into Low German enhanced by colourful illustrations. We can see Balaam on his donkey and with his hand raised to strike, unaware that the donkey has seen the angel of God. As we ponder this story, we can remember recall that cruelty and abuse still mark out life today - with children, vulnerable adults, and animals - a reminder of how we treat creation around us.

Donkeys can be stubborn, but they are also signs of humility, patience and hard work. It might be Dapple with Sancho Panza in the story of *Don Quixote*, Tim Moore travelling the Camino with his donkey in *Spanish Steps*, or, in the Gospels, the unnamed donkey of the Christmas story or the ass that bore Christ into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday.

G K Chesterton's poem reminds us that the donkeys may be starved, scourged and derided, and still have their special days of glory:

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood,
Then surely I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools. For I also had my hour;
One far, fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.



THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO OF EL SALVADOR

Archbishop Oscar Romero, Roman Catholic primate of San Salvador, 40 years ago this month, was presiding at Mass when a hired gunman shot him in the back. The assassin, a professional hitman who has never been caught, was working for an extreme right-wing junta and its supporters, who felt threatened by Romero's sermons and his hugely popular radio broadcasts.

Oscar Romero was not a natural agitator. The emphasis of his ministry had been on personal holiness and he had been slow to draw attention to the unscrupulousness which pervaded his country, but he was deeply affected by the murder of his friend and fellow priest Rutilio Grande, just a few weeks after his own appointment, and subsequently developed into an outspoken social activist. He highlighted the torture of prisoners, the censorship of the press, closure of schools and the plight of the poor.

In 1980 he criticised the United States for their support of the junta. In a sermon on 23rd March 1980 he ordered the army to stop killing people:

(continued on page 21)

MAP OF CUCKFIELD AREA

Large scale, easy to read Ordnance Survey map of Cuckfield & Balcombe area with street maps & local info.
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(continued from page 18)

In the name of God, and in the name of this suffering people whose cries rise to heaven more loudly each day, I beg you, I implore you, I order you, in the name of God, stop the repression!

That was his death warrant. The next evening, at Mass in a hospital chapel, Romero had finished his sermon and moved to the altar when a car stopped outside the open door. A gunman got out, aimed his rifle and fired. Romero died instantly. He had said:

As a Christian I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I shall arise in the Salvadoran people.

During Romero's beatification, Pope Francis stated that Oscar's ministry was 'distinguished by his particular attention to the most poor and marginalized'. While hailed as a hero by supporters of liberation theology inspired by his work, Romero was, according to his biographer, not interested in liberation theology but faithfully adhered to Catholic teachings on liberation and a preferential option for the poor, desiring a social revolution based on interior reform. Up to the end of his life, his spiritual life drew much from the spirituality of *Opus Dei*.

In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24 March as the ***International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims*** in recognition of the role of Romero in defence of human rights. Romero actively denounced violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable people and defended the principles of protecting lives, promoting human dignity and opposing all forms of violence. The day of his martyrdom, 30th March is remembered annually in the Anglican Lectionary, in 1997 the Roman Catholic Church made him a Saint, *San Romero*.

Did Oscar Romero mix religion and politics? He said,

I want to reaffirm that my sermons are not political. Naturally, they touch on politics, and they touch on the reality of the people, but their aim is to shed light and to tell you what it is that God wants.



St Alban's Cathedral Screen: Archbishop Oscar Romero (extreme left)

Oscar Romero is commemorated as one of 10 Christian martyrs whose statues adorn the West front of Westminster Abbey, and in the niches of on the screen at St Alban's Cathedral.

HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS FOR MARCH

1	St David - Patron Saint of Wales
2	Chad – Bishop of Lichfield and missionary c 672
4	Casimir
5	Eusebius
7	Perpetua and Felicitas
8	Felix of Burgundy & Dunwich
9	Savio
17	St Patrick's Day – Patron Saint of Ireland
19	St Joseph of Nazareth
20	Cuthbert
21	Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr
24	Catherine of Sweden (1331 – 81)
25	The Annunciation
27	Rupert
30	John Climacus

1st March - St David (*Dewi Sant*): guiding the Welsh Church through turbulent times

On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, *Dewi* or *Dafydd*. He is indisputably British, and he is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called Dark Ages (he lived in the 6thC), reliable details about his life are scarce, but they are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It is likely that he was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'Bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held in the Carmarthenshire village of Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as Archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi - *brefi* in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed - either 589 or 601. It was not until the 12thC that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries - including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It is traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils or leeks on St David's Day (*Gwyl Dewi Sant* in Welsh). Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the request or the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day - and they look nice.

