Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter
East Grinstead

St Bernard
Lingfield

Summer, 2014 Issue 67

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

Priest in charge of the two churches

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When Jesus sent out his disciples to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of god, the folks he chose were not scholars with impressive academic qualifications, neither did he choose the rich and powerful who would dazzle listeners with their wealth, success and celebrity status. Instead he chose fishermen, a loathed tax collector, perhaps some small farmers, labourers and a carpenter like himself. The first Christian missionaries came out from amidst the ordinary people - they were poor and knew what it was like to depend on god's goodness for their next meal. They had encountered God in the midst of the joys, sorrows and hardships of their daily lives.

In what ways do we encounter God in the ordinary circumstances of our own lives? What helps us to have a clearer understanding of God's work in our lives?

Father Steven Purnell

Many thanks again to our contributors, without whom there would be no Magazine. In this issue we welcome also contributions from children at St Peter's Catholic Primary School. One of the children's drawings is on the cover: a fitting commemoration of the Centenary on Monday, 4 August, as lights were extinguished across the country to leave a single one burning in each home to mark the moment the country entered the First World War. In the words of Edward Grey, the foreign secretary at the time: "The lamps are going out all over Europe."

It is a time also to remember Father Kevin Gaskin, whom we came to know as Parish Priest at Our Lady & St Peter's and who returned to us in retirement for far too short a time.

We wish all of you a happy, restful, and safe holiday – and if you are looking for a Mass wherever you have gone, you can find it at

http://weekdaymasses.org.uk

Plans for the next issue of the Magazine will be in the Parish Newsletter, but in the meantime any contributions can be left at the back of the church marked for my attention, or, best of all, emailed to the address below.

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

Milestones

Baptisms, 2013

Our Lady & St Peter's

13 January	Ayda Claire Sara Mevlit
13 January	Rondon Drew Buensuceso
3 March	Jazmine Margaret Clark
17 March	Willow Mae Driver
24 March	Nicole Hanarova Bertolino
6 April	Anstra Partha Sarathy
21 April	Jasper George Cassidy
5 May	Rocco Valentino Saunders
12 May	Sebastian William Dell
12 May	Isaac Fredick Dell

1 June	Matilda Grace Jubin
1 June	Yann Stanley Jubin
2 June	Catalina May Malsem-Cela
9 June	Arthur Alan Green
19June	Logan Grant Burdon
30 June	Harry William Whittaker
20 July	Luca Romolo Ridley-McDonagh
28 July	Joseph Stephen Bryant
4 August	Wilfred Arnie Dawson
11 August	Demi Rose Dalziel
25 August	Jessica Mary Riley
8 September	Zachary Joseph Geraghty
14 September	Charles Edward Hughes
15 September	Ruby Mae Oates
9 November	Matilda Elizabeth Jeanne Slater
30 November	Cecilia Beatrice Mary Berkshire
28 December	Apolonia Elizabeth Skinner
29 December	Amelie Grace Floyd

St Bernard's

9 February	Elodie Bruin
28 April	Oscar Cox
21 July	Thomas Fundell
4 August	Dominic Henry
10 August	Olivia Chaviaris
16 November	Michaela Cooper
1 December	Eli Edwards

Marriages

Our Lady & St Peter's

4 May	Patrick Enders & Regina Abigail Maskova
11 August	Paul George Haddad & Amy Marie Bauer

Funerals

Our Lady & St Peter's

3 March	Olive Boon
4 April	Helena Bridget Capon
11 April	Joyce Gordon Walker
13 April	Matthew Gormany ???
28 April	Josephine Mary Parkinson
23 June	Jean Pitman
26 June	Julian Dallow
22 August	Patrick Pitman

St Bernard's

21 January	Lily Hall
5 March	Helen Francis
7 April	Anne Alloway
11 April	Gerald Wilde
14 May	Blache Williams
30 May	Priscilla Roony
1 June	June Hetherington
23 July	Sheila Damer
2 September	Celia Longstaff
25 September	Philomena Tas

Confirmation 2014

Fifteen young people from our Parish were confirmed this year at Worth Abbey on the 1st of June. The Confirmation Mass was a splendid occasion and a fitting culmination to the young people's detailed exploration of their faith which took place over the last few months. They are often quite nervous as they approach the day when they will receive the sacrament, and this is just one sign of how seriously they take what they are doing. Our Parish was also well represented in the background teams

at work on the day. Liam Bauress led the musicians and played organ, and a group of our parishioners made exceptionally efficient car-parking attendants!

The picture shows this year's group on their weekend away at Worth Abbey. The weekend was full of fun but also included many opportunities to reflect on our faith and pray together. Once again Jack Regan, the chaplain at St Wilfrid's, joined us, and we were also pleased to welcome some of our older young parishioners to share their faith and experience as Redshirts on the Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Those confirmed this year were: Adele Brougham, Daniella Coxall, Grace Dougan, Finn Englishby-Allen, Matthew Hennessy, Sarah Hennessy, Francesca Higginson, Olivia Humphreys, Francesca Lowings, Helena O'Brien, Joman Ramos, Sophie Ridge, Oliver Stocken, Max Thilo, and Matthew Thomas.

Ruth Longley

Friends of St Peter's

The need to raise funds to enhance the lives of the children and work of the School remains as important as ever, and this past year has been no exception in the hard work of the Friends.

We began the year with our ever popular Family Bingo afternoon, followed by our annual calendar shoot. In November, we celebrated the 40th year of the Friends with our Ruby dinner-dance—which was generously supported by parents, parishioners, and the local businesses and raised in excess of £2,000. This was swiftly followed by Christmas cards and, of course, our wonderful Christmas Fair. We also provided the children with festive crackers for their Christmas lunch, and we were able to purchase new play equipment for the Play Leaders Scheme.

The spring term saw a successful Film Night and Talent Showcase, both of which were ideas brought to us from the children via the Little Friends Committee, who do a great job in helping us keep our finger on the pulse and providing us with new ideas. Our Little Friends initiative won recognition and a commendation from PTA-UK.

We have been able to pay for teaching and learning resources for the New Primary Curriculum from the 100 Club money which is so generously donated year in, year out by members—many of whom have been subscribers for many years. Some Club numbers are now available if anyone would like to join at: www.friendsofstpeters.co.uk/Documents/100ClubApplicationForm.pdf

Our TV Fun Day was a fantastic event as always, and we thank all of our sponsors, traders, and advertisers who supported the event. The money raised allowed us to complete a sizeable project in refurbishing the outside area for Years 1 & 2. The area has been enlarged and repaved, and a new all-weather canopy erected, and filled with plenty of things for the children to learn and play. All of this has been paid for with money raised from events over the past 18 months, and we thank everyone in supporting us and helping raise a staggering £20,000 to fund this massive, yet much-needed project. The staff, governors, and children are truly grateful.

We have also been able to contribute £2,500 to the cost of a new AV system for the main hall.

The end of this school year sees a huge number of the long-serving Friends Committee move on as their children go on to pastures new.

Many of these parents have worked as part of the Friends for many years and have helped to raise a phenomenal amount of money for the school—they leave a real legacy, and we thank them whole-heartedly for their hard work. Their enthusiasm and commitment will be greatly missed, but we remain confident that, with continued support from the parents and Parish, the Friends will be able to continue their good work for the benefit of the School community.

We hope some of the Parish will join us for our "End of Year Barn Dance and Picnic", which will take place on 20 July between 4 and 7.30pm.

With thanks.

