



Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter

East Grinstead

St Bernard

Lingfield

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

Parish Priest

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Annual report

I think it is fair to say that the last couple of years have been very challenging as a direct result of the Covid lockdowns and the various restrictions that we were obliged to comply with.

The new year was badly affected by various variants of the virus, but by Easter it was noticeable that the congregations were returning.

During September/October the attendance at Mass was recorded. This averaged at 261 across the three Sunday services, compared to 187 in 2021 and 144 in 2020. Pre-Covid (2019) the average was 333. Certainly by the end of the year attendance at the 10:30 Mass was looking very healthy, although the numbers for the two other Masses continue to be lower.

Over the year 27 children were baptised; 4 couples were married, with a further 3 couples from the parish being married overseas; 20 funerals were conducted.

Essentially this year marks a return to “normal”, albeit a different normal to that of pre-Covid. There are still some well-known figures who have not returned for one reason or another. I sincerely hope that they might return again, but such was the fear created by the media that it is understandable that some are still reluctant to venture into church. Others are simply now more frail.

The SVP does good work in visiting the various members of the church who cannot attend, through age and frailty.

In all, I look hopefully to a further increase in numbers in 2023, a number of parish events and a deepening of our spiritual lives.

May I also take this opportunity to thank everybody for their help and support. This is a truly marvellous parish to work in!

Father Jack Lusted, Parish Priest

Milestones, 2022

Baptisms

Our Lady & St Peter

16 January	Tadhg Stephen Richard Card
13 February	Isabelle Rose Benson
13 March	Rafael Santiago Townsend Villar
3 April	Daisy Diana Allison
3 April	Maeva Louise Allison
10 April	Enzo Mark Leppard
27 April	Sophie Avery Rivera
19 June	Theo Hunter Francis Denton
9 July	James Mark Western
17 July	Ky Samuel Low-Foon
31 July	Stella Maletta Rozak
6 August	Isabella Mary Piggott
4 September	Charlotte Georgia Crowe
25 September	Anaya Neill Somerset Stack
2 October	Kathleen Perpetual Rebelo
16 October	Samuel Edward McCarthy
16 October	Grace Florence McCarthy
16 October	Robin Michael McCarthy
30 October	Myles Damian James Orr
6 November	Aaron Lee Mattin
13 November	Erin Lucia Cussen-Holliday
18 December	Mila Razia Zehe

St Bernard

1 May	Miles Leonard Carrol
15 May	Amelia Isabella Cusano
22 May	Rhys John Perkins
22 May	Emily Rose Everitt
12 June	Albie Michael Flanagan

Receptions

Our Lady & St Peter

24 September Philip Keith Holland

Holy Matrimony

Our Lady & St Peter

2 September Harry Kenward &, Lauren Whiteside

19 November Aaron Mattin &, Noemi Szuromi

St Bernard

13 May Mark Fitzgerald & Anna-Marie Elizabeth Mandryk

Funerals

Our Lady & St Peter

7 January Elizabeth Mary Margaret Butler

27 January Gordon Harold Townsend

3 February Shelagh Southwell

16 February Christopher John McCrory

17 February Amanda Ruth Pattenden

16 May Maureen Christine Mardell

2 May Marjorie Wilton Pett

13 June Gemma-Louise Di-Lella

5 August Peter Maurice Hubert

7 September Enza Mustard

12 September Michael Delaney

23 September Anthonia Dawadu Swanston

28 October Cesare Gualtieri

28 November Anthony Joseph Hagerty

30 November Myra Ann Payne

15 December Erwin Punay Generosa

St Bernard

17 January Tonino Di-Giandomenico

8 February Jeffrey Richard Maynard

30 June Rosemarie Anna Johanna Matilde Cade

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2022

We had a bumper year in 2022 for children making their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion – 43 in total! This was due to combining two year groups as the Covid pandemic made it impossible to start any children on their sacramental journey the previous year.

The two Masses took place at St. Bernard's again, as when plans were put in place it was still uncertain what the situation would be. We felt very blessed to enjoy a return to a "typical" First Holy Communion Day, with readings from parents, enthusiastic singing, a full church and plenty of opportunities for photos, including in the beautiful garden. The children were wonderful.

Thank you to all the First Holy Communion catechists who guided the children and their families on this very special journey: Mary Bellinger, Julie Anne Dell, Victoria Dickinson, Maribel Favor, Ania Sikorska and Shannon Weight. A very special thank you to Eileen Lyons. This was her final year as a Communion catechist, and we are so grateful to her for the many years of dedication she has given to the parish, children and their families in this role. Please continue to keep the catechists and children in your prayers.

Group 1

Samuel Adams, Cecilia Berkshire, Oliver Clavecilla, Milo Germain, Olivia Koter, Catalina Malsem-Cela, Jessica Nash, Jack Norman, Jude Nightingale, Oliver 'Sullivan, Christian Quinton, Julianne Red, Matilda Saunders, Alexander Smykla, Joseph Teon, Aiden Joseph, Elodie Bruin, Austin Joseph, Victoria Juszynska, Lillian Juszynska.

Group 2

Mabel Barrow, Cecilia Berkshire, Adam Bizukovicz, Larysa Chalet, Olivia Chavaris, Gregory Dacosta, Isaac Dell, Sebastian Dell, Liberty Dongray, Jacob Elmer, Edward Garvey, Patrick Hawkins, Charlie Hughes, Harry Knight, Dominic Kromalicki, Ariana Latella, Ruby Mae Oates, Natasha Petruska, Lily Pitcairn-Gomez, Alexander Smykla, Sebastian Szarzynski, Zachary Turban, Dehlen Weight.

Julie-Ann Dell

Confirmation 2022

The Parish of East Grinstead and Lingfield were very blessed once again with our young people who were Confirmed. They engaged wholeheartedly in our programme and were happy to receive this Sacrament as their own decision in response to their baptism into the Catholic Church. They are a credit to themselves and to their families.

The Confirmation Programme included sessions with our Catechists at both churches and a weekend away at Worth Abbey, where we explored our faith and were inspired by our surroundings. We managed to book it in spite of Covid restrictions and thank the monks and staff at Worth Abbey for their support and encouragement each year to our young people. Our young people really respond to being together and find it a positive spiritual experience in such a special and sacred setting – and they tell us it's good fun too!

Thus it was with great joy that Julia Botton, Archie Dell, Noah Germain, Ailsa Joseph, Emilio Malsem-Cela, Katrina Mutimba, Nathan Peacock and Callum Pullen received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, 14 July at The Friary in Crawley. Once again, we had to adjust to the circumstances



of Covid and of Worth Abbey not being available due to refurbishment. Nevertheless, we all rose to the occasion. Bishop Richard, sadly, could not attend due to having Covid himself, but our Fr Jack presided over the Sacrament with Fr Alban (Horley), Fr Paul (Worth Abbey), Fr Raymond (the Friary, Crawley), and Deacon Kinal (who is the grandfather of one of our young people).

We do ask you to pray for the young people and their families, and, as one of the themes of our Confirmation is John 10:10, we pray that with Jesus “they will have life, and have it to the full”.

As usual our young people conducted themselves with great dignity, partaking in the Liturgy, reading, singing and responding with great maturity. It was with joy that we were able to have music back again in church with members of our choir from Our Lady and St Peter and our organist Liam who played and sang with much joy and enhanced the evening. Thank you Liam, Eleanor and Patricia.

We would like to thank our parish family who have dedicated themselves to pray for our young people and support them through the Programme. Please keep our Catechists in your prayers with Fr Jack, Mike Hope, Gabrielle Joyce, Thaddeus Dell and Eileen Lyons, and also our new Catechist, Terry O’Neill.

Eileen Lyons

Children’s Liturgy at Our Lady and St Peter

Children’s Liturgy had not been offered since pre-Covid, so it was decided to run three trial sessions during October, November and December 2022. These proved to be successful and well supported, with between 15 and 19 children attending each time. We listened to The Gospel reading and enjoyed craft activities.

