



Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter

East Grinstead

St Bernard

Lingfield

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Diocese of
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

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

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Annual Report, 2023

If 2022 was the year when we emerged from the COVID lockdowns, then 2023 brings us to the new normal. Certainly the major festivals of the church were very well attended, especially at Christmas, where the numbers were back up to pre-COVID levels. That being said, the numbers at the Midnight Mass were not so good. This reflects the aging demographic of Church attendance and also that for many families Christmas festivities now begin during Christmas Eve. Average attendance (measured over the last two Sundays of September and the first two Sundays of October) have jumped from 261 in 2022 to 295. That is still a little shy of pre-COVID attendance, but healthy nevertheless.

Over the year 18 children were baptized, 28 made their first holy communion and 12 were confirmed. There were 4 marriages, and two couples prepared for marriage overseas. There were 14 funerals.

One of the big events was the 125th anniversary of Our Lady and St Peter. It was good that the bishop presided at Mass and stayed for the bun fight afterwards. It was a great success, and a big thank you to all who were involved. In addition, it was wonderful for Bishop Richard to also say Mass at St Bernard, Lingfield – an event that was deeply affirming to the very significant work being done in that community.

A further happy event was a parish pilgrimage to Walsingham. All of us who went experienced something quite remarkable. But that is what happens at Walsingham.

Looking forward to 2024, I hope that the roof replacement at St Bernard will be well underway, and that there will be yet more new faces in our congregations and an ever-deepening faith and joy in God.

Fr Jack Lusted, Parish Priest

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2023

We had another successful year in 2023 for children making their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion – 26 in total: Alicia, Amelie, Anna, Brandon, Bohdan, Charlie, Chloe, Edward, Eli, Eric, Harry, Holly, Isabelle, Jack, Jude, Julia, Logan, Marianna, Mark Anthony, Mateo, Matilda, Mia, Otto, Teddy, William, Wynne.

The two Masses took place at Our Lady and St. Peter's. We were delighted to celebrate the children's First Holy Communion Day with readings, enthusiastic singing, a full church, and plenty of opportunities for photos. The children had a wonderful day celebrating with their families.

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. We are very grateful for all their commitment throughout the year to ensure the children had a fulfilling and rewarding spiritual journey. Please continue to keep the catechists, children, and their families in your prayers.

Julie-Anne Dell & Victoria Dickinson

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Parish was again very blessed with our young people who were confirmed in June 2023. They engaged in the preparation programme very positively, with open minds, and were happy to receive this Sacrament as their own decision. 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. The weekend away at Worth was a highlight once again, and we 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 they tell us it's the best bit of the programme – good fun, as well as a positive and meaningful spiritual experience in a special and beautiful setting.

2023 was the 150th anniversary of Arundel Cathedral and hosted most of the diocesan Confirmation ceremonies that year. Thus, it was with great joy



that Alice, Anya, Bridin, Charlie, Danna, Dylan, Finley, Joshua H, Joshua J, Kristina, Lois, and Lucia received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Richard on Sunday, 11 June, at the Cathedral, alongside young people from Worth parish and the Portuguese community at St Bernadette's, Tilgate.

As usual, our young people conducted themselves with great dignity, taking an active part in the Liturgy. The singing was wonderfully led by our organist Liam Baures and members of our choir from Our Lady and St Peter, plus some guests. They played and sang with much joy and enhanced the afternoon – a big thank you to them. It was a very happy occasion, with lots of family members and friends supporting the young people. Thanks to Liam also for helping us make some music during our Worth weekend.

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

We would like to thank the many in our parish family who pray for our young people throughout the programme. Please keep the 2023 Confirmation Catechist team in your prayers: Fr Jack, Eileen Lyons, Gabrielle Joyce, Thaddeus Dell, Terry O'Neill, and Mike Hope. It was a pleasure and a privilege for us to share faith with these young people over the course of the Confirmation programme and to support them developing further on their individual faith journeys.

Mike Hope

Guild of St Stephen (altar servers)

We are always looking for new people to join the Guild of St Stephen and learn to serve.

The only requirements are that the person has received their First Holy Communion and is a regular attendee at Mass in the parish.

There is no age limit, and we welcome both men and women.

We currently hold training sessions before the 10.30 am Mass at OLSP, at 9.45 am.

All servers are asked to join a new OLSP Altar Servers Group WhatsApp to enhance our communication. This WhatsApp is for the use of altar servers and is restricted to serving matters only.

Richard Emms (07733 113789)

[Richard is DBS Certificated and is a Special Minister of the Eucharist. He has many years' experience of serving and has been awarded the Guild's gold medal for 50 years' service. He has been involved in training and leading liturgy groups preparing services. He has been MC for several Bishops and Cardinals both in Cathedral and in Parish situations.]

Prayer Ministry Team

The current prayer ministry team has been writing the weekly 'Prayers of the Faithful' (Bidding Prayers) for the past eighteen months. There are five members of the team: Nicky Daines and Mary Watson from St Bernard's and Eileen Lyons, Gabrielle Joyce and Sue Faulkner from Our Lady and St Peter. Each member of the team writes the prayers for a calendar month on a rolling cycle.

During this time we have consulted, on two separate occasions, those who read the prayers for their views. We have taken account of their comments concerning the length of the prayers, and have made some adjustments. We have also asked readers to pause after reading each prayer, so that those listening can have a short time to reflect on the prayer before making the response.

You will have noticed that we are now praying for more people who are in need of our prayers and that many are remaining on the prayer list. This is because they remain in need of our ongoing thoughts and prayers for them. As a prayer ministry team, we are committed to praying for members of our parish family who are in need and will only remove names when we are asked to do so. Please make contact if you would like to have yourself or a loved one included in our weekly prayers for the sick and those in need. If you are requesting prayers for another person, please ensure that you have their permission. Contact details are in the weekly newsletter.

In preparing to write the bidding prayers, we take account of the readings for the following Sunday and spend time praying and reflecting on them. We ensure we are aware of the Pope's intentions for the month and any themes and prayer focuses listed in the Diocesan Directory and on the Diocesan website. Other resources that may be consulted include: CAFOD, Caritas, Missio and the Columbian Fathers websites.

In recent months we have started to pray once again for our fellow Christians from churches within our local community.

We would like to thank Ruth Longley who kindly prints the Bidding Prayers each week for the 6.15pm and 10.30am Masses at Our Lady and St Peter and ensures they are ready on the lectern, with any last-minute updates included. Thanks also to our team member Nicky Daines, who does the same for St Bernard's.

*Sue Faulkner
Prayer Ministry Team*

Prayer Network

Our prayer network has been in existence for just over a year and currently consists of 22 parishioners who have volunteered to respond to any prayer request that they receive. Prayer requests are sent to all members of the prayer network via email promptly after they are received by the co-ordinator.

Members of the prayer network say prayers for the intention they have received in their own home at a time that is suitable for them. This co-ordinated prayer at home means that there are a lot of people praying for the same intention. This also enables those housebound parishioners who can no longer get to church to participate fully in the prayer life of the parish.

Some people requesting prayers ask to be anonymous, and this is always respected. Only the information that is requested to be shared will be passed on by the prayer network co-ordinator, who has a current Diocesan DBS and has been checked for Safeguarding purposes according to Diocesan guidelines.

All prayer requests are responded to by our intercessors. We would like to receive more prayer requests, so please do not hesitate to make contact if you would like your intentions prayed for. Contact details are listed in our weekly newsletter and in this parish magazine.

We would like to extend our prayer network and invite members of our parish family, who feel able to make the commitment to pray for the needs of others, to join us. Although most members of the prayer network receive requests via email, there are a few who are contacted by phone when a prayer request is sent.

*Sue Faulkner
Prayer Network Co-ordinator*

Children's Liturgy at Our Lady and St Peter

We continue to meet monthly on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We listen to The Gospel reading and enjoy craft activities. Average attendance is 10 to 12 children, these children come from various primary schools in East Grinstead.

If you are interested in helping (on a rota basis) please speak to Jordan or to me.

