IN LATE NOVEMBER two bishops and 40 priests representing 18 English dioceses set out for Rome. They were united in their priesthood, but also celebrating ministry together, some of 60 years, some of 50 years and some of 40 years. They were the guests of the Venerable English College in Rome and stayed at Palazzola, by Lake Albano, the seminary’s former summer residence and holiday retreat centre - approximately 18 miles from Rome.

Three of the priests were from Arundel and Brighton - Fr Liam O’Connor, parish priest of English Martyrs, Goring-on-Sea - Golden Jubilarian, Fr Laurence Quinn-Morris, presently in New Brunswick, Canada - Ruby Jubilarian and Fr Graham Bamford, parish priest of St Clement’s, Ewell - Ruby jubilarian (delayed from last year). Also in the party was Cardinal Cormac - former bishop (the third) of our diocese, 60 years. The Venerable English College has been inviting priests jubilarians for several years. This is made possible by a very generous gift made to the college.

As well as relaxing together in the beautiful scenery around Palazzola, the jubilarians were taken on outings to Rome. They were invited to lunch at the Beda College (for mature vocations) and were warmly welcomed by the new Rector, Canon Philip Gillespie, who comes from the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Afterwards, there was a brief to the nearby Basilica of St Paul’s, site of St Paul’s burial.

Another evening was spent at the English College as guests of the Rector, Mgr Philip Whitemore, staff and students. Mass was concelebrated by the jubilarians, and the priest staff members and led by Cardinal Cormac, a former rector of the College. A splendid and delicious dinner was served afterwards.

The jubilarians attended the General audience with the Pope on Wednesday. The next day Pope Francis invited the diamond jubilarians to concelebrate with him at his early morning Mass with him in the chapel of the Vatican hotel, where he resides. Later they were treated to breakfast hosted by the Vatican’s Foreign Minister, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, a former priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

The bishops and priests involved in this pilgrimage and time together thoroughly enjoyed this experience and especially in celebrating, at the heart of the Universal Church, these landmarks in their ministry, involving 1966 years, strangely the same calendar year as 16 of the priests were ordained.

Story: Fr Graham Bamford pictures Antonio Pineda, a seminarian for Westminster Archdiocese.

The Martyrs Picture

This appears in our picture above and is the first thing one notices upon entering the College church. It was painted by Durante Alberti in 1580, just after the foundation of the College, and depicts the Blessed Trinity with two English martyrs: St Thomas of Canterbury on the left hand side and St Edmund, King of East Anglia, on the right. Blood from Christ’s wounds is shown falling onto a map of the British Isles, and from this blood fire is springing up. This ties in with the College motto, held by a cherub: Ignem veni mittere in terram (I have come to bring fire to the earth- Luke 12:49). According to tradition, students gathered around this picture to sing a Te Deum whenever news reached Rome of a martyrdom of a former student. This custom continues today when the Te Deum is sung in front of the painting on 1 December, ‘Martyrs’ Day’.
NURSERY CHILDREN at St George’s Junior School were left mesmerised recently as they had a visit from some very special guests which were part of ‘The Living Nativity’. As the girls and boys excitedly made their way to the new land at the Junior School on a sunny, frosty morning, some furry friends were awaiting their company. There before them was a Nativity scene like no other they had seen before - a Nativity with live animals. Watched over by Shepherd Gemma, there were geese, donkeys, goats, sheep and chickens, all in a barn overlooking baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph.

The children were reminded of the story of how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, only to find there were no inns or places to stay, resulting in them taking refuge in a barn, with animals all around them as Jesus was born.

The Nursery pupils were fascinated by the animals and very excited to meet them up close, even getting to stroke them and feel how soft their fur was. The animals were very friendly and enjoyed the attention as they were hugged and stroked by the pupils. The Nursery children are now very much in the mood for Christmas....

Richard Morris

TOWERS PARENTS Mr and Mrs Gillespie have delighted pupils by lending us their newly-acquired snowdog, which they bought via the charity auction at Martlets Hospice. The snowdog, which has already brightened up the day for pupils and staff, was painted by Louise Dear. She is a mixture of beautifully vibrant colours and has been greeted with utter disbelief and deep suspicion by our school dog, Skye! Thank you, Mr and Mrs Gillespie!

Clare Trelfa, Headmistress

... and Senior Girls sing carols

SENIOR TOWERS PUPILS visited The Holmshush Centre on Monday 12 December to raise money for charity by singing carols to Christmas shoppers, who were delighted by the beautiful voices and accomplished instrumentalists. A large crowd of proud parents came to support their daughters and the school. Proceeds will go to the homeless in Worthing and Brighton.

Clare Trelfa, Headmistress

A Diocesan invitation to a Formation Day on Saturday 11 February 2017 at the Christian Education Centre, Crawley. For further details see page 8

Richard Morris

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New Supported Living House …..

S t J o h n e s S t a t e M e n t S c h o o l, C o l l e g e & C h i l d r e n ’ s H o m e for children and young people aged 5 -19. Over time, Alan Day, Director of Residential Services and the School Leadership Team recognised that some of the progress young people make at St Joseph’s could quickly become undone when they leave.

Plains began to address this and St Joseph’s sought an opportunity to continue to provide the care and support that would enable our young people to live their life, their way, in the community. Our Supported Living Houses for adults aged 18 and over, do just that; where all the tenants are supported to achieve and maximise their potential, to lead as fulfilling a life in the community as possible.