Children’s Liturgy will continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Sunday of each month. At the moment we have four leaders, Becky, Cat, Jordan and Sarah. With more volunteers we may be able to offer this ministry twice a month. If you are interested in helping (on a rota basis) or have any other questions, please speak to any one of us or email us (jordandevitaylor@gmail.com).

Sarah Lusted

Adoration, Holy Hour St Bernard's, Lingfield

Wednesdays 7:30–8:30 pm

Come and spend some quiet time with Jesus.

Prayers, Rosary, gentle worship music, Silence.

Come lift up to the Lord your family, friends and our parish community.

“It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the beloved Disciple, and to feel the infinite love present in His Heart. . . . How can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in Spiritual converse, in silent adoration, in heart-felt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament.” [St John Paul II]

Mary Watson (EG 870358)

Nicola Daines (EG 836344)

Prayer Ministry team

A new Bidding Prayer team and a new opportunity for having prayers said for you.

There is lots of prayer going on in our church communities, both private prayer by people in their everyday lives, and collective prayer by several people together. Examples of our collective prayer include in the Mass and Sacraments, prayer by our various parish groups – for example, as they start and finish their activities/meetings – and prayers at our Rosary and Adoration groups at Our Lady and St Peter (OLSP), and at St Bernard's.

Prayer of the Faithful

The “Prayer of the Faithful” or “Bidding Prayers” just after the Creed at Mass are a very familiar form of our collective prayer. What may be less well known is that our weekend Bidding Prayers at OLSP have been written by Sue Wade for about the last 20 years, and at St Bernard's by Deacon Ted Rider for many, many years (though not quite as many as Sue, we think!).

Following Sue's decision to step down from this prayer ministry and Deacon Ted reducing his Deacon-related tasks, a new Group has been assembled to prepare our Bidding Prayers.

So, firstly, let us give a huge “thank you” to Sue Wade and Deacon Ted Rider for their dedicated and prayerful (literally!) service over so many years.

The new Bidding Prayer Ministry team comprises: Nicky Daines and Mary Watson from St Bernard’s; and Sue Faulkner, Gabrielle Joyce and Eileen Lyons from Our Lady and St Peter, with Mike Hope of the Parish Pastoral Council helping as a facilitator – plus Fr Jack, of course.

Nicky, Mary, Sue, Gabrielle and Eileen take it in turns to write the prayers for one calendar month each. In addition to spending time in prayer before writing these prayers, they use a range of resources to support them in this process. These include material from: CAFOD, Caritas, Missio, Columban Fathers, Bishop’s weekly message, Diocesan Directory and website, Pope Francis communications, and previous prayers written by Sue Wade. Requests for prayers are also included, for example, for First Holy Communion and Confirmation groups, and we are pleased to receive such requests for appropriate local and national matters to be included (though there isn’t always space). The bidding prayers are sent to Fr Jack on a Saturday, and he includes any late additions.

We would like to receive requests for those who are suffering in any way so that we can include them in these weekly Bidding Prayers. Details of who to contact are in the weekly parish newsletter, under “Bidding prayers for those who are sick”. If you are requesting prayers, for someone other than yourself, we do ask that you have first gained their permission for their name to be mentioned.

New parish prayer network

At a meeting of the prayer ministry team with Fr Jack in January, it was decided to broaden parish prayer life by developing a parish prayer network, to facilitate more private prayer in addition to the public Bidding Prayers, etc. One of the things many of us do in our private prayers is to ask God for His help in particular situations that we, or those we love or care about, are currently encountering. This new prayer network provides a means of asking fellow parishioners also to pray for these intentions, if/when you would like that. It is hoped this will encourage requests for prayers for personal intentions, small as well as big, from more people in the parish.

So, how does this prayer network work?

Anyone who would like prayers said for their intention can simply ask the prayer ministry team coordinator, who will pass on the request to the people in the parish prayer network by email or phone. (The coordinator is

checked for safeguarding purposes according to Diocesan guidelines, and will fully respect people's privacy wishes.) Phone and email contact details for the coordinator, currently Sue Faulkner, are in the parish newsletter under "Request private prayer". Prayers for your intention will be said privately by the members of the prayer network, and your name will not be mentioned in public, neither will your intention. If you wished to be prayed for anonymously or to keep your intention private, that is fine too. Only the information *you* want the prayer network people to know about will be passed on to them by the coordinator who receives the prayer request from you.

The people in the prayer network say their prayers for that intention in their own home and at a time that suits them. The overall result is lots of people praying collectively for the same intention. This coordinated prayer at home also means that housebound parishioners can participate fully in this shared prayer ministry, even though they can't get to church – an important extra contribution to the collective prayer life of the parish.

This type of prayer network operates in many other churches and, with encouragement from Fr Jack, is now available across our parish community of St Bernard's and OLSP, to anyone who would like prayers said for their intentions.

As well as inviting your prayer requests, the team ask for your prayers, particularly for the development of this parish prayer network.

Mike Hope
Prayer Ministry Team member

Welcoming at Our Lady and St Peter

Welcoming is now completely back to normal, and we are grateful to you for being part of the team. This is a vital "front-line" service, often the first people visitors, new parishioners and the shy will meet in our Churches.

We usually try to be at the church 40 minutes before Mass, making sure the heaters are working, the lights are on, the candles ready for your devotions and a myriad of other little things that make the church a place of welcome and solace.

Please consider if you would like to be part of this important ministry. The duty roster is between 5 and 7 weeks depending on the Mass you attend, so not too onerous.

Ruth Longley & Jonathan Jenkins (Coordinators)

Reading Ministry

I took over responsibility for the readers' rota from Sue Wade in May 2022, and I wanted to acknowledge Sue's efforts in coordinating this ministry for so many years. OLSP currently has a group of 24 regular readers (12 for each Mass). The rota is published three times per year, and each reader reads approximately every six weeks. There are separate signup sheets for Christmas, Palm Sunday and the Easter period. If you are interested in becoming a reader, then please get in touch for more details. In the meantime, please feel free to sign up for any of the Easter Masses. The paper signup sheets will be available at the back of the church from the middle of Lent.

Judy Hayler (judyfhayler@yahoo.com)

Altar Society

Our Lady and St Peter

Thanks to the relaxation of the Covid restriction guidelines, it has been wonderful to be back in church. My team of 7 ladies are responsible for the flowers arranged around the altars. We work on a rota system, one person being responsible, on a two-week turnaround.

We were all present for the Easter and Christmas decorating and the church looked beautiful, with white and yellow flowers for Easter and red and gold for Christmas.

We were very grateful for the generosity of the parish with the collections we had at Easter and Christmas, and this helped, not only for the purchase of the flowers for those feasts, but also for the rest of the year. As with everything else, the cost of flowers has noticeably increased.

With expense of the flowers, together with the recycling recommendations, we are including artificial flowers into some of the arrangements and using bio-degradable Oasis.

If anyone would like to use our services for either weddings or funerals, please contact Anne Davies for more information. Or indeed, if you would like to join our team, we would love to hear from you. Some of us are not getting any younger!!

Anne Davies

Flowers at St Bernard's

The flowers at Christmas at St Bernard's was a great display of light, with green foliage and white lilies and carnations. A joy to behold!!!

We have a new team, with six members, and they take responsibility for the flowers for a month at a time. In theory they are responsible for the flowers twice a year—so what is there not to like and want to be part of that “A” team! On special high events of the liturgical calendar, we all work together to create a festive display worthy of the occasion. The beauty of this is, you can express your own personality in your arrangements for the whole of the month! To stay in touch and update each other, we have our own WhatsApp group. Come and join us and see if we could make it once a year!

Angeline Rosner



Music Team

As of January 2023, the good news is that all the music groups are back in operation at Our Lady and Saint Peter. Three new enthusiastic cantors have joined the Senior Choir. The Folk group, the recorder, guitar and piano combo, and the Junior Band, consisting of recorder, flute and string quartet, returned quite early last year, and we were all waiting for the triumphant return of the Junior Choir. It finally happened in November with the very professional support of their Class Six teacher, Fionnuala Quinlan. Likewise, their engaging Key Stage 2 Carol Service cum Nativity Play on the 8th of December 2022 saw a packed church of parents and family after a three-year Covid break.

