



# Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter

East Grinstead

St Bernard

Lingfield

January, 2022

Issue 76

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

Priest in charge of the two churches

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

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](http://www.stpeterseastgrinstead.co.uk)

Headteacher:  
Mrs Mary Claffey

St Wilfrid's Catholic  
Secondary School

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

[www.stwilfrids.com](http://www.stwilfrids.com)

Headteacher:  
Mr Michael Ferry

[www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com](http://www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com)

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: [www.dabnet.org](http://www.dabnet.org)

*My Dear Friends,*

Welcome to our Parish Magazine.

As many of you will know, I became Parish Priest after Fr Steven's retirement in July 2019. There is a tendency for people to wonder, when a new priest has been appointed, about what sort of priest he will be – shy or outgoing, “progressive” or “traditionalist”, bon-viveur or abstemious – and what things will he be changing. I remember saying to the effect that I didn't plan on changing anything much for about a year. Well, after seven months, Covid struck and so much was put under lockdown. But now all the signs are that the situation is improving and it has to be right to get things moving again, in both Our Lady and St Peter and St Bernard in Lingfield. After much thought and informal chats with various individuals, it seems to me that the best way forward would be to hold a General Meeting of the church. During this the various organisations within the church can make a report of what they have been doing and how they hope things might progress. Essentially if we are going to make any progress, first we have to know just where we are and what our situation is.

Like a car journey, we need to have a clear idea where we hope to go, and we also have to make sure that the car is in good repair with sufficient fuel to take us to where we are going. This seems to define the work of two major groups within the church: the Pastoral Committee (what was essentially the “Core Group”) is about the “work” of the Church – that is, music, liturgy, catechesis, out-reach, education, peace and justice, pastoral care. Then there is the Finance Committee, concerned with finance and the physical church plant.

Over these past Covid times, the old “Core Group” has slipped into abeyance, hence the relaunch as the Pastoral Committee. The Finance Committee, on the other hand, has been doing sterling work in maintaining both the church buildings and the bank balance. I really cannot praise this group enough, as they kept things going through those difficult months when the churches were closed or were just surviving with a tiny congregation.

Another aspect that I plan to address is the social side of our church family. A number of new faces have been appearing, and it would be particularly



good for us all to get to know each other a bit better. I hope that this might just provide the springboard necessary for this to happen.

So this magazine is a prelude to the meeting, so you know what has been going on, and what has sadly declined. But Spring is now around the corner, and it is my hope and prayer that things will soon get much better.

*Father Jack Lusted*

The first issue of the Magazine came out 30 years ago, when we were still three parishes. Much has changed since then. Nine-year-old Christopher Hope's prizewinning essay heralded the arrival of "two-way communication with words and pictures using satellites" – and anticipated future communication via smellyphones and telepathy. Here's to the next 30 years!

*Klara King*

## First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2020

Twenty-two children from our Parish made their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in 2020. They began their Sacramental journey in October 2019. Their original Communion date in May had to be postponed due to our Covid restrictions. It was touch and go, but there was a window of opportunity later on in the year, and with a "wing and a prayer" we managed to celebrate their important day, albeit with quite a few restrictions.

The Masses were held at St Bernard's, where there was more ambient space; the children could only have a maximum of one bench to fit all family, with an empty bench behind. There was no singing, and our Catechists acted as stewards. There was also no mingling afterwards – so different from our usual celebrations.

Nonetheless, the atmosphere was holy and quiet, which in itself made the occasion special and unique. The feedback from our parents/carers was very positive, and our children had a joyous day, although slightly different, and one to be remembered! Our sincerest thanks must go to our First Holy Communion Catechists: Julie-Anne Dell, Victoria Dickinson, Karen O'Brien, Caroline Burgess, Ania Sikorska, Maribel Favor, Clare Bell and Mary Bellinger, who worked so hard to make this happen, together with Fr Jack, the parents/carers and their families. Please keep them and us in your prayers.

Our Lady, St Peter and St Bernard, pray for them.



*Sunday, 4 October 2020*

Scarlett Guiheen  
Oscar Jones  
Oliver Murphy  
Niamh Murphy  
Zack Noble

Archie Oates  
Camila Piggott  
Rory Prydderch  
Emilia Swarbric

*Sunday, 11 October 2020*

Joseph Bryant  
Logan Burdon  
Jasper Cassidy  
Charlie Cook  
Freddie Hodges  
Matilda Jubin  
Yann Jubin

Adam Kapitan  
Zachary Lemon  
Joshua McCarthy  
Sebastian Quinton  
Javier Cubillo Villafáfila  
Marcos Cubillo Villafáfila

The First Holy Communion Programme for the children of 2020/2021 began in November 2021, and we are hoping to conclude in May 2022, Covid permitting. Please pray for our 40+ children who will be hoping to celebrate their special day next year.

*Eileen Lyons*

## Confirmation 2021

*2021 – A year in the life of a new catechist*

I am very pleased to say that two groups of young people from the Parish were Confirmed in 2021.

Because of Covid restrictions, the Programme was slightly more concentrated than usual.

The first group of young people initially met face to face at the start of 2020, but their remaining sessions were delayed several times and eventually run on Zoom in 2021 because of Covid lockdowns and safety precautions.

(Zoom is an online program that many of us are now more familiar with because of having to use it to “meet” with others during lockdown.)

The young people are used to using Zoom for their school work. Blessedly for the Catechists, after a lot of hard work by Mike, he was able to set up and run Zoom sessions, so that we could meet with the young people and help them prepare for Confirmation.

Enabling the young people to be themselves, to have fun and to have opportunities to explore and develop their relationships with each other and with Jesus was definitely more challenging online, but the Holy Spirit can always reach those who are willing to welcome Him.

As always, meetings started and finished with prayer. Together we observed and explored Jesus’s characteristics in the gospel stories, identified and explored the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the young people and used videos and recordings from a series called *The Chosen*, sketches from another series – *Youth Alpha* – by the excellent Rise Theatre Company, plus some fun quizzes, games – and even a time when we all ate pizza together (online, and kindly provided for the young people by their parents).

With a special dispensation from Bishop Richard, Father Jack was able to Confirm the young people on Saturday 11 April, at Our Lady & St Peter’s Church.

To assist the health and safety of all, two Masses and Confirmation ceremonies were held that day with 6 young people, their families and sponsors at each.

We were so thankful to be with the young people and their families on this very special occasion.

\* \* \*

The second group of young people first met in September, and we were fortunate to be able to have face-to-face meetings, as well as a special and joyous weekend at Worth Abbey.

We were able to use lots of different activities, including games, quizzes, discussions, watching recordings, going for walks, Mass with Father Jack, chatting with Fr Peter – a monk at the Abbey – and attending the Abbey for prayer time with the monks.

Much of the feedback from the young people and their (ever supportive) parents highly valued the friendships and sense of supportive community experienced during the Programme. Many of the young people had been at primary school together, and they really loved being together but were also inclusive of those who were new to the group. The Catechists could see the gifts of the Holy Spirit active in each young person and the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their loving, respectful and caring treatment of each other. They (and we) prayed for a fresh outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation and in their lives.

This second group of young people were Confirmed at Worth Abbey by Bishop Richard on the feast day of Christ the King, Sunday 21 November 2021.

It was wonderful to be with the young people, their families and friends.

Sharing our faith with the young people preparing for Confirmation this



year has been good fun and a great privilege. I have learned a lot from them and from the other Catechists.

Thank you to all who prayed for the young people, their families and the Catechists. Please keep the young people in your prayers. They are our future Church.

*April group:* Ellerica Bronilla, Ronan Buensuceso, Michaela Bullett, Johanna Canlas, Nina Elliott, Noah Englishby-Allen, Francis Greenacre, Callum Hickey, Julie-Mae Khoo, Matty Mendoza, Clyde Red and Oscar Vaughan.

*November group:* Diya Biju, Helen Bellinger, Mary Day, Rowan Englishby-Allen, Eva Geraghty, PJ Jenkins, Tanya Sunny and Trée Manalus.

*Catechists:* Eileen Lyons, Mike Hope, Thaddeus Dell and Gabrielle Joyce.

*Gabrielle Joyce*

## The Altar Society

We are a small group of friendly and enthusiastic people who arrange the flowers for the church. We work on a rota system, individually, but come together at Christmas and Easter to ensure that the whole church is decorated.

There are collections twice a year near Christmas and Easter to cover the cost of the flowers during the year. This includes First Holy Communion and any special events such as Remembrance Sunday.