Long Barn is the second Supported Living House to open, the first tenants were existing learners at St Joseph’s who moved in but continued where possible to travel daily to ‘College’ until they left at the end of Year 14. The young adult tenants are able to access care, education and work experience as they choose. It is a valuable addition to Surrey County Council’s resources for young men and women who require various levels of support as they develop their independence.

The Official Opening of the Supported Living House was celebrated on Friday 2 December. The guest of honour was Damon Hill MBE. Damon is a patron of St Joseph’s Specialist School & College. Tenants and staff at Long Barn helped to prepare for their guests, joining in discussion of what might take place and baking cakes for the reception.

….. New In-school Radio Station

S t J o h n e s S p e c i a l i s t S c h o o l and College, which caters for children between the ages of 5 - 19 with moderate, complex and severe learning difficulties are proud to announce the opening of its in-school radio station: ‘All Star FM’.

The radio station enables pupils to develop their independent skills, encourages speaking and listening and also helps them to overcome some of their social barriers. The presenters will have their choice of songs to play out for the whole school to listen to.

Over the past year the learners have been recording their own shows ready for broadcast in January 2017 as well as recording interviews for BBC School Reports. This is an initiative set up to educate young people about broadcasting and current affairs.

An example of this was last year’s interview with Bishop Richard Moth where one of the learners asked him interesting questions about his job. (See picture right)

New Junior Class Leaders chosen at St Thomas a Becket, Eastbourne

T wo C h i l d r e n F r o m E A C H C l a s s at St Thomas a B ecket Infant and Junior School Eastbourne were recently chosen for their new role as class leaders for the coming academic year. They were commissioned on All Saints Day by Fr Raglan Hay Will and led a Mass at St Agnes in Eastbourne on All Souls Day. The children will lead class prayers including Lector Divina and Liturgies. They will also be involved in Corporal works of Mercy which they will initiate.
Surprised, possibly frightened

CHRISTMAS IS WELL OVER - but tradi-
tionally we can celebrate until the 2 Febru-
ary. This issue of A & B NEWS still contains a
good number of Christmas stories, some of
them really exciting. How many parishes in
this country had African music and sisters wear-
ning traditional African dress to welcome the
new born Jesus?

One of our nursery schools managed to view
a nativity play in a field with real animals. A
lot of our children would be surprised, possi-
bly frightened if they found themselves among
real sheep and cows. And their parents would worry
about what diseases they might catch from the
animals.

The life which most of us live is so remote from
real nature that the circumstances sur-
rounding Jesus’ birth and his whole life would
seem very strange to us. We have to move a
long way to make a real relationship with him.

But it is quite common for priests to be tested at
some point in their lives. It is the break-up of
families. It has such an effect on the children.

Being with Cardinal Cormac talking about some of his reflections
on 60 years of priesthood is an honour. However, the one problem is
that small matter of time - it was time for the Cardinal to fulfil
his next commitment. But that same time has given us a great man
over his 60 years of priestly fulfillment. With our prayers and bless-
ings we say ‘Well done for getting this far and may we continue to
experience your wisdom and enjoy your humour for many, many
years to come. Amen’.

Picture above, Fr Cormac being ordained in Rome by Bishop
Luigi Traglia
Picture left (Mark Woods) (l/r)Archbishop Peter Smith - Archbishop of
Southwark, Cardinal Cormac and Bishop Richard in the
Baron’s Hall, Arundel Castle at the reception after Cardinal’s cele-
bratory Mass on 27 November 2016

CARDINAL CORMAC - A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
A reflection on 60 years of priesthood

How many of us stay with the same employer? How many of us
work more than 45 years? How about the same boss for 60
years? Cardinal Cormac is in conversation with the A&B News’
Peter Burholt on his 60 years in priesthood - a reflection on his
life, both the ups and the downs.

When did you think about being a priest? Did you just fall
into priesthood and follow a family tradition, grow into it or
was there a ‘Damascus’ moment in your life?

No, I do not remember a dramatic ‘Damascus’ moment in my
life. I come from a very Catholic family with uncles who were
priests, so it is not surprising that I might consider a vocation to
the priesthood. I remember when I was about 15 I was out with
my father on his calls - he was a doctor - when he turned to me
and asked ‘What do you want to be?’ I said, without hesitation,
that I wanted to become a priest. And I never changed my mind.

What were your aspirations when you were going through
seminary in Rome? Was it to become, one day, a bishop or a
cardinal?

Having expressed my wishes to my father when I was 15, I never
really deviated from that by the time I left school at 18. I was
convinced I wanted to be a priest and that was the only thought
when I went through seminary. No, I had no idea of what the
Good Lord had in store for me. Perhaps that was fortunate!

After seminary, what was your first appointment?

This was as a curate in Portsmouth, then a very poor parish
where people were mostly docker and workers or widows from the
War. Many were lapsed and I quickly learnt that there was no
point in asking why they did not come to Mass. In time I evolved
the idea of starting courses for non-Catholics wishing to know
more about the Faith, which were very successful. After four
years I moved to another parish and put in place what I had
learnt in Portsmouth - it revolutionised the parish.

Do you recall any particular parish experience which has
helped you moving forward?