Sara Vaughan, Chair, The Friends of St Peters

Stay awake . . .

Some thoughts in appreciation of Father Kevin Gaskin

Much has been spoken and written in tribute to Father Kevin since he died in the spring, and my own gratitude (happily never lacking in Father Steven's homilies either) was in the power of his presentation, the strident tone in which he could proclaim his subject. When he arrived as our new parish priest in 1984, Jesus' words "Stay Awake . . . " from the Gospel of St Matthew certainly rang with resonance for us in the benches as he proclaimed the Good News. In conversation, Father Kevin once told me that his "special" piece of scripture was from the Old Testament, Micah 6, verse 8 (see below). It is a short passage, but its first line perhaps summarizes best his commitment to using his voice to spread the Word: "What is good has been explained to you, man".

> "What is good has been explained to you, man; this is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with God"

And that is how I think Father lived his life. Not long after we had this particular conversation, he was out walking and was knocked down by a lorry. Happily he was virtually unharmed; no doubt he had indeed been walking humbly with God that day.

On a Sunday in January this year, Father Kevin officiated at 10:30 Mass. Unbeknown to all of us and likely including himself, it was the last

occasion on which he celebrated Mass in East Grinstead. At the Blessing, he apologised if we had not been able to hear him clearly, but we had his powerful voice extolling us as ever to Stay Awake...

May he rest in peace.

Betty Salmon

Catholic Women's League

Our section and our Branch of Arundel and Brighton were very sad to lose Fr. Kevin, who had been our Spiritual Director since 1985. He was always very supportive and informative and a friend to us all. He attended all our Branch quarterly meetings and said Mass for us. Our section was asked to write a eulogy for the CWL Newspaper. This was as follows:

> *Arundel & Brighton Branch Spiritual Director*
>
> Fr Kevin Gaskin died 5th March 2014. Fr Kevin was born Brighton, and entered Mark Cross Junior Seminary, Sussex, to begin his priestly vocation; he then moved to Wonersh, Surrey, until his ordination on 29th June 1962. He was appointed Branch Spiritual Director in 1985 and remained in post until his death on 5th March (Ash Wednesday). Fr. Kevin left East Grinstead in 1999 when he became Parish Priest at Wadhurst, East Sussex, returning to East Grinstead to enjoy retirement after celebrating his Golden Jubilee, but by this time he was in the early stages of cancer. At Branch meetings Fr. Kevin kept us fully informed of all that was happening in the Diocese and even Rome. During his time at Wadhurst he invited all Sections to join him each year for Mass and a summer picnic in his beautiful garden. Fr. Kevin was a much-loved friend to us all and will be sadly missed.

We were very pleased to be able to organize Fr. Kevin's reception, after his Requiem Mass at our church, at Moat Church Hall.

Our National Coffee Morning held in march was a great success. £180 was made from cakes, plants and cards.. This was to raise awareness of CWL and to attract new members, and it was a nice social occasion.

We had a fund-raising cream tea at the home of Jennifer Toome in June, and a visit to The English Martyrs church in Goring, which has a replica of the Sistine Chapel ceiling, is planned for July. A House Mass

and tea is to be held at the home of our Chairman Brenda Crannigan in August. Also in August our Branch Charity Event is to be held at St. Marthas Bexhill. This is for Winston's Wish: The Charity for Bereaved Children and will be a ploughman's lunch. Tickets are £5 (including a glass of wine) and £3 for children.

Members have attended the carpet of flowers procession for Corpus Christi at Arundel Cathedral and also the A&B Jubilee Festival Celebration at St.Wilfreds. This was excellent, with various workshops and talks, ending with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kieran

We always welcome new members.

Gill O'Driscoll (EG 323601)

Gospel of Life Group

> When conscience, this bright lamp of the soul (cf Mt 6: 22–23), calls "evil good and good evil" (Is 5: 20), it is already on the path to the most alarming corruption and the darkest moral blindness. And yet all the conditioning and efforts to enforce silence fail to stifle the voice of the lord echoing in the conscience of every individual: it is always from this intimate sanctuary of the conscience that a new journey of love, openness and service to human life can begin. *Evangelium Vitae* (Gospel of Life) 24.

Supporting the Glasgow Midwives

SPUC's White Flower Appeal in January was centred on its support for the Glasgow Midwives, and the Gospel of Life Group decided that the proceeds from this year's cake and plant sale would be devoted to helping SPUC in this very important cause. £160.65 was raised and sent to SPUC, along with our best wishes to the midwives, Mary Doogan and Connie Wood.

In 2012 healthcare officials in Glasgow had ruled that the two midwives, who worked as labour ward coordinators, should be required to schedule and coordinate abortion coverage, on the grounds that this would not violate their conscience as they would not be directly participating in the abortions themselves. An earlier appeal by the midwives had failed, but

in 2013 the Appeals Court in Edinburgh ruled that they have the right to refuse indirect involvement in abortions.

The court ruled that the "conscience clause" of the 1967 Abortion Act protected health care personnel against any compulsory involvement in the process. The wording goes, "The right of conscientious objection extends not only to the actual medical or surgical termination but to the whole process of treatment given for that purpose. The right is given because it is recognised that the process of abortion is felt by many people to be morally repugnant." Archbishop Tartaglia of Glasgow called the ruling a "victory for freedom of conscience and for common sense".

In June 2013 the health board announced that it would not accept that verdict and launched an appeal to the Supreme Court in London, which has not yet been heard. Throughout the case the midwives have looked to SPUC for financial support. SPUC has promised to support them not only because of their courageous pro-life commitment, but because the case could affect other midwives, nurses and doctors throughout Great Britain. The Gospel of Life Group has been pleased to support SPUC, albeit in a small way, in this endeavour.

Les Whittaker

Christian Meditation Group

These are two prayers that we say at the beginning and end of our weekly meetings:

Opening prayer

> Heavenly Father, open our hearts to the silent presence of the spirit of your Son. Lead us into that mysterious silence where your love is revealed to all who call. Maranatha . . . Come Lord Jesus.

Closing prayer

> May this group be a true spiritual home for the seeker, a friend for the lonely, a guide for the confused.
>
> May those who pray here be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve all who come and to receive them as Christ himself. In the silence of this room may all the suffering, violence and confusion of the world encounter the power that will console, renew and uplift the human spirit.

May this silence be a power to open the hearts of men and women to the vision of God, and so to each other, in love and peace, justice and human dignity. May the beauty of the divine life fill the group and the hearts of all who pray here with joyful hope.

May all who come here weighed down by the problems of humanity, leave, giving thanks for the wonder of human life.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

If you would like to join us, we meet each Thursday evening (during term time), from 7.30 to 8.30 pm, in the Parish Centre.

For further information, please contact me.

Gabrielle Joyce (EG 326118).

Head of Catholic church warns that destruction of rainforests and Earth's ecosystems is humanity's greatest challenge

Pope Francis has rebuked those who exploit nature, calling environmental destruction the greatest modern challenge.

In a speech at the University of Molise in southern Italy, Francis called attention to the destruction of the rainforests, including in his own country Argentina.

"This is one of the greatest challenges of our time: to convert ourselves to a type of development that knows how to respect creation," he said.

"When I look at America, also my own homeland (South America), so many forests, all cut, that have become land . . . that can longer give life. This is our sin, exploiting the Earth and not allowing her to her give us what she has within her."

The UN's science report says that deforestation is responsible for around 10% of greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans.

In Argentina, around 16 million hectares of Argentina's forest cover was lost between 1980 and 2000, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

Francis has repeatedly called for environmental protection since he became Pope in March last year.