If you have a love of flowers and would like to join our merry band, we would love to hear from you. You do not require any experience as there is always someone who can guide you until you feel confident.

Please contact Anne Davies (07729 514502) for more information.

*Anne Davies*

## Lingfield Church Flowers

This is a very rewarding ministry which enhances worship in church. We are urgently seeking new volunteers to the rota. If you feel you do not have the necessary experience, please don't let this stop you. We will be more than happy to give you guidance and help. Do please give me a call.

*Geraldine Rider (EG 835110)*

## Lingfield Candlelight Rosary

7.00pm every Wednesday in St Bernard's Lady Chapel.

Our Blessed Lady has promised us that the greatest power we have in our hands to bring peace to our world and to our own lives is the Holy Rosary. Do please consider joining us.

## Music at Mass

*To all school-age children:* We would like to invite you to come along and join our Junior Band. For about the last 13 years we have had a band of school-age children who have played the music for the Children's Mass at the 10.30am Mass on a Sunday. This is usually the 2nd Sunday of the month. All standards are welcome, and the children will be given music arranged for their abilities.

There is no testing or auditions.

A short practice on Friday evening is followed by the service on Sunday. This is a wonderful way to use and improve your music skills and feel part of the parish celebrations.

If you don't play an instrument, then Liam takes volunteers to sing at this Mass in St Peter's School and we hope that this will resume shortly.

*Julian Spencer (EG 324560), Liam Bauress (EG 825035),  
& Mary O'Sullivan (EG 322959)*

## Welcoming at Mass

We are pleased to be back doing "welcoming" once restrictions eased, but we must thank all those "stewards" who made Mass possible during the dark days of lockdown. This must include all those who informally saw we needed help cleaning benches after Mass and just got stuck in!

The welcoming ministry is more important than ever, as contact between us is limited without coffee after Mass, or even a sign of peace. Our rota is now well established again, but please consider if you would like to be part of this. The duty roster is between five and seven weeks depending on the Mass you attend, so not too onerous.

*Ruth Longley & Jonathan Jenkins (Coordinators)*

## Livestreaming in Our Parish

Since November 2020, we have been livestreaming three Masses a week for the benefit of those unable to attend Mass in person. All those attending remotely are remembered with an “Act of Spiritual Communion” during the Mass.

We have also streamed many baptisms, funerals and weddings over the last 18 months and are happy to provide a record of these events on a USB stick.

Typically, we have 8 concurrent attendees at St Bernard’s and 15 at Our Lady & St Peter each ordinary Sunday. However, the number of total views is many times this after the Mass is finished. For a wedding or funeral, the numbers are quite impressive, with over 100 concurrent attending, and many more after the event.

With a shoestring budget and without hard-wired broadband, the livestreaming is not sophisticated but is generally fit for purpose. We have made sure that privacy is maintained by blurring faces (on request) and hiding videos from public view after an event. We even deal with Russian-language “bots” posting inappropriate comments!

We are grateful for the support of Fr Jack, Chris Pond and the SVP for funding the service and to Sam O’Neill for starting us off on YouTube. We are an informal team of three able to cover for each other’s absences, and this newest ministry welcomes ideas and improvements to Jonathan Jenkins at [jamjenkins64@gmail.com](mailto:jamjenkins64@gmail.com)

*Jonathan Jenkins, Jordan Devi Taylor-Robinson, & Jan Kozminski*

## The Parish Database

As lockdown hit public worship in March 2020, Fr Jack realised he had no way of contacting his flock! Paper Rolodex and past emails were only part of the solution. Working with Sam O’Neill’s online skills, we decided to do a full census of who was in the parish and at the same time make the web page easier to navigate.

With the ability to enter details online or on paper forms, we now have 334 of you registered as at January 2022 – thank you.

*Numbers:*

Our Lady & St Peter – 232 individuals or families

St Bernard – 63 individuals or families

Others – 38 individuals or families. [*“Others” might be Worth Abbey, or both churches equally. A fair number of overseas parishioners too!*]

If you are not registered, please consider doing so. We can then contact you and you can keep up to date with news. Go to [www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com](http://www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com) or look for the forms at the back of the churches.

We keep your privacy paramount, and GDPR regulations are followed. Unregistering is just as easy – but we hope you find the weekly online newsletter useful.

Contact Jonathan Jenkins at [jamjenkins64@gmail.com](mailto:jamjenkins64@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions or queries.

*Jonathan Jenkins*

## Ministry of Consolation – Supporting the Bereaved

Just before we went into lockdown in March 2020, I completed my training at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley. Commissioning by the Bishop was due to take place in the May, but because of the restrictions this had to be done via Zoom. As this Ministry was not at that time part of our Parish life, and as I had retired so had a bit more time available, I felt this was something I would like to be involved with.

On the Feast of All Souls, Fr Jack offered Mass at Our Lady & St Peter for all our family and friends who had died, especially during the pandemic. It was a welcome opportunity, with the easing of restrictions, to come together, to pray together and to support one another. Candles were blessed and lit in remembrance. Other opportunities are being explored to help with bereavement, and these will be advertised in the Newsletter in the future.

Although grieving is a natural process that can be helped by sympathy and understanding of family and friends, sometimes it can be more helpful to talk to someone who is not family or a close friend – to listen in confidence. Support from outside our Parish can also be arranged if wished.

This Ministry has been in existence in other parishes within our Diocese for some years, but it is new for our Parish, with just the one “befriender” at the moment. New members would be welcomed so, if you are interested in joining this Ministry, or wish to know more, please speak to Fr Jack or Eleanor

Johnson (EG 318185) in the first instance. It will involve some training, reading and assignments over a number of weeks at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley (formerly DABCEC).

“He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others”  
(2 Cor. 1:4).

*Eleanor Johnson*



## Crown of Thorns

*Crown of Thorns Chaplaincy Support throughout the Pandemic*

One of the primary aims of the charity Crown of Thorns is the promotion of the Holy Rosary and of devotion to Our Lady. We print and distribute several publications and prayer materials to achieve this. During the long months of the COVID-19 pandemic we have been particularly privileged to assist in supporting many of our hospital chaplains in the UK with rosary cards, rosary packs and other items to support their work in the hospital wards. These items have been for the benefit not only of the COVID-19 patients, but also for the support of the hospital staff, other patients, patient’s family members and visitors.

The provision of these simple items of devotion continues to prove to be a great comfort, and over the last twelve months hospital chaplains have returned to us time and time again for further supplies, having seen first-hand the effect that these rosary cards and rosaries can bring to those who receive them, especially for those in the very depths of exhaustion or despair. It is heartening for us to hear of all the different ways that the rosary cards have been used, and how they have benefited those who have been given one, or picked one up at the chaplaincy tables.

Apart from the hospital chaplaincies, we have also continued to receive many requests from prison chaplaincies over the last year. These chaplains have had a challenging time through the pandemic. We have done what we could to provide what items we had available for these situations, including the provision of rosary packs and small devotional booklets for the prisoners. We also had several requests for art supplies for inmates, to enable them to paint and write during long hours of lockdown.

Another area of chaplaincy that we have continued to support in similar

fashion are the chaplaincies of the sea. By supporting these chaplains ecumenically, we can enable Anglican chaplains to have items available for any Catholic seafarers on the ships that they visit.

Despite the lockdowns, we were still able to ship three large deliveries to poorer dioceses abroad. These included not only supplies for the promotion of the Holy Rosary but also many items that have been donated to the charity by parishes and individuals for redistribution, including diocesan vestments and sacramental items which are of great benefit to the local dioceses, parishes and seminaries.

We are grateful to all our donors for enabling our work through this time. Small actions carried out with love can have a huge impact on those around us. This was something reflected deeply in the words of St Mother Theresa of Calcutta when she said,

“I don’t want the work to become a business but to remain a work of love.”

We can be contacted at: Crown of Thorns, P.O. Box 49, Lingfield, Surrey, RH7 6YQ (EG 870472; email: office@crownofthorns.org.uk).

*Lisa de Quay, for Crown of Thorns*

## East Grinstead Catenian Circle

After the inevitable disruption caused by the coronavirus, in 2021 some semblance of normality returned to the activities of the East Grinstead Catenians, the local Catholic faith-based friendship group.

As with many organisations, Zoom was a lifeline that enabled members to continue to meet “virtually” throughout 2020 and the first half of 2021, when face-to-face get-togethers weren’t permitted and/or practical. While no substitute for physical socialising, the ability to “stay connected” was so important for many.