For a moment Cardinal Cormac pondered this question. With
a weary smile he replied.

Yes, there was. When in Portsmouth members of the Catholic
Evidence Guild would speak about the Faith in Southsea. I went
to join them on one occasion and there was a big crowd. The
speaker before me was excellent. To my horror, when I started to
speak they started moving away because they became bored.

That taught me a bit about speaking.

Cardinal Cormac is well-known today for his humorous stories
and his ability to hold an audience.

What do you count most precious in your life?

The family is absolutely crucial. The greatest evil of life today is
the break-up of families. It has such an effect on the children.

The work the Church does in trying to hold marriages together
is hugely important.

It is quite common for priests to be tested at some point in
their lives. Has this happened to you?

You are right. And I have had my fair share, after all we are
human. I must give credit to my family, as well as my Faith and
friends for weathering the storms of life. You will always find
the cross in life in ways that you hadn’t expected. Even during
times when you do not get a result, you realise through it all that
the Good Lord was there in the community of the Church.

As a priest, what makes you sad?

There were sad times when I accompanied people as they
were dying or families in their bereavement. You get to see the will
of God or in the providence of God in everything. In contrast, the
most worthwhile thing about being a priest is being with people.
I remember the experience I had of a married couple who were
childless for 10 years. They came back, hand-in-hand, to give me
the great news that a baby was expected. These are the small things
that give me great joy.

If you were not a priest, where do you think your calling would
have been?

Would it have been a concert pianist or a co-presenter with
Chris Evans on BBC? Or ________?

Interesting question. I had thought about being a doctor, like my fa-
thor, or a musician - or in today’s terms even a DJ. Yes, the Cardi-
inal did say DJ.

We have a strong culture of vocations in the family, there are doc-
tors, teachers, lawyers and business people. I would have liked to
have been a teacher. It is a very noble profession, if not demanding.
Teachers and priests are similar in that they both have the task of
forming the whole person for the greatness of life.

In celebrating your Jubilee, is there which moment stands out from
all the other events?

People have been so kind to me in offering their prayers and good
wishes, but I think it was my special trip to Rome when I was
joined by 28 of my family. We met the Holy Father, who said that
when you get older, you become wiser and more compassionate;
wiser because you learn from other people and your own experi-
ences in life; more compassionate because you understand more
therefore, you give more and you learn that you need to be forgiven
yourself for your own faults and weaknesses. Wisdom and compas-
sion are the good qualities that good priests have as they become
older.

I will tell you something else you need. Patience and perseverance.
I remember as I was setting off to Rome to start my formation at
the seminary all those years ago, I went to see my parish priest to
ask for advice. I thought he would say ‘the harvest is great and the
labourers are few’ but he didn’t. Instead, he just said ‘pray for per-
severance’ I thought that it was very boring advice, but it has
proved to be very true.

Being with Cardinal Cormac talking about some of his reflections
on 60 years of priesthood is an honour. However, the one problem is
that small matter of time - it was time for the Cardinal to fulfill
his next commitment. But that same time has given us a great man
over his 60 years of priestly fulfillment. With our prayers and bless-
ings we say ‘Well done for getting this far and may we continue to
experience your wisdom and enjoy your humour for many, many
years to come. Amen’.

A STRONG SILENT MAN
W E ONLY GET TO MEET St Joseph at Christmas and New Year. He
has nothing to say, not a single word uttered by him is
recorded. It can be said, though, that if Joseph is
not a talker he is certainly a doer. When the
law says he and Mary must go to Bethlehem he
safely conducts his heavily pregnant wife on
a journey of nearly 100 miles. Arrived at
Bethlehem, he turns a stable into a temporary
home so that the Son of Man can be born in
safety and comfort.

With the trauma and drama of the Nativity
over, he is preparing to take the Holy Family
back to Nazareth when he is warned of Herod’s
vicious plans and without fuss he takes them
to exile in Egypt and provides and cares for them.

Joseph is a man who is stronger than he
thinks. Joseph has the special gift of being
there. In the face of death, he stands firm.

FOUR STRONG SILENT MEN

Vince Gartlan
Bishop Richard recently installed two Surrey priests, Rev Tony Churchill from St Michael’s, Ashtead and Rev Colin Wolczak from Guildford parish as Canons of Arundel Cathedral on Sunday 4 December.

The ceremony of installation took place during annual Solemn Vespers (Evening Prayer) for the Friends of Arundel Cathedral. This meant that as well as well-wishers from the two priests’ parishes there was also many friends and invited dignitaries from Surrey and Sussex, alongside members of the Chapter of Canons of Arundel Cathedral.

Bishop Richard welcomed the two new Canons as men who could bring experience and wisdom to support him in his work as Bishop of Arundel & Brighton Diocese. The two new canons were welcomed not only by Bishop Richard, but also on behalf of their new fellow Canons by the Canon Provost, Mgr John Hall. Once installed the two new Canons joined their brother Canons in reciting a psalm from the Bible delighting in the joys of working and sharing together as brothers.

The dignitaries included not only mayors and councillors from Sussex and Surrey, but all three Lord Lieutenants of Surrey, and East and West Sussex.

The event was also honoured with the colourful presence of several Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre who raise funds for aid projects in the Holy Land.