Named after Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment, the head of the Catholic Church is currently writing an encyclical on man's relationship with nature.

The Pope's speech is the latest in a series of interventions by religious leaders into global environmental politics,

Representatives of all major religions have indicated they will mobilise on climate action ahead of a landmark summit to be held at the UN headquarters in New York this September.

The World Council of Churches has announced that it will hold an Interfaith Summit on Climate Change in New York on September 21–22, the two days before UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon hosts the summit.

The WCC is a coalition of 345 churches, representing Christians across Europe, America, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Thirty participants, representing Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, indigenous people and others, will gather to push political leaders to demonstrate greater ambitions in the "power games" of the UN climate talks, said Kirsten Auken, an advocacy advisor at Danish NGO DanChurchAid.

"We have to be the moral voice in this," she added.

Daniel Murphy, a campaigns assistant at the Environmental Justice Foundation, said: "We will join our voices in the call for human rights and climate change to be addressed systematically."

WCC members reinforced that they hoped their voice would also be heard at the UN's major annual climate conference in Lima this year, and in Paris 2015 where a new agreement to combat climate change is due to be signed.

Sophie Yeo
Source: www.rtcc.org/2014/07/07/pope-francis-laments-sin-of-environmental-destruction

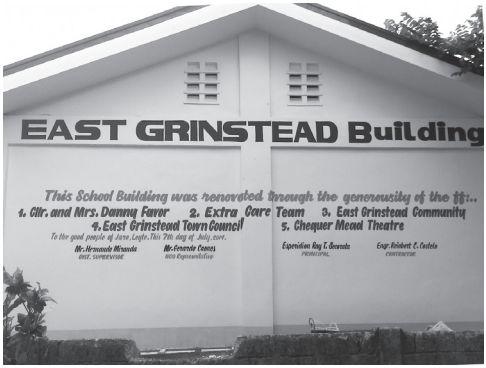
Sumitted by Sue Joy

The Extra Care EG Team

The Filipino British Nurses Extra Care East Grinstead Team has several projects in progress at the moment, one of which is the restoration of a

public school building destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines in November 2013.

The complete restoration of this multi-purpose public school building, with additional new toilet facilities, at Jaro 1 Central Elementary School, Leyte, Philippines, was completed on 7 July 2014, but some minor problems need to be fixed before the official hand-over can take place. This public elementary school for young children had eight school buildings, thirty-one classrooms for Grade 1 to 6 pupils, and three classrooms for kindergarten pupils, but all of these buildings were totally destroyed by the typhoon. This school project will benefit at least 1,322 elementary students and 41 school teachers. The Official Ground Breaking Ceremony of the building restoration work was conducted on Monday, 7 April 2014, attended by Ms Lotis G. Pascua, Extra Care East Grinstead Coordinating Officer; Mr Jaime Pascua, Extra Care Adviser from Manila, Philippines; Mr Gerardo "Dada" Caones, Project Coordinator; Reinbert C. Costelo, Project Engineer & Contractor; Mr. Hernando R. Miranda, School Principal & District Supervisor; Mrs Aurora T Marmita, retired School Principal; and faculty members and students. The total amount donated for the restoration of the building was £6,004.07, and the new school building is now named East Grinstead Building in honour and remembrance of the kindness and generosity of the people of East Grinstead.



On behalf of the management, faculty members, and students of Jaro 1 Central Elementary School, the Extra Care EG Team (FBNECEGLtd) would like to express their countless and heart-felt gratitude for the enormous God blessings and to all those who in one way or another extended their kindness and generous support in making this noble project a great success: the people of East Grinstead, Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre, East Grinstead Town Council, various community groups/ organizations and individuals. Without them this valuable project would be impossible.

Charity Summer Disco & Entertainment 2014

The Extra Care EG Team (FBNECEGLtd) will celebrate its 1st Anniversary with a Charity Summer Disco and Entertainment on Saturday, 9 August 2014, from 6 pm to 11 pm at the Jubilee Community Centre, Charlwood Road, East Grinstead (RH19 2HL). This is a fundraising event to help the redecoration and repair of the damaged roof of Our Lady & St. Peter Church, East Grinstead.

This fund drive is also for the benefit of street children in the Philippines. This is one the projects that Extra Care EG Team is currently supporting through ABS–CBN Bantay Bata Foundation, an organization that tackles growing child abuse and neglect problem in the Philippines, which is being financed largely by public donations and charity from businesses and private individuals. In general, Filipinos have improved a lot in their way of living; however, many are still suffering from poverty, and many children are forced to live on the streets, which are not safe for anyone, and especially not for

vulnerable children. The streets of Manila and other cities in the Philippines are swarming with different types of people, and especially poor children whose lives are in danger against evil acts such as child abuse including rape, attempted rape, and incest, acts of lasciviousness, drugs, and prostitution. According to statistics, of the 1.5 million street children in the country, 60,000 are prostituted. This is not the way we want our kids to be. Let's join our hands together to help them and ensure that they are protected from irresponsible parents and the rest of the cruel world. Please support our Charity Summer Disco & Entertainment 2014. Every little helps and can make a difference to the lives of these poor street children. Admission tickets cost £5, and there is raffle at £1 per ticket. Donations and sponsorship are welcome. For more information please contact: Danny Favor (07867846495), Maribel Favor (07528694112), or Norly Munoz (07794937788). Thank you so much for your support, kindness, and generosity.

Danny Favor

Kris Fund Drives for Good Causes

Kris Favor of the Extra Care Team had successfully completed the London to Brighton Trek 2014, a walking challenge of approximately 64 miles (105 km) on 21–22 June 2014. Nearly a thousand people from various groups and individuals participated in this fund drive to help raise money for British Heart Foundation research. Kris was also able to help in raising nearly £800 (including pledges) for the redecoration and repair of the roof of Our Lady & St. Peter Church, East Grinstead. Kris and the Extra Care Team would like to thanks everyone who supported them in this good cause.

Some work by children at St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Wednesday 4th December 2013..

L.I: I know the vows that are expected of someone in religiouse life.

Dear our almighty Father in heaven above,

My only wish is to follow you forever, when I die I will be in love with you, I will do my best to follow (th) your son Jesus in my every step.

I will be obidient, I will follow in your footsteps and Complete your every need. When asked I will do when showed I will follow when needed I will arrive. Never will I use your name in vain or hatred, never will I turn down someone who is sad or in mourning.

I swear my life to you and no-one else, my life ~~(is)~~ belongs to you I have complete Chastity. Never will I love another, or die in the arms another. My love will last in poverty ~~(or illness)~~ through sickness and health.

I have said this in my own will.

Please listen to my prayer, I give my heart and sole ~~to you. (never to)~~

I think these are fantastic vows Yasmin. You have understood really well how much thought goes into choosing a religious life. Shp Thank you.