We tailored social activities accordingly. Some worked better than others, with a Beer Tasting evening by Zoom proving a particular hit (with almost 100% attendance – and no worries about having to drive afterwards!) and a couple of quizzes (which worked really well by Zoom, as everyone could hear the question master!). Other Zoom sessions were based on *Call My Bluff* and *Would I Lie to You*.



Summer 2021 saw a return to face-to-face monthly meetings and also to some outdoor social activities: a Sunday lunch in an outside (covered) area of a pub to mark the end of Paul Barrett's three years as President, the now traditional annual vineyard trip (which had also taken place in the autumn of 2020) and, in August, President's Sunday. This is always one of the year's highlights; we were very grateful to Fr Jack for saying a Mass specially for us



*President's Sunday lunch at St. Bernard's*



*President Andrew Lake hosted a dinner to celebrate the Catenians' 500th meeting. Fr. Jack and Sarah were among the guests*

at St. Bernard's, and he and Sarah joined us for a lovely barbecue afterwards in the church hall/garden.

In September we resumed indoor social events, with a tapas meal and, in October, a "coffee and cakes" lunch at the home of one of our members. The year's activities culminated in a splendid black-tie dinner to celebrate our 500th monthly meeting (since our formation in 1979). Fr Jack and Sarah were again among our guests, and the raffle raised well over £300, the beneficiary of which was the Circle President's chosen charity for the year which, this year, in recognition of the increased financial pressure on the parish during the pandemic, is the Catholic Parish of East Grinstead and Lingfield.

Assuming there is no further significant impact of the coronavirus, 2022 activities should once again include a mix of social events, including formal and informal meals, beer/wine/coffee tasting, games (such as darts, snooker, bowls and skittles), a quiz or two, a local theatre/concert visit and Christmas Carols, usually at a member's home.

### *Helping young people help others*

Are you (or do you know) a young Catholic (aged 16–24) who would like to volunteer to help others? Every year the Catenian Bursary Fund supports young Catholics from all over the world who volunteer to do something wonderful and help those less fortunate than themselves . . . across the globe. While opportunities to travel currently remain limited (e.g. on a pilgrimage to Lourdes), the Bursary Fund may be able to help you to achieve your aims. Applicants for grants from the Bursary Fund do not need to have any connection to a member of the Catenian Association, and, in normal circumstances, grants

exceed £100,000 nationally each year. Further details, including “success stories”, eligibility criteria and an online application, can be found online at [www.catenianbursary.com](http://www.catenianbursary.com).

### *Summary*

In short, the Catenian Association is a Catholic faith-based friendship group who meet socially and support each other and the wider community through fellowship, faith, family, fun and fundraising. While the members must be men (whether married or single), most social events are also open to members’ wives, families and friends. The East Grinstead Circle meets at the Dorset Arms in East Grinstead High Street on the third Monday of each month.

#### *COME AND JOIN US!*

If you are a practicing Catholic man over 21 and like 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.

To find out more, contact Andrew Lake (EG 325578) or visit our website ([www.egcats.com](http://www.egcats.com)).

*Nick Bozzini*



## **The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP, England & Wales) Our Lady and St. Peter’s**

The SVP is an international lay, Christian, voluntary organization, which seeks, in a spirit of justice and charity, to help those in need in whatever form. Initially started in Paris in 1833 by Blessed Frederic Ozanam and his companions, and active in England and Wales since 1844, within its first year it was placed under the patronage of St Vincent de Paul and was inspired by his thinking and works.

### *East Grinstead membership*

The SVP group (Conference) at Our Lady & St Peter (OLSP) was formed in 1972 and has operated in the Parish ever since, under several Presidents, now under the leadership of Peter Wells. There are currently eight active visiting members.

## *Meetings*

The Conference meets fortnightly and, because of Covid, usually on a Thursday pm at a member's house, according to the laid-down H&S conditions of the SVP and the Government. During lockdowns we met via Zoom. Our meetings not only have a simple agenda, but also take on a spiritual aspect, involving opening and closing prayers and a Spiritual Reading.

## *Nature of our work in East Grinstead*

In September 2021, Fr Jack celebrated an SVP Mass for both OLSP and St Bernard's SVP Conferences, stating that he wanted us to be responsible for the pastoral work of the Parish. So, our continuing task is to carry out the *actual* needs of the Parish and keep him informed, and this is what we try to do, with our limited resources. Our pastoral work includes visitation of elderly parishioners in their homes and or by telephone, shopping, hospital and nursing-home visits, lifts to Mass, and material and financial help from time to time. Coincidentally, a few members are also Special Ministers of Holy Communion to housebound and sick parishioners, flower arrangers, and Readers and Welcomers at Masses, and one prepares prayers for the weekly Parish Rosary.

The Parish, having two Mass centres, has for many years enjoyed two SVP groups: they complement each other, engaging in both cooperation and collaboration. At OLSP we have supported St. Bernard's magnificent fund raising, for Sudan's Baby Feeding Programme, the local Trussel Trust Food Bank and Crawley Open House; and recently OLSP's Conference has also supported the Refugees' Welcome, Crawley.

SVP started a Twinning system in the 1960s helping our neighbours abroad, and in mid-2006 the Sudan Appeal was started, which is ongoing. Currently OLSP supports an Indian Twin Parish in Kerala, Southern India, and we also support eight Indian primary school pupils.

If *you* would like to join us, please be assured that you would not be thrown in at the deep end! Every effort is made to ensure that new members are given support and encouragement and made to feel part of the SVP fraternity. It is definitely not a secret society, but one that values confidentiality and one that puts "concern into action". Also, if you know of families or anyone who need/s a visit and or material help in some way, please let us know. Covid will no doubt still adversely affect many lives and households in 2022, and so it is just as well that one of SVP's mottos is: "Any act of charity is within our remit."

*Peter Wells (07484 330899)*

# The St. Vincent de Paul Society St Bernard's

## *Report on activities 2019/2021*

In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*"When two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them."*

The last time we gave you our report was for the year 2018/19 – and what a splendid year it turned out to be for our beneficiaries.

In spite of the difficulties over the past two years, we have been active in trying, with your help, to aid the needy both at home and overseas.

Working as a Team, we started 2019/2020, as is our practice, with a clear plan of where to direct our efforts and the actions needed to achieve them.

Then BOOM! "Lock-down" made it impossible to carry out the plan. *Vacant looks all-round – now what are we going to do?*



Somebody started humming a song from the 1936 film *Swing Time*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

*"Pick yourself up, dust yourself off,  
and start all over again!"*

*Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, when confronted with apparently insurmountable, often financial, problems, was known to say:*

*"GOD WILL PROVIDE."*

*It is a matter of record that somehow the Cardinal usually proved to be correct, and so it has been with your SVP group at St Bernard's. With your consistent support, we've been able to raise record amounts to support those in greater need.*

*"GOD HAS PROVIDED"*

Thank you.

## *Report on activities*

### **Membership**

We are now a Conference of 16 people, including three auxiliaries.

In 2020 our President, Austin Bowers, decided to pass the baton to Enrique

Valles. Austin said, with a smile, "I took the job on as a temporary measure; that was 11 years ago. I'm very happy now to support Enrique who, I know, will do an excellent job as we enter our next decade."

Thank you, Austin, from all of us, we look forward to your continued participation for many years to come.

With Fr Jack's support we have been blessed to have Fr Padraig Reagan, CM, as our spiritual adviser; he is a Vincentian priest and has been a friend of our group for over 25 years. He has certainly given us wise counsel and testing spiritual questions to ponder. While now retired to Dublin to be with his community, he still sends us spiritual questions to ponder, together with his blessings.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our dear friend Keith Smith. He was a full and very active member of our Conference who, in addition to his responsibilities as Membership Secretary, which includes Safeguarding, Recruitment and Training, was always ready, with his cheerful "can do" outlook on life, to help others in any way he could. He is greatly missed by all.

### *Fundraising*

The vast majority of our fundraising is organised through events intended to create an inclusive atmosphere for parishioners from St Bernard's and increasingly from Our Lady & St Peter's. We aim to provide some entertainment in return for the purchase of a ticket. For example, the Jazz Lunch in September 2020 sold out and raised over £1,000 for the Sudan Baby Feeding Programme. The seasonal cake sales raised £450, and so it went on, with Zoom quiz contests, lunches, etc.

The new initiative of eBay sales raised over £2,000, including gift aid.

Perhaps the most surprising example of "God Providing" came from one of our Conference who said:

*"I'm not going to sit around doing nothing in 'Lock-Down'. I'm going to do a sponsored walk! I'll walk 1,000 miles in six months and raise £1,000."*

While greatly encouraged by the group to meet her targets, she is, nevertheless, 74 years of age, and, all considered, the target looked to be almost unachievable.