Sarah Lusted

Rosary Group at Our Lady and St Peter

The 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. Appropriately enough, we pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, between the Lady Chapel and the altar at our Lady and St Peter's Church. We pray the rosary shortly after 12 noon on a Friday; there is adoration starting at 11.00 am for those who wish to participate in that too.

We use homilies and writings by popes, saints, and religious generally, to help us open our hearts to the messages of each mystery – it's "ever new", never boring, which the rosary is often accused of being.



Why we pray the rosary

One source of meditations and images we use is the *Magnificat Rosary Companion*, published in 2016. In that publication, Fr Kevin Scallon explains the value of praying the rosary. He says:

“The greatness of the rosary lies in its power to help us walk in the footsteps of Jesus. It draws us into those eternal moments in the life of Christ. In each mystery we gaze, as through a window, to contemplate with Mary the life and mysteries of her Son. As at all her great shrines, Mary is never concerned to draw her children to herself, but to her Son. We recite the Hail Marys and gaze on Jesus who allow us to be with him at each moment from the Annunciation to the crowning of his mother as Queen. As we finger the beads and recite the Hail Marys, the words of Scripture pass before our mind, and we drink from ‘a spring of water welling up to eternal life’ (Jn 4:14) and ‘our hearts burning within us’. (Lk 24:32)

St Padre Pio said that ‘the rosary is like a great sword that Mary puts into the hands of her children to defend themselves against the evil one.’ Very many people, including myself, have found this to be true. Our Blessed Mother does help us in moments of spiritual combat. The powers of darkness fear her and flee from her presence.

When you find prayer difficult, the rosary will help you; it will pray for you; it will quiet your distracted mind or troubled souls and bring you to calmness and serenity. In fact, according to a study in the British Medical Journal, reciting the rosary could improve your cardiovascular well-being. Seemingly it has the effect of synchronizing respiratory and cardiac rhythms – which as everyone know, could only be good for you.”

Plenty of good reasons, then, for praying the rosary. Please do come along and join in prayers at OLSP if you can, or, alternatively, view the streaming on the parish website or simply add your name to the email distribution for the weekly rosary prayer document. Please get in touch using these contact details: tel 07502 274450; email: leswhittaker252@outlook.com

Les Whittaker

Flowers at Our Lady and St Peter

At present there are 7 people responsible for the arrangement of flowers in OLSP. We work together for the feasts of Christmas and Easter but individually for the rest of the year unless help is required for weddings, funerals and the First Holy Communion Masses.

We rely very heavily on the generosity of the Parish for funds and it is with heartfelt thanks for the two collections that take place at Easter and Christmas. The amount raised is enough to cover the cost of flowers for the year.

We would love to hear from anyone who is remotely interested in flowers as our members are not getting any younger! Everyone is welcome and there is always someone who could help a newcomer.

Anne Davies

St Bernard's floristas

A dedicated and friendly group of seven people arrange the flower displays at St Bernard on a rota system.

A WhatsApp group was set up by one of our helpers, via which we communicate with each other. Each person undertakes to provide and arrange

the flowers each week, for one month at a time – with help from others, if necessary.

At Christmas, Easter, other big feast days, weddings, funerals, etc. the group all help together.

At one time we were short of flower arrangers, until we personally asked people to help. We now have a very efficient and helpful group, who give their time most generously to keep the church looking lovely all through the year.

Any ladies or gentlemen would be very welcome to join the group. Assistance and encouragement is always at hand.

If you would like further information, please contact any of us: Hilary Barrett, Anna Bruin, Mary Goodwin, Marissa Holgate, Angeline Rosner, Victoria Tanner, and Jenny Wilson – or phone: 07767 335001.

Jonathan Jenkins

Ministry of Consolation



The Ministry of Consolation has now been active at Our Lady and St Peter for approximately eighteen months. Our monthly Consolation Cafe was recently renamed to reflect that we are here to support not only those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, but also those who are lonely, sad or just

in need of some friendly company. We offer a warm, non-judgemental welcome and hope that those who attend find comfort and support. Forthcoming dates continue to be advertised in the weekly parish newsletter, usually with two weeks' notice.

On Saturday, 18 November 2023 (during the month of Holy Souls), Fr Jack offered Mass at Our Lady and St Peter for all our family and friends who had died, with candles being lit in remembrance. As this coincided with our monthly Consolation Cafe, we were very pleased to offer refreshments after Mass in the Parish Centre.

A leaflet has recently been produced; it is available on the table at the back of both churches. This gives information about the Ministry and how to contact us.

The Parish still has just two trained “befrienders”, though new members to this Ministry would be most welcome. If you are interested or wish to know

more, please speak to Father 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.

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

We look forward to continuing to serve our Parish family and would be happy to receive comments/suggestions to help us provide even better support.

Sue Faulkner & Eleanor Johnson

Lourdes pilgrimage

Thanks to everyone from both churches who took a small box and saved small change (and notes) during 2023 Lent – the proceeds contributed to the Parish Fund, which supports assisted pilgrims, helpers, chaplains and Redshirts to take part in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton’s annual pilgrimage. Last year in July/August one Helper (a former Redshirt) and two Redshirts went to Lourdes, plus an assisted Pilgrim, and a rewarding time was had by all involved. Further information about the Pilgrimage may be found at www.abdiocese.org/lourdes or the Pilgrimage Office 01293 551147. This year, there is one Assisted Pilgrim, one Chaplain, three helpers and two Redshirts attending from our Parish. Please note: Assisted pilgrims who wish to go in 2025 should apply as soon as possible in the New Year, as places are limited and always popular.

Sue Joy

Music Ministry

We start by listing, with their permission, all our current music ministers:

- » *Cantors at OLSP:* Eleanor Johnson, Trisha FitzPatrick, Jan Beaumont, Brigid Armstrong, Liz Siwicka, Christine Hardisty
- » *Cantors at St Bernard:* Mary Goodwin, Marissa Holgate, Bernard Sumner, Judy Lilley, Frank Lilley

- » *Junior Band*, led by Julian Spencer, violin/viola – Helen, violin; Julia, violin; Annabelle, recorder; James, flute; Mary O’Sullivan, cello
- » *Folk Band*: Denis Pimenta, guitar; Mary O’Sullivan, recorder
- » *Junior Choir*, aka St Peter’s School Choir, led by Fionnuala Quinlan.

Some highlights over the last year

On Palm Sunday 2023, the newly formed Lingfield Schola, composed of cantors from our parish and St Peter and Paul’s, Lingfield, led a concert of Holy Week music.

The cellist Ben Hess played a transcendental Messiaen piece, and Julian Spencer joined him on violin to perform a piano trio arrangement of “*Erbarme dich*” from Bach’s *St Matthew Passion*.

On Sunday, 11 June 2023, some of our Parish cantors, together with singers from St Bernadette’s, Crawley, led the singing for the Confirmation Mass at Arundel Cathedral. It’s always a treat to get playing a cathedral organ. We literally made a meal of the day by meeting for lunch in the pub next door.

On Saturday, 23 September 2023, there was a Lingfield SVP Charity Concert given by the celebrated Maltese harpist, Jacob Portelli. In March 2024, Jacob performed with Calum Scott in Westminster Abbey. On an historical note, the cellist Alexandra Marshall was once in our Junior Band and has been touring this year with Calum Scott and Ed Sheeran.

On Sunday, 1 October 2023, Bishop Richard celebrated Mass at both churches on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the Consecration of OLSP. All the music teams took part in the 10:30 am Mass, which was followed by a superb reception in the Moat Church Hall.

On Thursday, 21 December 2023, the Lingfield Schola led the singing in their second Carol Service. This was another Lingfield SVP Charity event at St Bernard, ending up with mince pies and mulled wine instead of the usual cream tea. Plans were afoot to live stream the Carol Concert to all the other SVP Conferences in England, but something went wrong further up the chain of command.

On Wednesday, 17 January 2024, St Peter’s School Choir performed at the O2 Arena with eight and a half thousand other schoolchildren as part of this year’s gigantic Young Voices Programme. A month later some of them sang one of these numbers at the Mass for the First Sunday of Lent.

On Friday, 1 March 2024, OLSP was host to the two ecumenical services for the World Day of Prayer. The services were led by Anne Spencer and Sue Joy, with musical support from our cantors and the Folk Band.