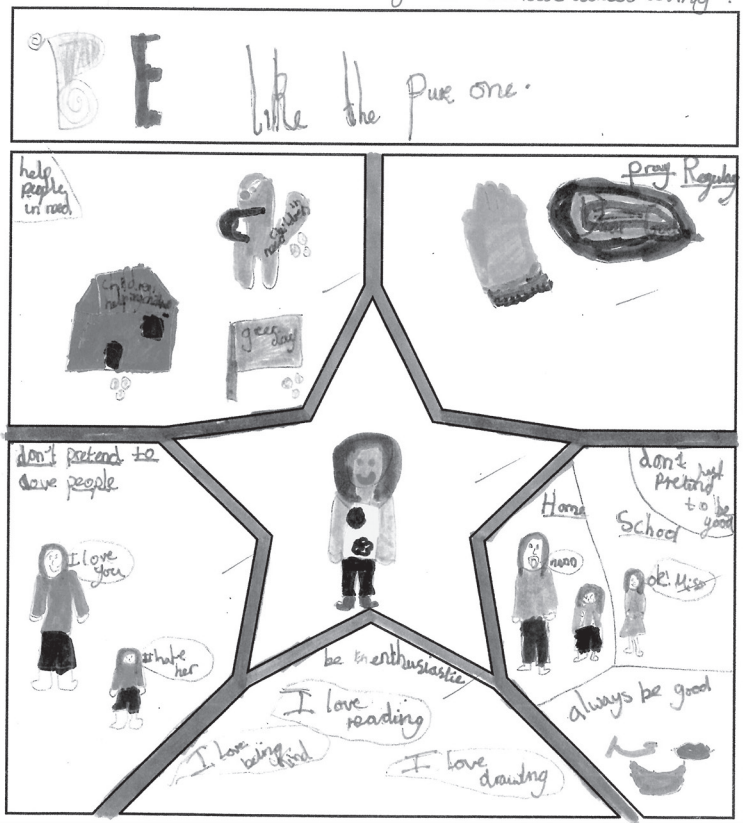
Wednesday 12th February 2014
L.I. To understand how we can help in our community.

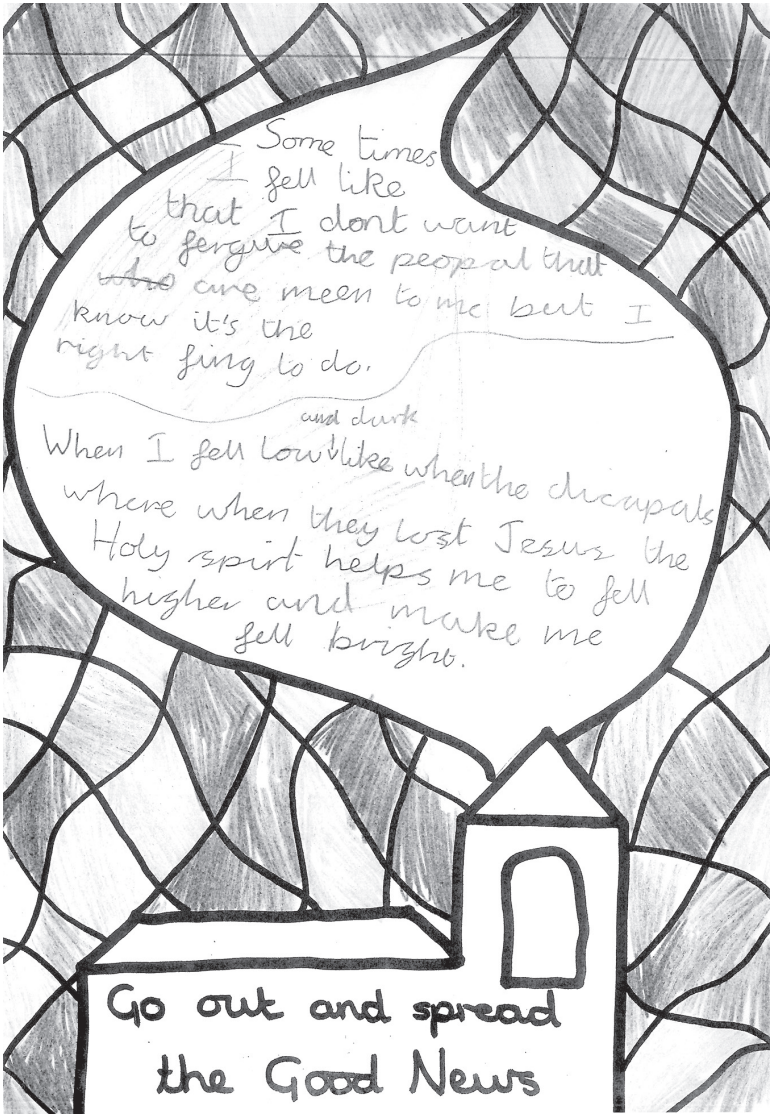
Be Real About Loving

Based on Romans 12:8-11

Dear Friends,
We have all been given lovely gifts. When you give, give with a loving heart. If you have a job to do, do it really well. If you are helping someone, do it happily. Be real in your love for each other. Do not just pretend to be good. Love and care for each other as good brothers and sisters. Be whole-hearted and enthusiastic in all you do. Be joyful. When things get hard, keep on going. Pray regularly. Share what you have with people in need. Always make people feel welcome.

Lovely work Ella, you understand how to follow St Paul's instructions to the Romans in your life. Do you have any more ideas about how you can be real about loving?

