

Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter

East Grinstead

St Bernard

Lingfield

Summer, 2013

Issue 65

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Peter,
with St Bernard's, Lingfield

Priest in charge of the two churches

Father Steven Purnell
The Presbytery
17 St James Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex RH19 1DL
Telephone: 01342 325705

Deacon
Reverend Ted Rider
Telephone: 01342 835110

Our Lady and St Peter

London Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex, RH19 1EY

St Bernard

Vicarage Road
Lingfield
Surrey RH7 6EZ

St Peter's Catholic
Primary School

Crossways Avenue
East Grinstead
West Sussex RH19 1JB
Telephone: 01342 321985

www.stpeterseastgrinstead.co.uk

Head teacher:
Mrs Mary Claffey

St Wilfrid's Catholic
Secondary School

Old Horsham Road
Crawley
West Sussex RH11 8PG
Telephone: 01293 421421

www.stwilfrids.com

Head teacher:
Mr Jonathan Morris

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: www.dabnet.org



It is with sadness that I have witnessed, over the years, the death of many stalwarts of the Parish. Sometimes it seemed that it was good to go (they were worn out), other times it was premature. Whatever—they are missed.

Archbishop Vincent Nicholls pointed out recently that death is so often a taboo subject in our secular society. It is not meant to be. Two ways we can recognize death as part of life and express our hope in God's continuing love and care for us beyond death are:

(1) When faced with grave illness, to call the priest to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. This sacrament brings peace and often renewed strength and hope.

(2) To prepare for our death—not just by a will but also by expressing our funeral desires—for example, do we want a Requiem Mass, to be cremated, what hymns, and so on? It helps those we leave behind and who have to make arrangements on our behalf. To this end I have ordered some forms from the National Pastoral Centre: if anyone would like one, I would be pleased to provide a copy. Copies can also be found at the back of the church.

Father Steven



My thanks, as always, to all who contributed to the Magazine: thanks to your effort—at a busy time indeed for many—we again have a bumper issue! Our next issue will be just after Christmas, but contributions are welcome at any time before then. In the meantime, Eric and I wish all of you a happy, restful, safe summer holiday.

Klara King (EG 321581)
email: klara.m.king@comcrafts.co.uk

Baptisms 2012

Our Lady and St Peter

7 January	Sasha Francesca Duncombe
15 January	Kieran James French
3 March	Christopher Baran Alexander Adamczyk
4 March	Sonny William Rachett
17 March	Samuel Michael Adams
12 May	Jonathan Peter Fines Oliver Henry Robert Fines
13 May	Aifel John Realin
10 June	Francesca Susan Horvath Joseph Paul Horvath
23 June	Rico Jones-Curd
26 June	Rory Philip Ivor Prydderch
18 July	Oliver Clavecillas
22 July	Seth David Riddles
9 September	Anna Cecily Quinton-Moulds
30 September	Oliver Joseph O'sullivan
7 October	Ewan Kenny McInnes Hayley Silke McInnes
4 November	Lola Rykala Lana May Garcia
17 November	Leah Holly Marie Kacgeras
25 November	Theo James Gouldsborough Sonny Frettan

St Bernard's

4 March	Oliver Skinner
27 May	Sarah Dickinson
3 August	Madison Kennedy
13 October	Amelia Williams

Weddings 2012

Our Lady and St Peter

25 February	Robert Strawbridge & Catherine Campbell
26 May	Michael Ball & Sarah Kitson-Harris
26 May	Louise Waghorn & Graham Richardson
28 July	Claire Baldwin & Andrew Hunt
14 December	Sean Bradford & Stephanie Cooper

St Bernard's

2 June	Tony Glazier & Joanne Philpott
24 November	Michael Phillips & Michelle Rich

Funerals 2012

Our Lady and St Peter's

11 January	Maura Dodsworth
24 February	Winifred Davey
21 February	Margaret McKavanagh
27 February	Alan Slattery
10 March	Wilfred Lavington
22 April	Maureen Daley
15 July	Kathleen Warren
25 August	Reginald Causton
31 August	William Fisher
27 September	Peter Lawell
15 November	Lydia Joy

St Bernard's

29 March	Pierre Robier
4 April	Rosemary Cantwell
20 July	Kieth Conlon
24 October	Teresa Griffin
25 December	Margaret DeQuay

A Tribute to the Life of Miss Priscilla Amy Rooney of Lingfield [1919–2013]

When Priscilla died she had just turned 94—although she told many of us she was 96 already. It was a peaceful loving end to a long, well-lived life. She was born at home in Tadworth on 7th May 1919, to Basil and Laura, a little sister for Audrey and Oswald.

As a child Priscilla loved animals: she regularly talked about Bill, her beloved Airedale dog, and during holidays spent with their grandparents at Loam Pits. Best behaviour was expected indoors, so she would escape outside—often getting chased by the gardeners—to chat to the animals: pigs were her firm favourite.

Some of Priscilla's happiest memories were from her later schooldays at Ascot. Secure in the safe, sociable environment and feeling loved and looked after by the Nuns, it sounds like they had a perhaps slightly naughty, but otherwise giggly and high-spirited time. Being tall and sporty, she soon excelled in the top tennis teams, although tennis teas were possibly enjoyed as much as the game itself. Those happy days cemented her Catholic faith, and the church continued as a foundation stone in her life.

Priscilla was a capable, independent person: By the time she was 20, she had joined the WRENS and was stationed variously in London, Austria, and Orkney. Ever active, she enjoyed skiing in Austria and found Orkney's boat-hopping outdoor life quite an adventure. In her later 20s she set sail for New York. You couldn't take money into America at that time, and she had to travel via friends in Canada, so it was a big challenge for a young single woman, but she loved her life in the city that never sleeps: able to get coffee or eat out day or night. Her English accent was much admired, and, working in an English bookshop, she had a liberating new independence. She always said New York was wonderful for being a "woman's city" and felt strongly that women should be able to be financially independent; with her quick mind she capably played the stock market and managed her own financial affairs.

When Priscilla came back to the UK she joined her parents at Weir Courtney South, the new family house in Lingfield, and became her father's right-hand woman at the family brush-making firm. One of her duties was to drive him to London every day—a very capable driver, she was proud of having driven in the States, Europe, and the UK and was still regularly driving up to London in her 80s. After her mother died, she cared for her father, and when he died, just days off 100, she committed herself to “The works”. As a family, they felt business, enterprise, and manufacturing were essential to the future of this country. Her other love was her peaceful garden. A firm believer that everyone should grow their own vegetables, much time and energy was invested in the beautiful grounds, including the on-going battle with rabbits and birds!

Priscilla had a wicked sense of humour and a strong mind; she didn't mince her words but could be incredibly caring and generous. She kept up with world affairs and was a particular fan of Boris Johnson and Prince Harry. Although sad not to have children of her own, she was always interested in her extended family and missed not having any of the children or grandchildren nearby.

As has been said many times, “they don't make them like that any more”. She was a pretty wonderful lady and will be deeply missed.

A Tribute to the Life of Joyce Gordon-Walker

On September 25th last year my mother was 100 years old.