*We were all WRONG . . . Oh! and so was she!!*

She walked over 1,500 miles and raised over £7,000, which is already helping the needy in South Sudan.

The St Bernard's Winter Appeal for Crawley Open House is our only "by donation" event. Thanks to both St Bernard's and Our Lady & St Peter's communities, we were able to raise over £3,200: enough to provide, during 2020/21, 84 sets of waterproof sleeping bags and thermos flasks to help those sleeping in the streets through the winter, plus extra help in the form of food.

Since April 2019, with your support, we have raised £29,670.00 for the needy, at home and overseas.

## *Community*

Lock-down presented new challenges.

The SVP, being the only organised group at St Bernard's, was able to rapidly set up the necessary safeguards enabling the community to get back to church and attend Mass together. About 45% of the congregation returned.

This of course left 55% who, for many reasons, were unable to get to church. However, with the help of Our Lady & St Peter's, we were able to install "Live Streaming", and figures show that in the region of 50% of those at home have been participating in Mass via the "Live Link".

By organising a fund-raising initiative, the St Bernard's community donated sufficient to pay for the facility at a time when the parish finances are under pressure.

Similarly, our group was able to organise the replacement of the 60-year-old kneelers at St Bernard's. The congregation contributed about one third of the cost, the remainder coming equally from Parish funds and thankfully from the 100 Club.

These are all examples of group initiative, with the full participation of our St Bernard's community.

Encouraged by these actions, two new initiatives have started: tea and biscuits after Wednesday Mass, and a monthly soup and bread get-together for *anybody* who would like to attend and have a chat.

A new campaign, entitled "You Have a Friend in Lingfield", has also started to reach out to those who are lonely. We suspect there are many more, since the pandemic forced the vulnerable to self-isolate. If you wish to have or know of somebody who would like a chat or a visit, please call us (Angeline: 07889 323431; Nicky: 07941 360194; Mary: 07512 203744).

We have a lot of rewarding fun together and are looking forward to new challenges as they are presented.

Why not consider joining us – just talk to any member and perhaps come along to one of our monthly meetings. The more hands and hearts we have, the

more we can help others and in so doing strengthen our Christian community.

By “Turning Concern into Action”, we remain mindful of Fr Len Turner’s wise words:

“You can’t help everybody, but be sure to help somebody!”

### *Members*

Enrique Valles, President, Jenny Wilson, Secretary, Austin Bowers, Liam Baures, Mike Butcher, Nicky Daines, Denise Doolan, Mary Goodwin, Mike Goodwin, Zoe Jenner, Frank Lilley, Lala Micallef, Angeline Rosner, Lindsay Scott, Sarah Thilo, Mary Watson.

Further information can be found on the SVP website ([SVP.org.uk](http://SVP.org.uk)).

*Mike Goodwin*

## Catholic Women’s League

Our section was formed approximately 55 years ago to assist the parish priest and our church activities. Our priest at the time was Fr Len, whom many of you will remember, and we had about 40 members. It is a national organisation, and our section is part of the Arundel & Brighton Branch. For some years Fr Kevin Gaskin was our Branch Spiritual Director. When he left the parish, we visited him regularly at Wadhurst for Mass and lunch.

Over the years, our numbers have gone down, as with other organisations, and young people have not come forward to join or be officers. Therefore, we have regretfully come to the decision that we will have to close our section.

We have had many wonderful years of friendship and support, outings, talks and socialising with other sections. We attended the National Council, which often took place in universities in different parts of the country. We supported National topics and many local charities and had contact with local retirement homes. At one time we helped with the First Communion breakfasts. Of course, we will continue to assist in the parish where we can.

Over the lockdown we were brought into the twentieth century by having Zoom meetings and kept in touch with what was happening in CWL nationally.

We would like to thank parishioners who have supported us over the years.

*Margaret Pond & Gill O’Driscoll*



## St Peter's Catholic Primary School Governors' Report

*New Year brings new opportunities – Giving support to the parish and our young people*

Have you ever considered volunteering to support parish activities, specifically through the role of a Foundation Governor for our local Catholic primary school? If you haven't, then perhaps I can persuade you to consider this role as an opportunity to contribute to parish life.

For those new to the parish, St Peter's Catholic primary school is situated approximately 10 minutes' walk from Our Lady & St Peter, in Chapmans Lane. The school is a thriving part of our community, providing education for just over 200 pupils (Reception, Key stage 1 and Key stage 2), led by the head, Mrs Claffey. The school is committed to nurturing Christian attitudes and values by working and playing in a Catholic community based on the teachings of the Gospel and the Catholic Church.

The school's Governing Body is made up of parents, parishioners and school staff who all share the common interest of our children's education. We meet twice a term at the school (or virtually, as situations dictate), and governors also make monitoring visits during the school day. These visits are usually subject-focused and take place once or twice a term, to meet with specific teachers, speak with the children and monitor or take part in activities, such as child-led worship. One such opportunity I had in the summer term was when I joined the school for science day as the "Visiting Scientist", to be grilled by Reception, Year 5 and Year 6. Some of the questions were pretty challenging, especially from Reception!

Governors have oversight of the curriculum and the appointment of staff and are accountable for the performance of the school. We have a strategic role to play as well as acting as a critical friend to the headteacher. Training is provided through the A&B Diocesan Education Service and West Sussex County council to help us fulfil this very important role. One of the benefits of the pandemic is that most of this training is delivered on-line, so making it more convenient to access.

*Who and what is a Foundation Governor?*

Foundation Governors are drawn from the local parish. We are practising Catholics appointed by the local Bishop specifically to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school and represent the Bishop's education policy (e.g., worship and religious education) to the governing body.

There is no magic formula about what makes a perfect Foundation Governor. The governing body needs people with a mixture of skills, experience and backgrounds, and we come from all walks of life and all ages. Foundation Governors do not need to be education experts. The most effective governors listen, think and ask questions. Personally, I have enjoyed getting to grips with the role of governor, and it has given me the opportunity to use my skills and previous experience to contribute to and support the next generation's education, which is a fundamental part of our parish life.

Due to the makeup of our Governing body and rolling cycle of appointment terms (one term being usually four years, which can be renewed), we are always looking for people to join. We currently have one vacancy, and one or more are expected shortly after Easter, due to current governors coming to the end of their terms of office.

If you are interested in finding out more about what the role of Foundation Governor entails and want to support your parish and local school, please get in touch with me, Judy Hayler (jhayler@stpeterseg.co.uk) or Fr Jack.

Further details about the school can be found on our website ([www.stpeterseastgrinstead.co.uk](http://www.stpeterseastgrinstead.co.uk)).

*Judy Hayler, Chair of Governors*

## Missio (The Red Box)

Missio (formerly known as the APF, the "Association for the Propagation of the Faith") ignites God's love by helping local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Sometimes this need might be quite specific: for example, a motorbike to enable a priest to celebrate Mass in remote villages; a simple community hall so that people can gather together; maybe a vaccinations programme to protect vulnerable children. Quite simply, whatever our missionaries need to help them share the joy of the Gospel, Missio strives to provide it.

Over the years, the Red Box has been a familiar site in many homes for providing these investments: itself a home for your odd change or maybe a regular cash donation. Boxes would be collected for counting at least twice a year and their contents banked in favour of Missio in Westminster.

In recent years, the Parish could regularly count on raising in excess of £3,000 annually for the Missio cause thanks to the generosity of box holders and volunteer collectors who, if needed, would visit homes to count and collect box contents.

Of course, the pandemic of 2020/21 has had a downturn effect on revenues, this itself exacerbated by the sheer difficulty of actually accessing the red boxes. However, thanks to the perseverance of both box holders and collectors, we have still managed to gather in the order of £2,000 this past year.

One growing issue that can affect box revenues is the certain reduction of cash “flowing”, and the initiative of supplanting boxes with regular standing orders is being strongly promoted as a means of countering that. But whatever, the Red Box can still reign, and Missio will continue to strive to support our missionaries wherever funds are needed.

Can *you* take a Red Box, or complete a standing order? Thank you.

*Chris and Margaret Pond*

## Gospel of Life Group

The group was established in March 2000, as a branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), a pro-life campaigning organization. Although part of SPUC, the group also supported other pro-life charities, such as Life, which provides practical support, including housing, to vulnerable young mothers and babies. This breadth of work was recognised when in 2010 the parish Gospel of Life group was established, taking the place of the SPUC branch.