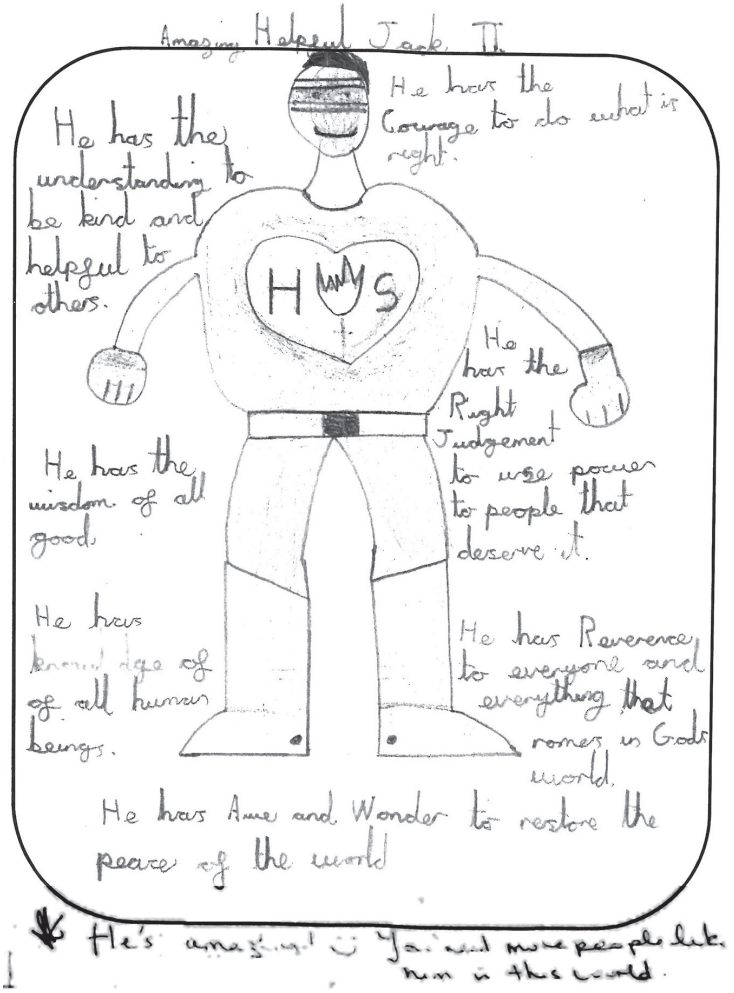


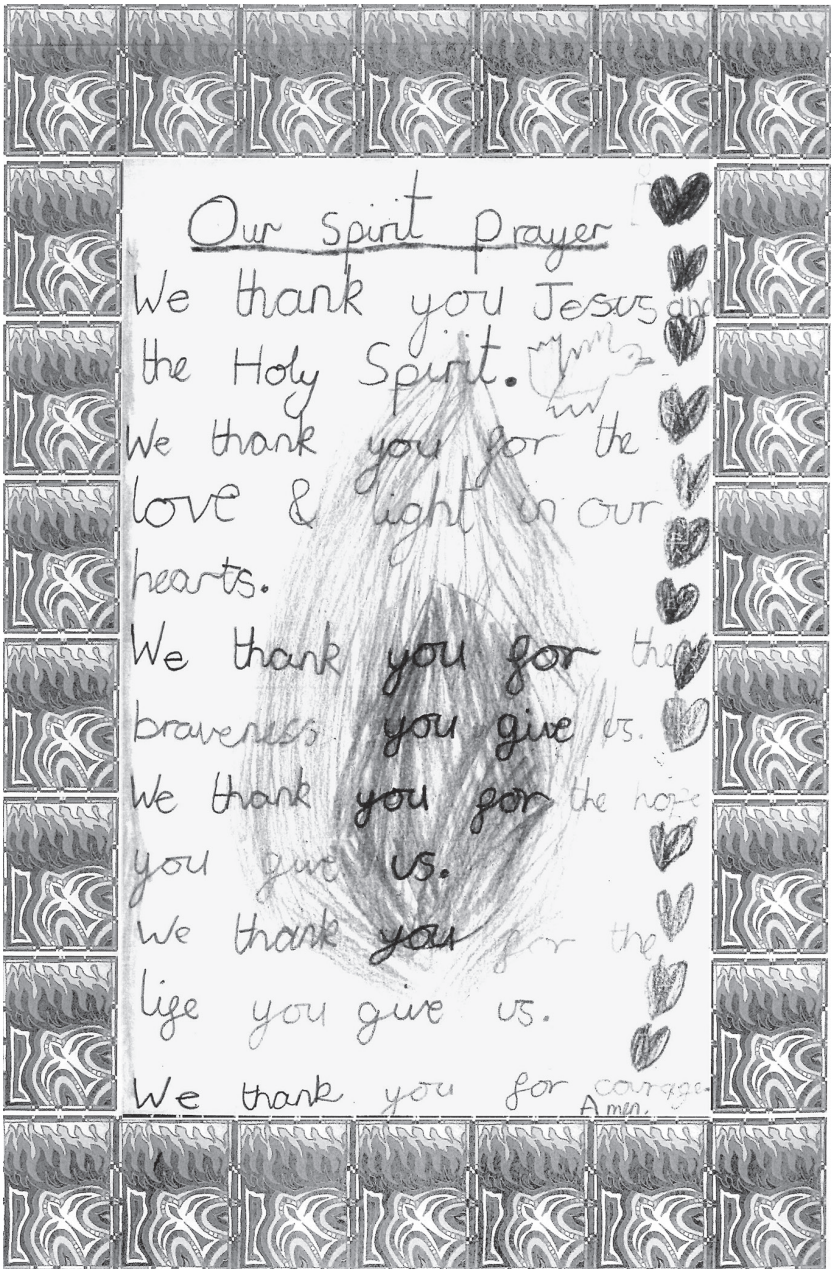

Some times
I fell like
that I dont want
to fergive the peope at that
are meen to me but I
know it's the
right fing to do.
and dark
When I fell Low like when the dicapals
where when they lost Jesus the
Holy spirt helps me to fell
higher and make me
fell bright.
Go out and spread
the Good News

LI: How Christians use the energy and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:2





Our Spirit Prayer

We thank you Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
We thank you for the love & light in our hearts.
We thank you for the braveness you give us.
We thank you for the hope you give us.
We thank you for the life you give us.
We thank you for courage.
Amen.

Justice and Peace Group

As the Parish Magazine goes to press, the J&P Group completed its 24th Sleep Out to raise money for homeless charities – Crawley Open House, The Easter Team, and Worthing Churches Homeless Project. We only know the results of our street collection on Saturday 6 July which totalled £556.80, which was our highest yet. Add to that all that has been sponsored by all East Grinstead churches and individuals and we hope we have done very well (a final total will appear in the weekly newsletter in due course). The night of the 6 July was dry and warm until a short shower at 5.45 pm when we decided it was a good time to pack up and go! The street noise wasn't too bad either, and many people were extraordinarily generous with their donations and wishes of support. Thank you if you sponsored members and for your continued donations of tinned and packet food throughout the year and also for bedding, sleeping bags, clothes, etc. Future fund-raising events will take place in the autumn when we have a series of Charity Feasts on Tuesday 7 October at The Swan (35 places), Monday 13 October at Roochi Forest Row (80 places), Tuesday 21 October at Mediterranean Cuisine (35 places), and Monday 27 October at Tarana, Lingfield 200 (places), organized by Nick Castiglione (EG 410100). Half of the £15 paid for a meal will go towards Crawley Open House, EG Street Pastors, Crawley Prison Fellowship, and Age UK EG Dementia Club.

Don't forget to save shoeboxes for the annual Samaritan Purse Shoebox scheme, which we will be doing throughout October and early November. And any knitters out there – we always need scarves, hats and gloves for 2–4, 5–9, and 10–14 year olds: thank you. Start getting your goodies now to put in the box.

Our meetings continue to be at 8 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Moat URC, and new members are welcome. We cover a wide range of activities, including prison visiting and support for SYCAMORE (restorative justice courses for prisoners), letter writing to Prisoners of Conscience, support for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, the EG Foodbank, Church Action on Poverty money-management courses, Fairtrade EG, and many other issues of social justice.

Sue Joy, Co-Chair EG J&P Group (EG 315440)

Dementia Action Alliance Group

This has been established by the Alzheimers Society with a view to making villages, towns, and cities Dementia friendly, and our local East Grinstead group is managed and convened by Jacquie Pond. So far two Forum meetings have been held for a wide range of people, including local businesses and community organizations, Carers, and Dementia Friends: if you are interested, keep Wednesday 1 October free – watch the parish newsletter for details. If you wish to contact Jacquie directly her telephone no is 01403 750485 (mobile: 07714916291), email address jacquie.pond@alzheimers.org.uk

Lives Remembered: Austin Shorney, The Early Years

The late Austin Shorney was a Poet, Soldier, Teacher, Writer, and member of Mensa, who with his wife Ruby and daughters Angela and Clare were parishioners of Our Lady and St Peters from the early1950s until their deaths.

Austin would have celebrated his centenary this year, having been born on 14 July 1914 in the parish of Ditchling. Ruby and both daughters sadly died before Austin, whose death on 25 July 1998 was in his 85th year.

He kept a diary from an early age, and his autobiography "Forget and Smile" tells not only his own life story but amusing tales about the characters he came into contact with. He recounts with clarity during his formative years at Bankside Farm, just off Ditchling Common, details of a long-passed lifestyle when farm work was highly labour intensive and Sussex folk delighted in passing on their skills to willing students.

To best understand why Austin had such vivid recall of people, places, and events, we need to set out a brief look at his family background and companions in those early years. Austin senior, whose first wife had died of a blood infection, was 60 when young Austin was born. The family had by then settled down in Ditchling, where Austin senior was the estate manager at St George's Retreat, which was run by an order of Catholic nuns and is still there today. There were some 25 full-time workmen on this estate at that time engaged in all aspects of farming. The estate had various tradesmen, carpenters, and blacksmiths as well

Ruby & Austin—soldiers together. Precious leave.

as all those engaged in animal husbandry and crop growing. The young Austin had free run of this whole estate and spent many hours observing and listening to all things Sussex. He was by his own admission an avid listener, and from the age of about 5 silently listened to all the stories the men told as they went about their daily tasks.