The picture shows, l to r, Canon Tony Churchill, Bishop Richard and Canon Colin Wolczak

Story and picture Mark Woods

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A colourful Christmas celebration at Gossops Green

The packed church of St Theodore of Canterbury was delighted to welcome Fr Ron Robinson to celebrate Mass on Christmas morning. Before the service, Nina Williams, our organist led the carol singing. St Theodore’s is not known for having many young people in the regular congregation but on Christmas day Fr Ron managed to find some to help him. Gathering them around Fr Ron produced a jigsaw of the Nativity scene which needed completing. With the help of the children, who answered up very well to the questions posed, and putting the final piece of the puzzle in place, the Birth of Jesus was retold. In their colourful costumes and singing in the Bemba language the Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus led the Offertory procession. All too soon the Mass concluded but not before Nick Crocker, on behalf of the congregation, presented Fr Ron with a ‘thank you’ gift. With a rousing rendition of ‘0 Come All Ye Faithful’ the parishioners departed with the offer of a chocolate provided by the Clergy Team.

Our picture shows the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their garden, wearing their colourful traditional costumes

Sheila Ranson

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Church Bells call the Congregation to Carol Service

The Bells rang out from the Norman Tower of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Bletchingley, as they have done for centuries, to invite the congregation to the annual candlelit carol service. This December it was lead jointy by Rev Penny Sherrington and Deacon Tim Murrill. With the opening prayer: ‘As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God’s kingdom and prepare to celebrate with joy the birth of our Lord, we pray we may respond with penitence and faith to the glory of his kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace and its blessing of hope’ one could sense the presence of the many generations who have been before us praying with us. Different people but the same joy and the same human needs.

The choir, gathered round the Advent Candle, was gently led by Ellie Muller in the absence of their regular choirmaster. Two delightful young members Sophie age ten and Hannah age eleven sang the ‘Rocking Carol’. The collection was in support of East Surrey Winter Night Shelter and the work of USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) with refugees in Greece.

Rev Penny Sherrington is also helping out following the retirement of the Rector. Her main ministry is chaplain at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. She introduced the service and concluded it with a joyful blessing.

After the service we gathered joyfully in the north aisle for mulled wine, mince pies and conversation.

Story and picture Ann Lardeur

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National Marriage Week
7 - 14 February

We all know that marriage is a journey, a long walk that we take with someone we love and cherish. It can be a very familiar one and something we are inclined to take for granted. This week offers us an opportunity to take stock, to stop and reflect on this precious sacrament.

In 2014 Pope Francis gave an address to engaged couples, he said; marriage is also a work for every day, I could say craftwork, a goldsmith’s work, because the husband has a duty to make his wife more a woman and the wife has the task of making her husband more of a man. Grow in humanity, as man and as woman. And that is done between yourselves. This is called growing together. This does not come out of the air! The Lord blesses it, but it comes from your hands, by your attitudes, the way of living, the way you love each other again. Grow together! Always act so that the other person will grow. Work for this. And so, maybe, I think that one day you will go through the streets of your country and people will say: ‘Just look at that woman, so beautiful, so strong! … it’s the husband she has, you know. And to you too: ‘Look at him, what he is like! … it’s the wife he has, you know!’

Pope Francis has a particular attachment to three phrases; ‘May I’, ‘Thank you’, and ‘I’m sorry’. He refers to them often in the context of family life and for the wellbeing of married couples.

‘May I?’ Our trust and respect for each other can be renewed though the freedom to ask this question… remembering that we walk with each other, together, each not exerting authority over the other but respecting and working with our differences.

‘Thank you’ acknowledges the gratitude we have for each other, that sense that we continue to confer the sacrament of marriage upon each other through this familiar act.

‘I’m sorry’: the act of repentance, the ability to accept one’s own error is vital in the continuation of a strong relationship.

Perhaps during this week we could make a daily attempt to seek to find ways to say them to each other and reflect on the gifts that they bring.

Source: V.A. ADDRESS OF POPE FRANCIS TO ENGAGED COUPLES PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE, Saint Peter’s Square Friday, 14 February 2014 – Katherine Bregin (Diocesan Adviser for Marriage and Family Life)

Retreats for Teens and Young Adults at Worth Abbey

One of the most exciting programmes running in the diocese for young Catholics is the retreat programme at Worth Abbey. There are several retreats throughout the year, each held in the grounds of the beautiful West Sussex monastery and run by an experienced team from the Well spring community. The programmes give people a chance to make some Catholic friends of their own age, to learn more about their faith and to relax and have some fun. There are a few coming up in the weeks ahead:

**Inspire: Teenage Retreat for Years 7-9**
10-12 February

A weekend aimed at those in the first few years of secondary school, who want to engage more with their faith and make some friends. The weekend costs £84, but bursaries are available - bookings close 3 February, or when the retreat is full.

**Approaching the Passion: Lent Retreat for Young Adults**
24-26 February

Talks - Space - Mass - Prayer - Friendship

A weekend retreat to enter more deeply into the season of Lent and to explore the path walked by Jesus. The weekend will offer the chance to encounter Christ in prayer through the Benedictine monastic tradition, with inspiring talks, space for reflection, participation in the rhythm of prayer with the monastic community (the Divine Office), Lectio Divina, walks in the beautiful Sussex countryside, and time for building community and friendship. The main speakers will be Fr Stephen Ottiger OSB and Br Paolo of Taize. Cost: Donations per person between £62 (unwaged) and £102 (waged). Bookings will close when full or on 17 February.