Meetings take place on a quarterly basis as a rule, ahead of Saturday evening Mass, commencing at 5.00pm in the hall at Our Lady & St Peter. They always start with prayer and consideration of a pro-life text, often from Evangelium Vitae (Gospel of Life), the encyclical letter the group takes its name from, or a relevant homily. We then move on to matters such as the upkeep of the memorial to unborn children at Mount Noddy Cemetery, fundraising, issues currently in the news, lobbying of local MPs on proposed legislation in parliament, and support for the mums and babies at the local Life house in Crawley.

After our meeting on 20 March 2020, we did not meet again until 13 December 2021, due mainly to the pandemic. Members kept in touch via

email – there was no desire to hold “Zoom” meetings or similar. During this period, we maintained what we regard as core activities: MPs were lobbied; the garden at the Crawley Life house maintained; cots donated; Christmas and Easter gifts to the Life house made; and support and encouragement given to Down’s syndrome campaigning groups.

We hope to be able to hold the cake and plants sale on 13/14 June this year – we know it has been missed. We will also put up a display at OLSP to support World Down Syndrome Day (21 March) and support the Private Members Bill, a proposed law to recognise people with Down’s syndrome as a specific minority group. It will require public authorities to provide more support to meet the specific health, education, employment, social needs of people of all ages with the condition. This should in turn help to reduce the number of Down’s babies being aborted from the current 90%+ level.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, 5 March, at 5.00pm, in the hall at OLSP. Please come along if you would like to get involved in supporting some or all of our activities. Please contact me for further information, or just turn up at the meeting.

*Les Whittaker (07502 274450; leswhittaker252@outlook.com)*

## World Day of Prayer

Two World Day of Prayer days have been celebrated since Covid began – the first in 2020 about Slovenia, and the second, delayed until 3 September 2021, was prepared by the women of Vanuatu with the theme “*Build on a strong Foundation*”. The next event will be at Trinity Methodist Church on Friday 4 March at 10.30am and 7.30pm and has been prepared by the Christian Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme “*I know the plans I have for you*”. This verse from Jeremiah symbolises hope and reflects the plight of the exiled people of Israel who were longing to return to their homeland.

As they were preparing the World Day of Prayer for 2022, the organisers decided to think of different forms of “exile” in our own countries. Three voices – Lina, Natalie and Emily – tell their personal stories of how God’s plans for them have worked out in unexpected ways: plans that have brought freedom, justice and God’s peace. Candles will be used as a symbol of light shining through the darkness, and seeds as a symbol of God’s hope. Seven

candles will be lit during the service – one for each of the seven regions of the World Day of Prayer family.

Do come along and support the World Day of Prayer. There will be refreshments and a Fairtrade stall as the service falls in Fairtrade Fortnight.

*Anne Spencer & Susan Joy*



**CARE** In East Grinstead  
and Lingfield  
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 800348

## Care in East Grinstead and Lingfield

“CARE in East Grinstead and Lingfield” is a charity founded in 1988 by the churches in East Grinstead, Lingfield and Dormansland; 33 years later, we still work very closely with volunteers from churches in our area to provide transport services, helping mainly – but not exclusively – older members of our community who are unable to organise transport for medical appointments at doctors’ surgeries, hospitals or dentists. We also assist some of our clients with shopping and provide a telephone befriending service. Full details of the services provided by CARE can be found on our website ([www.careineastgrinstead.co.uk](http://www.careineastgrinstead.co.uk)).

In 2019 CARE was selected as recipient of a Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour a voluntary group can receive, equivalent to the MBE, given for exceptional work done by volunteer groups in their communities.

CARE is operated 100% by volunteer drivers, duty officers and trustees. We have an excellent band of volunteers who have maintained the service throughout the whole of the Covid pandemic.

Unfortunately, as with many volunteer operations, our members are mostly of an older age, and some have now decided to step down, so we are keen to recruit new drivers. If anyone feels they would like to give back to the community by giving a little of their time, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Volunteer drivers can give as little as doing one job a week, and they can choose whether to drive only in the local area, or opt for longer distances, to East Surrey and Haywards Heath, or even to Brighton, Guildford or London. All expenses are covered. Volunteers are DBS checked to comply with our insurance requirements.

Mike Hope, recruited from the Our Lady & St Peter’s community during the pandemic, told us that he is very impressed by how well the organisation operates and that he likes the flexibility of when and how often he can do his

volunteer driving – so much better than having to commit in advance to a regular, specific time or day. He has been struck by how much more helpful and reassuring it is to those needing lifts to and from medical appointments to be taken by a CARE driver rather than arranging taxis, particularly for the return trip.

As Chairman of CARE, I can assure you that meeting and driving our clients can be a very rewarding experience. I have to say, I find the driving side of CARE the most satisfying part of my duties.

Here are some comments we have received from clients in recent weeks:

—Thank you all at CARE for your kindness, support and help over the past few years.”

—“Please thank the delightful volunteer who took me to the Horder Centre. You are all so nice!”

—“Thank you to all the volunteers who have taken me to my appointments recently. I simply would not have been able to get to the hospitals without your help.”

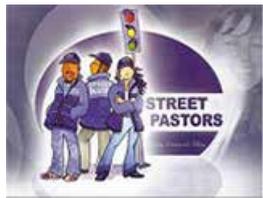
—“Words cannot express my appreciation for all you do.”

If you feel you could give some of your time as a volunteer driver for CARE, please call Care on EG 410086 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm) and leave your details with one of the Duty Officers, or email the Volunteer Manager direct (volmanager@careineastgrinstead.co.uk).

\* \* \*

We would like to wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Mike Breen, Chairman of CARE in East Grinstead & Lingfield;  
Valeria Martinelli, Treasurer and Church Rep for Our Lady & St Peter’s*



## East Grinstead Street Pastors

East Grinstead Street Pastors (EGSP) are a group of trained volunteers from five local Christian churches who patrol the streets and parks of central East Grinstead in teams of three or four, to provide a friendly, trustworthy, caring, listening, and helping presence in the town. We do this for those out in East Grinstead on a Saturday night and, at the suggestion of the local secondary schools, in daytime on afternoons at the end of terms and half-terms, when

more young people are often gathering around King Georges Field, Mount Noddy and East Court. We are supported in prayer by a group of Prayer Pastors who pray for what we do. A group of these Prayer Pastors receive texts from us while we are patrolling, asking them for prayer for specific incidents, or people in difficulty, that we are encountering in the town. It is remarkably heart-warming to know that we are supported by prayers in this way whilst trying to help situations we are encountering on the streets.

Over the last two years we suspended our patrolling when the pubs etc. were closed during virus lockdowns. People tended not to be gathering in the town so much at these times, understandably, so there was much less need for our services. However, we resumed patrolling once the pubs and restaurants opened and the people were back out on the streets, whilst taking care both to try and avoid catching the virus and not to be spreaders of it ourselves!

Sadly, we haven't been able to patrol as often as we would like recently, due to a shortage of Street Pastors. Our new recruits have been fewer than the number of existing Street Pastors who have moved away or retired after many years' service. From our parish, Jonathan Jenkins and I are current Street Pastors. Beverley Lake has retired as a Street Pastor after many years' very valuable service, for which she is warmly thanked. She continues as one of several Prayer Pastors in the parish.

You will be pleased to know that we are not "Bible thumping" on the streets! We focus on caring, helping and listening – trying to show "love for our neighbour" in the town. If people ask us why we are doing it for no pay, we often explain we are a team of trained volunteers from several local churches who want to help make our town a safer place and to help people on the streets who are vulnerable or in difficulty. We are a local charity, which is part of the national Street Pastor Charity. Most people we chat to on the streets are very positive towards us.

It was an honour to be chosen by EG Mayor, Councillor Danny Favor, as one of his three Mayoral Charities two years ago, and we value the encouragement we receive from the EG Town Council. The Sussex Police are also very supportive of our efforts.

We need new Street Pastors to enable us to patrol more often, for which good training is given. Some may prefer only to do the daytime patrols at the ends of school terms, avoiding the Saturday night patrols, and that would be fine. We are also seeking additional Prayer Pastors. If you are willing to find out more about what's involved, please contact me ([eastgrinstead@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:eastgrinstead@streetpastors.org.uk)).

*Mike Hope, Secretary, EGSP Charity*

## Tribute to Gordon Townsend

I can't let this edition of the Parish Magazine go by without a personal reflection of Gordon Townsend, who passed away on 23 December 2021 at the age of 95. He was a long-time friend of mine, and an SVP colleague, whom I first met in 1975. In fact, he was a founder member of the SVP group at Our Lady & St. Peter's in 1972, and its Treasurer for a few years.