The four years of freedom ended for Austin in 1923 when, aged 9, he cycled with his sister Greta to the convent school at Haywards Heath. By all accounts Austin settled down to formal education quite quickly, making friends and mischief in some measure. ln 1929, having being asked the question most disliked by boys. "What are you going to do when you leave school?", he was on his way to St Joseph's College, Mark Cross, where he spent six years under the rule of the bell, learning Latin, Greek, Literature, Maths, and of course Scripture. ln the autumn of 1935 Austin went to the senior seminary, St John's, Wonersh, near Guildford. For some two years Austin studied for the priesthood but by 1937 knew in his heart that he could not take that step forward, and he left the seminary for a job with the music publisher J&W Chester, in Great Marlborough Street, London. The London experience gave Austin a new perspective on life, from the quiet rural scene to the hustle and bustle of the city. He quotes in his autobiography that London was always interesting before the war, and during his lunchtimes he would explore the area bounded by Marble Arch, Hyde Park Corner, Trafalgar Square, and Tottenham Court Road.

The summer of 1939 was particularly wet, and in June and July the minister of war, Leslie Hore-Belisha, brought in conscription for all men of age 21. Austin, who had already joined the 53rd City of London Territorial Anti-Aircraft Regiment in 1938, was conscripted on 5 August 1939 and not released from army service until the end of March 1946.

Liam Cherry

Ten secrets to happiness

In a recent interview published in the Argentine weekly *Viva*, the Holy Father listed his top ten suggestions for bringing greater joy to one's life.

1. "Live and let live." Everyone should be guided by this principle, he said, which has a similar expression in Rome with the saying, "Move forward and let others do the same."
2. "Be giving of yourself to others." People need to be open and generous toward others, he said, because "if you withdraw into yourself, you run the risk of becoming egocentric. And stagnant water becomes putrid."
3. "Proceed calmly" in life. The Pope, who used to teach high school literature, used an image from an Argentine novel by Ricardo Guiraldes, in which the protagonist — gaucho Don Segundo Sombra — looks back on how he lived his life.
4. A healthy sense of leisure. The Pope said "consumerism has brought us anxiety", and told parents to set aside time to play with their children and turn off the TV when they sit down to eat.
5. Sundays should be holidays. Workers should have Sundays off because "Sunday is for family," he said.
6. Find innovative ways to create dignified jobs for young people. "We need to be creative with young people. If they have no opportunities they will get into drugs" and be more vulnerable to suicide, he said.
7. Respect and take care of nature. Environmental degradation "is one of the biggest challenges we have," he said. "I think a question that we're not asking ourselves is: 'Isn't humanity committing suicide with this indiscriminate and tyrannical use of nature?'"
8. Stop being negative. "Needing to talk badly about others indicates low self-esteem. That means, 'I feel so low that instead of picking myself up I have to cut others down,'" the Pope said. "Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy."

9. Don't proselytise; respect others' beliefs. "We can inspire others through witness so that one grows together in communicating. But the worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyses: 'I am talking with you in order to persuade you,' No. Each person dialogues, starting with his and her own identity. The church grows by attraction, not proselytising," the Pope said.
10. Work for peace. "We are living in a time of many wars," he said, and "the call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive" and dynamic.

Translated by the Catholic News Service

Homage to Mother Teresa – Part 2

Les Whittaker continues his journey to Skopje from Budapest.

> Do not let me be discouraged by failure, or puffed up by success.
>
> St Thomas Aquinas Prayer

I set off from Budapest for Skopje on 5 September, the anniversary of Mother Teresa's death. I had allowed myself eight days to cover the 600-odd miles, with rooms booked and no days off. I reckoned that with a three-day break in Budapest I would not need any rest days—probably a mistake.

I managed to get hold of a cycle map of Hungary, which greatly helped me find a safe route out of Budapest down to the Serbian border at Subotica, a journey that took me a couple of days. Getting across the border can take some time, but I was lucky enough to find a part-time crossing still open with a very friendly guard who could not quite believe I had cycled from the UK and was not far off 60. This rather set the tone for Serbia, which I found to be a hospitable place.

I could not find any cycle-route maps covering Serbia so bought detailed road maps instead. The further south I travelled, the fewer bikes I came across, and the smarter I felt my bike looked set against the poverty I saw, particularly in the rural areas. I never felt threatened but did feel slightly embarrassed with my high-tech bike complete with bright yellow paniers. While the people were friendly, the many dogs weren't—yapping at my feet as I rode past.

After four days riding from Budapest I reached Belgrade, a surprisingly hilly city. The rest of Serbia was similar, generally lovely countryside with frequent very abrupt, steep hills – I needed all 27 gears on my bike to get up them.

Cycle routes do not exist in Serbia, but I was fortunate that a new motorway had been constructed and was able to use the old road going south to Macedonia, which was often virtually empty. Unfortunately the day before I was due to arrive in Skopje the motorway finished and all the traffic returned to using the old road. I had been aware of the issue for a couple of days and discussed what I should do with local folk. Some thought I could still use the old road with care, some didn't. Perhaps I could get to Skopje using a different route, via Kosovo? Not possible due to border problems, I was told.

I resolved to give the old road a go, hoping there would be adjacent quieter roads I could use, not shown on my map. I road about 40 miles south to where the motorway finished and stood by the road to assess the situation. A narrow two-lane carriageway, no accommodation for cyclist on the road and no easy run-off to the sides, full of rocks and scrub. Cars and lorries travelling at speed, and no other cyclist in sight. On top of that the mirror I had fixed to my helmet had sheared off earlier in the day, and the spare adhesive pads I carried had perished in the heat.

I stood by the road for some minutes thinking what to do. It was disappointing to give up then, being so close, but I did not want to get killed trying to get to Skopje on my bike. I decided the valley road was too dangerous, and as there was no realistic alternative route I would abandon the ride and complete the journey by rail. It was an easy decision to make in the end—just as well I was not sponsored. What came into my head as I stood by the roadside was Mother Teresa's message (among many others), that God will not judge us on how successful our actions are. Although I was naturally disappointed, I was confident that, spiritually at least, the failure would do me no harm.

I arrived in Skopje the next day and stayed there for five days. It was part of Albania when Mother Teresa was born in 1910 and is now the capital of the Republic of Macedonia. During my stay I visited the Missionary of Charity house located in the suburbs. I spent time with the sisters but was disappointed to find the soup kitchen closed for the summer—I had wanted to help out there.

In 1963 an earthquake destroyed much of the city, including Mother Teresa's home and the cathedral where she worshipped, which has since

комплекс
клиники
clinical
campus
Majka Tereza
Mother Teresa
ВЛЕЗ - ENTRANCE

been relocated. On the site of the original cathedral a museum has been built dedicated to the life and work of Mother Teresa. It displays many interesting photos and artefacts from her early life in Skopje, with a chapel which had the most beautiful image of her above it.

In recent years the Macedonian government has, in a neoclassical building spree, installed very grand buildings, statues, and a Napoleonic-style triumphal arch, around the city centre, to foster national pride. I found Mother Teresa's message of love and service the perfect antidote to this rather aggressive nationalistic posturing. There are plaques throughout the centre of Skopje on which quotations from Mother Teresa are written—a shining light.