She was born in a house in the centre of Farnham, the third of five children. The house had gas lighting but downstairs only, so the family took candles to light them upstairs to bed.

She remembered seeing soldiers marching through the streets on their way home from the First World War when she was six years old.

At school she was a bright and diligent student, and when she matriculated with Distinction from Farnham Girls' Grammar School was recommended to apply to go to university: still quite unusual for girls at that time. However, she had tired of lessons and exams and voiced a desire, which was to stay with her for life, to travel. She was therefore advised to get a first-class secretarial qualification, with which she would be able to get a job anywhere in the world.

This she did, but by the time she left college, Wall Street had crashed, and the world was in deep recession.

Travelling was out of the question. She had to get a job, and she did so in London.

A happy consequence of this hindrance to her plans was that by staying in England and through a group of friends she met a young subaltern from Sandhurst, Tom Gordon-Walker. They were immediately attracted to each other and became a devoted couple. But junior officers in the Army were not allowed to marry at that time, and his regiment was due to go to India for six years.

He asked her, and she promised, to wait for him, and she saw him off on a ship at Tilbury docks in 1935.

After two years in India, Tom became very ill, and he was desperately sad being parted from her. He eventually persuaded his family to pay for him to resign his Commission, and he returned to England.

Tom and Joy married in December 1938. My brother, Bob, was born in September 1939, the month that the Second World War started.

So they were parted again as he joined the Army and spent time abroad. He was stationed back in England at times during the War, and then they could be together. I was born in May 1945, the month that the War ended.

When Dad came home after the War, he had no job and no qualifications bar his Army record, and so he turned to the profession of many men in his family, teaching. He worked in a Prep School in London for three years, learning the ways of running a school, and in 1949, quite bravely, they bought a small, run-down school in East Grinstead, Highfield.

With my father's knowledge of schools and curriculum and his flair for teaching, together with my mother's secretarial and business skills, and an *immense* amount of hard work and dedication from them both, they built Highfield into a thriving, happy, and successful school.

When Dad was a boy, his family had moved house several times, and they had lived abroad. He had spent time in India and was away during the War, and so when he came to East Grinstead he just wanted to put down his roots and stay put in his beloved Highfield, taking modest holidays in this country. In spite of her desire to travel, Mum was happy to do this, as it was what he wanted.

In 1979, exactly thirty years after they bought Highfield, my father died suddenly one morning from a heart attack.

This shocked everyone and devastated my mother. He was 65, and she was 66. They had just planned to withdraw a little from their work in the school and take a few holidays, but that was all swept away that morning.

It took her a few years, but at last she became settled and confident after such turmoil in her life, and then she began to realize her dream of travelling. During her seventies and eighties, she went all round the world with the Saga holiday company, visiting America, Canada, Egypt, and the

Far East, and she went with her grandson Lee to New Zealand to visit her niece Janie.

Eventually she had to give up this globe-trotting, but she continued to travel to London by train frequently, to see matinees and exhibitions and anything that interested her.

In her last years she became infirm and needed more assistance with everyday living. She moved to Silver Court where she received superb care right up until the end.

Mum was resilient, independent, kind, hard-working, and always optimistic, and her Catholic faith gave her courage and solace. She was a remarkable and lovely lady.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, 2013

Thirty-five children from Our Lady and St Peter and St Bernard's successfully made their First Reconciliations in January, which was celebrated afterwards with a Pizza Party—now becoming one of our most popular Sacraments!

The children also celebrated their First Holy Communions on the 8th, 15th, and 21st June. The weather was changeable but did not dampen the Spirit, and a great time was had by all the children.

Our thanks must go to the choirs at Our Lady and St Peter and St Bernard's, who did a wonderful job in creating and enhancing the occasion, together with the flower ministry in both churches, which was outstanding too. The church cleaners also deserve a mention, and all parishioners who have supported and prayed for us this year.

All the children will be coming together for their Going Forth celebrations at St Bernard's and St Peter's School, respectively.

Our First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programmes are very popular and always create a special time in our children's (and their parents'/guardians') lives for God to touch them and their families. Consequently we cannot run them without our valued Priests, Deacons, Catechists, and helpers, and I ask that you pray for them and ask God to send more people into this valued ministry for the future. Please pray for: Fr Steven, Fr Peter, Fr Kevin, and Deacon Ted. Our Catechists and helpers in both churches worked so hard, giving their time and energy. Please pray for Ivy, Mapande, Karen, Ghiselle, Sarah, Hannah, Clare, Georgia, Caroline, Joan, Ania, Mary, Maribel, and Eileen, and all those parents who have supported us last year.

Here is a list of our children—please keep them in your prayers.

8 June, St Bernard

Caitlin Birchall	Patrick Klinge
Grace Carney	Keira McLean
Alexander Cullingworth	Francesca Murray
Oliver Fines	Daniel Pengelly
Joseph Jolliffe	

15 June, Our Lady and St Peter

Noah Englishby-Allen	Anusha Parth-Sarathy
Ciaran Donohue	Alex Ganski
Keira Drewry	Nathan Hart
Callum Hickey	Ewan McInnes
Henry Johnson	Matthew Mendoza
Riley Riddles	Caitlin Payne
Nina Rojonan	Adi Liste—(Spain in August)
Elizabeth Sahada	Laura Liste—(Spain in August)

21st June, Our Lady and St Peter

Ellerica Bronilla	Clive Red
Johanna Demetita-Canlas	Noah Shaw
Emma McManus	Oscar Vaughan
Emma Poole	Anthony Warren
Lily Oates	Alanna Whittaker

Please ring Fr Steven or any of the catechists if you feel you could support this valued ministry in any way in the future. God Bless.

Eileen Lyons (EG 317424)

Confirmation, 2013

On the 12th of May fifteen of our young people received the sacrament of Confirmation at Worth Abbey. This year we joined with Horley, Horsham, West Grinstead, and Worth parishes for the special Mass. The abbey was packed with friends and families, and there was great atmosphere, which was both reflective and celebratory.

As catechists, we were proud to present our young people to receive the sacrament, as they had worked hard during the preparation programme to



think carefully about what the sacrament means to them and to consider their responsibilities as young adult Catholics.

The photo is of our group while we were on our weekend away at Worth Abbey in April. The weather was not exactly spring-like! Our annual Saturday afternoon walk had to be cut short as the ground was too wet and dangerous!!! We were pleased that Jack Regan, the chaplain at St Wilfrid's, was once again able to join us during the weekend. Sue Joy also kindly brought Niamh Slatter and Faye Connolly to talk to us about being Redshirts on the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. It's always inspirational to hear what a fantastic experience this is for the young people involved.

Those confirmed this year were: William Aguila, Samantha Blakeborough, Natalie Bowers, Georgia Coxall, Noah Gibson, Alicia Hunt, Katie Innocent, Rebecca Joyce, Adam Lord, Christian Mayes, Louisa McClure, Angelika Perez, John Ruttley, Rory Slatter, and Belen Valles.