His profession, as most parishioners know, was a Vet, and a well-connected and respected one at that. Many a time he would say he was off to London to several Veterinary Colleges, to give lectures and advice. In contrast, his own cat seemed to rule the roost, waking him at 5am each morning, demanding breakfast and wanting to go out!

In more recent years, he was not one for attending SVP meetings, but when asked to accompany me, he readily accepted visiting a particular beneficiary every Monday, for at least 15 years. He loved fish and chips, and after taking just chips to share with the person being visited, he would inevitably ask me to stop at the Fish Shop, to buy his supper! I asked him what his cholesterol level was, and he said 2.5, to my amazement! – so what's the secret? Well, doing 10 kilometres a day on his exercise bike, and having an immaculate garden! One day, after visiting – at the age of 88, I might add – just as he was getting out of my car, he said, "My halo feels too heavy! I think I will have to commit a small sin and lighten it up a bit!" I said, "Be careful, Gordon, any sin at your age could be fatal!"



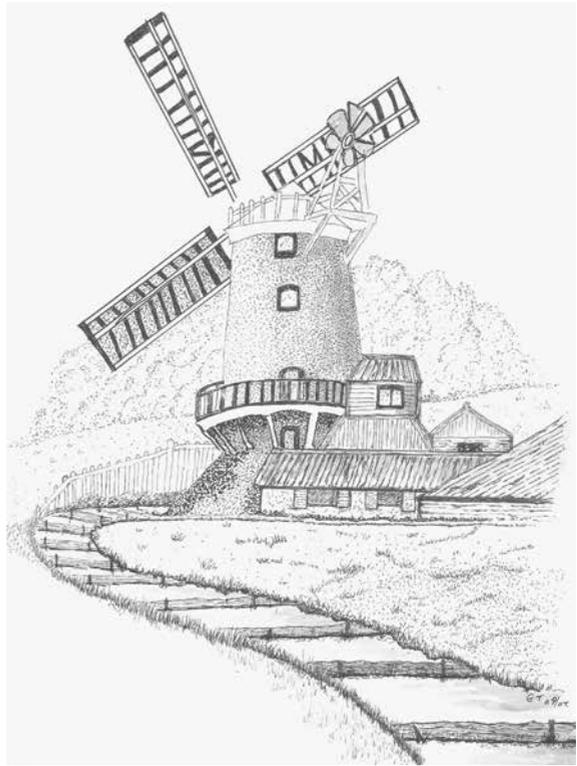
*Gordon's drawing of  
his cat Tigger*

He had been living on his own, having lost his beloved wife, Jean, many years previously and also his son in an accident, so he was very brave in that regard. He was much loved by his family away from East Grinstead, of whom he was immensely proud, and often spoke of the achievements of his son, Chris, and grandsons.

He, as an SVP member, was also a keen supporter of the Lunch Club, run by Ivy Pimenta, and for many years rolled up his sleeves and



Two drawings –  
Church (top); Mill (right) –  
by Gordon as a member of  
the Parish Art Club



took charge of the washing up, which he coveted strongly, and nobody could relieve him of that task! – Eventually he allowed me the honour of taking up that duty, on his behalf of course!

Thank you, Gordon, for your friendship, example and inspiration, and membership of the SVP. If anyone is currently knocking on St. Peter's door to let him in, it is you!

God Bless and don't forget to pray for us all.

*Peter Wells*

### *The Monastery*

We travelled some distance from the Volga  
Past tumbledown cottages, small windows  
Covered inside with sacking to guard  
Against the bitter winter to come.

The endless forest gave way to our  
Destination where, alighting we  
Followed the guide into a courtyard  
Overgrown with weeds and tussock grass.

The grey white buildings lay silent  
Around us brooding on the past  
No bird sang as we entered the cloisters  
Where footsteps echoed from wall to wall.

The eerie silence caused us to whisper  
For monks dwelling here were long gone  
Banished to exercise their faith elsewhere  
A stew pond lay stagnant in their memory.

In the chapel a few young men, dark clad  
Were gathered to sing for us and as they  
Broke silence with the most beautiful sound  
Deep Russian voices told of times past.

We bought their music in a trance  
And in that moment, that precious moment  
Knew that God could not be exiled  
For on that day he was never far away..

© *David Tas, November 2020*

## Parish Finance Committee

In Canon Law, the Parish Finance Committee supports the Parish Priest in all Parish finance matters.

We set out below in outline our financial position, and this will be detailed at our forthcoming Parish AGM.

We have an extensive property portfolio consisting of two churches, two church halls, a presbytery, Fr Jack's Parish Office, and two houses owned by the Parish. In addition, we are also responsible for the management and maintenance of the grounds and gardens, hedgerows and fencing on the boundaries of all of these properties.

We are now trying to get all the properties into acceptable/safe condition, and this has/will continue to require significant expenditure over the next few years.

A good example of this is the work that has taken place on Our Lady & St Peter's Church over the last three years, costing in the order of £360,000. We have been lucky that we could fund this from the Parish Reserve created from the proceeds of the sale of our former church in Forest Row. However, it is foreseen that our required expenditure over the next few years will continue to be above our Parish's normal level of annual income. It is therefore anticipated that our remaining Parish Reserve of now £200,000 will have a finite life and that we will need to appeal to parishioners to help with Parish expenditure in the near future.

In 2021 our income was in the order of £142,000, and our Parish operational expenditure was in the order of £107,000.

In addition, our property expenditure was in the order of £97,000. So, in summary, we spent about £62,000 more than our income coming from our Parish Reserve.

We will outline our future plans at the forthcoming AGM.

Extensive work has taken place over the last few years, and recent work has included:

### *Our Lady and St Peter*

*Church:* The Major Tower & Refurbishment Project completed in December 2021. It included stripping and replacement of defective render on the Church Tower, refurbishment of the Church Bell, installation of new steel access steps within the belfry to the tower roof, refurbishment of oak louvres, repairs to roofs and high/low guttering; internally, full church decoration with a new LED lighting system, automated doors with wheelchair access, sacristy WC

refurbishment including a new unisex WC suite & assisted WC in the Church Hall. Also, repairs to the north and south transept roofs.

*Church hall:* Structural survey undertaken with repairs in progress and planned.

*Father Jack's office:* Full conversion of the store room to a professional working office for Father Jack.

### **St Bernard**

*Church:* Extensive repairs to the church roof to help contain problems with leaks. Precast window frame repairs.

*Presbytery:* General improvements to house and garage.

*Two houses:* Ongoing updating and maintenance work.

*Paul Barrett*

## **The Parish 100 Club**

The Parish 100 Club was launched in 2001 by the then Parish Social Committee. The intention at the time was to create it as a 200 Club, but this membership level could not be achieved, and "100" became the compromise title, with a ceiling membership of the 125 achieved at that time.

The main objective of the 100 Club has always been to raise funds in support of special (say, "one-off") projects in the Parish. Ideally, they would be investments that would benefit the community while easing the spend of normal Parish income. However, to a degree the imposition of the pandemic has caused some variation here, with the club now meeting the majority share of the expense of producing the weekly Parish newsletter, which it is quite happy to do.

To give some examples of Parish 100 Club contributions in recent years:

- ▶ most recently, a contribution of £1,080 towards the supply of new kneelers at St Bernard's
- ▶ provision of £2,000 for a new carpet in the sanctuary at Our Lady & St Peter's
- ▶ a contribution of £1,600 (50%) towards the tile re-carpeting of St Bernard's hall area.

And there have been a variety of smaller donations made in support of such confraternities as the Altar Society and building committee to help ease costs.

Membership of the Parish 100 Club costs £20 per annum, payable by standing order. Each month there is a draw for £90, to be won across three prizes of £50, £25 and £15. A bonus is added each December of a second equal-opportunities draw. Winner results are always published in the weekly newsletter.

Thanking our present membership core for their loyalty, new members are always welcome . . . just speak to organiser, Chris Pond.

*Chris Pond*

## Justice and Peace Group

Our ecumenical Justice and Peace Group has continued to meet by Zoom over the last 18 months and is still fully engaged with many issues of social justice. Members of our Group work as volunteers on the EG Foodbank, Refugee Welcome Crawley, the Chaplaincy at HMP Lewes, as well raising funds for a variety of local charities and causes, writing to our MPs and sending letters on behalf of Prisoners of Conscience. Sleep Outs took place in gardens rather than on the streets of East Grinstead, and, amazingly, parishioners from all local churches sponsored Group members to the tune of £2,600 in 2020 and £3,367 in 2021. Thank you, everybody, for your support. As usual, funds were split between Crawley Open House, the Easter Team and Turning Tides – all helping homeless and marginalised people in our local area. What was more difficult was collecting the regular donations of tinned and packet food, sleeping bags etc. because of churches being closed and also because COH had Covid. However, boxes are back in our churches now and donations are being delivered – tinned and packet food welcome and new underwear and socks, but no other clothes and bedding at present. If you have bedding and/or blankets, the Salvation Army shop in Tonbridge will take them.