**Easter Retreat for Young Adults**

The popular, and powerful, Easter retreat for young adults will be running again this year from Maundy Thursday (13 April) to Easter Sunday (16 April), offering young adults the chance to journey together through the key events marked by the Easter Triduum. Immediately prior to this will be the Cross Walk from 9-13 April. (The 2016 Cross Walk is pictured). If you’ve never experienced this in the heart of a monastic community, surrounded by people your own age, alive in the faith, it is really worth doing!

For more details of all these events or to book, contact toc@worthabbey.net. This programme has been running successfully for many years now, and is supported by the Diocese and by the Monastic Community at Worth. You are also welcome to contact Jack Regan from the Diocesan Pastoral Team at Jack.regan@dabnet.org

The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
Pastoral Team
Serving the communities of our Diocese

**R elit - Evangelisation Tool for Parishes**

If we want to be effective in leading people to a life-giving relationship with Christ, we need to be formed and trained in how to do it.

Michael Dopp STL, the founder of RELIT has spent the last eight years transforming parishes across Canada and the USA through his revolutionary training programme.

Bishop David Molyne of Rockford, commented, ‘We don’t need a new message. The message is there. It just isn’t being heard. RELIT can help with that.’ Many priests have observed a renewal in their parishes after implementing minor changes motivated by RELIT training. His material has been recorded and used as a DVD based training resource - see www.relittraining.com. Some parishes in our diocese have already used RELIT and have found it useful.

Dr Ralph Martin commented that ‘This is an excellent resource for training for the New Evangelisation. This is a comprehensive, clear and practical series that will help Catholics wondering what the New Evangelisation is about and how to overcome the widespread reluctance to share our faith.’

The Director of Evangelisation in the Diocese of Metuchen commented that ‘The RELIT 3 Day evangelisation training course was a phenomenal experience for the parishes in my diocese because it synthesised in an engaging and systematic way the churches teaching on Her one and something we are so inclined to take for granted. This week, in the grounds of the beautiful West Sussex monastery and run by an experienced team from the Well spring community. The programmes give people a chance to make some Catholic friends of their own age, to learn more about their faith and to relax and have some fun. There are a few coming up in the weeks ahead:

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**Dates for Musicians 2017**

Rite of Election
Saturday 4 March Arundel Cathedral, 2.30pm
Rehearsal 12.30pm

Chriism Mass 2017
Wednesday 12 April 2017, Arundel Cathedral, 6.00pm Rehearsal at 4.00pm

Day organised by the Society of St Gregory
Saturday 13 May 2017, St Dunstan’s Church, Woking (details tbc)

Pentecost Vigil Mass with New Catholics 2017
Saturday 3 June 2017, Arundel Cathedral, 5.00pm (time tbc)
Rehearsal at 3.30pm

Plus repertoire session for musicians during the day (details tbc)

For further information and updates, please see abligurty.wordpress.com or contact catherine.christmas@dabnet.org or ruth.gerun@dabnet.org (01293 651164)

**Lent Groups Reflection Material**

For use by small groups or by individuals during Lent are available from DABBCEC Bookshop or on line from dabdiocese.co.uk/resources.

The material will focus on the second readings which we will hear each Sunday in Lent and will further develop our understanding of the ‘Kerygma’ - the primary proclamation of Salvation.
The Beginning Experience - A weekend away for a lifetime of change

T HE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is a weekend programme designed to help those who have found themselves divorced, separated or widowed to move out from the darkness of their grief into the light of a future with renewed hope. It supports participants dealing with the natural grief process and offers an opportunity, through God, for turning the pain of their loss into an experience of positive growth. Rooted in Catholic tradition, its open, ecumenical spirit serves those of all faiths.

My Beginning Experience weekend in October 2016 was, literally, the answer to my (increasingly desperate) prayers. I was widowed, suddenly and unexpectedly, on 4 October 2016, at the age of 51. My husband, Chris, suffered a fatal heart attack at 53 years old. It was a massive shock; the earth seemed to shift on its axis and I was somehow thrust into a parallel universe. On that day everything changed and there was no way of going back.

With a daughter aged 21 in her final year at university and a 12 year old son to care for, a funeral to organise and an overwhelming amount of paperwork and financial affairs to sort, I went into overdrive - and that was before I plunged headlong into a stressful building project on the family home for good measure.

Eighteen months down the line and I was emotionally, mentally, spiritually and physically depleted. From the outside I was ‘doing well’ and ‘amazingly strong’; I had become an expert in burying myself to avoid confronting the grief and sadness. However, I was aware that I was stuck in a state of numbness, detachment and adrenaline-fuelled anxiety. I had closed down my feelings, yet couldn’t eradicate the relentless gnawing heartache and deep-seated loneliness. I was desperately in need of some spiritual sustenance and deliverance and so, when I read about the Beginning Experience weekend in my parish newsletter, I knew it was the Lord calling me.

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest’. Matthew 11:27

On the Friday evening following the second anniversary of Chris’ death, I arrived for the Beginning Experience weekend, which began with supper and the opportunity to meet the team and other participants. The team (who had volunteered their time to look after us) had each suffered the loss of their life partner and courageously shared their personal stories during the weekend. They led us through a carefully-structured programme, which included time for personal private reflection and small group sharing. During the weekend, a sense of trust and community was developed; we could relate to one another’s pain, yet also see the light of hope burning within each of us too.