Catechists: Mike Hope, Eileen Lyons, and Ruth Longley

The Friends of St Peter's

This year has, once again, been a busy one for the Friends. Way back in September we had a group of runners take part in the East Grinstead 10k

on behalf of the school, and we had a barbecue to welcome them back. The weather was dismal, but of course we were not deterred at all. In October we held a Murder Mystery Evening with the help of Copthorne Players, which was great fun. For Christmas we organized cards, crackers, and refreshments for the film afternoon, not to mention our very successful Christmas Fair. We also organized a Children's Fashion Show where over 40 of our children took part.

To top it all, of course, was our Summer Funday, which so many of the Parish supported. We were delighted when our "Little Friends" decided upon "Fairy Tales": we have had great pleasure turning their ideas into reality. We had the usual favourites, but we also tried to add a little magical touch, with many of our stalls having a fairy-tale theme.

The recent new extension is an example why our work is so important. As a voluntary aided school we are required to contribute 10% of the overall cost of the extension from our own funds. Therefore, you can easily see why your efforts are needed not only for the Funday, but for all our events, so that we can make these types of major projects a reality.

Our next project is to transform one of the infant play areas: we would like to lay a decent play surface, erect an all-weather canopy, and then provide lots of play and learning equipment for the children. Obviously this takes an incredible amount of money, and that's why the Parish's help is so important.

Our website states many ways you can help. It may be shopping online and helping us gain commission, it may be advertising your business, or even attending one of our events, which always offer extremely good value for money.

Everything would not be possible without the tremendous effort and support of parents, children, governors, staff at the school, and the Parish. As always I say a huge "Thank you" to all those who have helped and supported the events. We really do appreciate it.

Sam O'Neill, Chair, Friends of St. Peter's

Friends of St Peter's Anniversary

This year sees the 40th anniversary of the Friends of St Peter's Primary School. The Friends exists to provide closer links between home, school, and the wider Parish, through the organization of both fundraising and social events. A registered charity, the Friends aim to enhance the education of the pupils in the school through the provision of facilities for education

not normally provided by the Local Education Authority. Over the years, endless teams of parent and Parish volunteers have worked both tirelessly and creatively to raise thousands of pounds for the school, and this work continues in earnest.

To celebrate the Friends ruby birthday we are having a Dinner Dance on Saturday 16th November, which will be a wonderful opportunity for friends, both old and new, and members of the Parish to get together and enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing. We hope to see some ex-pupils there too, as well as ex-parents and Friends members.

Tickets are £40pp, to include a drinks reception, dinner, and live music. It will be held in the beautiful marqueeed hall at East Grinstead Sports Club. Tickets are available at the school office, or online [<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofstpeterscatholicprimaryschoolseastgrinstead>].

Do feel free to come; if you can get a table together, all the better. With a lead name, you can book a table to seat 10 people together, and ticket payments can be staggered. See www.friendsofstpeters.co.uk for details.

We warmly invite you join us at what promises to be a lovely evening.

Sara Vaughan, Friends of St Peters

Young Musicians

We should be delighted to have more young instrumentalists and singers for the Children's Mass (First Sunday of the month) and the Folk Masses. It has been wonderful to see different generations of young players from St Peters' School join us and develop as young musicians. It is a great experience to play with other instruments and players and adds enormously to confidence and musicianship from an early stage. For the Children's Mass, Julian Spencer will arrange music at a suitable level for string, recorder, and woodwind players to join the Group, building from a basic level to more advanced playing. Playing the Christmas Eve Mass in Church is especially popular for the regular players. The only commitment is a short rehearsal on the Friday (usually at 17.30 in the Church) before the first Sunday of the month and then to play in the 10.30 Mass once a month. For young guitarists, the folk group would welcome new players on the same basis. And young singers are always welcome to join the choir.

If you would like further details or would like to join, please contact us.

Julian Spencer (EG 324560)

Mary O'Sullivan (EG 322959)

East Grinstead Catenian Circle

Faith, friendship, family, and fun. These are the words that best describe what Catenians are all about. Many of the people of the Parish do not know of our existence, but I can tell you that in one way or another the Brothers of our Circle are involved in many activities of our churches (Our Lady and St Peter and St Bernard). You will know of their contributions not by virtue of the fact that they are Catenians, but because they are just like any other men.

Faith

Our Catholic faith is the bedrock of the Catenian Association, and each year we have Masses for Our President (30th June this year), Vocations, and deceased Brothers. In addition all our meetings start with prayers.

Friendship

We are an International Brotherhood of some 10,000 members in the UK, Australia, Africa, Goa, Malta, Ireland, and Hong Kong. We enjoy social bonds and care for each other in sickness and health, caring for widows, and helping those of our membership who have suffered misfortune. We have a Benevolent Fund for those in need, and our Bursary Fund is designed to help young Catholics seeking to help others. Some of our own Parish young people have benefitted from the Bursary Fund in recent years.

Family

Our families are important in our Association, and we have a variety of social events, from dining together, family days out, picnics, barbeques, and walks, to name but a few. We are a family organization gaining much of our strength through sharing time together.

Fun

We have fun together at sporting events such as horse-race meetings, greyhound meetings, quiz nights, darts nights, skittles, etc. where the whole family, young and old, can be part of the laughter and joy.

Simply put, the Catenian Association is an international brotherhood of Catholic men who meet socially, at least once a month. We, at East Grinstead, meet at Rowfant House on the evening of the third Wednesday of each month. The meetings are short, and the whole idea is for us to socialize in our faith and share ideas and experiences, be they of a business, family, or any other criterion.

Come and join us

If you are a practising Catholic man, over 21, and like the sound of any of the above, you will be welcome to come and have a look at our Circle. There is no obligation to join unless you think it is right for you after experiencing Catenian fellowship. Wives of members are not required to be Catholic; many are not and enjoy Catenian life to the full.

Contact our current President Lawrence Burgess on 07963 183058 or Bill Blackledge or Phil Pentney to find out more.

Bill Blackledge (07900 366591)

Phil Pentney (EG 3271090)

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Our Lady and St. Peter

Now that we are into a new fiscal year, and our Secretarial Return has been completed for 2012/13 and submitted to our National Office in Walworth, London, it is as good a time as any to present the Parish with a timely report of what we have been doing in the past year. This is separate from the very good work carried out by the SVP group at St. Bernard's, Lingfield.

I mentioned in the Winter 2013 edition that 2013 marks the bi-centenary of the SVP. This is not exactly the case; it is rather the bi-centenary of the birth of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, in 1813.

At present, we have four male and five female members, and we meet once a fortnight in the Parish Hall at 2 pm for about an hour, when we have opening and closing prayers and a Spiritual Reading and we discuss our work for the next fortnight. Whilst parishioners often pass the comment that they do not like meetings, communication is most important in knowing who is in need of a visit and who is going to do it, and then any feedback appropriate for further action. It is as simple as that! In the past year we have regularly visited 23 elderly parishioners in their own homes on 243 occasions and other people in residential and nursing homes, as well as 11 hospital visits. We have also given 214 lifts to Mass, Parish Lunch Club, and Anointing Masses.

One of our major activities is assisting Ivy Pimenta in the running of the Parish Lunch Club, by giving lifts, serving at table, and clearing up. We enjoyed a cream tea, preceded by Mass, on Wednesday 19th June, and a trip on the Bluebell line in July.