Looking ahead, the Lingfield SVP intends to strike again with a charity concert on Sunday, 7 July, at 3:00 pm. This time an eclectic mixture of operatic arias, pop songs, and piano duets – and, of course, a cream tea. Hoping to see lots of you there.

Finally, we are always on the lookout for new music ministers. Rehearsals are very conveniently half an hour or so before Mass, so no shivering in the dark on Friday nights. Contact me at liambauress@me.com or talk to any of the team.

Liam Bauress

East Grinstead Catenian Circle

The last twelve months have again been successful and enjoyable for the East Grinstead Catenians, the local Catholic faith-based friendship group.

There was the usual mix of social activities – most involving food and drink and/or mildly competitive games. The annual snooker evening returned for the first time since Covid, and in the regular skittles evening the East Grinstead team narrowly beat a team of Tandridge Catenians. A new annual event has been added to the calendar, with ten-pin bowling at Crawley.

A very popular evening took place at Missing Link Brewing near West Hoathly, where a wide variety of ales were sampled. A Sunday pub lunch in May marked the handing over of the presidency from John Drury to John Donohue, and in July we held President's Sunday, always one of the year's highlights, at which Fr. Jack and Sarah joined us for a lovely barbecue in St Bernard's church hall/garden.

The festive season was marked with the annual Clergy Night/Christmas Dinner, where Fr Jack and Sarah were again among our guests, and a Christmas Carols soiree at the home of one of our members. The raffle at the Christmas dinner raised over £200, contributing towards over £1,400 raised during the year for the Circle President's charities of the year – Friends of Embark and Crawley Open House.

Planned 2024 activities include a similar mix of social events, most of which are available to the wider parish family.

Catenians regularly take a turn in providing tea and coffee (and cake and biscuits!) after 10.30 am Mass at Our Lady and St Peter, and we were



Ten-pin bowling at Crawley



A very popular evening at Missing Link Brewing!



President's Sunday barbecue

honoured to be asked to organise the buffet at the celebration to mark the 125th anniversary of that church (see separate article in this magazine). In addition, each year we arrange for Masses to be offered for both vocations and for deceased Brothers of the Catenian Circle.

We meet on the third Monday of each month and we'd be delighted for any parishioner to join us afterwards at around 8.45/9 pm. Currently our meeting venue changes but is always announced in the preceding weekend's newsletter. 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



Clergy Night/Christmas Dinner

not come along and enjoy a drink and conversation with like-minded people. More information can be found on our website (www.egcats.com), or call John Fitzpatrick (07768 504480). We look forward to welcoming you.

Nick Bozzini

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 gaining valuable life skills and experience for your own benefit.

It might be that you will support 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, contact Wladek Koch here in East Grinstead (07393 474614).

Nick Bozzini

World Day of Prayer

Two services prepared by the Christian Women of Taiwan were held at St Mary's Church on Friday 1 March 2023. Always on alert from nearby China, Taiwan is a country with an uncertain future caught up in a superpower struggle. China continues to claim Taiwan as its sovereign territory, although a large majority of Taiwanese reject reunification with China. The 2023 theme was "I have heard about your faith," focussing on the voices of Taiwanese women

sharing their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs. By joining in the World Day of Prayer, participants are part of a huge wave of prayer that circles the earth for at least 38 hours. It begins in Western Samoa and Tonga in the Pacific Ocean (while we are breakfasting) and ends in American Samoa (at our next breakfast).

The 2024 WDP was held on 7 March at OLSP, prepared by the Christian women of Palestine – if ever an event praying for peace and reconciliation was more timely and needed, this was it!

Anne Spencer & Sue Joy

Society of St Vincent de Paul



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Reg Charity No 1053992

To our supporters, we thank you again and again.

St Vincent de Paul [1581–1660, canonised 1737]

Born in Gascony, *St Vincent de Paul* was ordained in 1600. In 1617, two events changed his life. After hearing the confession of a dying man, he resolved to preach the Good News of Christ's promised redemption, and later that year, after appealing for help for a poor sick family, he was inspired to found, with *St Louise de Marillac* the Daughters of Charity (AIC), who devoted themselves to *person-to-person help*.

St Vincent de Paul Society, 1833



The organisation started as a debating society, led by *Blessed Frédéric Ozanam*. Its members, who were committed Catholics, found themselves defending the Church against accusations of always backing the rich and powerful. Following taunts of “call yourselves Christians, what do you care about the poor”, they realised that “there had been enough talk, it was time for action. With the help of *Blessed*

Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, they went out into the streets and brought material assistance and listened to the needs of those living in poverty.

Frédéric Ozanam died in 1853 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1997.

1844: first Conference in Britain

A friend of Frédéric Ozanam studying in Paris was George Wigley, who wanted to start a Conference in England. At the start of 1844, several Catholics met at the Sabloniere Hotel in London and formed the first Conference. By the end of 1844, four Conferences had been formed in London and they quickly spread beyond the capital. Today there are over 800 Conferences, with over 8,000 members, in England and Wales.

Michael Goodwin

SVP

Our Lady and St Peter Conference

We still have 8 active members, and all have undertaken the SVP Safeguarding course and are DBS checked as part of their membership.

By way of an exercise, with Bishop Richard's Pastoral Plan in mind, we looked at how we are contributing to Parish Life at Our Lady and St. Peter's.

Four of our members take Holy Communion regularly to 13 housebound parishioners, and one member is in charge of the Rota Lists for Ministers of Holy Communion at OLSP.

One member regularly takes food left at the back of the church to Crawley Open House and to the local EG Foodbank, regularly helps out at the latter food bank, and also is a Trustee of Refugees Welcome Crawley.

One of our members assists the recently formed Lunch Club once a month on a Tuesday.

A member runs the Consolation Café for people in the Parish who are bereaved, while another is part of a small team doing the altar flowers.

We are also involved in preparing the prayers for the Friday Rosary and the Parish Prayer Network.

One of our members has taken on the Parish organization of the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, which is in its 50th year in 2024, and will provide funding for 2 Redcoats and several helpers.

Our Conference is also involved in Mass welcoming, reading at Mass, and also regularly spending three-hour sessions at the local Visually Impaired Group.

We support Lingfield monthly Soup Lunches, and give lifts there to 3 parishioners, on average, each time.

We have two Indian twins that we financially support in Kerala, Southern India.

Two of our members are Officers for the SVP Crawley District Council and also serve on the Parish Pastoral Council.

It is opportune to mention that our end-of-financial-year Secretarial Return for our National Office has just been completed and shows that during the past year we visited 3 families, 17 elderly in their own homes, 4 people in residential homes, 1 Refugee and 1 homeless person, making a total of 662 repeat visits. Our members' total hours put in, including meetings, contacts and visits to our Beneficiaries, amounted to 1,056 hours.

If anyone has been an SVP member in another Parish and wishes to continue the good work, or is curious about joining our merry throng, please contact me on 07484 330899. Thank you.

Peter Wells, President.

SVP at St Bernard

Annual report 2023–24

Overseas

In the past year we were able to feed 87 children in South Sudan for a year. We also raised financial aid for our two Indian villages.

At home

There are over 300 homeless people in the Crawley area. We supplied Crawley Open House with 60 new winter-grade sleeping bags (over 400 to date).

We gave food and vouchers to food banks.

Reaching out

Our monthly soup lunch continues to grow, with up to 20 people from the wider community dropping in for a chat. Do come along: it's open the last Saturday of the month at 12:30 pm.

Do bring a friend – they'll be most welcome!



These are some of the main areas where with the help of you, our many supporters, we have been able to “make a difference”.

What is it that defines the St Vincent de Paul Society – the SVP? Well, perhaps it can be found in our logo: *Turning Concern into Action*.

When there are people in need, whether they be overseas in the SVP of England and Wales’s nominated countries, such as South Sudan and our Indian villages, or our homeless nearer to home, or simply providing companionship to people on their own, by giving of our time, the aim is to couple *Concern* with *Action*.