17th March - St Patrick: beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, and, indeed, should you have been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you would imagine he was also patron saint of New York, given the flamboyant parade full of American-Irish razzmatazz.

All a far cry from the hard life of this 5thC humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery and made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he 'knew not the true God. After six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed.

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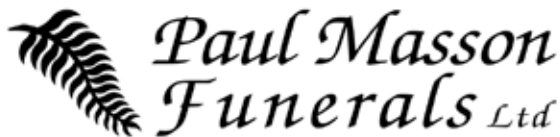


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He had enjoyed his life of plenty but now resolved to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his See at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature identified for certain as from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ. Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

19th March - St Joseph the Carpenter: gracious descendant of King David

Many people know that Joseph was the father of the most famous man who ever lived, but beyond that, we know very little about him. The Gospels name him as the 'father' of Jesus, while also asserting that the child was born of a virgin. Even if Joseph wasn't what we call the 'biological' father, it was important to them that he was a distant descendant of the great King David - a necessary qualification for the Messiah. It's obvious that Joseph (usually described as a 'carpenter') was not wealthy, because he was allowed to offer the poor man's sacrifice of two pigeons or turtle doves at the presentation of his infant son. No one expected eloquence or wisdom from this man's son. Jesus was born into an unremarkable family, with a doubtless hard-working artisan as His father.

Matthew begins his birth narrative with the bald statement that Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together she became pregnant 'with child from the Holy Spirit'. Joseph was not apparently privy to the divine intervention in her life, and drew the obvious conclusion: it was another man's child. However, he was not the sort of man who wished to disgrace her publicly, so he resolved to 'dismiss her quietly' - end their engagement without fuss, we might say. However, at that point Joseph had a dream in which he was told by 'an angel of the Lord' not to hesitate to take Mary as his wife, because the child conceived in her was 'from the Holy Spirit', and that the baby was to be named 'Jesus' ('Saviour') because He will 'save His people from their sins'. On waking, Joseph did as he had been instructed and took Mary as his wife.

So far as Joseph himself is concerned, we can be pretty sure of a few things. In human, legal terms he was the father of Jesus, he was a carpenter and he had probably died before Jesus began his public ministry. The little we are told suggests a devout, decent and sensitive man, one who shared Mary's anxiety when the 12 year-old Jesus went missing in Jerusalem, and who presumably taught his son the trade of a carpenter. Joseph has become an icon of the working man - there are many churches nowadays dedicated to 'Joseph the Worker'. He can stand in the calendar of saints for the 'ordinary' person, a straight-forward craftsman who never expected or chose to be in the spotlight of history. He did what he could, and he was obedient to everything that he believed God required of him. To do the 'ordinary' thing well, to be kind, caring and open to guidance: these are great gifts, and Joseph seems to have had them in abundance.

25th March - Lady Day: the Annunciation



This beautiful event (*Luke 1:26-38*) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist). The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it, however. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. The birth and death of Jesus are that way intrinsically linked - He was born to die, and thus to fulfil God's purposes.

The Blessed Virgin Mary from the Ghent Altarpiece (or *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*)

15thC polyptych, St Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium (mid 1420-1432, attributed to the brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck).

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequently depicted in Christian art: Gabriel's gracious strength; Mary's humble dignity; her response to the angel, an example of good faith in practice.



EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP – SUNDAY TO SATURDAY

My name is Jo. I have been a committed Christian for 30 years and I attend Holy Trinity church in Cuckfield. I was born in Cuckfield and have lived here for the past 10 years. I work (in food and beverage) for Nyman's Gardens in Handcross.

I really began to think seriously about community 10 years ago when a new neighbour moved in next door (with her little dog in tow.) It was not long before I noticed how effective she was being in our small community. She was regularly seen walking a neighbour's dog, or helping on someone's allotment, and using her car to take elderly folk shopping.