EG Foodbank has been particularly busy during Covid and has managed to keep going in difficult circumstances – thank again for your support in donating food either at Sainsbury's or Waitrose or dropping it off directly to the Jubilee Centre. St Peter's School took part in both Harvest events and the Summer Holiday family bag scheme. Refugee Welcome Group (RWC) volunteers have been equally busy because of the increase in refugees arriving from around the world, including Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq. Two Afghan families helped by the UK Government to exit Kabul have been settled locally (with more in the pipeline), and there has been a need to supply warm clothes to those who arrive on our shores by other means – some 1,200, housed

in hotels close to Gatwick. The 20 Syrian families living locally have been helped by RWC by Zoom with English lessons for adults, support for children with homework, and help with many problems of grappling to live in a new country and culture.

The Love in a Box scheme went ahead in both 2020 (162) and 2021 (189) and was supported by our churches, Moat Church, St Swithun's, St Peter's School, and St Peter and Paul in Lingfield – again, a huge thank you.

Thanks also to Nick Castiglione for organising the Autumn Charity events at local restaurants: a good time was had by all. £2,830 was raised, with donations of £526 each going to COH, EG Foodbank, EG and District Mental Health Association, Prison Fellowship Crawley, and Young Epilepsy, and £200 to Friends of Ashdown Forest.

Small donations were also made to Crawley Prison Fellowship for its Angel Tree project, Turning Tides, and Refugee Welcome Crawley.

EG Justice and Peace Group meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm by Zoom.

*Susan Joy*

## East Grinstead Foodbank

In these unprecedented times, we continue to be busy supporting clients living in East Grinstead and the surrounding villages, from Withyam to Worth and South Godstone to Balcombe. Clients are referred to us by local GPs, schools, churches and support agencies. Food, gas and electricity is becoming more expensive. and with changes to Universal Credit, we anticipate that demand will increase in the coming months.

We've now been open just over 3,250 days – December 2022 will mark our tenth year of operation, and in that period we have fed over 13,900 clients. We typically help over 200 clients per month. In addition to the regular food packs we give out, we also collect for, and distribute, school Easter and Summer holiday bags with a more widely nominated Christmas bags campaign – last year we prepared some 216 double bags – a time lapse of the 2021 bag pack is on our website on the News page.

Recently, in partnership with Meridian 107 FM, our local radio station, we have now set up a joint van share scheme to make it easier to move food around, as some of our clients cannot physically get to the foodbank to collect.

After eight months of work, we have also set up a Fuel Bank in association

with The Fuel Bank Foundation and CAP the Debt advisory service, so that we can offer top-ups of Gas and Electricity for pre-pay meters.

We are planning to create space for refrigeration and freezer equipment to enable us to offer fresh fruit and vegetables and pre-cooked frozen ready meals from the Stone Quarry Community Fridge, with whom we are closely linked.

Most importantly, we simply could not continue to do what we wish we didn't have to, without the amazing generosity from the public, with approximately 750kg of food being donated every week. Thank you!

More details are on our website at [eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk](http://eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk), on Facebook [foodbankEG](https://www.facebook.com/foodbankEG), or on Twitter [@FoodbankEG](https://twitter.com/FoodbankEG) accounts.

With thanks again to you all,

*Mike Barlow, Manager, East Grinstead Foodbank*

## Fairtrade

### The Churches of Our Lady & St Peter, East Grinstead and St Bernard, Lingfield



Our Churches and many others are registered as Fairtrade with the Fairtrade Foundation UK Faith Group, which includes churches, mosques and synagogues. Other organisations may also be registered Fairtrade, such as universities and colleges, schools, youth groups, towns and villages, local authorities, the All-Party Parliamentary group.

Fairtrade is a simple way to make a difference to the lives of the people who grow the things we love. We do this by making trade fair. Farmers and growers receive a fair payment for their goods and a premium (extra payment) for their community to decide democratically how to spend it for their benefit.

It is a system of certification that aims to ensure that a set of standards are met in the production and supply of a product or ingredient for farmers and workers. Fairtrade means workers' rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality and ethically produced products.

"What does the Lord require of us? To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6.8) is the principle for Faith Groups.

On registration of a Place of Worship, we agree to use:

- ▶ Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and share this information with the congregation.

- ▶ Celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight (this year, 21 February to 6 March 2022) and integrate Fairtrade into our place of worship, for instance with sermons, services and events.

We should engage with other Fairtrade campaigns and connect with community groups, such as towns, where possible.

Fairtrade Foundation UK ([www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)) is part of Fairtrade International, which works in 22 countries around the world.

*Margaret Pond & Margaret Vasey*

## CAFOD

Both churches are fully supportive of CAFOD's uplifting programme of work that has risen to new heights during the pandemic, helping the poorest and most vulnerable around the world. Congratulations to CAFOD, who celebrate their 60th birthday in 2022. CAFOD was set up by a team of volunteers from the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM), the Catholic Women's League (CWL), and the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW) – a group of dedicated and visionary women whose legacy has been remarkable. Throughout the year ahead, it will be marking 60 years of volunteering to make the world more just.

Thank you for your generous contributions to Family Fast Days during 2020 and 2021. The next one will be on Friday 11 March, with envelopes being collected on Sunday 13 March: the story is of a young girl from Sierra Leone and highlights the plight of many children suffering from malnutrition – some 200 million around the world. The climate change crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic and unequal distribution of food mean extreme hunger is getting worse. Pope Francis calls us to live differently – to live simply and with love for our sisters and brothers. He says:

*“We can chose to cultivate kindness. Those who do so become stars shining in the midst of darkness.”*

£850 was raised in Lent 2021 by a dedicated team of walkers for CAFOD's work, and in Lent 2022 we are hopeful that a Group can come together again in our parishes to walk together, reflecting on the injustice of hunger, whilst being sponsored and enjoying being together as a community.

CAFOD reps and parishioners from Our Lady & St Peter's, together with members of other churches, met online with Mims Davies, MP for Mid Sussex,

to discuss Government policy on the COP 26 meeting in November 2021 and the climate change crisis, the ending of unjust debts for the world's poorest countries, and the need for holding businesses accountable. Sadly, despite great efforts, a meeting with the MP for East Surrey, Claire Coutinho, did not take place. There were many disappointing outcomes from COP 26, but there is a need to keep fighting for the world's poorest people who are affected the most.

Lastly, the Parish CAFOD Christmas project raised £200, which will give vulnerable women and children the security of a house to live in and land to farm. The gift of legal support helps women to stand up for their rights and stops widows from losing their homes.

*Rosalind Turner, Jan Beaumont, Chris and Margaret Vasey, & Susan Joy*

## Charity Feasts

*with East Grinstead Justice and Peace Group*

In November 2021, charity feasts were held to raise funds for local charities. Some of the charities had their representatives at the dinners to explain why their individual charities are so important within the community. Altogether, £3,000 was raised from the dinner costs, miscellaneous donations and raffle and auction prizes, with the money being split between the chosen charities.

This coming spring, five local restaurants will be hosting the charity feasts. There will be a three-course meal for £20 per head, of which £6 will go to the charities; all the money from the raffle and auction will also go straight to the charities. There will be live music on certain nights. The six charities benefitting include Crawley Open House, The East Grinstead Foodbank, Crawley Prison Fellowship, Young Epilepsy, Friends of Ashdown Forest and East Grinstead and District Mental Health Association. The meals organised for this spring are as follows:

1. *Paglia e Fieno* (EG 328713) – Italian food: Wednesday, 20 April, lunchtime
2. *Tarana* (EG 832222) – Indian food: Monday 25th April, evening
3. *The Crab & Beacon* (EG 326359) – English food: Tuesday 10 May, evening
4. *The Dorset Arms* (EG 316363) – English food: Tuesday 17 May, evening
5. *Gurkha at the Woodcock Inn* (EG 325325) – Nepalese food: Monday 23 May, evening

Why not get some of your friends and associates together closer to the time, and all go out and have a good time: a good opportunity to see others and for others to get to know people from the churches in the town – and, of course, to keep raising money for local charities. Please arrive at 6.30pm for a 7pm start at all restaurants (12 noon for 12.30pm start for lunchtime feast).