Almost all of our fund-raising events – such as, Lunches with Silent Auction, Music with cream tea, Sunday coffee with bacon butties, are free, only relying on your generous donations. Due to limited space, we also run ticketed events, such as our Curry/Quiz Night, and our Jazz in the Garden. Our Cake Sale and Winter Appeal are also important income sources. But what they all have in common is the bringing together of our parish communities, which in itself is another of our aims.

We are only limited by our imagination in fund raising – for example, one of our members has walked over 1,800 miles on sponsored walks and raised over £10,000.

What do we need to expand this work?

Simply put, it’s **people** who can give a little time and imagination to help us touch more people in need.

There are a number of ways to help. As a *Full member* of the SVP, you are allowed to *visit* those in need of help and companionship. As an *Auxiliary member*, you are in effect a full member: you may not visit vulnerable people as an SVP representative, but you can participate in all of our events. Indeed, without our Auxiliaries we could not function.

At St Bernard, we also have another level – namely, those who volunteer to help “*when asked*”. Our grateful thanks to them!

We meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm in St Bernard’s Hall for about 2 hours, in the certain knowledge that:

In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ,
“*Where two or three are gathered together in my name
there am I in the midst of them.*”

Our meetings begin with prayer followed by a period of spiritual discussion. The tone and content of our discussions has changed significantly since our

Chaplain, Fr Padraig, joined us. Sadly, he retired this year, but his example lives on in us.

Thank you, dear Padraig, you made a difference!

While the focus of all we try to do is to help those in need, there is, while we engage in our current and future activity planning, a great sense of fun and camaraderie.

There are 14 people in our group, known as a SVP Conference, of which there are over 800 in England and Wales. You know us all, here are our names:

Enrique Valles, President; Jenny Wilson, Secretary; Fr Padraig Regan, Chaplain; Liam Baures, Austin Bowers, Mike Butcher, Nicky Daines, Denise Doolan, Mary Goodwin, Mike Goodwin, Frank Lilley, Lala Micallef, Marissa Holgate, Angeline Rosner, Bernard Sumner

Please give some thought to joining us in any capacity: you can do as little or as much as your personal commitments allow.

And help us: *Turn Concern into Action.*

Speak to any one of us or simply turn up on any First Tuesday in the month and join in at one of our meetings: you will be most welcome, as will your participation.

Let us always remember the words of our dear Fr Len Turner:

*"You can't help everybody
but be sure to help somebody."*

Michael Goodwin

Missio



Missio is proud to be the Pope's Charity for World Mission.

Missio's National Director for England and Wales is Rev Fr Anthony Chantry. In introducing the Impact Report Summer 2022, Fr Chantry said that "Missio would like to acknowledge and thank every Supporter of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Special mention must also be made of our volunteers, Appealers, Diocesan Directors, Trustees and the small Missio team!"

Through your prayers and donations Priests and Sisters continue to:

- Help missionaries share the love of Jesus;
- Train tomorrow's Priests and Sisters;
- Give hope to the world's poorest children;
- Create a vibrant Catholic Church for the future."

Last year supporters helped to raise £5,100,000 in England and Wales, to

- help 21,000+ of the World's poorest children
- train 2,854 Seminarians
- raise £2.3m through the Red Box.

Legacy gifts are so important

For over 200 years, the Catholic Church has been enriched by the generosity of people like you. Generations before you have come together with Missio to share their blessings and help missionaries serve the poorest and most needy communities

Together, we enrich the global Catholic community.

Together, we train tomorrow's Priests and Sisters..

Together, we give hope to the world's poorest children.

For more information, visit our website (www.missio.org.uk).

*Chris Pond, Local Secretary for Our Lady and St Peter's
Margaret Vasey, Local Secretary for St Bernard's*

Friends of St Peter's School

The Friends of St Peter's School East Grinstead have been working hard to raise funds in order to support the school.

During the academic year of 2022/23, we raised an incredible £8,857.

The Summer Fair, which was very well attended, was a great event and raised a whopping £3,202. We received lots of lovely, positive feedback with regard to the day, and plans are in full swing for this year's Summer Fair on the 7th of July.

Some of the money raised has been used to purchase 2 new library book scanners, musical instruments for the playground, 500 multi-link cubes, 200 whiteboard markers, 90 books for classrooms/libraries, and games for use during wet play; £300 also went towards the Y6 end-of-year production.

The 2023 Christmas Fair was a wonderful day. The school choir treated us to some beautiful singing, and the event raised over £3,000.

During the current academic year, the school have asked The Friends to fund the purchase of new non-fiction books for the Infant and Junior libraries. We have contributed £750 to each library, so the teachers can purchase the required books.

We recently held a “Guess How Many Easter Eggs in the Jar” competition, which the children were all eager to win. There were 2 lucky winners, who each took away a large jar of chocolate eggs in time for the Easter holidays.

The children will be invited to attend an End of Term Disco in July, and we look forward to welcoming many parishioners and their families to the Summer Fair.

As always, thank you for your support from the children, staff and families of St Peter’s School!

Mrs C. Davis
Chairperson, Friends of St Peter’s

Our Lady and St Peter’s church 125th anniversary

Celebrations were held in October 2023 to mark the 125th anniversary of the opening of Our Lady and St Peter church.

On 1 October we were delighted to welcome our Bishop, the Right Reverend Richard Moth, who joined Father Jack Lusted to concelebrate Masses at both St Bernard’s Church, Lingfield, at 9 am, and then at 10.30 am at Our Lady and St Peter Church, East Grinstead.

Around 150 parishioners then joined Bishop Richard and Father Jack for celebratory drinks and a buffet lunch, which had been arranged by the East Grinstead Catenians. The centrepiece was a stunning and delicious cake made by parishioner Joan Jefferis, decorated with pictures of the church and its stained-glass windows. (Joan also made a smaller gluten-free version!)

Our Lady and St Peter Church, designed by the architect Frederick Walters, was built in 1897–98: the foundation stone was laid on 15 June 1897, and the church was opened on 2 October 1898. The architectural style is termed French Romanesque Revival. The church was consecrated by Bishop (later Cardinal) Bourne on the 1st of August 1899.

Nick Bozzini









Welcoming at OLSP

We are so grateful to you for being part of the team. This is a vital 'front line' service, the most important part of our new 'communication' initiative, as it is often the welcomers that visitors, new parishioners and the shy, will meet in our Churches. We especially welcome new parishioners, Justice and Mercy, who enthusiastically add new life to our ministry.

We usually try to be at the church 45 mins 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 8 weeks depending on the mass you attend, so not too onerous. We are happy to give a refresher training to you and have prepared a check list of duties (ask for it : jamjenkins64@outlook.com)

Ruth Longley & Jonathan Jenkins (Coordinators)

IT and livestreaming in our Parish

The IT system at OLSP and St Bernard's needs overhauling – this is obvious from early results of the communications survey just coming in (April 2024). The sound system at OLSP is particularly poor and some planning is now underway for improvements for later this year – a sizeable piece of work.

We are now into our 4th year of livestreaming of two masses a week for the benefit of those unable to attend mass in person. We recently got new proper broadband into St Bernard's which has improved quality and reliability- it also has helped the wi-fi enables heaters to work too! At St Bernard's we also have a new cupboard where all of the electronic gubbins can be stored out of the way of the choir- thanks to Mike and Mary Goodwin for the heavy work involved.

We also livestream the Rosary on a Friday afternoon too (Midday, just after adoration). Put together on a shoestring budget, it has served its purpose well and we are slowly upgrading cameras and laptops to stream faster and at higher speeds.

Baptisms, funerals and weddings over the last year are regularly streamed and we are happy to provide a record of these events on a USB stick. Note, we wont 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, numbers are static – and it's as it should be. With mass attendance at both churches fully back to pre pandemic levels, we cater for those who really cannot attend safely – and you are most welcome. There are now 355 subscribers to our YouTube channel, thank you for your support.

Another improvement for this year is a standalone recording system of 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 at jamjenkins64@outlook.com

Jonathan Jenkins & Jordan Devi Taylor-Robinson

The Parish Communications Team

In March of this year, Fr Jack asked me to become communications officer for the parish. I had greatness thrust upon me! Press ganging Jordan Robinson to support me, this small team of two has sent out over 350 invitations (printed, mailed and emailed) to you. The survey was all about what communications means to you and where we should improve. Thank you for the responses, we are still collating them as of publication of this newsletter. However, we can see there are some overwhelming popular topics and we will plan our tasks based on these – and published for all to see. One of those topics is improved sounds systems (see IT and Live-streaming section).