My local Housing Association was running a competition for *Best Neighbour* and so I nominated my friend. Between the two of us we won a £1,000 for the community. We used the winnings to run a Fun Day. It was so successful that we were able to run it for a second year. The money raised was exactly enough to put in (much needed) parking spaces.

I have since moved, but my friend still lives in the same block of flats. It has not always been easy for her over the years, but she is always so grateful when I tell her that I have been praying for her. She now feels an integral part of that community which she helped to build.

I have since learnt that it is not always about running an event or doing *Big Things*, just taking each day and making the most of it. I start each day with the Prayer of Serenity:

*God grant me the serenity to accept
The things that I cannot change,
The courage to change the things that I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.*

One of my favourite parts of the Bible is the *Book of Proverbs*. There are 31 chapters of proverbs, one for each day of the month. Sometimes in the day, during a difficult situation, I am reminded of a proverb which helps me to take the right action.

Being a Christian does not mean that we have arrived. We are on a constant journey with God. I am a great believer in leading by example, and each day provides us with a fresh opportunity to live out our discipleship and draw closer to God.

Jo Kells

CUCKFIELD NSPCC QUIZ

Cuckfield NSPCC will be holding their annual quiz on **Friday 20th March 7.30 p.m. at the Queens Hall**, Cuckfield. Teams of 6. Tickets, £12 per person to include a cold platter and delicious home-made puds, available from Hairsmiths, Broad Street, Cuckfield - opposite the carpark. There will be a bar and raffle. All proceeds to the NSPCC. For further information please ring 01444-459579 or 01444-450497. Tickets go quickly so do get your team together and join us for this popular event!

Mary Crouch



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*Further information from Christine Colbourne: 01444-456227
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THE COMMON SEAL - HERE BE MONSTERS



Legend has it that it's been visiting Lewes for years. There have been sightings from Southease all the way up to Barcombe. In January, John glimpsed it vanishing into the murky waters of the River Ouse near Tesco. A few months later, Barry was on his way to work when he encountered the creature hauled out on a pontoon by the Cuilfail cliffs. You'll find 38 species of wild mammal living in or around Lewes. Badgers, foxes, stoats, weasels, shrews, rabbits, hares, moles, voles, dormice, bats, rats, hedgehogs, mice and mink - all form the mammalian fauna of a landlocked South Downs town. Yet there's one salty surprise on the list; the Common Seal, an animal that's typically found in Britain's coastal waters 12 kilometres away.

And the seal is certainly a surprise to any Lewes residents who, while innocently strolling along the Ouse, encounter their local Leviathan. I've never seen the legendary beast myself but have received plenty of excited tweets, emails and mobile phone photos from amazed observers who can't believe what they've seen. Throughout history, sailors (without the benefit of smartphones and a Twitter account) have confused seals for mermaids and sea serpents and, as Sussex mammals go, this seal is a real monster.

Common Seals can weigh up to 150 kgs, twice the weight of a Fallow Deer, the second biggest wild mammal in this area (and 50,000 times heavier than the smallest; the Pygmy Shrew). As you'd imagine, on land this blubbery behemoth is about as agile as Peter Ustinov trapped in a sleeping bag; but underwater they're as balletic as Baryshnikov, gracefully swimming at speeds of up to 25 m.p.h. as they hunt fish, shellfish, squid and octopus.

It's this quest for food that occasionally leads seals into Sussex rivers such as the Ouse and the Arun as they follow fish migrating upstream. Common Seals breed in Sussex, where there is a colony at Chichester Harbour. It's a sink or swim situation for seal pups born on the sandbanks exposed during the low tides of summer. Their aquatic life starts as the next high tide rolls in, and within hours of their birth they're swimming in the Solent alongside their mother. Mother's milk helps them to double their birth weight in just a few weeks.

The name 'common' is a bit of a misnomer. In British waters you're three times more likely to see their larger, Roman-nosed relative the Grey Seal. The patterns on each seal's fur are as individual as fingerprints. Keep an eye out when you're next walking by a Sussex riverbank and see if a seal is giving the river its approval.