We were invited to self-reflect on how the emotional turmoil of grief was manifesting in our lives and relationships. At the heart of the weekend was the opportunity to work through the feelings and pain of loss, allowing us to ‘free’ ourselves to make a new beginning - to move into a future with more confidence, hope and trust in God.

I came away from the weekend feeling emotionally and spiritually refreshed and strengthened. I have deep gratitude and regard for the Beginning Experience ministry and vision; and I thank God for the wonderful team that enabled me to confront my grief in such a supportive and compassionate environment.

If you are separated, divorced or widowed and have read this right to the end, then maybe God is inviting you to consider attending a Beginning Experience weekend? The next dates are 17-19 March 2017 and 6-8 October 2017 at the Emmanuel Centre, West Wickham, Kent.

If you would like more information please contact Freda 01322 838415, Sandra 01293 783965 or John 01992 642443, they would be delighted to speak with you.

Jill Smith, parishioner of St John the Evangelist Church, Horsham

Bishop Richard - Membership of Honour

A T THE END of the Mass for deceased members of the Knights of St Columba held at Arundel Cathedral on 13 November the Provincial Grand Knight, Charles Yarham was delighted to present Bishop Richard with a Certificate of Membership of Honour of the Order of the Knights of St Columba.

Charles Yarham Provincial Grand Knight

Editors’ note: Ordinary membership is only available to Catholic laymen. Membership of Honour is for ordained ministers.

John has big surprise at St Patrick’s

T HE STEPHEN SILVER MEDAL OF MERIT was awarded to John Duplain, much to his surprise, at St Patrick’s Church on the 18 December. The Medal is awarded to an Altar Server who has not been enrolled in the Archconfraternity of St Stephen (Guild of St Stephen) for all of the time they have served so cannot yet receive a Silver Medal. John wrote to say how proud he was to have received the Medal and to have had his Church Family celebrate with him made it very special. John first served at St Pauls, Haywards Heath after making his First Holy Communion during his formative years. He returned to St Joseph’s, Brighton in 1986 and was much involved in the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society visiting the sick and house bound and assisting on the soup run. In 1993 he was commissioned as a Special Minister of Holy Communion regularly administer- ing the Holy Eucharist to the sick and housebound. In 1996 John recommenced serving at St Mary Magdalen in Brighton. In 2011 he joined St Patrick’s in Woodingdean. He began serving at St Patrick’s and at times at Our Lady of Lourdes and was then invited and enrolled into the Archconfraternity (Guild) of St Stephen. We con- gratulate John on receiving this well deserved recognition of his service.

Jonathan Sharp

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The image contains a document with various sections including Travel Agreements, Religious Programme, Hotel Offers, and Clergy Notices. Here is a structured representation of the text:

### Travel Agreements
- **Lourdes 2017**
- **Price**: £799

### Clergy Notices
- **Bishop Richard Writs**: I am not grateful to those who have accepted new appointments recently.
- **Fr David Parmenter** has been appointed parish priest of St Edmund's, Golmaning. He will take up this appointment at the beginning of March 2017.
- **Fr Stephen Banker** has been appointed parish priest of St Mary Magdalene's, Brenchley-on-Sea.
- **Fr Anthony Collins** has taken up an appointment as Chaplain to St Raphael's, Bexhill.
- **Fr Trevor Welland** has been appointed in charge to Keymer and Horshamport.

### National Board of Catholic Women
- **Sue Petritz**, the recently appointed Diocesan Link to the NBCW, would like to share their hopes and concerns with the diocese.
- The National Board of Catholic Women is a forum dating from the 1930's in which Catholic Women of England and Wales come together to share their views, and concerns at diocesan and national level, and these are conveyed to the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. It also has consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC).
- You can contact Sue Petritz by email: specitrinzs@gmail.com.

### 50th Wedding Anniversary in Horsham Parish

The image contains a list of Bish's Diary entries, a national board of Catholic Women notice, and a church pew advertisement. The page also includes an advertisement for Safe Foam, offering a free sample pack of foam & fabrics sent by first-class mail.

### Additional Information
- **Free Sample Pack of foam & fabrics sent by first-class mail.**
- **When phoning please quote ABN101**
- **When phoning please quote HAL101**
- **After 24 years in Ferring, the Franciscan**
- **was a Papal blessing on**
- **after a Mass at St John**
- **or email arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk**
- **Alternatively please go to the CAFOD A&B blog at cafodandbrighton.wordpress.com and click ‘Upcoming CAFOD event’**

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The document is rich with information related to travel agreements, clergy notices, and various events and activities within the Catholic community.
The relevance of Fatima in Todays World

The work of the World Apostolate of Fatima

NEARLY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, from May to October 1917, Our Lady appeared to three young shepherd children, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and Lucia dos Santos, at Fatima in Portugal. In 2017, the World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) in England and Wales will be promot- ing the Centenary of the Fatima apparitions through a programme of visi- tations to Cathedrals by the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco.