All the music groups have been helping introduce a new Mass setting, beginning last Autumn. Called optimistically the Anniversary Mass, we hope it can be used for the Mass with the Bishop in October 2023, celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the founding of Our Lady and St Peter.

The SVP Charity events, held at Saint Bernard's, involving the whole parish and beyond, resumed in April 2022 with a tribute to singer-songwriters Elton John and Billy Joel, followed by a guitar-duo recital in June.

A major new development was the Saint Bernard's Carol Service, on the 22nd of December 2022. It featured all the parish cantors including singers from Saint Peter and Paul's. There were mince pies and mulled wine aplenty in the interval. The congregation/audience at these events was very generous in donating to the National SVP Baby Feeding Programme in Sudan. The Carol Service singers were unanimous in wanting to stage another carol service in December 2023. In the meantime, the same group – let's call them the Lingfield Schola – are preparing a concert of Holy Week music to be held at Saint Bernard's on the 2nd of April, Palm Sunday at 3.00 p.m. Please mark it in your diaries. It will, again, be an unticketed charity event, and besides a huge helping of gorgeous music taking us chronologically through Holy Week, there will be our iconic Cream Tea during the interval. Scruples about indulging during Lent? No problem – Sundays aren't part of Lent!

Later in the year, Saint Bernard's might host a cello and/or a piano-duet recital. Stay tuned!

Do get in touch with me if you have a suggestion for a future charity concert.

Liam Bauress [liambauress@me.com]

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 10.30 a.m. 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. I cannot remember when we last had a new player of primary-school age come and join us. We have one new player in the last year who plays recorder and who has been regularly playing with us.

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.

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



The Friends of St Peter's

Charity number 1103332

Hello from the new pta!

After 4 very eventful years of cake sales, fairs, discos and film nights, not to mention a pandemic and home-schooling, Chair and Vice Chair Tracy Germain and Saskia Levitt have decided to hang up their PTA boots and hand the reins over to a new team! Back in October 2022 we held our annual AGM and a new team was voted in (see below).



Carly Davis
CHAIRMAN



Bella Timbrell
VICE CHAIR



Natalie Kellas
TREASURER



Cat Claffey
SECRETARY

FUNDRAISING NEWS

It goes without saying that all our fundraising couldn't happen without the support of all the parents/grandparents and friends of the pupils at St Peter's! The last few years have been quite a challenge but thanks to the flexibility and generosity, we have had some great events and activities:

TOP 5 EARNERS 2022-2023

#1 Summer Fair	£1,692
#2 Xmas raffles	£1,071
#3 Autumn Disco	£777
#4 Santa Run	£493
#5 Break the Rules	£405

These figures reflect totals after expenditure

THE SCHOOL'S WISHLIST

Every year, Mrs Claffey and Miss Coster have a list of items that the PTA raise money for or contribute to. In the past, we have helped fund the outdoor play equipment, new books for the library, the online learning technology during the pandemic and more recently a new range of phonics books. This year, the money we raise will go towards the next stage of phonics books, outdoor instruments and other bills associated with the current economic climate.

DIARY DATES

- 23/02 Fancy dress/children books donations
- 24/02 World Book Day Character Costumes Exchange, after school.
- 02/03 World Book Day Book Exchange
- 06/02 Krispy Kreme Doughnuts pre-order deadline.
- 10/03 Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale (pre-orders collection).
- 02/07 Summer Fair

★ ★ ★ The Little friends ★ ★ ★

THE FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S

We're delighted to announce that we have a new team of mini-PTA members, who are our eyes and ears on the ground. They are crucial in info gathering and ensuring the events and activities we put on are relevant to them and are enjoyed by all.



WE'RE ON INSTAGRAM

We hope to use it to share the latest news, events and flyers. Do give us a follow @thefriendsofstpetersseg
Please note, no pictures of children will be posted.

PTA GOALS Our fundraising this year will not only go towards the School's wishlist but we also have a list of our own! Here are some of the things we'd like to use the money towards: • School events – like the fair, Santa Run • A new storage shed or fix the existing one • Event equipment, lighting, candy floss maker etc • Contributions to school trips and clubs.

If you would like to join is or find out more about the PTA, do get in touch simply by emailing admin@friendsofstpeters.co.uk

Carly Davis (Chair)

Rosary Group at Our Lady and St Peter

The Rosary Group was established in November 2017 to provide an opportunity for parishioners to pray the Rosary together in church and to generally encourage participation in the devotion. We were inspired by the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, in particular Our Lady's instruction that we should all pray the Rosary on a regular basis, for peace in the world.

We meet on Fridays. This year Adoration has been restored from 11.00 a.m. and Rosary follows on at 12 noon. Participants are free to join Adoration at a time to suit themselves, or simply just attend Rosary. We follow the usual structure of the Rosary, using the booklet published by Crown of Thorns, adding brief meditations and prayers as a way of helping us connect with each of the 20 mysteries in a more profound way. This is all produced in a weekly Rosary Document prepared by Peter Wells and emailed out to participants a couple of days beforehand – copies are pinned to the church notice board, so do take a look.

In recent months we have also offered streaming of the Rosary, which has been appreciated by those unable to attend Our Lady and St Peter in person.

If you would like to attend, please simply come along or contact me. You will get a warm welcome. It's a great way of getting to know some of the other parishioners if you are new to the parish.

Les Whittaker 07502 274450 (leswhittaker252@outlook.com)

Ministry of Consolation: supporting the bereaved

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others." [2 Cor. 1:4]

The Ministry of Consolation has now been active at Our Lady and St Peter for the last six months with the introduction of a monthly Bereavement Support Cafe in the Parish Centre. Forthcoming dates are displayed on our noticeboard at the front of the Church (near the baptismal font) and in the weekly Parish Newsletter. If you know someone who may find comfort at the cafe, or if you are suffering through bereavement yourself or any other

kind of loss, a warm welcome awaits. No one will mind if you cry, no one will mind if you wish to sit quietly on your own drinking your coffee. The support will take the form you wish it to.

Grieving is a natural process that can be helped by sympathy and understanding of family and friends, but sometimes it can be helpful to talk to someone who is not family or a close friend. The Parish has two “befrienders” who can offer such support – to listen in confidence. However, if you would feel more comfortable speaking to someone from outside the Parish, then this can also be arranged.

On the Feast of All Souls, Fr Jack offered Mass at Our Lady and St Peter for all our family and friends who had died. It was an opportunity to come together, to pray together and to support one another, with candles being lit in remembrance.

New members to this Ministry would be most welcome, so if you are interested, or wish to know more, please speak to Fr Jack in the first instance. It will involve some training, reading and assignments over a number of weeks, either at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley (formerly DABCEC) or via Zoom.

Sue Faulkner, Eleanor Johnson

Love came first, by Donna Ashworth

You don't move on after loss, but you must move *with*. You must shake hands with grief, welcome her in, for she lives with you now. Pull her a chair at the table and offer her comfort. She is not the monster you first thought her to be. She is *love*. And she will walk with you now, stay with you now, *peacefully*. If you let her. And on the days when your anger is high, remember why she came, remember who she represents. Remember. Grief came to you my friend because love came first. **Love came first.**

submitted by Eileen Lyons

Livestreaming in our Parish

We are now into our third year of livestreaming of two Masses a week for the benefit of those unable to attend Mass in person. We also livestream the Rosary on a Friday afternoon too. Put together on a shoestring budget, it has served its purpose well.

Baptisms, funerals and weddings over the last year have been regularly streamed, and we are happy to provide a record of these events on a USB stick. Note, we will not stream a special service by default: we need your explicit permission to stream – so please ask.

Typically, we have 10 *concurrent* attendees at St Bernard's and 8 at OLSP each ordinary Sunday, down on 2021 numbers – and that is as it should be. With Mass attendance at both churches returning to pre-pandemic levels, we cater for those who really cannot attend safely – and you are most welcome. There are now 205 subscribers to our YouTube channel: thank you for your support.