For more information or any questions, ring Nicolas Castiglione (07737 368804).

*Nicolas Castiglione (nick@wealdenmarketing.co.uk)*

## Crawley Open House

*St Bernard's and Our Lady & St Peter's can and do make a difference*

As many will know, the Crawley Open House is the main refuge for the homeless in the wider Crawley area.

The term “homeless” is so easily equated to those who live on the street. But it is far more – it is a state of near hopelessness, when a person is at the point of losing everything: no job, no place to rest your head, no address where people can find you; friends and family have lost contact. No address also means, no benefits to support yourself. In short, you are alone and feel helpless.



The main goal of the Open House is to help people return to a productive and stable life. This is in addition to the immediate help they give, by offering a bed for the night (they have 28 beds, always full), a hot meal and somewhere warm and friendly to meet during the day.

Interestingly, their success can be measured by the fact that residents are usually able to move on with their lives within about three months.

To help equip their clients for more job opportunities, Open House opened a brand-new Resource Centre, in December 2021.

In their own words:

**“We believe that Crawley Open House is uniquely positioned to run this new project. We have a track record locally, and most of the prospective workshop-users know and trust us already. We always work collaboratively and have many great corporate and community friends locally who will**

**help us make it a success.** We expect many local agencies to refer clients to the project – including the police, probation, social services, Mental Health teams and the DWP.”



While they have raised the funding to build the centre – circa £500,000 – they are short of funds to equip it fully. To help answer this need, the SVP groups at Our Lady & St Peter’s and St Bernard’s clubbed together and funded the purchase of four high-spec laptops to equip the new computer training suite.

In this day and age, a person with computer skills will have a vastly greater opportunity of employment and hence a way back to a normal productive life: just another example of how each of us, whether it be by donation, weekly food supplies or the Winter Appeal for sleeping bags, etc. can very directly impact the lives of those so close to our own homes who need help to rebuild their lives.

*Mike Goodwin*

### *Transition*

Awake one spring morning  
The trees took my eye at dawning  
Newborn leaves so fresh and green  
Swayed gently in the breeze  
So much sail caused branches  
To bend in measured rhythm  
Just as seaweed moves slowly  
In the salt filled currents  
So the trees in sweet scented air  
Express the heartbeat of another year.

Looking upward to the sky  
I see a circling speck  
Unidentified, curiously high  
Could this be a soul?  
Taking leave of all below

A last lingering look at loss  
Knowing somewhere would be gain  
No control over the pain  
Of seeking the other world  
The loved ones lost  
This transition never in vain  
Such joy at arrival there  
A familiar face  
A proffered hand  
A smile  
"Come join us now  
And walk a while  
Into eternity."

© David Tas, May 2021

## St Catherine's Hospice

### *Confessions of a Hospice Chaplain during the Corona Crisis*

*Lisa Rainier is Chaplain and Lead for Spiritual Support at St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley. Here she shares what it's been like working on the front line supporting local terminally ill people and their families.*



Early on, I joined my local neighbourhood isolation support group, purchased seed to grow my own vegetables, thought I would read the Hilary Mantel novels on my bookshelves, get fitter with Joe Wicks, run further, rescue a few people and generally be a cross between a hero and an angel.

*Later on, any kind of hero status or angelic ambition was seriously compromised by the reality:* I was unable to concentrate for long enough to read anything, physically hauling my increasingly heavy body out of bed for a short run round the park took Herculean effort, and I wrestled with run-rage (why is it always me who has to give way on the path and go into the undergrowth?). I also had to accept that I couldn't do much extra for my neighbours because it took me so long to shop for me and mine.

There have been too many male humans in my house, and the churlish chore-wars are getting me down. I sorely miss my alone time on retreat and my going-out time with girlfriends, and I'm sad that my mother-in-law with Alzheimer's will no longer recognise me if, or when, I do see her again.

Being "only human" at St Catherine's Hospice has got to me too: I have felt my own anxieties in caring for people with COVID-19 and wearied at the challenges of communication: with patients through plastic PPE, with relatives whilst maintaining social distance, with colleagues internally and externally, variously and vicariously via Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp, Vsee and Lifesize. And oh, how I have missed the support of many of my in-the-flesh colleague-friends who are currently furloughed or working from home.

*But, being human at the hospice in this time has also been precious:* with fewer meetings to attend and less time taken up with travelling and training, I have had longer to listen, to hear and honour life stories, and more opportunities to stand in the gap when a patient's own priest or minister has not been able to be present; special moments have been the sharing of communion and the privilege of planning and conducting intimate and meaningful committals with the closest family of those who have died.

In and through all of this has come the realisation that even when a mask muffles some of your words, the hand you offer is clothed in a glove, and the calm in your voice is only heard over the phone, compassion can still be communicated, and what we are still able to do is to remind and reassure our fellow humans that we are still here for them: they are not alone.

\* \* \*

St Catherine's Hospice provides end-of-life care and support to terminally ill people and their families across Crawley, Horsham, East Surrey and Mid Sussex. To make a donation to support St Catherine's Hospice and help Lisa and her colleagues continue to provide care and support when it is needed most, please visit our website ([www.stch.org.uk/donate](http://www.stch.org.uk/donate)).

*submitted by Laura Mitchell, St Catherine's Hospice*

## Parish Organizations East Grinstead

Altar Society – Church Flowers: Anne Davies [01342 311226; gran51@btinternet.com]

CAFOD:

OL&StP: Sue Joy (01342 835190; susanjoy471@hotmail.com);  
Rosalind Turner (079466 41366); Jan Beaumont (07927 494341)

St Bernard: Chris and Margaret Vasey (01342 834436; cjvasey@aol.com)

Catechists: Leader, Eileen Lyons (Sacramental Programmes) (07769 317256; elyons55@icloud.com)

Crown of Thorns: Lisa de Quay [01342 870472; www.crownofthorns.org.uk]

East Grinstead Catenian Circle: President, Andrew Lake [01342 325578; andrewlake@sky.com]

Fair Trade:

OL&StP: Sue Joy [01342 835190; susanjoy471@hotmail.com]

St Bernard: Chris and Margaret Vasey (01342 834436; cjvasey@aol.com)

Friends of St Peter's Catholic Primary Schol: Tracy Germain [admin@friendsofstpeters.co.uk; school: 01342 321985]

Gift Aid Secretary: Frank Lilley [01342 321987; frank@thelilleys.plus.com]

Gospel of Life Group: Les Whittaker [01342 315484; leswhittaker252@outlook.com]

Justice and Peace Group: Sue Joy [01342 835190 ; susanjoy471@hotmail.com]

Missio (The Red Box): Chris and Margaret Pond (01342 327002; cjp\_mrp@hotmail.com)

Music Ministry: Director of Music, Liam Bauress [01342 825035; liambauress@me.com]

*New singers and players almost always welcome*

Parish Finance Committee: Chair, Paul Barrett [01342 870058; paulmbarrett@yahoo.co.uk]

Parish 100 Club: Chris Pond [01342 327002; cjp\_mrp@hotmail.co]

Parish Magazine: Klara King [01342 321581; klara.m.king@comcrafts.co.uk]

Reading Ministry: Sue Wade [01342 317246; farthings23@outlook.com]

Rosary Group: Les Whittaker [01342 315484; leswhittaker252@outlook.com]

Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP):

OL&StP: Peter Wells (07484330899; peterwells120@gmail.com)

St Bernard: Enrique Valles (07824098276; valles.clan@outlook.com)

Safeguarding Officer: Janette Pentney [01342 327109; pjpentney@btinternet.com]

Welcoming and Communications/Streaming: Jonathan Jenkins [07974 179647; jamjenkins64@gmail.com]

## Times of Services

### Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

*Saturday Mass* Vigil: 6.15 pm

*Sunday Mass* 10.30 am\*

*Monday and Thursday* Exposition: 9.00 am;  
Mass: 9.30 am

*Friday* Angelus and Mass: 12 noon  
The Holy Rosary: 12.30 pm

*Holy Days of Obligation* Vigil; 8 pm evening before  
the feast; on the day 9.30 am

*Sacrament of Reconciliation* Saturday, 10.30 to 11 am,  
and 5.30 to 6 pm, and on request

### St Bernard, Lingfield

*Sunday Mass* 9.00 am,\*  
preceded by Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
8.30 to 8.45 am

*Wednesday Mass* 3.00 pm

\* Livestreaming: [www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com](http://www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com)