This will start with a visitation of the Statue and Relics to Westminster Cathedra- dal on Saturday 18 February 2017, with Cardinal Vincent Nichols crowning the statue and presiding at Mass, and will con- tinue until October with visits to 18 of the Cathedrals in England and Wales, includ- ing the Cathedral of Our Lady & St Philip Howard, in Arundel and Brighton diocese, from 1-2 July 2017. For details about these visitations go to: http://www.world- fatima-englandwales.org.uk/visitation.html

The work of the WAF involves promot- ing the message that Our Lady gave at Fatima, when she spoke of the necessity of personal conversion, penance, and prayer, and particularly the importance of praying the Rosary for peace. She also asked for the Five First Saturdays devotion of reparation and the consecration of Russia, and promised that in the end her Immaculate Heart would triumph and a period of peace would be given to the world. The international World Apostolate of Fatima was officially approved by the Church as a Pontifical Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right in October 2010.

The Fatima message is more relevant than ever today, especially for the family. Pope St John Paul II said that the Church accepted the message of Fatima because it repeats Our Lord’s call, “Repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mk 1: 15), and after the beatification of Francisco and Jacinta on 13 May 2000, he said it is “a message of conversion and hope which is the true Gospel of Christ”. In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI expressed the hope that ‘the message of Fatima will be increasingly accepted, understood and lived in every com- munity,’ and Pope Francis, too, has been very supportive of Fatima, and is due to visit the Shrine in May 2017.

A special Centenary Crown is being made in Portugal for the National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. This will accompany the Statue as it journeys around England and Wales, and be used to crown it during the Visitations.

Pope Francis has granted a special Fatima Centenary Plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, from 27 November 2016 to 26 November 2017, for those who go on Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Fatima, or visit an image of Our Lady of Fatima which is being pub- licly venerated on the thirteenth of each month from May to October 2017. Those who cannot travel can fulfil the conditions in front of a small image of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Pope’s initiative prompts the ques- tion: do I know what Our Lady asked of me at Fatima, and am I complying with her requests? The new CTS booklet, ‘Message and Prayers of Fatima’ and also St Lucia’s Maria, ‘Fatima in Lucia’s own words’, vol. 1 - which they also stock, will help us to respond to these questions. (http://www.ctsbooks.org/).

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Lourdes Music Reunion

A LOVELY TIME was had by all at the Lourdes music reunion at St Bernadette’s Catholic Church in Crawley on 6 November 2016. The music was led by Anne Ward, (centre of the picture with black jumper and white trousers) who as always was alive with music, jokes and stories.

Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us

Saint Bernard pray for us

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I write to all Arundel & Brighton Diocesan priests who have helped me through the awful traumas I have had in my life. I also would like the sisters to be thanked and all those who helped me when I went to Lourdes. I know how busy everyone is supporting everyone within our parish and escorting pilgrims on various pilgrimages. You are all very very special - thank you everyone. Also I will never forget Sarah Clutton who always organised the Lourdes pilgrimage for many years. I ask that she may rest in heavenly peace.

Finally I would like to thank personally all the people who I remember as being kind and loving to me ...there follows a list of priests, deacon and sisters... I appreciate all the ministers within our church and I do realise how much you all had to sacrifice in order to serve God. I love your beautiful rosary petal hearts as you open up your beauty to God. I am very sorry if I have ever hurt anyone’s feelings and I ask their forgiveness. Sometimes it must be so hard for you to have to do your duties and sometimes bury those you have loved. I ask that no one gives up on me. Please everyone carry on with the wonderful work you are doing. Again I say thank you and will always remember your love and care. God bless you all

Anita de Lacey

Lisa Margiotta
FROM THE PARISHES

ARUNDEL
AMID ALL THE preparations for Christmas the Advent Parish events have been a real success with the CAPED project. This year ‘Camels’ were chosen. In spite of the serious nature of the appeal an element of fun was included in the combined Blue Bush, adult and youth choirs and our music group. Our children processed in with the royal train they made.

In the evening our shared service was introduced by Fr Chris. Dave Evans introduced Petra led prayers and the joint music group and Mauritian choir led singing.

Thanks to Katie-George Duneley, who has won the Freedom Leisure Sports Performance of the Year Award at the 14th annual Sports Awards. Partially sighted Fr. Katie-George, and her pilot Eve Mc. pearl, won gold in the women’s 2 Road Time Trial, as well as a silver medal in the Tandem Race, at the Paralympic Games in Rio. The pair, representing Ireland, came home in a time of 39.59 seconds.

Barbara Winstanley

CRAWLEY

Christ the Lord LEP

Broadfield and Benfield

FR CHRIS DOBSON celebrated our patronal Christ the King Mass, and what a joyful occasion it was with the combined Blue Bush, adult and youth choirs and our music group. Our children processed in with the royal train they made.

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Barbara Winstanley

CRAWLEY

St Francis, St Anthony and St Bernadette

ADVENT PARISH appeals have been met with generosity in accordance with John Richard’s Refugee Crisis Newsletter. The Moira Teresa Co-workers were able to add donations of clothes to a container going to the families’ camp in Syria. Thanks must go to Queenie Horgan, for her organisation. She has worked tirelessly for decades on behalf of the MTC.

Sadly, she has been seriously ill in hospital and in need of prayers.

Many flasks were donated to the Friary appeal for the winter homeless and woolly hats for babies, children, to the Refuge welcome appeal in the Langley Green church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a Holy Hour for the Immaculate Conception were celebrated on 7 December. For those wishing to re-consecrate themselves to Our Lady, there was an opportunity afterwards.