Many of you will have noticed that the current 4G signal can get choppy and the video resolution drops off. This year we are expecting the installation of proper fibre broadband at both churches – it will help.

Another improvement for this year is a standalone recording system for concerts and performances. These will be done using a high-resolution iPhone camera with external stereo speakers. The current system cannot do the artistes justice.

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. Ideas and improvements please to Jonathan Jenkins (jamjenkins64@gmail.com).

Jonathan Jenkins & Jordan Devi Taylor-Robinson

Sunday refreshments at Our Lady and St Peter

On Sunday the 23rd of October 2022, we were once again able to enjoy teas and coffees after the 10.30 a.m. Mass, served in the parish centre. It took several requests from Fr Jack for willing volunteers, before Chris Pond was able to organise a rota. We now have a rota of 14 volunteers who work in pairs to provide the weekly refreshments.

The refreshments team have been delighted with the number of parishioners who come to the hall after Mass on a Sunday to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat with old and new friends. Numbers seem to be increasing weekly, and if you have not yet stayed after Mass for refreshments, we urge you to please give it a try; you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

Decaffeinated tea and coffee are readily available for those who prefer not

to have caffeine, and there is squash for the children. Some weeks there are homemade cakes as well as the usual plentiful supply of biscuits.

The hall has recently been redecorated and is now a warm and welcoming environment to enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea after Mass.

It is a very good way to get to know other members of our parish and to feel part of our parish family.

We look forward to welcoming you.

The Refreshments Team

Parish Finance Committee

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

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.

In 2022 our income has continued to recover well from the Covid effect and was in the order of £167k (Offertory £101k, Gift Aid £23k, Other Income £43k) and our Parish operational expenditure was in the order of £117k.

Market conditions and issues with contractor availability through shortage of tradespeople have restricted the progress of our property plans, resulting in an expenditure of £54k.

So, in summary we spent about £4k more than our income.

We will give more details on our finances and an outline our future property plans including St Bernard's Church at the forthcoming AGM.

Paul Barrett

St Bernard's Forum, Lingfield

First of all I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to Deacon Ted (Rider) and his wife Geraldine for the huge amount of work and dedication that they have given to St Bernard's church for many years. Up until the pandemic,

they, and several other parishioners from St Bernard's, were key in keeping the church going. We thank you for your hard, enduring, dedicated work, and wish you all the best for the future.

Following the pandemic, Father Jack then decided to create the "St Bernard's Forum" to agree a way forward for the local day-to-day running of the church. We have had two meetings, at which roles and jobs were identified (e.g., sacristy, maintenance, hall bookings, flowers, monthly soup, gardens, music, etc.), and people agreed to take on specific responsibilities for such necessary tasks.

While clearly Fr Jack has ultimate responsibility for all matters spiritual and practical, he cannot do it all. Equally, no one parishioner can/should take predominant responsibility. So this gave rise to the concept which, to borrow Gaudi's concept for the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona (and who presumably borrowed it from Abraham Lincoln's address to his country), St Bernard's should develop into a church **"Of the people, For the people, By the people"**.

A community is as strong as the involvement of those in it. By attending the Forum we show our support and interest in "our" Community and to Fr Jack. So please come along when you can. It is already becoming a Forum where we can discuss, debate and learn about our common interests. The group also felt that ideally, no one person should take on more than one or two tasks. This way, whatever any one person does is not too onerous, and can be sustained. When finalised, the evolving list of roles, and who holds responsibility for given tasks, will be pinned on the noticeboard in St Bernard's so that parishioners know who to talk to if they have something they want to discuss. So, if you feel able to help/participate, please contact Enrique (07824 098276).

We meet every two months at St Bernard's Hall, Vicarage Rd, Lingfield, RH7 6EZ. Future meetings for 2023 are on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. as follows:

21 February

18 April

20 June

22 August

24 October

19 December

So, do come to the meetings, do get involved, do volunteer to contribute in whatever way you can – make a positive difference.

Enrique Valles

Lourdes pilgrimage

After a break of two years due to Covid, Our Lady and St Peter and St Bernard's was able to assist six parish members to participate in the 2022 Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes last Summer. Thanks to our small accumulated Parish Fund, four young people went as Red Shirts, one parishioner was an Assisted Pilgrim and one attended as a Hotel Chaplain. The Fund benefitted from the savings made during the 2020 and 2021 Lenten periods when special boxes were filled and returned by individual Parishioners. Thank for your support. Further information about the Pilgrimage may be found at www.abdiocese.org/lourdes or the Pilgrimage Office (01293 651147). Every year Confirmation candidates are encouraged to apply as Redshirts and Helpers as part of their Confirmation programme, but anyone from the Parish can apply as Helpers, Nurses and Doctors or as Assisted Pilgrims. The 2023 Pilgrimage applications may be made now – it will be held from 27 July until 4 August.

Sue Joy

Gospel of Life Group

“God, for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works (Psalm 139) – I thank you. We thank you. We thank you for all our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable; for the joy of our sisters and brothers who have a disability, and live bringing wonder and joy to those around them.”
[Bishop John Sherrington – March for Life Homily, 3 September 2022]

During 2022 we returned to our usual activities, post-pandemic, but over us was the huge cloud of knowing that that the ten-millionth baby under the 1967 Abortion Act would have their life ended. That total was reached on the 23rd of September.

The ten-million total is equivalent to 500 abortions a day. To mark the reaching of this terrible total, the group oversaw the praying of 500 rosaries at Walsingham, each for the soul of a baby lost to abortion. This task was completed on the 6th of August, the day of the Pro-Life Pilgrimage at the shrine. In addition, 500 sets of rosary beads, sourced from the parish-based organisation Crown of Thorns, were handed out on that day, in sets of 25. They were given to pilgrims who had undertaken to pass them on to

individuals and groups wherever they lived in the country, with a view to promoting the praying of the Rosary and pro-life message.

Getting on to our usual activities, we:

- » Continued with our support of Down's organisations in an attempt to reduce the very high abortion rate, including promotion of Down's Syndrome Awareness Week in March.
- » Held a cake and plant sale in June, which raised £250 for the Down Syndrome Association and helped stock the Crawley Life House garden, using unsold plants.
- » Helped the Crawley Life House by maintaining the garden; donating a set of baby scales; donating 6 garden chairs; donating a hedge trimmer; giving Easter cards and eggs to Mums and babies: donating a Christmas tree and seasonal treats.
- » Raised objections against numerous attempts to liberalise abortion law in the UK.
- » Maintained the Memorial to Unborn Children at Mount Noddy Cemetery
- » Continued to be guided by prayer and meditation using text from Pope John Paul II's Encyclical Letter *Evangelium Vitae* (Gospel of Life) and various homilies from pro-life events, like the one from Bishop Sherrington above.

We will carry on similar work in 2023. It will, though, be my last year as leader of the group – my commitments have grown outside the parish, which makes it difficult for me to continue. It is hoped that a parishioner will come forward to take over the role – please do get in touch if you are interested.

Les Whittaker (07502 274450 / EG 315484)



Crown of Thorns "Mission of Hope"

It is extraordinary to see what a difference a simple card can make and how much hope it can bring to those in dark places. For Crown of Thorns, a charity working to give hope through the simplicity of the understanding of the faith, cards are at the very centre of the work.

The promotion of the Holy Rosary has been the main principle of

the charity, and the rosary cards produced have travelled far and wide, supporting the work of priests, chaplains and religious in dioceses across many countries and situations.

Crown of Thorns rosary cards, rosary packs, reconciliation cards, along with items donated through the generosity of parishes and individuals, support the work of priests and chaplains in a multitude of circumstances and continue to reach out to comfort and console the downtrodden, the imprisoned, the sick and those at sea.

We have 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 rosary packs and small devotional booklets for the prisoners.

The effect of these cards has been remarkable. A prison chaplain recently wrote:

“If you walked around the prison you would find many cells on every landing with your leaflets on the wall . . . it really and truly changes the atmosphere of the whole place in a very, very powerful way. I can’t describe the difference it makes!”