My pilgrimage to Skopje had its disappointments, but I was pleased I did it. It was much more low-key than my previous rides, but I felt it was all the better for that. If I have sparked an interest to learn more about Mother Teresa, please do take a copy of the quotation sheet, available in the narthex of Our Lady & St Peter's Church.

Les Whittaker

Sunbeams

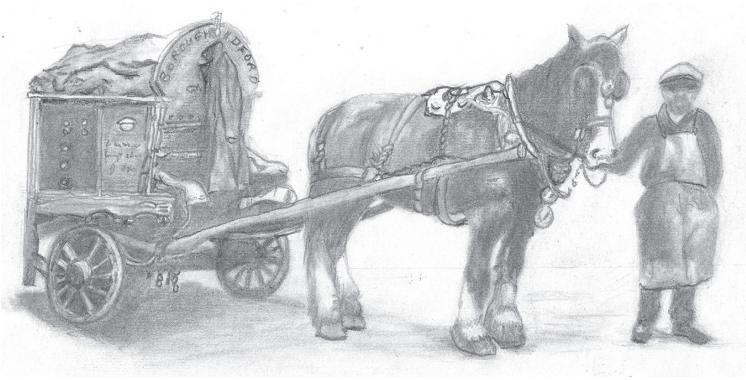
I stood in the church with my mother
Just at the end of the war
The jumble of words meant nothing
But the sunlight streamed in by the door.

The beams were broken by branches
The soldiers were living no more
But their spirits came flickering to me
There in the light on the floor.

Now mother has gone to be with them
I seek those sunbeams so gay
But I find them hard to recapture
Though I bend on my knee and I pray.

Perhaps I never shall know them
'Til the church door's left open one day
And I am carried through with the sunlight
To play on the floor while you pray.

David Tas 1978



Carter, by Tessa Darlison

Street Pastors in East Grinstead

East Grinstead Street Pastors Initiative, with the support of Churches Together, has celebrated its first Anniversary on 22 June 2014. Thank you to those who ask about how we are getting on, and also for your prayers at Mass.

Each Saturday night, we provide a team of three or four Street Pastors, two supporters who pray at our Base and twenty five supporters who receive prayer request phone texts between 9 pm and 3 am.

Each week, I write a newsletter which is emailed to about eighty members of our local Churches, which includes text messages sent between the street and prayer teams, as well as many street stories.

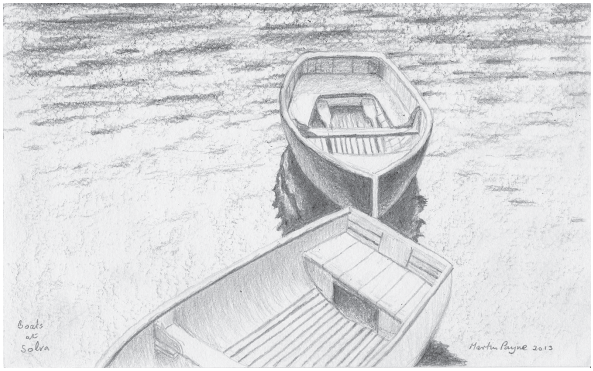
Street Pastors never know whom they might help and just how they might help. It's not all about helping intoxicated youth.

I have taken the following extracts from our weekly newsletters, written by our street team and prayer supporters, to give you an idea about life on the streets of East Grinstead at night and how we care, listen and help:

- *"We prayed for a man who had just heard that his friend had been killed in a motor accident."*
- *"The team went to one of the town's bridges to pray there after the fatality on 4 May. The police contacted the team to ask for their help. They'd had reports of someone hanging around on one of the bridges (but didn't know which one) and that a group of people were missing one of their friends. They said that he had been talking about killing himself and they were concerned. The team went on patrol around the bridges and they spotted someone who fitted the*

description. The police were informed and were seen talking to the individual soon after."

- *"Praise God, team met with a girl who gave thanks for S.P.s helping her friend who they called an ambulance for a few weeks ago. He is fine and she was very grateful."*
- *". . . we stepped through the gate onto the path between the two parts of the cemetery when a young woman pushing a pram with a sleeping toddler in it walked towards us. The very moment she recognised us as Street Pastors, the guy she was with slunk into the bushes. She told us that she didn't know the guy at all, that he had been following her for a while and had just caught her up when we bumped into her at the darkest spot on the alley. She was pretty shaken up but put a brave face on it. We watched her walk down the path towards the houses in Badger Way, making sure no one was following her any longer."*
- *"We also came across one young lad whom we had assisted a few weeks ago when he cut his head open when falling in the road. He was grateful that we had assisted him until the ambulance arrived to take him to Redhill Hospital."*
- *"Team helping 2 ladies who have had a puncture."*
- *"Team have spoken to a young scientist from Crawley who has been separated from his friends. Street Pastor now attending injured person."*
- *"Talked to a man probably in his 50's who had a walking stick and was leaning against a lamp-post. He and his wife had driven into town for a meal including alcohol so were leaving the car and walking home. Part-way home they realised the house keys were in the car, so his wife had gone to collect them. After chatting for some time we walked down to his car looking for his wife, but couldn't find her. On the way back we saw he was still standing*



Boats at Solva,
by Martin Payne

Afghan refugee, aged 6 years,
by Tessa Darlison

by the lamp-post alone and rang in for prayer to find her. Chatting to him we found his wife had her mobile phone with her and he knew her number, so one of the Street Pastors let him use the Pastors' mobile phone to ring his wife. It turned out she was at home, having gone a different way. Later there was a voicemail on the Street Pastor's phone saying he was home, thanking us for our help, and saying it's good to know there are people out in the town helping people."

- *"The team told us they were praying with a lady whose son died yesterday. He was in his early 20's."*
- *"Lady found crying and sitting on a wall near Sainsbury's in pouring rain. Street Pastors listened to her story and gave her a hot drink and helped her to get home."*

Take a copy of our booklet, "How to be Street Pastor or Prayer Pastor", which can be found on the noticeboard near the side door to the Church, if you are interested in supporting us.

If you would like to receive our newsletters, or receive prayer request texts, please email b.lake@live.co.uk

- *"So many of my suffering or lost ones need you, and as my chosen, my instrument, I strengthen you. ("I am with you" – devotional book.) There is a large harvest, but few to send" – Matt.9.37." (Received by text at 00.28 by one of our Home Prayers).*

Beverley Lake (EG 325578)

Prepare to Leave Your Comfort Zone

Safety doesn"t always equal comfort, though. Living in the world means we"re always going to see things and hear things that make us a little uncomfortable. And that"s OK. Sometimes God places us in situations where we"re uncomfortable just so we turn the light up a little bit brighter.

To do this, we don't have to get all "religious". There"s no need for you to walk around with your six-pack of Bibles and covered head to toe with bumper stickers. All you need to do is let your light shine. Loving, calm, happy, gracious behaviour will stand out. That will be a light in a dark place.

In these tough times, we need God more than ever. And as we are the Body of Christ, God needs us to be acting on His behalf. He needs us to go out and shine His light into the darkness of the world. Believe today that in Christ, you have what it takes to not be afraid and to be a person that God can use to change people"s lives.