The database is now our primary way of keeping in touch with 384 individuals or families. Since starting in lockdown, we have been able to slowly build up numbers subscribing to the database, particularly in Our Lady & St Peter's.

Numbers:

- » OLSP – 289 individuals or families (in 2023, 253)
- » St Bernard's – 65 individuals or families (in 2023, 62)
- » Others – 40 or so individuals or families. *“Others” might be housebound, Worth Abbey parishioners, or those keeping in touch abroad. It may also include those who unsubscribe from the newsletter but stay part of the parish.*

If you are not registered, please, please consider doing so. We can then contact you and you can keep up to date with news. Go to www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com or look for the forms at the back of the churches. As our improvement plans evolve in 2024, we will respond to your registration with a proper welcome.

Other than the weekly newsletter, we are able to send out urgent requests or appeals plus pastoral letters from Fr Jack.

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

Contact Jonathan Jenkins at jamjenkins64@outlook.com for suggestions or queries.

Jonathan Jenkins

Our Lady and Saint Peter's Lunch Club

Many people will remember the highly popular Lunch Club run for many years until lockdown by Ivy Pimenta and her team in Our Lady and Saint Peter's Parish Hall.

The Lunch Club was started up again recently by a new enthusiastic band of volunteers. It has been well attended since our first get-together in October 2023.

It is wonderful to see some original members coming back to the Club, and to welcome new faces.

We all enjoy the opportunity to relax and chat over a simple meal of homemade soup and bread, followed by tea, coffee and homemade cake.

At Christmas we had a special celebration enlivened by carols led and accompanied by Liam Bauress on his keyboard.

The Lunch Club is open to all parishioners of OLSP and St. Bernard. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12.30 pm in the hall at OLSP, except for August (no meeting), and December 2024, when we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

If you would like to come, please contact Gabrielle Joyce on 07981 337759 or Jan Beaumont on 07927 494341, or talk to us after Mass on Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Christine Hardisty



Crown of Thorns

General report

The promotion of the Holy Rosary has been the main principle of the charity and the rosary cards produced have travelled far and wide. 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.

This year we have sent five main shipments to needy dioceses. All shipment items have arrived safely, and there has been great joy and appreciation for all the items sent. We have been asked to thank all donors who have contributed items and funds to make this assistance possible.

To the Diocese of Kumasi in Ghana

Amongst the donated items sent were religious reading and study books, statues for churches, linen and ecclesiastical items. Also, rosary cards and other devotional items to be used across the diocese, in churches, schools and seminaries.

Harare Archdiocese Zimbabwe

In January we sent items including rosary and prayer cards, cassocks, candlesticks and Mass sets for parish use. Mass sets are particularly useful for the rural parishes. Also baby blankets for the sisters to use in the orphanages, bandage cloth for clinic and hospital use.

A second shipment to Harare this year included rosary cards and rosaries for diocesan use. We also sent vestments and cassocks that had been donated to the charity. These have been very much appreciated.

Oyo Diocese Nigeria

In August 2022 we sent a consignment including religious books for diocesan use, many for seminary studies. Vestments and statues for the parishes, catechism and rosary cards, rosaries and donated statues. In the spring of 2023 we sent another shipment to Oyo, which included donated overhead projectors, educational books for school use, cloth to enable the sisters to make baby blankets for their orphanages and for the poor families, and some items from the now closed St. John's seminary, Wonersh, including large

stainless steel tea and coffee pots and devotional items. We also sent church music books for use in a music project started by the bishop, and crutches.

Bishop Emmanuel Badejo writes:

“I repeat my appreciation for the consignments you have sent me. Only yesterday I have helped two desperate people with some of the crutches you sent. Their prayers will surely reach you and reach the donors of the items. You have been a constant reminder of the resurrection to us. Thank you for everything.”

Ekiti Diocese Nigeria

Crown of Thorns sent a consignment of rosary and catechism cards to the sisters of St. Michael the Archangel in Ekiti diocese, for their work in schools in the diocese.

Sr. Beatrice writes:

“I am happy and delighted to inform you that I have received all the cartons with the contents there in today. Sincerely words are not enough to express my heartfelt gratitude to you at Crown of Thorns. I appreciate and thank you so much.”

Support for the homeless

The homeless have been supported through donation of items in store or purchase of items required, including the supply of new underwear and warm and comfortable trousers. We have also supplied bulk frozen food items for the kitchens at Crawley Open House Centre. This has been very greatly appreciated.

Finance

We have been grateful for all donations, no matter how small. A legacy has made a real difference to our ability to reprint cards this year, to support the work of chaplains. In the last months we have reprinted some 200,000 cards, enabling many requests to be fulfilled.

We have continued to be able to run the charity through skilled volunteers, allowing donations to be used in entirety for the work in hand.

We thank all those who make the work of Crown of Thorns possible through the support of financial donations, and through the gifting of items into our care for rehoming. Above all we thank you for your prayers.

*Lisa de Quay, for Crown of Thorns (www.crownofthorns.org.uk)
email: office@crownofthorns.org.uk
Registered charity no: 1042751*

Parish Pastoral Committee [PPC]

Fr Jack formed a Parish Pastoral Committee a couple of years ago. The role of the group is described as:

- » a consultative group and channel for discussion of ideas and feedback on all aspects of parish life;
- » a support to Fr Jack in his ministry to the parish;
- » operating in addition to the existing Finance Committee, which deals with finance and property matters of the parish;
- » a consultative/advisory group – one that does not have authority to make decisions for the parish.

While its role does not include taking action on any topic *as a group*, it serves to propose, debate, discern, and support ideas and actions that aim to help build parish life. In addition, many of the PPC members/participants are very active in helping to implement the ideas selected. However, the PPC does not claim credit for any initiative that stems from their discussions. That credit goes to the many different people in the parish community who respond to requests to be involved with making the proposals and initiatives a reality.

Some of the topics that have been raised and strongly supported include:

- » restarting Children’s Liturgy sessions in both OLSP and St Bernard (we give a huge “Thank You” to the teams of people in both churches who lead those sessions);
- » considering various ideas for developing the spiritual life of the parish; the pilgrimage to Walsingham last year is an example of this (again, thanks to those who organised it and helped in various ways to enable it to happen);
- » encouraging Liam Baures to develop the Junior Band for Masses (thanks to Liam and to them, too);
- » inviting Bishop Richard to lead our celebrations of the 125th anniversary of OLSP building and deciding how best to celebrate it, (including what *not* to try and do!) (again, thanks go to the Catenians, musicians, and others who arranged and enabled those happy celebrations to continue during and after the Mass and to Moat Church community for lending us their hall across the road, even though they normally use it themselves at that time on a Sunday);
- » hosting sessions open to everyone for the diocesan “invited” spiritual

development programme, in the church halls of both OLSP and St Bernard;

- » an ongoing theme is deliberation on how best to promote greater participation by young people in parish life – a very important but also complex topic;
- » promoting good practice in parish safeguarding practice, notably for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults;
- » encouraging greater links with St Peter’s School;
- » encouraging social events (thanks to all those organising such events);
- » fostering a whole parish outlook and participation on many matters, in addition to the strong support within the church communities associated with OLSP and St Bernard, and the wish to maintain the Forest Row community; it is also acknowledged that these communities are fluid;
- » promoting an increase in the number of “healing Masses”;
- » another ongoing theme is to develop ongoing support for, and contact with, families who have a baptism taking place in the parish;
- » various small practical matters on which it is helpful to draw on the experience and opinions of a range of parishioners;
- » initial consideration of the findings of discussions in England and Wales of the Pope’s “Synodal” process – which includes an interesting insight on many lay people’s current views on the RC church in this country;
- » deliberations on the Bishop’s Diocesan Pastoral Plan – which will continue to be an active topic;
- » encouraging Fr Jack to get more admin support in the parish Office – it’s great to have Seana there part-time.