Thanks to your help, by way of a second collection in September SVP Awareness Month, and "the box at the back of the church", we are able

to offer a Caravan Holiday to a family in the Parish, in our SVP diocesan caravan, in Bognor Regis, and contribute to sending a parishioner to Lourdes. Abroad, we also support an Indian Student, our Indian Twin in Trivandrum, Kerala, Southern India, and also the SVP's Baby Feeding Programme in Northern Sudan.

Each year we examine what we do, by asking the question "*Are we responding to the actual needs of the Parish rather than what we want to do because we have always done it that way!*" This, I am glad to say, follows St. Vincent de Paul, who would often say, "*Let's do the good that presents itself.*"

We have found that if you have just retired, it may be opportune for you to help us in our work, and if any parishioner is "struck on the way to Damascus", please feel free to give me a call on EG 811543.

Peter Wells, President

Justice and Peace Group

Among many other activities, including the successful Sleep Out on the 29th of June, the Justice and Peace Group organized a Churches Together in East Grinstead ecumenical service at Moat United Reformed Church on Sunday 9th June with the theme **God's Heart for the Poor**. Simon Elliott, Pastor of New Life Church, gave an address challenging participants about social justice and love in action in these difficult financial times. The following three testimonies were given at this service.

Family Support Worker in EG

The family have always lived in a Housing Association property, and both Mr and Mrs L worked. Mrs L was widowed following an attack on her husband several years ago. The attack took place three weeks after Mrs L had given birth to her second child. She visited her husband on a daily basis for several months whilst he was on a life-support machine—with a newborn baby and her older child (aged six). Mr L eventually lost his fight for life, and it was following this that things started to deteriorate. Clearly Mrs L suffered the loss and became depressed—which was further exacerbated when, having sat through the Criminal Court case against her husband's attacker, the case crumbled! Several years passed with very little help/support. The family were referred to Family Support Work by the younger child's school. There were concerns around issues of neglect and

poor levels of school attendance. I became involved and helped Mrs L tidy the house, and we provided volunteers to redecorate the property. Mrs L repeatedly stated she did not feel “right” and suffered extreme bouts of vertigo and dizziness. We repeatedly took her to hospital appointments for investigations, but no conclusions were reached. Many agencies involved stated they thought this lady was “lazy and un-interested in their offers of help”. Eventually Social Services became involved, and the youngest child was removed from her care. As a result, Mrs L lost many of her benefits and has been living in extreme poverty ever since. She has relied on both FSW food parcels and the Food Bank parcels for the past year. Following persistence, we eventually got a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis—which she was found to have had for several years. She has had benefits amounting to £35 a week to live off—for food, electricity, gas, and all other essentials for both herself and her 18-year-old son. Her claim for DLA has been turned down, and we are currently appealing that decision. Debts with utilities are mounting, and she is frequently visited by bailiffs, making unreasonable demands—as clearly this lady has nothing to give them! This lady has been extremely affected by a whole variety of things that life has thrown her way—and I feel very strongly that she has been “disabled” by both life events as well as her progressive MS. Maybe if the MS had been diagnosed earlier and the right treatment offered, things would not have deteriorated so badly to lead to her son being removed from her care.

Aqueduct

“My name is Afshan. I am 14 years old. I live in a small village on the outskirts of Lahore, Pakistan. My mother has died, and my father is mentally handicapped. I have a younger sister, and we both go to the school run by the UK Charity Aqueduct. The school meets in the farmyard provided by a local Christian family.

“My brother is married, and they have also children. I am a burden for them. My brother is the only person earning money to keep the family. So many times my brother and his wife asked me to leave the school, saying we can’t afford your expenses. I was already 6 months behind in my school fees of 75rps per month. That is the same as 50p per month in UK money.

“My parents could not read or write, and it is rare for a family to spend money on educating a girl. Maybe my brother and his wife want to send me out to work as a road sweeper or cleaning the rich people’s houses, like many other girls. But the only work here is working in the fields as a labourer. The Lord Jesus Christ didn’t leave me in these difficult times, I believe in Him, He is with me all the times.”

Afshan was the first student to be offered sponsorship through Aqueduct. Knowing of her desperate circumstances, we were surprised when she did not take up this offer. So she was the first person visited on our next visit to Lahore. We had asked that a form detailing her commitment to go to school, to get a job, and then to return to the school to tell all the students that it was indeed possible for a girl to do well. The form needed a photo, and this, we discovered, was the problem. Her family could not afford a photo, and so the form had never been completed. So out came the camera, a photo was soon taken, she rushed off to get the signature from her brother, and the sponsorship was completed. She burst out in tears. Her future at school and perhaps beyond was secure. No more worry now she can work toward of her dream of being a teacher or a doctor.

Afshan says, "I am so grateful for your kind generous support. Receiving this scholarship is helping me to reduce my financial burdens and provide assistance for me as I continue pursuing my education. Without your support I can't continue my education."

Jesus, through the hearts of his disciples, has brought hope to a desperate family.

EG Foodbank

At a recent Sainsbury's Collection, 410kg food and £87 in cash was collected—a great top-up for our relatively empty warehouse. Donations of the following foods would be appreciated: Longlife Fruit Juice (1 litre), most needed, tinned tuna, tinned sponge puddings, tinned corned beef/chopped ham. NO MORE MILK please—we are practically swimming in it as a result of our urgent plea in the last newsletter, but thank you for responding when we needed it.

We vacated our original warehouse mid-June and are now using a Container Unit at the back of the Jubilee Centre whilst building work for our long-term home takes place inside the not-yet-converted part of the Centre. All very exciting, and one of the best things about the move is that the building work and first 2 years' rent is being funded by West Sussex County Council.

At the time of writing we have fed 280 people, though not all East Grinstead residents, as the decision was made a while ago to support people without food in Oxted/Caterham and most recently Crawley by supplying Emergency Food Boxes to CABs in Oxted/Caterham and one of the Children & Family Centres in Crawley until these towns have their own Foodbanks. The good news is that Caterham's Foodbank is now under development, and talks are still going on in Oxted and Crawley.

Further information from:

Family Support Worker: Sarah Richardson Cornish (07747 481690)

email: sarah@familysupportwork.org.uk

Aqueduct: Peter and Anne Lingwood

email: info@aqueduct.org.uk www.aqueduct.org.uk

East Grinstead Foodbank: Julia Harris (07983 209940)

email: info@eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk

www.eastgrinstead.foodbank.org

Catholic Women's League

We began our programme this year in February, as we do not meet in January. We started the meeting in the church by saying "Mary's Way of the Cross" as it was Ash Wednesday. This was very touching and uplifting, with members taking it in turns to read a station. For the first time ever, we had to cancel our AGM in March, due to the weather, so this was postponed until April. Our Branch Secretary, Brenda Hilliam, came from Eastbourne to chair the meeting. Several of us attended the Branch AGM in Eastbourne in April. A new President and Treasurer were elected. Margaret von Speyr from a new section in Bexhill is President, and Adele Marolf from Eastbourne is Treasurer. Our new National President is Elizabeth Upsher from the Brentwood section—a lady of many talents, who I am sure will work very hard to improve the membership of the League. We would very much welcome some younger members in the East Grinstead section.