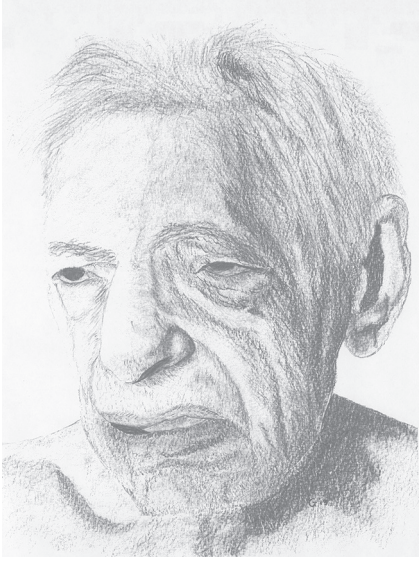
Joyce Meyer

Do not ask me to remember

My father did not know me when he died. He suffered from dementia, and to him whenever he saw me I was Jack—and I have no idea who Jack was. Even worse was his lack of recognition for my brother who cared for him daily for the last ten years of his life. To Dad, he had become a stranger.

All this was several years ago, but currently I have a close friend who is slowly but steadily deteriorating with the same condition. His wife tells me that despite desperately trying not to, at times she finds him so exasperating it is all she can do not to become cross. It is so difficult to be constantly patient and understanding.

In an article I read recently the following anonymous poem was published, and it was suggested it be read by all those that regularly have to deal with those suffering from dementia. Perhaps the poem is saying what they are all wanting to say but can't express? All I do know is that when I read it, I found it extremely moving.



A portrait,
by Gordon Townsend

Do not ask me to remember
Don't try to make me understand
Let me rest and know you're with me
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand

I'm confused beyond your concept
I am sad and sick and lost
All I know is that I need you
To be with me at all cost

Do not lose your patience with me
Do not scold or curse or cry
I can't help the way I'm acting
Can't be different though I try

Just remember that I need you
That the best of me is gone
Please don't fail to stand beside me
Love me 'til my life has gone.

[Anon.]
submitted by John McDonnell

Our Lady of Mental Peace Prayer

O Lady of Mental Peace,
Mother of Tranquility and
Mother of Hope,
look upon me in this time
of disquiet and weakness.

Still my restless spirit,
teach my searching heart to know
that God's love for me
is unchanging and that the suffering
which He may will for me now
is to draw me closer to Him.

Let thy gentle peace and His—
which the world cannot give—
be always with me, that I may
be sanctified: and then:
I beseech thee
for the grace to bring this
peace to others.

Jesus, My Savior, I give myself
entirely to Thee through Mary:

Our Lady of Mental Peace,
pray for me!

Betty Salmon

Cancel your credit card before you die . . .
Just priceless

Reported recently in a northern newspaper in the UK:

Be sure and cancel your credit cards before you die! The following is so priceless. And so easy to see happening—customer service being what it is today!

A lady died this past September, and "ABCD" Bank billed her in October

and November for their annual service charges on her credit card, and then in December added late fees and interest on the monthly charge. The balance that had been £0.00 is, now, somewhere around –£60.00. A family member placed a call to the ABCD Bank:

Family Member: 'I am calling to tell you that my grandma died in September.'

ABCD: 'But the account was never closed and so the late fees and charges still apply.'

Family Member: 'Maybe, you should turn it over to your collections section.'

ABCD: 'Since it is two months over due, it already has been.'

Family Member: 'So, what will they do when they find out she is dead?'

ABCD: 'Either report her account to the Frauds Department or report her to The Credit Bureau, maybe both!'

Family Member: 'Do you think God will be mad at her?'

ABCD: 'Excuse me?'

Family Member: 'Did you just get what I was telling you . . . The part about her being dead?'

ABCD: 'Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor.'

Supervisor gets on the phone:

Family Member: 'I'm calling to tell you, she died in September.'

ABCD: 'But the account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply.'

Family Member: 'You mean you want to collect from her estate?'

ABCD: (Stammer) 'Are you her solicitor?'

Family Member: 'No, I'm her grandson'

ABCD: 'Could you fax us a death certificate?'

Family Member: 'Sure.'

(fax number is given)

After they get the fax:

ABCD: 'Our system just isn't set up for death. I don't know what more I can do to help.'

Family Member: 'Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her. I don't think she will care.'

ABCD: 'WeII, the late fees and charges will still apply.'

Playmates,
by Tessa Darlison

Family Member: 'Would you like her new billing address?'

ABCD: 'That would help.'

Family Member: 'Plot 1234, Heaton Cemetery, Heaton Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.'

ABCD: 'But, that's a cemetery!'

Family Member: 'Well, what do you do with dead people on your planet?'

The ABCD Bank were not available for comment when a reporter from the newspaper rang them.

A beautiful night prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the lord my shape to keep,
Please no wrinkles, please no bags,
And please lift my bum before it sags.
Please no age spots
Please no grey.
And as for my belly, please take away,
Please keep me healthy,
Please keep mc young.
And thank you dear lord for all that you've done.
Amen.

Submitted by Mary Barnham

Parish Organizations
East Grinstead

Altar Society: Flowers – Margaret Pond [327002]

Catholic Women's League: meetings second Wednesday of the month, October to March: 3.00 p.m., April to September: 6.00 p.m. – Brenda Crannigan [328110]

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

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

Christian meditation group: Thursdays, 7.30 p.m., term time – Gabrielle Joyce [326118]

East Grinstead Catenian Circle – President: Phil Pentney 01342-327109 Membership: Peter Neave 01342-823909

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

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: third Wednesday of the month in the Parish Centre, East Grinstead – Ivy Pimenta [323240]

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

Parish Magazine – Klara King [321581]

Readers at Mass – Sue Wade [317246]

Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Peter Wells [811543]

Welcomers – Maribel Favor [welcomers who need an electronic copy of the rota can contact Maribel on: maribelfavor@gmail.com]

Times of Services

Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

Saturday Mass: Vigil 6:15 p.m.

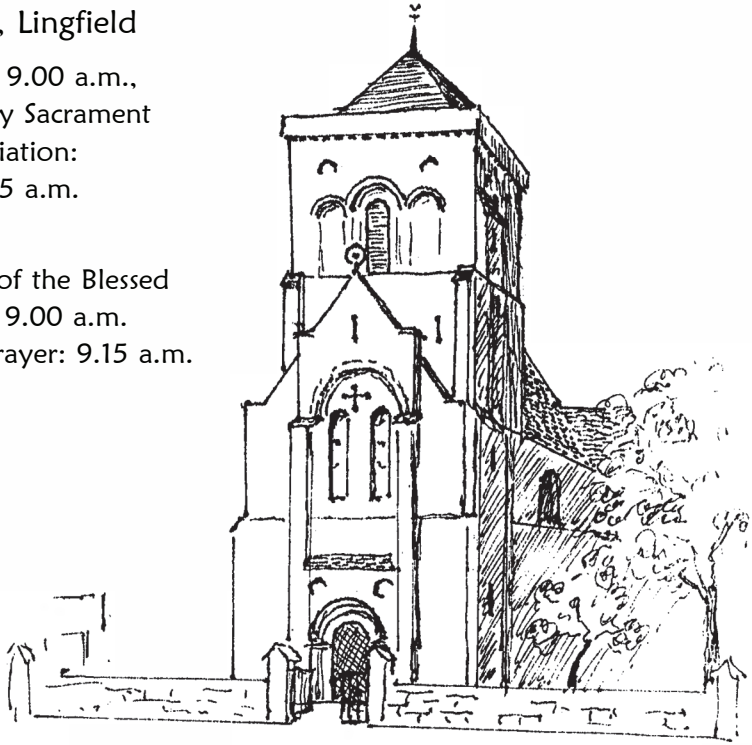
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

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.