Michael Blencowe of The Sussex Wildlife Trust



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MARCH GARDEN NOTES

February has followed on from January with rain and little prospect of a prolonged dry, cold snap to improve gardening conditions. Many bulbs are blooming early, notably narcissi, and are likely to be over by the end of March unless chilly weather moves in. Daphnes and Sarcococca still blooming beautifully will also be over before mid-March, together with Choisyas, Mahonias and Viburnums. All can be trimmed after flowering if necessary. Mahonias exude a bright yellow sap which can stain! Windy weather has brought plenty of debris down from trees with leaves and twigs all over the place and in some cases, with the ground wet, has blown shrubs over so they are on the lean. Stake as best you are able.

March is a good month to crack on with preparation for the season ahead. To recap on some of the jobs mentioned last month plus others for tackling this month: prune apples and pears, cut down autumn raspberries, plant shallots, onion sets and buy seed potatoes and chit them. Lift and divide congested clumps of herbaceous plants, chucking out the old middle section and replanting the newer outer parts. Mulch flower borders and vegetable gardens when the ground isn't waterlogged or frozen. Repair lawn edges where they've been squashed/damaged, either cutting back to make a new edge or laying fresh turf where the grass has died off. When drier conditions permit, mow the grass on a high setting. Spring lawn treatments can begin in March but always read the manufacturer's directions as to dosage and weather conditions.

Prune hybrid tea roses (each stem to 6 inches from its base), floribunda roses (cut down to 12-15 inches and thin out congested or crossing stems) and Buddleias, cutting the latter back hard leaving just 1-2 inches of last year's growth and removing any old woody stems. Under protection (glasshouse/windowsill) sow sweet peas, likewise Aquadulce Claudia broad beans and Masterpiece green long pods if you didn't do so in the autumn. Also, sow lettuce, tomatoes, Alyssum, Ageratum, Clarkia, Larkspur, stocks (Matthiola) and French Marigold, and, directly into the ground, radish, beetroot, carrots, parsnips and early peas.

Don't sow very tender plants like impatiens (bizzie lizzies), eschscholzia (Californian poppies), sweetcorn, squashes and peppers until the end of March, as they cannot be safely planted out until mid-May and end up leggy if started too soon. Take cuttings of overwintered Chrysanthemums, Pelargoniums and Fuchsias (pieces 2-3 inches long are ideal); pot-up stored dahlias and lily bulbs and resume watering. Pot-on houseplants whose roots are coming through the base of the pot. Pot into the next size pot, not several sizes bigger, as roots dislike being up against a large volume of wet compost. Houseplants always benefit from being turned round in their window sill position so as to balance up the amount of light each side receives, otherwise they grow lopsided towards the light.

As the bird nesting season begins, ensure you have finished hedge cutting by mid-March - beech, laurel, etc. With Easter mid-April (12th) we can hope for warm, dry gardening weather that weekend.

Lindsay Shurvell

FSW MARCH UPDATE



Dear Friends,

There is a lot to be thankful for at FSW in the last month. We have been able to begin another **parenting course** in the Uckfield area, to help parents who are struggling to manage their children's behaviour (after a very successful course in Haywards Heath last year); our diary is getting full with invitations to speak about our work at various churches and community groups; and we had a very successful lunch in Hastings last week that introduced FSW to a number of local people. We are holding another lunch in Worthing later this week that we hope will be equally as positive.

We also **welcomed Jessica to the FSW team** – Jessica is a student social worker on placement with us until the end of May and she will be working with Caroline in **Cuckfield Deanery** and with Michelle in **Uckfield Deanery**.

Although we have a lot to be grateful for, our families are finding the new year really challenging. With almost 80% of our families experiencing mental health issues, the lack of support from local authorities, because of funding cuts, is making it very hard for them to access specialist support, which in turn can damage family relationships. The commitment that we give to our families to be there for as long as they need us is even more important in these situations as we are often their only figure of stability.

We are looking ahead to spring and summer, with registration for our **Easter Walk on Monday 13th April** now open – please contact Melissa on 01273 832963 for more details.