Another chaplain wrote:

“I want to say a big thank you for the items you have provided me with for use at our prison.

These will all go a long way in helping to bring Christ to the lives of our prisoners and I know it will bring a sense of comfort to them too. Even having a small picture on the wall helps them stay focused on what is really important in such a noisy, uncomfortable and sometimes volatile environment. I am so grateful for all that you have provided.”

From a Seafarers chaplain:

“The box of items arrived in beautiful condition and I took some to the ships today. They are really appreciated.”

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 U.K. 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.

From a chaplaincy in a secure mental health unit:

“I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge ‘Thank you’ to Crown of Thorns for the continued support for the ministry of the Chaplaincy Team. The items which you send us make a real difference to both our staff and patients. It is greatly appreciated.”

Shipments

Even through lockdowns, we were still able to send deliveries to poorer dioceses abroad. These not only included 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 have concentrated on smaller but more concentrated consignments over this period. All shipments have been safely delivered and most gratefully received. Destination dioceses were Oyo in Nigeria and Harare Archdiocese in Zimbabwe.

Priest support

The day-to-day running of the charity puts us into contact with people in all kinds of situations. This includes clergy who for one reason or another need a helping hand. It is essential that priests can access the help they may need at the very earliest opportunity. We are grateful to all professionals who have volunteered their time and expertise.

Our team and supporters

Crown of Thorns relies on experienced personnel giving their time free of charge to carry out the work of the charity. We are grateful also to all specialist professionals who have given of their time so generously. For our general work and printing costs we rely on donations, where possible utilizing Gift Aid. All donations to the charity are used in their entirety for the work in hand.

It is only through the generosity of our supporters that this work is possible. 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.”

It seems many years ago now that a small parcel arrived with our post. It enclosed a woven stole bearing a simple message that touched us deeply. It simply read: “Crown of Thorns – Mission of Hope”.

Registered Charity No. 1042751. We can be contacted at: Crown of Thorns, P.O. Box 49, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6YQ (EG 870472; office@crownofthorns.org.uk).

*Lisa de Quay
for Crown of Thorns (www.crownofthorns.org.uk)*



The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

The SVP at Our Lady and St Peter

Our SVP group at OLSP is still going strong, meeting alternate Thursday afternoons in the Parish Hall, when it is available. The Conference still comprises 8 committed members (don't say it!) or, I should rather say, very keen members who can't wait to come together at the next meeting in the spirit of friendship and good humour! – perhaps it is something to do with the cup of tea and biscuits!

Seriously, we managed to visit or contact 24 Parishioners over the Christmas period with Christmas cards, gifts and vouchers. We are fortunate in having in our midst 4 Special Ministers of Holy Communion, who regularly take out The Blessed Sacrament to housebound and sick Parishioners. Two of our recipients died recently, and were undoubtedly comforted by visits with Holy Communion before their passing. It is good that we are in constant contact with Fr Jack in the event of the need for the last rites.

Members are also involved with other parish Ministries, including: The Friday Rosary, Altar Society/Flower Arranging, Ministry of Consolation, Parish Pastoral Committee, Mass Reader and Mass Welcomers.

It is essential that we continually focus our attention on the *actual* needs of the Parish, and the Community; for example, we have been able to help fund certificated English classes for local Ukrainian people, who would otherwise find it difficult to pass job interviews. We have also supported the local Trussell Trust Foodbank with goods, and the Refugee Welcome Group in

Crawley and Crawley Open House. For many years, we have supported a Twin Conference in Trivandrum, Kerala, India, who in turn, support their local community with various projects. We acknowledge that the SVP is the first line of approach, and sometimes it is necessary to signpost elsewhere.

We work closely with our colleagues at St. Bernard's SVP, who have started Soup Lunches on the last Saturday of each month, and we offer lifts for our Parishioners in East Grinstead to those events, including Anointing Masses.

Whilst all of our members are retired and we are currently able to meet during the day, we do not wish to be regarded as a closed group, but to welcome new members. Just ask yourself: am I caring and compassionate? – am I a good listener and able to keep confidences? am I respectful and non-judgmental? - and can I spare some time each week? Thank you.

Peter Wells [07484 330899]

The SVP at St Bernard's

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."

Report on activities 2021/2022

Well, a year of many unexpected changes both at home and overseas. War in Europe, high inflation, supply disruption to the process of trade.

Inevitably the ranks of those already in need grow disproportionately as economic pressures increase.

The children we support in South Sudan live with civil war and, increasingly, shortages of food and medical help.

The number of UK Homeless now stands at 307,000 in this the sixth largest economy in the World, and we see ever-increasing queues at foodbanks, which, far from being short-term facilities, have now become a necessity in our society.

Activities

Thanks to your unselfish support, the SVP group at St Bernard's has been able to give support not only to our children in South Sudan but increasingly to the homeless and the needy at home.

In the year to March 2022, £16,642 including gift aid was raised.

We wish to record our thanks to our fellow District SVP Conferences, particularly at Our Lady and St Peter, both for their help financially and for their encouragement.

Distribution of funds

South Sudan

The aim is to keep people alive in the hope of better times.

£9,200 provided food, sufficient to feed 63 children for 1 year. In the first 9 months of the year 2022/23 a further 52 children have been fed.

The following are examples of our conscious decision to increase help for the needy at home.

Crawley Open House for the homeless

Its aim is to help people regain their place in society

- » Our annual Winter Appeal allowed us to provide 48 winter-grade sleeping bags with Thermal flasks. This winter, again with your huge support, we have supplied 59 winter-grade waterproof sleeping bags.
- » With the help of OLSP's SVP, we supplied 4 high-spec PC's together with the appropriate furniture (£2,400), for their new skill-training centre.

East Grinstead Food bank

Its aim is to ensure needy families have enough food.

- » So far £1,060.00 has been donated in the form of vouchers.

Others in need

The SVP aims to "Turn Concern into Action":

- » Ukraine Appeal £245.00
- » Indian village appeal £300.00
- » St Bernard's Live Streaming Installation and new church kneelers £800.00
- » Individual needing immediate help £220.00
- » Red Cross Appeal £200.00

It is a basic tenet of the St Vincent de Paul Society that giving of our time is the most important form of support. Some, like SVP at Our Lady and St Peter,

continue to visit far more people than we are able to contact; they bring, to the lonely, companionship and the comfort of knowing someone cares.

At St Bernard's we do of course make visits and remain willing to do so. If you know of a lonely person do let us know. To this end we have started a monthly "drop-in" soup and chat morning at St Bernard's Hall, on the last Saturday of the month at 12.30: do come and bring a friend or two.

Our fund-raising activities remain our principle way of reaching the needy. Apart from the Winter Appeal, which you support so generously, all of our activities offer something in return – whether it be a Quiz and Curry evening, one of our numerous musical events with refreshments, or one of our lunches with a Silent Auction. These events, while raising funds for the needy, fulfil our other aim of bringing people together in a community environment.

If you would like to join us either as a full member or give of your time at one of our events, please contact any one of us.

Members

Enrique Valles (President), Jenny Wilson (Secretary), Austin Bowers, Liam Bauress, Mike Butcher, Nicky Daines, Denise Doolan, Mary Goodwin, Mike Goodwin, Zoe Jenner, Frank Lilley, Lala Micallef, Fr Pdraig Regan, Angeline Rosner, Lindsay Scott, Bernard Sumner, Mary Watson.

Mike Goodwin
SVP St Bernard's [Reg. Charity No. 1053992]

The Parish 100 Club

The Parish 100 Club continues to offer "a bit of a flutter" for good causes each month with the chance of winning £90 in prize money shared across three of its 100+ members. Now in its 22nd year, the club's objectives remain the same . . . simply, to offer a bit of fun, with that incentive of winning, whilst raising funds in support of special – i.e. "one-off" – investments that can benefit the Parish community without being an additional drain on Parish reserves.