At our May meeting we said "The Rosary", and in June several members (and their husbands) went to Arundel Cathedral to see "the carpet of flowers" for Corpus Christi. The displays around the Cathedral were beautiful. We enjoyed a very nice pub lunch on the way home. We have a cream tea planned for July, and a pilgrimage to West Grinstead in August.

Gill O'Driscoll

CARE in East Grinstead and Lingfield

CARE urgently requires volunteers as drivers to take local people to doctor and hospital appointments, help with shopping, going to the library or gardening work. In particular, volunteers are required as Duty officers to deal with requests from Clients and arrange help to be provided.

Please ring EG 410086 asap if you can offer assistance.

Sue Joy

The Story of a Cross

Dear Parishioner, when next you visit Our Lady and St Peter's Church, take a few moments from your prayers to gaze at the sanctuary. There you will see the imposing baldachino towering on four pillars above the tabernacle. Between the baldachino's rear pillars on the wall hangs a large red cross with a beautiful painting of the risen Christ. This is the story of how that cross came to be and of the principal people involved.

Background

A parishioner of Our Lady and St Peter would have to be at least in their 40s to remember what the church looked like before it was re-ordered around 1980. This was a period of great change post-Vatican II, as alongside the demise of the Latin Mass some years earlier in the 1960s came a directive, the essence of which was to bring the altar forward on to the praedella (the raised area behind the altar rails) to allow the celebrant access to the back and to face the congregation. The altar rails were to be taken away so that the previous separation between congregation and priest was removed.



There were horrific reports at the time about dioceses in Holland and in Ireland misinterpreting the directive, resulting in some churches tearing down and discarding fine carved altars/reredos and other sanctuary structures.

At Our Lady and St Peter, caution was the order, and a meeting was held with the Bishop's appointed representative where quite a heated debate ensued when it was revealed that the fine baldachino (canopy over the then altar) might be removed. One raised voice among the some 100 attendees said, as I recall, "When Westminster and Rome take down their baldachinos, we may consider ours." It is noted for the record that all three are still in place.

The re-order proceeded, and much of both the altar rails and the original pulpit was used in the construction of both the present reading area and the plinth upon which the tabernacle now rests. The altar and reredos were removed from beneath the baldachino, and I recall a conversation with the stonemason shortly afterwards, who told me that while the cutting was taking place, he prayed fervently that the altar would not break in two, as there was a fault line running through the main slab. All was accomplished, and it remains much as we view it today, with one notable addition.

The Risen Christ

At around the same time as all this was taking place, the Parish priest, the late Father Gordon Simmons (RIP), was in contact with a retired engineer and artist parishioner, a Mr Henry Lightly (RIP), as to how the large empty space behind the baldachino could be filled.

A commission to design, construct, and paint a resurrection cross was agreed. The church debt was high following the re-order and decoration, and much to the artist's and Father Simmons' relief, two kind parishioners, Mr and Mrs Rosner, said they would foot the bill, and the best materials were to be used.

The cross's design, while original, owes much to the mosaic portraits of the craftsmen monks of the Byzantine period in Sicily. The material of construction is mahogany-faced blockboard with 72 mitre



cuts for the edges. The construction, including numerous coats of paint, took 2 months to complete.

The figure of the risen Christ was favoured by Father Simmons, and one very small but important feature: Christ's hair shown parted in the middle and falling to the shoulders. Where the hair meets the forehead, two small wisps escape to hang down; the moment these are drawn, the face assumes that humanity, "And was made Man". It is worth noting that by the time of the Renaissance this very human feature had disappeared, taken over by artists' imagination.

The clothed virtually life-size figure of Christ on the cross appears to be moving up and out of the shroud, with two fingers of the right hand giving a blessing. The skin has a life-like colour with a solidity and depth, and the figure stands out well from the deep red of the cross. This technique is known as "*trompe l'oeil*" (in translation, "a deceiver of the eye"). The crown is in the form of a Papal Tiara.

At the 10.30 Mass on the feast of Christ the King in 1981, the congregation at Our Lady and St Peter had their first viewing during the blessing of the Resurrection Cross. The artist recorded his feelings at the time as a mixture of emotions summed up in the following four words, "Will they like it?" Well, he need not have worried, because they did like it, and we the congregation of today owe a debt of gratitude to those players, sadly all departed, who were involved in the creation of this wonderful work.

Liam Cherry

Our Lady and St Peter's Fundraising

A meal has been organized for Monday 9th September 2013.

This will be at the Tarana restaurant in Lingfield in the evening.

£15 for a 2-course buffet meal (both Indian and Thai food will be available), and £7.50 will go towards the fund for the roof.

There is space for up to 200 people. If the participants of both Catholic churches take part and fill the restaurant, this could raise over £2,000 (having a raffle as well) for a night out while meeting others from the churches.

FOR PAYMENT please write a cheque for £15 to Our Lady and St Peter's Catholic Church and deliver to the sacristy. On the front of envelope write "For the attention of Chris Pond".

For more details on event, please contact Nicolas Castiglione.

Nicolas Castiglione (EG 410100)
email: nick@wealdenmarketing.co.uk

Message from CAFOD, June 2013

We're still hungry for change!—20,500 actions taken so far!

Thank you so much for acting in solidarity with our sisters and brothers across the world who do not have enough food, and for bringing these vital issues to the table of the G8. But we're not going to stop there. We've come a long way, but there is still so much more we can do to help build a fairer food system.

That's why we are continuing to spread the IF message through our campaign over the summer.

So what's next?

Coming to big rallies isn't the only way we can ensure there's enough food for everyone. You, your friends, and your family can also make a difference in your lives every day by choosing to buy local, organic, and Fairtrade products and by saving on waste.

Brian Medlicotte, CAFOD supporter from Surrey, highlights the tragedy of wasting food when more than 870 million people go hungry every day. He said: "I look at how people elsewhere in the world are treated by multinational companies, many of which come from the Western world like us, and I'm not happy with that. And the thought of people starving when there is enough food and food goes to waste is tragic. It's the duty of everyone to stand up and say this is wrong."

So when you're packing your holiday picnic hamper this summer, remember to buy Fairtrade and organic products, and start loving those leftovers.

Find all our Hungry for Change campaign resources at cafod.org.uk/hungry. Thank you!

Margaret and Chris Vasey

Charity Feasts

Four charity fund-raising events are taking place, on the evenings of:

Tue. 1 Oct.: *The Swan* (Forest Row) [English food]; seats for the night: 35

Mon. 7 Oct.: *Tarana* (Lingfield) [Indian & Thai food]; seats for the night: 200

Tue. 15 Oct.: *Mediterranean Cuisine* (East Grinstead) [Italian food]; seats for the night: 35

Mon 21 Oct.: *Roochi* (Forest Row) [Indian food]; seats for the night: 80

£7.50 of the £15 paid for a meal at any of the above will go towards the following four causes:

- Crawley Open House
- The Street Pastors
- Crawley Prison Fellowship
- Age UK East Grinstead Dementia Club

Please make cheques payable to “East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group”.