There are more topics, but hopefully this gives a flavour.

It is emphasised again that the PPC group doesn’t do these things itself, as a group (or claim credit for them being done!). It is a non-exclusive channel for such things to be considered, selected, actively nurtured, and supported as part of our collective efforts to build God’s Kingdom in this area.

The group meets about three times per year, and the meetings are open to members of the parish community. Initial members were invited, to try to gather a group of people who were active in parish life in a variety of ways, and across both church communities and so could contribute an informed perspective and their experience. The membership is evolving over time, and it is envisaged that, from 2025, some participants will be selected by the Parish

AGM. In addition, some individuals participate in the committee for a period, related to a particular topic. If you feel you would like to know more about the PPC or feel able to contribute to its deliberations, please contact Fr Jack or the current Secretary, Mike Hope, via the parish office (eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk).

Mike Hope
Secretary, Parish Pastoral Committee

St Bernard's Forum Lingfield, Spring 2024

St Bernard's Forum continues to do what it is supposed to – that is, helping Father Jack with coordinating the day-to-day running of the church and the Hall.

We appreciate the many parishioners who take part in ensuring the smooth operation of the sacristy, kitchen, gardens, hall, flowers, music etc. for which we are very grateful.

The main developments since the last newsletter are:

1. *The creation of St Bernard's Chapel and storage room.* Following a directive that we had to take flammable items out of our storage cupboards, we had to find a new place to store all such items. So we have constructed a new store room to the right of the altar. In so doing, we were able to create a wall in which, on the side that is facing the congregation, we have hung Ula's hanging of St Bernard plus one painting on either side, depicting four saints. We have also put some chairs and kneelers in front of the wall, so that people can sit there and pray. Come and see it, it looks great. Our thanks go to Ula (who, although unfortunately died before project completion, had given us permission to hang her beautiful pieces of art); to the main instigator of the project for making it happen, and to the builder who did such a professional job.
2. *Repairs to the roof and walls of St Bernard's church.* Please read the report provided by Tom Clarke's report on St Bernard's walls etc. included under the Parish Finance Committee (PFC) Report in this magazine.

3. *Sound absorption in St Bernard's Hall.* Huge improvement in the noise level of the hall. Please read the report provided by Paul Barrett in this magazine for details of this.
4. *Heating control system.* The heating control system has been improved and hopefully parishioners are feeling both spiritually and physically warm when you attend church services. Thanks to those involved with this.
5. Our church was broken into last summer and although what was stolen was not very great, there was some damage done to internal doors. All this has been repaired. The person in question was a regular church attendant as he had broken into a number of other churches in the South East, but he was apprehended and prosecuted. We pray that he finds a more honest way of earning a living.

If you want to contribute to the discussions relevant to the day-to-day running and activities of the Church and Hall do come to our quarterly meetings. They are held at St Bernard's Hall, Vicarage Road, Lingfield, RH7 6EZ. Future meetings for 2024 are on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm, as follows:

- » 23rd of July
- » 22nd of October

So, do come to the meetings, do get involved, do volunteer to contribute in whatever way you can, share the load, make a positive difference – it is your church.

If you cannot attend the meetings but feel able to help/participate, please contact Enrique (07824 098276).

Enrique Valles

The Parish 100 Club

Being a member of the Parish 100 Club is unlikely to exaggerate any likelihood of one's becoming an excessive gambler.

Now in its 23rd year, our members still contribute a modest £20 per annum for the opportunity to win over £1,000 in prize monies, plus a likely bonus prize at Christmas-time.

However, the club doesn't stand still, and during the past year we have introduced a fresh innovation: instead of the time-honoured tradition of a

monthly draw offering the chance of three prizes – £50, £25 and £15 – the event now majors on four quarterly draws, when £150, £75 and £50 can be won. So the objective here is to provide the attraction of bigger prizes, obviously at lesser intervals, while maintaining membership costs at the same level. This has proved popular, permitting, also, more streamlined administrative procedures.

There are no noticeable costs associated with operating the 100 Club. After pay-out of prize monies, surplus receipts are committed to various investments for the benefit of the Parish without these costs having to be a bigger draw on normal Parish resources. During the past year, the club has continued to subsidise the operating costs of the weekly Parish newsletter. In addition, it has provided a new hymn board for numbers display. When the Parish celebrated its 125th anniversary of formation last October, the club donated the themed, decorated cake. More recently, it has provided a grant for the start-up of the revived monthly Parish Lunch Club at Our Lady and St Peter, which included meeting the extra expense of refurbishing the commercial dishwasher in the parish centre.

On the subject of Funding, the 100 Club will always be pleased to hear from any organisations in the Parish who would like to – and maybe possibly need to – raise funds for a particular reason but lack the resources or strength to do so. Just have a word with us: if we can assist, we will. The principal contact is Chris – reach him as suits you (home 01342 327002; mobile 07812 952784; email cjp_mrp@hotmail.com [note underscore cjp_mrp]). And the same details apply if you'd like to join the club for attractive prizes supporting good causes.

Come and join us ... Why not?

Chris Pond

Justice and Peace Group

Our main activities for 2023 included organisation of, or involvement in:

- » The Spring and Autumn Charity meals, which raised £3,642.96 and £3,303.00, respectively; this was 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 his hard work and to restaurants and participants for

supporting us. An EG Food and Drink Trail was also held from 1–9 September.

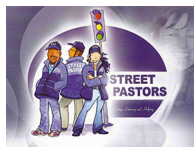
- » The 2023 Sleep Out – our 33rd – held on 1 July raised £2,168.40 and was divided between Crawley Open House, The Easter Team and Worthing Churches Homeless Project (now Turning Tides) – a total of £722.80 each.
- » The Group continued to support Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian families and liaised closely with Refugee Welcome Crawley. After keeping many refugees waiting in hotels for just over two years, the Government decided (with little notice) to evict people given leave to remain. Families have a right to be housed, but single people do not, and many have to “sleep rough.” Throughout the churches, an appeal was made for suitcases, rucksacks and holdalls, as well as requests for furniture.
- » A Peace Vigil for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land was organised at Trinity Methodist Church on Saturday 4 November. Letters were sent to local MPS calling for the cessation of the conflict and the need for humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza.
- » One of our members is 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.
- » Two 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. Fairtrade books, food items and crafts were displayed in the window of EG library, and there were events at local schools (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* resumed in 2023, and 131 boxes were sent to Moldova; contributed by both churches and St Peter’s School. A second ecumenical Peace Vigil was organised at St Mary’s Church on Friday 24 March to pray for the cessation of war between Russia and Ukraine, and a peaceful resolution.

- » J&P members take packet food, tins, clothes and sleeping bags to COH 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 2023 event was focused on exploring food and conflict, and the positive steps that can take towards a fairer, more peaceful world.
- » The Group made various small donations to charities, including Transform Trade, Prison Fellowship (Angel Tree), Churches against Poverty, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, CAFOD and the Amos Trust.

EG Justice and Peace Group meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30 pm, either on Zoom or in the Hall at Our Lady and St Peter's church. We welcome new members as part of our ecumenical group, working together for over 30 years in EG.

*Sue Joy
Chair, EG Justice and Peace Group*

East Grinstead Street Pastors



So who are East Grinstead Street Pastors? We are a group of trained volunteers from seven local Christian churches who patrol the streets and parks of central East Grinstead, in teams of 3 or 4, to provide a friendly, trustworthy, caring, listening, and helping presence in the town. We do this at two main periods: on a Saturday night, and on some afternoons after the schools finish.

At a weekend, we typically patrol from 9 pm on a Saturday evening to about midnight or 1 pm on Sunday morning, listening to and helping people feeling not at their best, suffering from the effects of alcohol or drugs, or stuck alone – e.g. at the station, waiting for a bus or taxi. Recently, our afternoon patrols have been aimed at reducing the incidence of antisocial behaviour by a small group of young people in the town centre. We are told that if we are simply present in an area, fewer incidents occur.