January's work in numbers:

- 167 individual meetings with families, supporting 164 parents, 227 children and 11 grandparents;
- 42 supported meetings with other agencies;
- 23 group sessions, supporting 199 parents, 110 children and 33 grandparents;
- 116 food deliveries made

Nikki Kerr - FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing



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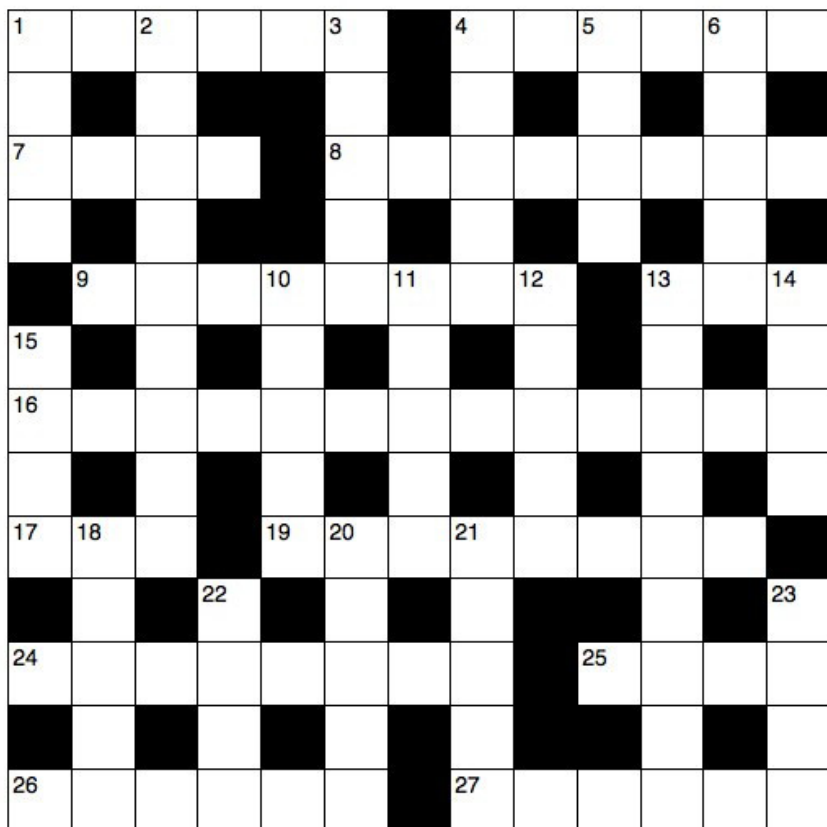


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March Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)

- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

DOWN

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

(Answers on page 41)

What's on Around Cuckfield...

Friendship Club Ansty Village Hall

2.30 to 4pm on 1st Tuesday in month. Please come, have a cuppa and cake and a natter. Enquiries 413061.

Ansty Village Hall

CARD & TABLE GAMES. The third Thursday of the month at Ansty Village Hall, from 2 – 4 including tea and cake £2. Not a serious card school – much laughter. Tel 413061

Ansty Garden Club Wednesday 25th March

The Ecology, Conservation and monitoring of Barn Owls – Stuart Card, Parks and Countryside Technical Officer Horsham

Ansty Garden Club meets in the Village Hall at 7:45pm on the last Wednesday of the month – with the exception of June when we have an outing and July when we hold an outdoor summer supper at another venue. A coffee morning and plant sale is held in June at the village hall and we have a varied programme of events including speakers on garden related topics throughout the rest of the year. Membership is £10 per year. Visitors are charged £2 per evening visit. Refreshments and raffle are available at each meeting. New members always welcome. For further information please contact Chairperson Derry Baillieux 01444 474660.



HOLY BAPTISM

Ember June Thea JAMES

IN MEMORIAM

Matthew James GALLAGHER

Aged 46

Eileen GERRISH

Aged 99

Regular Events

Bellringers	Thursday evenings 7.45–9.15pm.
Choir	Choir practice Friday evenings 7.30 for 7.45-9pm. (There are no practices during August) Choir Club for children and young people from age 7 - 8 upwards. In the Old School 6.30 (doors open 6.15) - 8pm on Fridays. (<i>Not during Half Term and school hols.</i>)
Holy Trinity Mens Group	No meeting in March due to Lent Course taking place For more information contact Clive Simmonds 01444 454481 or email: clivesimmonds@btinternet.com
Home Groups	<i>Alternate Thursday Evenings (2 groups), 8pm</i> call Clive & Isobel Simmonds 01444 454481 Tuesday, 8.00pm (in term time). David and Ros Thunder, Wayfarers, South Street, Tel. 417103.
Prayer Group	<i>Prayer Group is not meeting at present.</i> <i>Tel. Pam Sagar 01444 414409</i>
Mothers' Union	To be advised Please contact Ros Thunder 417103 for more details