For more details on events, please contact either Nicolas Castiglione (EG 410100) [email: nick@wealdenmarketing.co.uk] or Susan Joy (EG 315440) [email: susanjoy471@hotmail.com].

Have You Heard About Street Pastors?

In a nutshell, Street Pastors are Christians who actively care for, listen to, and help people who are in need, in schools and in the streets, day and night. Some describe them as, the “Church on the Street”. The East Grinstead branch were asked by our local police to help them to look after vulnerable people on the streets each Saturday night.

The story so far

Sixteen months ago members of Churches Together in East Grinstead were introduced to the concept of Street Pastors by a presentation by Crawley Street Pastors at the Churches Together AGM.

The Management Committee was formed 7 months later, in October, with volunteers from four different churches agreeing to stand for posts.

Together we ploughed through a mountain of policies, procedures, and grant applications and organized numerous training sessions. Over a hundred pieces of documentation have been processed, and many meetings with the police, Council, shop owners, pub licensees, and local residents organized. We were invited to attend Pubwatch meetings where we learned the needs of people out at night as well as common problems that occur.

Meanwhile we needed to raise funds to buy uniforms, to cover insurance costs, and to pay for training for 23 Street Pastors. A “Mr and Mrs” quiz evening raised £470 and “What’s not in my line” raised £430 (which was won by a 10-year-old boy, delighted to win a fish-and-chip supper for his family). These events also helped to raise awareness of the initiative.

Although many meetings were taking place and applications completed, we were all feeling frustrated with the amount of time the process was taking. We wanted to be out on the streets as quickly as possible.

We received our Licence Agreement on 24th October and quickly proceeded to organizing our launch, successfully held at the Town Hall on the 30 November.

In April, parishioners of Our Lady and St Peter raised a magnificent £562 in a retiring collection, which purchased: two uniforms; several training courses; two rucksacks; two provisions bags; and items including foil blankets, medical gloves, and one first-aid kit. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Our Commissioning Service was held on 22 June at St. Swithun's Church and was attended by several Church leaders, the Deputy Mayor, our local police, and supporters; 18 of 23 Street Pastors were commissioned, and 13 prayer Pastors received a blessing. A reception was held afterwards where we tucked into delicious cakes. At 7 pm, Prayer and Street Pastors gathered for prayer before Sergeant Prentice escorted the troops into the High Street for a group photo and then to London Road to meet the public as official Street Pastors.



To all who have given their time, encouragement, prayer, and financial support and contributed to the success of this venture in many ways: Thank you.

If you would like to be a Street Pastor, please contact Mary Nicholls (07845 004622) [email: eastgrinstead@streetpastors.org.uk].

If you would like to be a Prayer Pastor, please contact Beverley Lake (07544 874666) [email: b.lake@live.co.uk].

Street Pastors Prayer Walk

On 15 and 17 June, two groups of Prayer Pastors met to “prayer walk” the town in preparation for our Street Pastors’ first duty on 22 June 2013. We familiarized ourselves with the areas that our Street Pastors would be patrolling each Saturday night and with some of the problems that they may encounter. We prayed for the people who live and work in the town, as well as visitors to our town.

What Is a Prayer Walk?

Prayer walking simply involves walking around our community praying for the places and people we see around us. You might stop at specific locations, or you may just walk and see where the Spirit leads—either way, it’s an exciting and engaging way to pray. Imagine what would happen if every Christian chose to continually pray blessing over a particular street. As we walk the streets of our communities, whether on our own or on a church prayer walk, we resolve to be good news . . . to be those who carry the blessings of God in our thoughts, words, and actions.

God told Joshua: **“I will give you every place where you set your foot”** (Joshua 1:3 NIV), and there is something powerful and significant about making our prayers physical: expressing our longings for places by going and standing there to pray.

To pray with open eyes and ears is “praying on site with insight”. The fact of walking or standing in a particular place brings an immediacy to our prayers. We’re not just imagining that place from the comfort of our prayer room, we’re actually there, seeing it, hearing it, experiencing it, and that means God can speak to us through the things we see and hear there.

It’s vital to be attentive to the Spirit: God is lavish in his blessing, but he is also strategic. He knows which particular blessing is needed in each place we will go to. Listen to him as you walk, praying the prayers of blessing that he is prompting you to pray. This business of blessing is not just some well-intentioned positive thinking, though: God’s blessings are powerful and life-changing.

Our prayers should be informed by our surroundings, but rooted in the word. Take a look through your Bible and link appropriate blessings with the specific needs of our town. Each time you visit the town, please consider praying those blessings. You may like to include this blessing:

*We stand in the mighty name of Jesus and bless our Town, East Grinstead,
That you might prosper under the mighty hand of God.*

We bless you that justice and righteousness might take their proper place within your boundaries. We bless you that the favour of the Lord might rest upon you and give you peace.

We bless you that the Father's compassion might fall upon your people.

We bless you that the knowledge of Jesus might come in amongst you like a flood.

We bless the people of God in East Grinstead that they might rise up with servant authority and become a people of blessing.

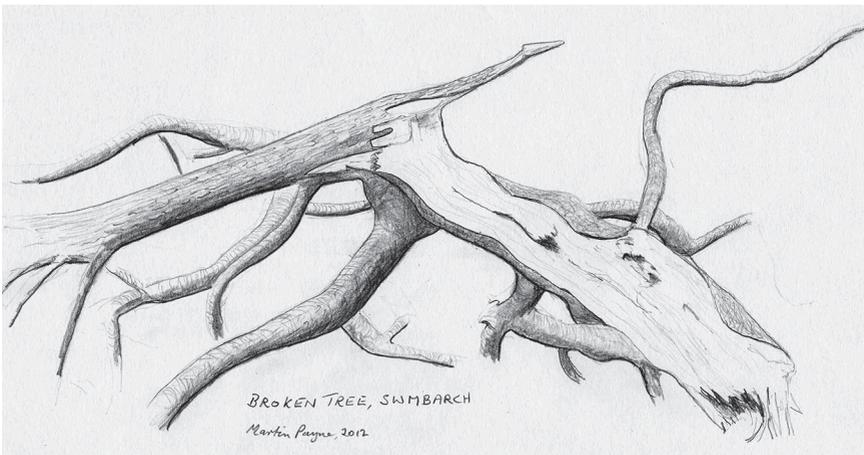
We bless you that the joy of the Lord might be your strength. Amen."

If this idea of prayer pastoring suits you, please contact me if you wish to receive information about future prayer walk dates.

*Beverley Lake, Prayer Coordinator, E.G. Street Pastors
email: b.lake@live.co.uk*

Don't Let Memory Loss Grind You Down

Having a less able memory as individuals get older is not unusual, but when it is accompanied by a feeling of helplessness, confusion, and changes in behaviour, then it is time to take action rather than feeling negative, fearful, and paralysed. It is important to be aware of available help, advice, and financial assistance as well as medication, which, if taken early enough, can hold the memory for some time. There are many types of dementia. The



Broken Tree, by Martin Payne (Parish Art Group)

most common are Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and dementia with Lewy bodies.