It is true that "100" is a bit of a misnomer. When formed in 2001, the aspiration was for a 200 Club, but that number proved elusive and membership was capped at 126, so the odds of winning a prize are quite reasonable.

In recent years, support has been given in a variety of areas, the most recent in 2022 being a contribution of £1,000 towards the £2,300 cost of a new printer for the Parish. Meanwhile, and as has been the case since the pandemic struck, the club has also met the administrative costs of publishing our weekly newsletter.

The 100 Club will always be pleased to hear from any of its brother/sister organisations in the Parish who would like, possibly need, to raise monies for a particular reason but do not have their own resources, or strengths, to do so. Just have a word with me; I'll be happy to discuss it with you.

If you would like to join the 100 Club, it is quite straightforward: Just complete a standing order mandate in the club's favour for £20 per annum. Collect the form from me or manage it online yourself. Thereafter, each month your member number will be entered into the draw for one of three prizes, of £50, £25 or £15. And in December, funds permitting, the draw attraction is doubled. Thank you for your interest. I can be reached by phone (EG 327002) or by email (cjp_mrp@hotmail.com [please note the underscore between "cjp" and "mrp"]).

Chris Pond

Catenian Bursary Fund

Helping young people help others: make a difference

The Catenian Bursary Fund provides monetary awards to enable young people aged 16 to 24 who wish to do something useful to help others. If you are a Catholic or a member of a faith group in communion with Rome, then take advantage of this potential financial support.

Besides that, it is an opportunity to build up your CV, which can help with your job search as well as enabling you to gain valuable life skills and experience for your own benefit.

It might be that you will be a supporter on a Lourdes Pilgrimage, or it might be your own individual voluntary project of at least 15 days' duration providing benefit to others.

The Fund has made awards of well over £1,000,000 so far and helped many thousands of young Catholics from all over the world. You and your parents need not have any existing connection with the Catenian Association.

For more details, including some "success stories", eligibility criteria and

how to apply, visit our website (<https://catenianbursary.com>). Or if you have no internet access, phone Wladek Koch here in East Grinstead (07393 474614).

Nick Bozzini

East Grinstead Catenian Circle

Food, drink, entertainment, mildly competitive games . . . and good company: key elements of activities of the East Grinstead Catenians, the local Catholic faith-based friendship group.

While 2022 started with a Quiz and Beer Tasting event by Zoom, thereafter all events were held face to face. Food-related activities included a Sunday pub lunch to mark the end of Andrew Lake's tenure as President and, in the autumn, an excellent Tapas Meal. July gave us President's Sunday, always a highlight of the year, at which Fr Jack kindly said Mass specially for us at St Bernard's before he and Sarah joined us for a lovely barbecue afterwards in the church hall/garden.

Those with a competitive edge found the Skittles evening at Barcombe great fun, so too the Bowls evening at Mount Noddy on what was perhaps the only slightly damp – but warm – evening all summer!





The year was rounded off with the annual Clergy Night/Christmas Dinner. Fr Jack and Sarah were again among our guests, and the raffle raised well over £200 for Crawley Open House, Circle President John Drury's chosen charity for his year in office. Around £1,000 is expected to be raised during the year.

Planned 2023 activities will be a similar mix of social events, including all those above plus a vineyard visit, a charity quiz, local theatre/concert visits



and Christmas Carols. Many events will be available to the wider parish family.

In addition, each year we arrange for Masses to be offered for both vocations and for deceased Brothers of the Catenian Circle. We also meet at the Dorset Arms in East Grinstead High Street on the third Monday of each month, and we'd be delighted for any parishioner to join us in the bar at around 8.45/9 p.m. Maybe you're new to the parish, would like to widen your circle of acquaintances, or are working from home and missing some social contact. Why not come along and enjoy a drink and conversation with like-minded people. To ensure we look out for you, do let one of us know if you would like to come: the following, for example, will often be at the Masses shown:

- » Bill Blackledge / Nick Bozzini 6.15 Mass
- » Patrick Doolan / Paul Barrett 9 a.m. Mass
- » Max Siwicki / Larry Newman **10.30 a.m. Mass**

Or call John Fitzpatrick (07768 504480). We look forward to welcoming you.

More information can be found on our website (www.egcats.com) and also in separate articles in this magazine: on the Catenian Bursary Fund, and on welfare insights, entitled "Missed Opportunities and Own Goals".

Nick Bozzini

CAFOD 2022

The climate crisis continued to be central to CAFOD's campaigns in 2022, and it kept up its work to encourage governments away from fossil fuels and ensure those responsible for the climate crisis provided the necessary finances to help the poorest countries deal with the impact of it. Family Fast Days on Friday 11 March and Friday 7 October raised £846 and £1,190 respectively. Thank you for your continued support. As a result CAFOD was able to send money to Ukraine and also fund projects in East Africa, including:

- » Trucking water to six villages in Isiolo and Marsabit, Kenya.
- » Cash transfers to drought-affected communities, including about 250 households in Isiolo, northern Kenya.
- » Distributing food to 648 households in vulnerable communities in Marsabit where markets are no longer functioning, and

- » Providing food vouchers to another 250 households.
- » Drilling, and eventually equipping, a borehole in Marsabit so that communities have access to clean water.
- » Constructing an underground water tank in Marsabit that will be used to store water trucked to these communities.
- » This underground tank will also be used to harvest rainwater when the rains come again.

As the UN climate talks got underway in Egypt at COP 27 in November, CAFOD supporters were asked to send an email to the UK Government demanding that more should be done to tackle the climate crisis. CAFOD supporters joined demonstrations in many UK cities including, London, Cardiff, Newcastle, Birmingham and Bristol on Saturday 12 November.

Sue Joy



Fairtrade

“What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” [Micah 6:8]

OLSP and St Bernard’s are among many Fairtrade churches that are fighting the unfairness that keeps millions of farmers in poverty. Fairtrade changes the way trade works through better working conditions and a fairer deal for farmers and plantation workers. Fairtrade is the only certification that combines a fair minimum price for products and an extra amount of money (called the Fairtrade Premium) for farmers to spend on what their communities or businesses need. That could be clean water, classrooms or clinics – they decide.

Both our churches make the connection between trade and poverty by running regular Fairtrade stalls and using Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits for refreshments after Mass and for other events. In addition, along with other churches in East Grinstead, Fairtrade banners are displayed during Fairtrade Fortnight. You can help by looking for the Fairtrade Mark when shopping in local supermarkets and shops, or when you eat out. The range of goods is enormous - flowers, wine, olive oil, coffee, tea, chocolate, jam, sugar, spices and cotton T-shirts to name a few items. Further information can be obtained from our website (www.fairtrade.org.uk).

Sue Joy

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

Justice and Peace Group

The Justice and Peace Group meetings continued through the latter half of 2020 and monthly during 2021 once the OLSP Parish set up a Zoom facility for its various Groups, and we remained active and involved throughout the Pandemic and lockdown. Our main activities for 2022 included organisation of or involvement in:

- » The Spring and Autumn Charity meals, which raised £6,000, shared equally between Crawley Open House, the EG Foodbank, Crawley Prison Fellowship, Age UK EG & District, and the EG Mental Health Association – thanks to Nick Castiglione for all his hard work and for all restaurants and participants.