ANSWERS FOR MARCH CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

Regular Events (continued)

Cuckfield Crafts and Vintage Market Queens Hall

Next Market will be on 17th April from 9.30am to 1pm
For more details or to book a pitch contact Marie
Dormer email: marie.c.dormer@gmail.com

Cuckfield Local Market

14th March 9.30am to 12.30pm. Food Market at
The Talbot, High Street, Cuckfield. (Monthly on
Second Saturday of Month)

Cuckfield Evening Flower Club

Friday 13 March – AGM
Venue Haywards Heath Methodist Church 7.30
for 7.45pm

Cuckfield Ladies Group

Tuesday 3rd March 10.30am – Coffee Morning at
Sheila Chasseur's
For more details please contact Jan Bryan 414891

Solo Lunch

The next Solo Lunch will be on Sunday March 8th.
Tickets £6 available from the Church

Cuckfield Evening WI

Tuesday 17th March - Safety Police Investigator
Meetings take place at 7.30pm at the Cuckfield
Baptist Church, Polestub Lane.

The master pages (including adverts) used to print this magazine can be viewed at www.holytrinitycuckfield.org/directory/parish-magazine/

Items carried in the Cuckfield Parish Magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Holy Trinity PCC, the Vicar or the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team reserves the right to decline to publish any item or to amend or shorten material. For that reason we do not accept copy in PDF or file formats other than Word.

We are very pleased that the parish magazine is seen as a good vehicle for advertising by local traders and others but readers must accept that the Editors do not vouch for or in any way warrant the individuals, organisations, products or services advertised here.

March 2020 Calendar & Readings for Sunday Services

SUNDAY 1 MARCH – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7; Romans 5: 12-29;
Matthew 4: 1-11
- 9.45am Family Service
- 11.00am Sung Holy Communion (Traditional language)
Romans 5: 12-29; Matthew 4: 1-11
- 6.00pm Choral Evensong
Deuteronomy 6: 4-9, 16-end; Luke 15: 1-10

SUNDAY 8 MARCH – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
Genesis 12: 1-4a; Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17;
John 3: 1-17
- 6.00pm Evening Communion

SUNDAY 15 MARCH – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
Exodus 17: 1-7; Romans 5: 1-11;
John 4: 5-42
- 6.00pm Sung Evensong
Joshua 1: 1-9; Ephesians 6: 10-20

SUNDAY 22 MARCH – MOTHERING SUNDAY

- 8.00am Holy Communion (Traditional Language)
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
Exodus 2: 1-10; Colossians 3: 12-17;
Luke 2: 33-35
- 6.00pm Sung Evensong
Prayer of Manasseh; James Chap. 5

SUNDAY 29 MARCH – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSIONTIDE)

- 8.00am Holy Communion
As 9.45am
- 9.45am Parish Eucharist
Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 8: 6-11;
John 11: 1-45
- 6.00 Sung Evensong
Lamentations 3: 19-33; Matthew 20: 17-end

Holy Trinity Cuckfield

SUNDAY SERVICES & MAJOR FESTIVALS FOR THE MONTH *(SEE INSIDE)*

WEEKDAY SERVICES – NORMALLY IN THE LADY CHAPEL

Monday	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.30am 5.00pm	Holy Communion followed by Coffee & Cake Evening Prayer
Thursday	9.00am	Holy Communion
Friday	11.00am	Holy Communion, BCP
Saturday	8.45am	Morning Prayer

FOR CHILDREN - IN THE OLD SCHOOL – SUNDAYS

Noah's Ark	ages 0 to 3
Children's Church	ages 3 to 10
Xplorers	action for 11 to 13 year olds.

except for 1st Sunday of each month when all join the Family Service
and during the school summer holidays.

**NEWCOMERS AND VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME
COME AND SEE!**

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE IN THE OLD SCHOOL
AFTER 9.45 SERVICES**

Michael Maine, Vicar