For sufferers and carers, the first port of call should be your doctor: don't delay in going—taking action early is the best move.

Next is **The Alzheimers Society** [www.alzheimers.org.uk]. The helpline telephone no is 0300 222 11 22 (9 am to 5 pm Mondays to Fridays and 10 am to 4 pm at weekends). In addition to a monthly informative magazine if you become a member, the website has a complete list of information leaflets on a wide variety of topics. There is also a local support group in our area. In addition, there is a very good Department of Health website, entitled **Dementia Challenge** [<http://dementiachallenge.dh.gov.uk>]. The DHS is working closely with the Alzheimers Society on this very important issue facing our society today.

If you need help in the home, there are some good care agencies in East Grinstead and surrounding areas. Information about a wide range of services is available in two publications, which are available, along with other relevant information, from East Grinstead Library and from the Glenvue Centre in Railway Approach (drop in and collect):

West Sussex Care Guide 2013/14, published by West Sussex County Council.
Free.

Community Connections: Directory of Services for Older People in Mid Sussex, published by the Mid Sussex Well Being Team [01444 477191].
Free.

Susan Joy, Alzheimers Society Dementia Friend (EG 315440)
email: SusanJoy471@hotmail.com

The Filipino British Nurses Extra Care East Grinstead Ltd

Charity Event

The charity buffet dinner, dance, and entertainment organized by the Filipino British Nurses Extra Care East Grinstead Ltd on Saturday 1st June 2013 at the Peacock Lodge was a great success. The team was able to raise £1,200 net for the Dementia Saturday Club of Age UK East Grinstead & District. Chairman/ Founder Danny Favor and his Extra Care Team are still looking forward to generating more funds as they continue to carry on with their fund-



raising activities. The team would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the kindness and generosity of all the donors, sponsors, entertainers, and supporters without whose valuable support and contributions the charity event would not be possible. This is another achievement that means a lot to the Extra Care Team and will surely make a difference to its beneficiary, the Dementia Saturday Club of Age UK East Grinstead. For further information please contact Danny Favor (07867 846495) or Maribel Favor (07528 694112) or email us (extracare.df@googlemail.com).

Cooperation with Queen Victoria Hospital

The Filipino British Nurses Extra Care East Grinstead Ltd is working closely with Queen Victoria Hospital Macmillan Cancer Information and Support



Service. This recent Free Health screening check for blood pressure, blood sugar, and BMI was conducted after the morning Mass at Our Lady and St Peter's Church Hall, headed by Nurse Practitioners Danny and Maribel Favor, while QVH McMillan Manager & Nurse Specialist Beth Garcia and her team were giving free cancer information, support, and advice to interested parishioners. The teams will work together in making a difference for the community. Any community group who would like to avail themselves of these free services, please contact Danny Favor (07867 846495) or Maribel Favor (07528 694112) or email us (extracare.df@googlemail.com)

Danny Favor and Maribel Favor

Your Children Are Not Your Children

Your children are not your children
They come through you but not from you

And though they are with you
Yet they belong not to you
You may give them your love
You may house their bodies
but not their souls

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow.

submitted by Mary Barham

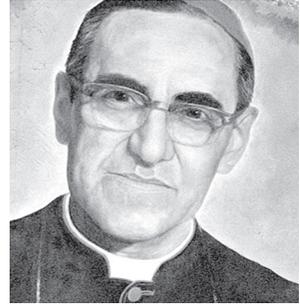
Canonization for Oscar Romero?

From The Tablet

Pope Francis has reportedly voiced strong support for the beatification and canonization of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated as he celebrated Mass on 24 March, 1980. Vanda Pignato, wife of San Salvador's President Mauricio Funes, said that Pope Francis had remarked on a Romero lapel pin she wore to his audience with ambassadors earlier this year. "He told me that he hoped the canonization of Archbishop of Romero

would be as soon as possible," she told reporters.

Meanwhile hundreds of people marched through the streets of San Salvador in March to mark the anniversary of Romero's death. Worshippers held signs calling on Pope Francis to advance the cause of the archbishop, who was killed for opposition to the military government of the time for their persecution of members of the Catholic Church who had worked on behalf of the poor.



In London, Marie Dennis, a co-president of Pax Christi International, gave a talk at an ecumenical service in St Martin-in-the-Fields church to commemorate his death. "To remember Romero is not just a nice thing to do. He had the audacious power to defy death. To remember Romero is to embrace the fullness of life," she said.

A Future Not Our Own

A prayer/poem by Archbishop Oscar Romero
(murdered, 24 March 1980)

It helps, now and then, to step back
and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of
the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.
Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No programme accomplishes the church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about:
We plant seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything
and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.

Meditation

Firstly, meditation is in many religions and is practised by many throughout the world. But the kind of meditation I am going to talk about is Christian Meditation, which was reintroduced by John Main, a Benedictine Monk. He learnt meditation from the East and then saw it from the Christian tradition when teaching it to Christian Monks, the Desert Fathers. It is known as Contemplative Meditation.

The meditation is simple, and it is simplicity that people need to return to at times to get away from the hectic lives we live and connect easily, saying one simple word. This is what is known as the mantra. The idea of meditation is to say a mantra. This is one word you say to yourselves all the time. *Ma-ra-na-tha* is the word I use. This, translated, means "Come, Lord Jesus". Seems appropriate.

The idea of meditation is to let the Lord work on us as He sees fit. Not what we want but what He wants. Best to do this twice a day for about 20 minutes each time. While saying the mantra, let everything drift past—thoughts, feelings, emotions—and feel as if connecting your heart to the Lord.

This is one of the biggest problems people have: not using the heart

enough and instead using the head. It is back to the ego and the soul—the ego from the head and the soul from the heart.

What does meditation feel like? It feels like a connection where it is as if you are in an elevator going up all the time (or basically connected to a distant energy). A continuous small-pitched noise is in the back of your head. At other times it has felt as if moving up to a different level, where it then feels like a connection where as if you are a car going in for a service and work is done on you.

It is different for all. Some take a long time, some feel something, others don't. But if you have all the attributes connected with Jesus—faith, trust, patience, love, perseverance, and of course wishing to help yourself—you will find the time and it will become high on your list of must do's during the day.

But you say you don't have time? If you were to do what it says above out and get into the habit, you will find you would do much more, and, for example, a little less sleep won't matter as you will be more refreshed with energy from this, just like from prayer.

What to do? Come along on a Thursday night and try it out and meet others already practising it. Come and hear a bit more about what it can do for you. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Some will, some won't, some waiting. In the last analysis, pray as you can, not as you can't.

Nicolas Castiglione

Girl with Dog,
by Tessa Darlison
(Parish Art Group)



Creative Energy

From *Door to Silence*, by John Main OSB

So far as we can, we must realize the full potential for being alive, to live it to the full. Meditation is integral to this task. It is the process whereby we keep in contact with the creative centre of our own being, a contact that is in a constant state of expansion. In this process creative energy is continuously released within us, recreating our original creation.