Some information on what we do, in addition to talking to people, is indicated by some of the kit we carry in our rucksacks. For example:

- » Bottles of water – these are particularly welcomed by people feeling bad after alcohol or drugs, or who've been sick.
- » The lollies we give out are enjoyed by lots of people, young and old. Amongst their uses they are good conversation starters, a bit of fun, and sometimes a helpful distraction if an argument is brewing.
- » Our flip-flops have helped many ladies having difficulty standing up in tall heels after a night out. They are also appreciated by some ladies emerging from a train, who have found that their feet have swollen so they can't now put back on the uncomfortable shoes they took off at Victoria after a day out in London.
- » battery power-pack – to help charge someone's phone. While they could use our phone to phone a friend or family to ask for a lift home, all their phone contacts' numbers are unavailable on their battery-dead phone!
- » Our First Aid kit is thankfully not often needed, but useful when it is.
- » Tissues and wet-wipes – e.g. to assist someone who's been sick.
- » Dustpan, brush, and gloves – we pick up glass bottles and drinking glasses left around the streets and in shop doorways. It reduces the risk of them being broken and also removes them as potential weapons. As broken glass and bare feet don't go well together, we use the dustpan and brush to clear up broken glass.

We started over 10 years ago, when the local police asked Churches Together in EG if they would be willing to start a Street Pastors group, because the police experience of them in other towns in Sussex was so positive. The Town Council supported the initiative, and we still liaise regularly with the police and local council, and also with local pub managers. We are a local registered charity, which is part of the national Street Pastors charity.

We greatly appreciate the support of several people, the Prayer Pastors, who pray for what we do. A group of these Prayer Pastors receive texts from us while we are patrolling, which inform them of what we are doing and ask them for prayer for specific incidents or people in difficulty we are encountering in the town. It is very encouraging and important to us to know that we are supported by prayers in this way while trying to help situations we are encountering on the streets.

Sadly, in recent times we haven't been able to patrol as often as we used to, 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. We welcomed a new Street Pastor in March, who

had completed his training. From our parish, Jonathan Jenkins and I are current Street Pastors.

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 a practical way in the town. If people ask us why we are doing it, to help people we don’t even know (and they are often surprised we are not paid!), we often explain we are a team of trained volunteers from several local Christian churches who want to help make our town a safer place and to help people on the streets who are feeling vulnerable or in difficulty. Most people we chat to on the streets are very positive towards us and appreciate what we do. They are also often impressed that it is a voluntary initiative of the local Christian churches – something they can include in their overall impression of Christians and the Church.

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 afternoon patrols, avoiding the Saturday night patrols, and that would be fine. Others may be able to do the Saturday evenings but not the afternoons, and that’s fine too. We are also seeking additional people able to pray for us while we patrol. If you are willing to find out more about what’s involved in being a Street Pastor or about receiving texts to pray for us sometimes while we patrol, please contact me on eastgrinstead@streetpastors.org.uk .

Mike Hope
Secretary, East Grinstead Street Pastors

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 (one of which is rented and one is in the process of being sold). 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.

Our income for the year was in the order of £142k (Offertory £103k, Gift Aid £18k, Other income £21k).

Our operational expenses for the year increased to £146k, especially with higher inflationary costs – mainly energy costs – and Father appealed to parishioners to increase their giving accordingly.

Parish estate

Our Parish Estate expenditure in 2022 was low, due to COVID. In 2023, we spent £102k.

Our most important project continues to be the St Bernard's "Walls & Roof" project. This includes structural strengthening of the church walls and replacement of the defective roof covering. Following a "reset" of the Consultant Team in January, delivery of the Project is now moving at pace; start on site will be subject to Diocesan approvals. Having identified some early savings on the structural element of the Project, we are now in a good position to deliver the Project within the original cost estimate of £600k.

On Our Lady and St Peter Parish Centre, we are currently awaiting contractor quotations for the remedial works to repair the cracked plaster and carry out redecoration etc., internally and externally.

The Loss Adjuster is now satisfied that earlier work, carried out followed by a period of monitoring for any further settlement, has dealt with the ongoing settlement of walls.

When we have contractor quotations, a meeting will be held with the Loss Adjuster to agree our insurance claim for this "long outstanding matter", and final repairs and redecoration can then progress.

Acoustic panels

The configuration of the ceilings in both Parish Centres, Our Lady and St Peter's and St Bernard's, has been a problem for many years, causing speech to reverberate to an extent that quite a number of parishioners struggled to hear in either hall.

Acoustic panels have been installed to help absorb and minimise the reverberation and thereby improve parishioner experience; we have received very good feedback on the resulting effect.

Other property work included pre-sale work on 19 St James Road and maintenance work at the Presbytery and Holly Cottage.

We are also responsible for the procurement and management of various Maintenance and H&S Surveys, including Quinquennial and Asbestos Surveys, Fire Risk Assessments, etc., along with the procurement and management of all works emanating from these surveys.

Additionally, the PFC is responsible for the management of ongoing maintenance contracts, ranging from drainage and guttering to the lightning conductor on Our Lady and St Peter Tower and including fire alarm systems, mechanical and electrical safety surveys, fire extinguishers, etc., etc.

An ongoing challenge is to regularly seek alternative quotations for various maintenance contracts and to seek to benefit from fixed-price fixed-term contracts, where possible.

So, in summary, we have spent about £106k more than our income, which was funded out of our reserves.

We will give a full update at the forthcoming AGM.

Paul Barrett

St Bernard's Church front façade



Parishioners will be aware of the blue panel that forms a backdrop to the white marble Cross on the front façade of St Bernard's Church (shown in the photo). The estimate below, dated 8th June 1961, describes the suppliers' 'C. Collin Estimate' for the supply and installation of the backing panel.

The estimate reads:

"to: Fr Barrard 8th June 1961

Re: New Roman Catholic Church


To Supply and Fix to wall on front elevation of Church as background to existing White Marble Cross, ¼ inch Cobalt Blue Armourclad Cast glass, drilled, notched and ground to butt as necessary, to cover an overall area measuring approximately 11 ft high and 10 ft wide, with and including all necessary screws.

Will cost the sum of: £96.0.0"

ESTIMATE

Safety Glass for Screens from Stock

Telephone: CROYDON 214 Telephone: CROYDON 214




ASSOCIATE MEMBER

C. COLLIN

LTD.

ACTUAL MANUFACTURERS

SILVERING, BEVELLING, POLISHING & DRILLING
EMBOSSED, LEAD LIGHTS & ORNAMENTAL GLASS WORKERS
GLAZING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES



Directors: C. COLLIN, Q. COLLIN.

SHEET & PLATE GLASS MERCHANTS

Father Barrard, Saint Bernards Church, Vicarage Road, Ringfield, Reg. Office: THE GLASS HOUSE, 263-273, High Street, CROYDON and at: Masons Avenue, CROYDON


8th June, 1961.

Dear Sir/s,

Dealing with your enquiry per Our Mr. Legg reference wall facing we have pleasure in quoting you as hereunder, and await your esteemed commands.

Assuring you of our best attention,

Yours faithfully,


for C. COLLIN, LTD.

Re:- New Roman Catholic Church.

To Supply & Fix to wall on front elevation of Church as background to existing White Marble Cross, 1/4" Cobalt blue Armourclad Cast glass, drilled, notched and ground to butt as necessary, to cover an overall area measuring approximately 11'0" high x 10'0" wide, with and including all necessary screws.

Will cost the sum of:- £ 96. 0. 0

- ◆ SHOPFITTERS
- ◆ METAL FITTINGS
- ◆ WALLPAPERS
- ◆ PAINTS
- ◆ VARNISHES
- ◆ DISTEMPERS
- ◆ PLUMBERS' BRASSWORK
- ◆ RAINWATER PIPES and FITTINGS
- ◆ TANKS and CISTERNS
- ◆ SANITARY EARTHENWARE
- ◆ BATHS
- ◆ BUILDERS' IRONMONGERY
- ◆ ELECTRICAL FITTINGS
- ◆ TILED FIREPLACES

We expect the panel to be quite brittle and will be taking care to protect it, as well as the marble Cross, during the course of the imminent Proj Works. The panel and Cross will be cleaned at the end of the Project, and Fr Jack is keen to have the church sign replaced/updated to include a reference to St Peter's School.