- » The 2022 Sleep Out – our 32nd – held in our gardens overnight on 2 July raised £2,425.71, which was divided between Crawley Open House, The Easter Team and Turning Tides (which has two houses on West Hill with home for 16 people), a total of £808.71 each.
- » The J&P Group continued to support Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian families and, with St John’s Church, Felbridge, ran a weekly Talk Club at OLSP as well as liaising with Refugee Welcome Crawley (information from Cathy Merry, rwcchair@gmail.com).
- » Two of our members continued to be part of the Prison Fellowship Team which runs Sycamore courses for prisoners at Lewes Prison; these are based on restorative justice and are highly valued by the Prison Service. We also offer prayer support and are involved with the Angel Tree Project, which provides presents for prisoners to send to their children at Christmas, on behalf of prisoners at HMP Lewes. Our valued members Valerie Maynard and Shirley King have now retired after many years in the Chaplaincy at HMP Lewes.
- » Three of our members are involved in Fairtrade EG, seeking to raise awareness about farmers and producers in the developing world and the importance of buying Fairtrade goods to help them have a fairer and more secure future. A full programme of events was held during Fairtrade Fortnight (www.fairtrade-eg.co.uk) Fairtrade EG is also part of Fairtrade West Sussex, which achieved Fairtrade County status with the Fairtrade Foundation in October 2019 (www.fairtradewestsussex.org.uk).
- » The Mustard Seed Project Love in a Box was suspended in 2022 because of the war between Ukraine and Russia, although some 40 boxes were sent via other organisations. Mustard Seed was sent financial donations instead. An ecumenical Peace Vigil was held at OLSP on Tuesday 8 March to pray for the cessation of the war and for a peaceful resolution. All churches have been involved in supporting charities working on the ground in Ukraine and surrounding countries.
- » J&P members take packet food, tins, clothes and sleeping bags to Crawley Open House and food to EG Foodbank, as well as clothes, trainers and other items to Refugee Welcome Crawley. Members also write letters for Prisoners of Conscience, help at the EG Foodbank, and attend the annual J&P Assembly organised by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. The 2022 event was focused on Food Insecurity.

- » Recognising that environmental degradation is a root cause of some of the issues we pray for, we keep abreast of the work done in support of Laudato Si and the ecochurch initiatives of A Rocha.
- » The J&P Group made various small donations to charities including Maytree, Prison Fellowship (Angel Tree), Christians against Poverty, St Mungo's and The Passage. Our other outgoings are annual subs to Amnesty (we send, as individuals, about 50 letters a year) and the national J&P network.

The Justice and Peace Group meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30 p.m. Please join us as we are an ecumenical Group working and praying together for over 25 years and have kick-started a number of self-standing local organisations as a result of initial Group discussions and initiatives. Further information can be obtained from Sue Joy, Chair, EG Justice and Peace Group.

Sue Joy
(EG 835190 / 07821 379064)

Reminiscences

George Bernard Shaw said: *“Reminiscences make one feel so deliciously aged and sad”*. I get the aged bit – but I'm not sure about describing it as delicious. That depends entirely on the kind of sleep I had the night before. As for the sad bit, I have to admit that's very true of many reminiscences but there are still many good ones if we dig deep enough. Now that I've long since retired from my parish duties as a deacon, I can look back with joy and humble gratitude for the many graces they brought.

One particularly happy memory I have was the privilege of being one of the two deacons at the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral shortly after being ordained in 1997. That was when the late Cardinal Cormac was still our Bishop. I don't think there's anything in canon law that confers this honour on the new boys. I can only draw a comparison between it and an experience I had during the heady days of National Service. Fresh from square bashing, and newly posted, I was detailed to be part of a guard of honour for the annual inspection by the Air Officer Commanding. I suppose in both cases the assumption was that if you're just out of the nursery, you should be well weaned. For me, in both cases, the task was undertaken in a state of nervous tension for fear of getting anything wrong.

But each experience brought its own reward. In the case of presenting arms, it resulted in an afternoon off for the whole station, because the AOC was satisfied with the spit and polish. In the case of the Chrism Mass, it brought its own reward. The Lord is always pleased to accept the best offering of his creatures, however limited their ability. I remember coming back to the parish, spiritually fired-up and eager to assist Fr Kevin Gaskin in the Holy Week Liturgy; the same dear Fr Kevin who planted the very seed of the diaconate in my mind.

We had Luke's Gospel at the Vigil Mass that year (Luke 24: 1-12) and it led me to think about some of the people he described; the women going dutifully to the tomb, carrying their spices and expecting to do no more than simply embalm a dead body; Peter running headlong only to find the binding cloths. No doubt, the reminiscences they had about their time with Jesus seemed to have come to an end in nothing but sadness; but you can imagine how that must have changed when they encountered two strange men in brilliant clothes, *"Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen"*, they told the women. That made them look back and realise that so much of what Jesus taught had simply gone over their heads. Now, as Luke so beautifully describes it, they were experiencing "the first sign of dawn". This wasn't the kind of resuscitation back to this life that happened to Lazarus or the daughter of Jairus they had witnessed at the hands of Jesus. This was the fulfilment of all the promises of a new covenant; a new life; the ultimate victory over sin and death that could only be achieved by the Son of God.

And God speaks to us too, through these angelic messengers in Luke's gospel. God doesn't begrudge us our reminiscences. After all, its only part of the human nature he gave us. But I think he is also asking us to put them all to better use. Just as the sense of loss and despair experienced by the followers of Jesus at the time of his crucifixion was changed to joy and praise at his glorious Resurrection, so also are we told, *"Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?"* The numbing sadness we experience at the loss of our nearest and dearest is the price of love, but through that same Resurrection, we are able to say they are not lost to us forever; that we live in the hope of being reunited with them in the heavenly kingdom in the fullness of time.

And what about the happy reminiscences? Perhaps Jesus is asking us to look a bit more closely at those also. If something made me happy, did I keep it to myself or did I include others in my joy? And what was the source of my happiness? God forbid that my happiness was ever at the expense of someone else's. The disciples of Jesus came to realise how much more they

were united in their joyfulness; and that motivated them to spread the Good News of the Resurrection; to bring others to share their joy. And now for us, whether we're deliciously aged or young and fit, that's most definitely our job today in our beautiful but bruised world that has allowed itself to be too stuck in the present to bother about reminiscences and where the sadness of a disturbed conscience is regarded as mere weakness.

Deacon Ted Darlison

Missed opportunities and own goals: Welfare insights from your local Catenians

Awareness

Nowadays there is much information and free guidance from trusted sources set up by the government. The trick is finding out and taking action.

Typical life-course triggers

- » *Relationship change and changes in income*: spouses/Civil Partners can save up to £252 a year by claiming a "Marriage Allowance", but only a basic-rate tax payer can claim it if eligible – arrears can be claimed too
- » *Children*: income level might discourage claiming the "Child Benefit", but claim the associated National Insurance credit towards your State Pension
- » *Reduced earnings*: claim "Universal Credit" if eligible
- » *Caring role*: "Carers Allowance" not only provides income but a credit towards your State Pension too
- » *Approaching State Pension Date*: obtain your "State Pension forecast" and "Check your National Insurance Record" for any gaps that can be made good to maximise your State Pension
- » *Considering how to access your "pension pot"*: knowing the options, visit "Money Helper" and free guidance from "Pension Wise".
- » *After State Date, typical unclaimed benefits*: only 2 out of 3 have claimed them when eligible – "Pension Credit" and "Attendance Allowance". Many missed out on extra Cost of Living payments as a result. AA is tax-free, and you can be a millionaire and claim it.

Money savings tips and coping during hard times

- » Visit the “Money Helper” website with ideas, tools to help and signposts to free guidance if anyone has money problems
- » Are all benefits that can be claimed being claimed? “Entitled to” and “gov.uk” websites are a must to visit, or talk to Citizens Advice Bureau

Inattention to important personal and family safeguards

- » No Will! Or one that is out of date given your current circumstances
- » Check out the implications of Intestacy – no valid Will especially if young, with children and remember your Will(s) appoint Guardians to care for your children
- » No up-to-date nomination form(s) for death benefits payable from your occupational and personal pension arrangements
- » No “Lasting Power of Attorney” – playing lottery with your welfare and finances later in life when unable to manage them yourself and imposing an expensive burden on others to resolve

Safe sources of information and guidance

- » Government website (use the “Search” box): <https://www.gov.uk>
- » MoneyHelper: <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en?source=mas>
- » Entitled to: <https://www.entitledto.co.uk>

Wlodek Koch

The Ending

There is an ending, that we know
Then a beginning white as driven snow
The brightness of the light remains unknown
Seeds of faith carry through to be sown.

A new world awaits me on that day
My soul transported as I kneel and pray
Soon I will meet those loved and lost
Warming me again beyond death’s bitter frost.