The incandescent energy of our spirit emanates from the Spirit of God. When we forget that God is our creator we lose contact with our essential nature. Our humanity is thereby diminished. In our technological society it is easy to live with only materialistic goals achieved in a mechanical way. As a result we live in a rush. One routine follows the next to deaden the heart by the pressures of work or play. We lose the freshness of creativity and freedom.

There are two things we can do to break out of this cycle and enter the creative mystery of life. First, we have to stop the rush of activity. We must learn the priority of being. We must learn how to be still. That is what our regular times of meditation are for.

Second, we have to learn how to be profoundly silent. We must stop the racket going on around us and in our heads. It is easy enough to switch off the radio, the TV, the CD player. It is not so easy to switch off the torrent of ideas in our heads. This is the purpose of the mantra by saying it continuously during meditation.

Meditation directly addresses both of these tasks: being still and becoming silent. By learning these we discover how to be in our own place, whatever that may mean for each of us.

Being fully alive requires us to be rooted in our own place. Once rooted and still, we begin the next great task: learning to pay attention, being attentive to the mystery at the heart of creation and learning to live in harmony with this.

Our awareness of being is the wonder of life. That awareness is intensified by our awareness of the being of others and is expanded into the awareness of the *being* of all creation, into our awareness of the being of God. Life reaches its fully human capacity, its most profound centre, when we realize that *being* is love.

Meditation is an entry into that quality and depth of life, rooted in ourselves, rooted in love, rooted in God.

We are alive in direct proportion to our capacity for love and for being loved.

Timetable for Meditation Practice

24.01.13	Learning to be Silent	G
01.02.13	The Fullness of Life	L
07.02.13	Creative Energy	R
14.02.13	Being Restored to Ourselves	G
21.02.13	The Power of the Mantra	L
28.02.13	His Time, His Prayer	R
07.03.13	Vision and Discipline	G
14.03.13	Not Making it Happen	R
21.03.13	The Glory of Christ	L

Richard Osterfield

Once I thought

Written by a prisoner on a Sycamore course,
which encourages those who have committed a crime
to face up to the effect that has on the victim

Once I laughed at believers	Then there came the time of trial
Called them deluded and deceived	A fall into a pit of deep despair
Once I thought them fools in blinkers	I committed an act of utter madness
Unable to see the facts that I perceived	An evil that I can never repair
I saw nothing that I wanted	Who will ever forgive my sin
In religions or their holy creeds	If I cannot forgive myself
God for me was just an idea	Who will stand by my side
Far too distant to ever meet my needs	If I have thrown away life's true wealth
When I read of the hate and cruelty	I realize now that all my choices
Of the faithful with their bloodied hands	Have been made with myself in mind
All I saw was a dismal failure	A life full of wrong turnings
Of all those different godly bands	Lived in the country of the blind
All those roads that led to heaven	But now I see the true meaning
Couldn't any of them be true	Of those words I used to scorn
All those ways were far too narrow	Now I see it's time I was living
None fit for me to pass through	The life God meant for me when I was born

What a friend I have in Jesus
If for me He made His sacrifice
What a love He does show me
If He paid that ultimate price

Who can say I'm not forgiven
When I repent with all my heart
Who can say that I'm not chosen
When the love He gives sets none apart

I may never regain what I have lost
But I can never lose what now I've gained
For now at last I have the freedom
To forever live a life unchained

Bob

Your Children Are Not Your Children

Your children are not your children
They come through you but not from you

And though they are with you
Yet they belong not to you
You may give them your love
You may house their bodies
but not their souls

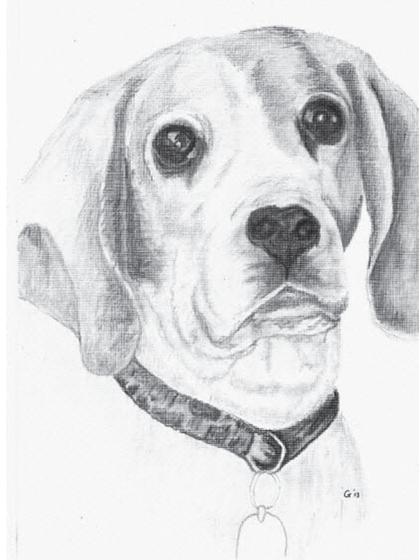
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow.

submitted by Mary Barham

A Little Story

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everbody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done!

submitted by Sue Wade



By Gordon Townsend,
(Parish Art Group)

Story

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson.

The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table, but the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son.

"I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

Therefore, the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner.

Since grandfather had broken a dish two, his food was served in a wooden bowl.

When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor.

He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?"

Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks.

Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family.

And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled. Children are remarkably perceptive.

Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. If they see us patiently, provide a happy home atmosphere for family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives.

The wise parent realizes that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future. Let us be wise builders and role models.

Always remember: "What goes around, comes around!"

However, "Treating others as you would treat yourself or as you would like to be treated will grant you more love than not!"

submitted by Mary Barham



Bear Playing with a Small Rock, by Tessa Darlison (Parish Art Group)

Parish Organizations East Grinstead

Altar Society: Flowers – Margaret Pond [327002]

Art Group: Tessa Darlison [322562]
(self-help group, meets on Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.,
in the Parish Centre, East Grinstead)

Catenians: Phil Pentney (Membership Officer) [327109]

Catholic Women's League: Brenda Crannigan [712947]
(meetings second Wednesday of the month,
October to March: 3.00 p.m., April to September: 6.00 p.m.)

Children's Liturgy (at the 10.30 Mass on Sundays)
and Parish Catechists: Sarah Hill & Eileen Lyons [317424]

Choir: Mary O'Sullivan [322959]
(practice is held at 7.30 p.m. on most Fridays at the church
in East Grinstead; children's practice as announced)

Christian meditation group:
Gabrielle Joyce [326118] and Les Whittaker
(Thursdays, 7.30 p.m., term time)

Friends of St Peter's: Sam O'Neill (contact school [321985])
(monthly meetings in members' homes)

Gift Aid Secretary: Debbie Brook [328215]

Gospel of Life Group: Les Whittaker [315484]

Guild of St Stephen: Jim Fitzpatrick [317177]

Justice and Peace Group: Sue Joy [315440]

Lifts to Mass: Peter Wells [811543]

Lunch Club: Ivy Pimenta [323240]
(third Wednesday of the month in the Parish Centre, East Grinstead)

Mothers' Prayers: Jane DeCaestecker [311232]
(first Friday of each month after the 9.30 a.m. Mass)

Parish Magazine: Klara King [321581]

Readers at Mass: Sue Wade [317246]

Saint Vincent de Paul Society: Peter Wells [811543]

Welcomers: Robert McInnes [327582]

Times of Services

Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

Saturday Mass: Vigil 6:15 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Morning Prayer: 9:15 a.m.; Mass 9:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation:

Vigil 8 p.m. evening before the feast; on the day 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and
5:30 to 6 p.m. and on request

St Bernard's, Lingfield

Sunday Mass: 9.00 a.m.,
preceded by Sacrament
of Reconciliation:
8.15 to 8.45 a.m.

Weekdays:

Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament: 9.00 a.m.
Morning prayer: 9.15 a.m.