Further information on St Bernard's major project will be issued at our Parish AGM on the 8th of May.

Tom Clarke
Parish Projects Coordinator

CAFOD

During 2023, CAFOD was pleased to acknowledge that despite, tough economic times in the UK, Catholics had continued to give generously and to raise funds untiringly, to the tune of £37,400,000, particularly in response to the worsening global food crisis, ongoing emergencies in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Family Fast Days were held on Friday 3 March and Friday 7 October and raised £961 and £1,199, respectively. As a result, CAFOD was able to help rice farmers in Bangladesh to learn how to cope with damage to their rice crops from increasing numbers of cyclones and also fund a mobile medical unit to help people who suffered in the devastating floods in Pakistan in 2022.

Parishioners at both churches also signed a letter and petition from Salina from Bangladesh, calling for the rights of millions of small-scale farmers like her to have control over their own seeds. Over 500 parishes in the UK took part, with 60 from Arundel and Brighton Diocese, including ours, totalling 38,000 signatures. The letter was presented to the World Bank Global Director for Agriculture and Food at the Bank's annual meetings in Morocco. The same day, CAFOD campaigners delivered a thousand Salina letters to the World Bank offices in London, and four representatives of CAFOD met a senior Bank official inside to deliver the message more forcibly.

One of our Parish CAFOD Team is an Education Volunteer with CAFOD and regularly gave talks in 2023 to primary and secondary schools in the Diocese about CAFOD and Catholic Social Teaching.

Parish CAFOD Team

Fairtrade

Supporting Fairtrade in our two churches is part of the rich cycle of support and teamwork that the Parish offers to the poor in developing countries. SVP at St Bernard's raises money to feed babies in Sudan, parishioners support families and individuals with Mary's meals, give generously to CAFOD's Family and Fast Days, and Fairtrade helps communities of farmers and producers (usually in cooperatives) to grow the food we eat and drink every day – coffee, tea, bananas, pasta, rice, chocolate etc. By buying Fairtrade goods *YOU* help to keep people on the land, earn decent and fair wages, and provide families with good working conditions and the opportunity, through the Fairtrade premium, to build schools, medical centres, wells etc. We are all working together to help

those in need, stopping the drift to cities, and preventing people migrating and becoming refugees. Please support our monthly stalls at both churches, and also at St Peter's School, and also buy Fairtrade from local supermarkets.

All churches in East Grinstead flew Fairtrade banners last year, and a window display about Fairtrade was held at EG Library for Fairtrade Fortnight. A joint charity meal, quiz and raffle with EG Museum meant that £250 was sent to Transform Trade. In Lingfield, two Big Brews were held in March and September, and £150 from each event was also sent to this organisation, which has taken over from Traidcraft. The Parish also uses Fairtrade Communion wine and the Diocese Fairtrade olive oil from Palestine for its chrism oils.

The Fairtrade Foundation is 30 years old in 2024 and will be celebrating the introduction of the Fairtrade mark/logo in Fairtrade Fortnight 9–22 September (moved from February).

Parish Fairtrade Team

Filipino British Nurses ExtraCare East Grinstead

The Filipino British Nurses ExtraCare East Grinstead, or ExtraCare, is a voluntary, non-profit, and non-sectarian organization managed by experienced health care professionals. Danny Favor, the founding Chairman, is supported by his wife, Maribel Favor, fellow Registered Nurses and a healthcare support team. The aim is to help improve access to health care, promote health & wellbeing, and increase awareness, focusing on various social and physical activities for a more active and healthy lifestyle. The ExtraCare Team help monitor, prevent, and detect cases of hypertension, diabetes, and malnutrition in interested adult residents of East Grinstead and surrounding areas, especially those aged 35 years and above, by performing free check-ups on blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and weight & height for body mass index (BMI). The team also give appropriate advice and information on health promotion and disease prevention. They work with various community groups and organizations in organizing health-screening events as well as various health and wellness activities such as cultural, educational, social, sports (bowling, basketball, volleyball), and dance sessions like Zumba, as well as fundraising events to support various charities and less fortunate families and individuals locally and abroad.

Danny Favor



Diabetes screening day in East Grinstead.

Parish organizations and contacts

- Altar Society – Church Flowers** OLSP: Anne Davies [gran51@btinternet.com 01342 311226] *St Bernard*: Mary Goodwin [cbeandmme@aol.com 01342 892042], Angeline Rosner [ca.rosner@btinternet.com 07889 323431]
- CAFOD** OLSP: Sue Joy [susanjoy471@hotmail.com 07821 379064], Rosalind Turner [07946 641366], Jan Beaumont [07927 494341]; *St Bernard*: Chris & Margaret Vasey [cjevasey@aol.com 01342 834436]
- Catechists Holy Communion** Julie-Anne Dell [julieannedell@gmail.com], Victoria Dickinson [dickinbar@gmail.com]
- Confirmation** Eileen Lyons [elyons55@icloud.com 07769 317256], Mike Hope [mike@hopes9.plus.com]
- Crown of Thorns** Lisa de Quay [www.crownofthorns.org.uk 01342 870472]
- East Grinstead Catenian Circle** Secretary John Fitzpatrick [unclefitz@btinternet.com 07768 504480]
- Fairtrade** OLSP: Sue Joy [susanjoy471@hotmail.com 07821 379064]; *St Bernard*: Chris & Margaret Vasey [cjevasey@aol.com 01342 834436]
- Friends of St Peter's Catholic Primary School** Carly Davis [admin@friendsofstpeters.co.uk 01342 321985]
- Gift Aid Secretary** Frank Lilley [frank@thelilleys.plus.com 01342 321987]
- Guild of St Stephen (Altar Servers)** Richard Emms [07733 113789]
- Justice and Peace Group** Sue Joy [susanjoy471@hotmail.com 07821 379064]
- Ministry of Consolation** Sue Faulkner [suzy.faulkner@icloud.com 07462 394964], Eleanor Johnson [eleanorjohnson77@hotmail.com 07908 421689]
- Missio (The Red Box)** Chris & Margaret Pond [cjp_mrp@hotmail.com 01342 327002]
- Music Ministry** Director of Music, Liam Bauress [liambauress@me.com 01342 825035]
- Parish 100 Club** Chris Pond [cjp_mrp@hotmail.com 01342 327002]
- Parish Administrator** Seana Dawson [eastgrinstead@abdiocese.org.uk 01342 325705]
- Parish Communications/Welcoming/Streaming** Jonathan Jenkins [jamjenkins64@outlook.com 07974 179647]
- Parish Finance Committee** Chair Paul Barrett [paulmatbarrett@yahoo.co.uk 01342 870058]
- Parish Lunch Club** Jan & Alan Beaumont [itsjan@sky.com 07927 494341], Gabrielle Joyce [gabriellejoyce03@gmail.com 07981 337759]
- Parish Magazine** Klara King [klara.m.king@comcrafts.co.uk 01342 321581]
- Prayer Ministry Team/Prayer Network** Sue Faulkner [07462 394964 suzy.faulkner@icloud.com]
- Reading Ministry** OLSP: Judy Hayler [judyfhayler@yahoo.com 01342 321269]; *St Bernard*: Chris Vasey [cjevasey@aol.com 01342 834436]
- Rosary Group** Les Whittaker [leswhittaker252@outlook.com 07502 274450]
- Safeguarding Officer** Maribel Favor [maribelfavor@gmail.com 07528 694112]
- St Bernard's Forum** Enrique Valles [valles.clan@outlook.com 07824 098276]
- St Vincent de Paul (SVP)** OLSP: Peter Wells [peterwells120@gmail.com 07484 330899]; *St Bernard*: Enrique Valles [valles.clan@outlook.com 07824 098276]

Times of Services

Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

Saturday Mass Vigil: 6.15 pm

Sunday Mass 10.30 am*

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Exposition: 9.00 am;
Mass: 9.30 am

Friday Adoration: 11 to 12 am;
Holy Rosary: 12.10 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;
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 9.30 am

Wednesday Holy Hour and Rosary: 7.30 pm

* Livestreaming: www.eastgrinsteadcatholicparish.com