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The Church of Estgrenstede

Extract from The Catholic History of East Grinstead (c. 1942)

by Fr Charles P. Dolman (a former Parish Priest at Our Lady and St Peter)

The ecclesiastical parish of East Grinstead in Saxon days was in the diocese of Selsey, founded AD 711, some thirty years after St Wilfred had brought the Faith to Sussex, making his headquarters at Selsey. The diocese was commensurate with the kingdom of the South Saxons who gave their name to Sussex. Little is known of the twenty-two bishops who occupied the See from its foundation to the Norman Conquest. It was during the episcopate of one of the Saxon bishops of Selsey that the first church was built in East Grinstead, certainly not earlier than the end of the ninth century. After the Conquest it became the policy of Lanfranc, the Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, to remove the Episcopal Sees in the country to cities, and where possible to those that had been fortified in Roman times. Thus the Sussex See was removed, in 1075, to Chichester, the old Roman city of Regnum. The first dedication of a church we hear of in the Saxon town of Grenstede was to St Edmund, King of East Anglia, who was martyred by the Danes in the year 870; this would seem to fix the earliest possible date for a church in Grenstede; actually it may not have been built until a much later date in the tenth century. Subsequently, but still probably in the Saxon period, the dedication was changed to that of St Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, who died in the year 862, and this dedication remained in Catholic Liturgy until the Reformation. The change of dedication probably followed an outburst of devotion to St Swithin, on the occasion of the translation of his relics from the churchyard to the Church of Winchester. Lanfred, a monk of the abbey, tells us in his history of the translation, that it was accompanied by several miracles, and made by St Ethelwald on July 15th 964. The feast of St Swithin, in the English calendar, was changed to this date from July 2nd, the day of his death. During the mediaeval period our Catholic forefathers kept the feast of this renowned Saxon Saint, so long associated with East Grinstead, as a Holy-day of obligation. As evidence of the things that endure in Catholic Liturgy his Mass and Office are still said by the Catholic clergy in the town on July 15th, thus honouring the miraculous translation of his relics that took place wellnigh one thousand years ago.

Soon after the Norman Conquest the Church of Grenstede was given to the Cluniac priory at Lewes, which was founded by William de Warrenne, son-in-law of the Conqueror, and his wife Gundrada, whose bodies now rest in the Church at Southover. With the exception of Battle Abbey the Lewes Priory

was the largest Monastic foundation in Sussex; it covered forty acres and had a church larger than Chichester cathedral. A few ruins, still to be seen from the railway, are the only remains of this once majestic House of God.

The Church of Grenstede remained in the possession of the Lewes Priory until 1325, when it was exchanged for the Church at Burton, but the living continued in the presentation of the Prior until the Reformation.

The only mediaeval church in East Grinstead of which we have any knowledge, and that only from drawings of its ruins, was built in the decorated style in vogue in England in the fourteenth century. From these drawings it would seem to have been very similar to the present parish church in Lingfield. The tower of the East Grinstead church was struck by lightning in 1683; the tower that replaced it fell on the body of the church in 1785, causing such great damage that it had to be rebuilt. It is a matter for regret that the town no longer possesses the sacred building, consecrated by Catholic ritual, in which so many of our forefathers worshipped. From the wealth of detail we possess of the mediaeval churches we can, however, reconstruct with fair accuracy the interior appointments of St Swithin's in Catholic days. The Blessed Sacrament was reserved either in a silver or ivory pyx hanging before the altar, or in a receptacle in the side wall of the chancel, similar to the ambery in which we now reserve the Holy Oils. From the 12th century the English churches usually had a Rood Screen at the chancel arch with a figure of Our Lord on the Cross, with Mary and John on either side. The Rood called attention to the essential connection between Calvary and the sacrifice of the Mass. Many of the screens survived the Reformation, but the figures were usually removed. In the mediaeval churches there was usually the Easter sepulchre, in which a crucifix or the Blessed Sacrament was placed on Good Friday to represent Our Lord's burial. Early on Easter morning a service was held at the sepulchre, and the Blessed Sacrament taken back to the High Altar.

Until the 15th century the floors of churches were open spaces, covered with rush, box or other green material. Seats were first provided around the walls of the church for the aged and infirm, hence, it may be, the origin of the expression "The weak go to the wall".

The pre-Reformation church of St Swithin would not have contained some of the appointments we have in our churches today. The Stations of the Cross had a Franciscan origin, and it was not until 1862 that the Bishops of England obtained faculties for their erection in diocesan churches. Confessional boxes are also comparatively modern. In the middle ages the people confessed their sins at the "shrying stool", which was placed in an open space in the church.

That the church of St Swithin in Catholic days contained an altar or shrine in honour of Our Lady is evidenced from the Will of John of Payne of Pixtons, near Forest Row, dated 8th July 1507:

“Imprimis, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the Saints, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of the parish church of Estgrenstede. Also I will that whosoever shall possess the manor house of Pyckestouns shall yearly pay a sum of 16d so long as the world endures, for the maintenance of a lamp before Saint Mary the Virgin situate in the church of Estgrenstede.”

Attached to the church of St Swithin was a chantry chapel founded in 1325 by William de Holindale. The chantry priest was supported by rents from the manors of Imberhome and Duddleswell; his duties consisted in helping the Vicar in the work of the parish, assisting at those parts of the Divine Office which were said or sung in the church, saying Mass for the souls of those for whom the chantry was founded, and tutoring a number of children in the parish. The chantries were suppressed at the Reformation, and part of the looted funds used for the foundation of grammar schools.

In Estgrenstede there was also a chapel built by the merchant guild of St George and St Catherine. As it had a messuage or dwelling house attached, it probably had a resident chaplain to say Mass at an early hour before the vicar said his Mass in the parish church. The guild apprenticed boys to a trade, and looked after their welfare; examined goods produced for sale and punished dishonesty in trade; cared for the sick and aged, and thus promoted religion, justice and morality.

Finally in the parish of Estgrenstede there was a chapel attached to the manor house of Lavertye, built by its owner, John de Monte Acuto. The license for the chapel was granted in 1285 by Stephen Berksted, Bishop of Chichester, John, Prior of Lewes, and Alard, parson of the church of Grenstede.

submitted by Margaret Vasey

Parish Organisations East Grinstead

Altar Society – Church Flowers: OLSP: Anne Davies [01342 311226; gran51@btinternet.com]; St Bernard's: Mary Watson, Nicky Daines

CAFOD: OLSP: 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: Secretary, John Fitzpatrick [07768 504480; unclfitz@btinternet.com]

Fairtrade: OLSP: 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 School: Carly Davis [school: 01342 321985; admin@friendsofstpeters.co.uk;]

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

Gospel of Life Group: Les Whittaker [07502 274450 / 01342 315484; leswhittaker252@outlook.com]

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

Ministry of Consolation: Sue Faulkner [07462 394964; suzy.faulkner@icloud.com]; Eleanor Johnson [07908 421689; eleanorjohnson77@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 are always most welcome*

Parish Finance Committee: Chair, Paul Barrett [01342 870058; paulbarrett@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: OLSP: Judy Hayler [01342 321269; judyfhayler@yahoo.com]; St Bernard's: Chris Vasey [01342 834436; cjvasey@aol.com]

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

Safeguarding Officer: Maribel Favor [07528 694112; maribelfavor@gmail.com]

Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): OLSP: Peter Wells [07484 330899; peterwells120@gmail.com]; St Bernard: Enrique Valles [07824 098276; valles.clan@outlook.com]

St Bernard's Forum: Enrique Vallez [07824 098276; valles.clan@outlook.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 p.m.

Sunday Mass 10.30 a.m.*

Monday and Thursday Exposition: 9.00 a.m.;
Mass: 9.30 a.m.

Friday Angelus and Mass: 12 noon
The Holy Rosary: 12.30 p.m.

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 a.m., and 5.30 to 6 p.m., and on request

St Bernard, Lingfield

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

Wednesday Mass 9.30 a.m.

Wednesday Holy Hour and Rosary: 7.30 p.m.

* Livestreaming: www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com