Acknowledging that nearly 1,000 confessions were heard during our Lenten ‘24 Hours for the Lord’, a similar pattern proved to be more popular.

Advent parish events achieved rewards in abundance starting with our annual Christmas Fayre raising £4,400 and the St Bernard’s Dinner Ladies Christmas Lunch raising £2,500 both towards an accessible toilet ‘Good Will to All Men’. Hallelujah!!

Sue Fellows

EASTBOURNE

Christ the King and St Joachim

WE ENTERED the season of Advent by joining with local offices church communities at the joint service held at Broadway United church in Hampden Park on 27 November.

Singer Deacon Eugene Adams led a preparation session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in the parish at Christ The King.

The annual Reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas took place at Christ The King on 16 December.

On Christmas Eve we welcomed the birth of Jesus by having a special time of prayer around the crib in the afternoon prior to the Mass of Christmas at each of our churches that evening.

A special Mass for St Peter’s Day saw our altar servers from both churches renew their solemn vows and we were blessed with two more servers, Aurora and Augustine, into the Guild of St Stephen.

Our parish Christmas Offertory collection amounted to over £5,000 and this sum will be shared equally between the Sisters of Missionaries of St Charles at Mutomo, Kenya and the Infant Jesus sisters’ school in Nigeria.

EGHAM & ENGLEFIELD BOROUGH

FR HUGH FLOWER’S ‘Family Groups’ are growing and flourishing and within our parish we now have 16 active groups so please do encourage more to join and other parishes to follow suit.

These groups get together monthly and take part in many varied activities which are designed to include all ages of the family and encourage everyone to get to know each other better. Activities so far have included walks at Saville Gardens, afternoon teas at members

POLEGATE and HAILSHAM

ST WILFRID’S Bereavement Support Group continues to offer support to bereaved parishioners and their families. Since its inception some years ago as a result of a diocesan meeting, its team of helpers - themselves bereaved - have held monthly meetings. The highlight of the year is the November Mass, which was well attended in 2016. Fr Rory Kelly created a wonderful atmosphere, blessing this special occasion. The bereaved and their families and friends were given labels on their arrival on which to record their personal memories, these were placed on a small tree on the altar, and left there for the whole month of November. Afterwards there were refreshments in the hall.

There has been a change to weekday Masses, because of an ongoing booking of the hall at Polegate. St Wilfrid’s will now have Mass at 10 o’clock on Wednesdays and Fridays, while St George’s Mass is on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ruth Ayres

WEST BFLEET

ON THE 3 J U N E we hosted a Choral Soiree for carols and music for Christmas and the Epiphany by the Icosa Choir, led and conducted by Luke Mather. The audience in Our Lady’s heady music atmosphere, befitting this special occasion. The bereaved and their families and friends were given labels on their arrival on which to record their personal memories, these were placed on a small tree on the altar, and left there for the whole month of November. Afterwards there were refreshments in the hall.

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Ruth Ayres
SHOREHAM

MEMBERS OF Shoreham Churches Together gathered on Monday 31 October from 4pm to 5pm in a vigil to pray for peace in Syria; this was in response to a request from Pope Francis for prayers to be said on that day for Syria. (See picture above.) They prayed for all the people of Syria and for those leaders trying to reach a peaceful solution to the fighting.

The vigil in Shoreham was in solidarity with two in London, one at the Russian Embassy and one at the Foreign Office.

FROM THE PARISHES

WORTHING
St Mary of the Angels

OUR WINTER NIGHT shelter for the homeless has started again every Monday night until March. This is run by a splendid team of volunteers who provide a hot meal and a bed for the night.

The annual donation of gifts for disadvantaged children and the homeless took place on Sunday 18 December when people placed their gifts under the Christmas tree.

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception there were Masses at 7.00am and 7.30pm as well as the usual 10.00am Mass. The one at 7.30pm was in Latin including sung choral parts but excluding the readings which were in English.

Salesian School (Chertsey)

Our Advent Reconciliation Service was on Wednesday 21 December at 7.00pm. There were five visiting priests and there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The first Mass for Christmas Day was the children’s Nativity Mass on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm: the children did the readings and Bid-ding Prayers. Instead of a homily the children from the parish enacted a mime of the Christmas story with many beautiful angels and some very small shepherds. This had been organised and rehearsed by Mary Murphy and her helpers.

‘Midnight’ Mass was at 9.00pm and was preceded by Carols being sung from 8.30pm. The church was beautifully decorated with Christmas trees and beautiful arrangements.

Peggy Purslow

DURING ADVENT Sacred Heart parish concentrated on helping others. Frances Dorr organised a special Christmas collection of goodies for our food bank, Nourish. Our Christmas tree had extra decorations in the form of requests for specific toys which Karen Collins collected for the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells Christmas Fund.

There was a very generous response and many children enjoyed Barbie dolls and other toys which they otherwise might not have received.

On Christmas Eve we had a deconstructed Nativity. As we sang Christmas carols groups of children brought up symbols, illustrating the words, such as a star, shepherds, a crib and attached them to a decorated screen forming an attractive Nativity scene.

The children’s liturgy group were also involved in choosing a gift from the CAFOD catalogue using the donations from our Sunday coffee mornings and they chose a donkey and a goat which inspired them to think of other children’s needs.

On a more spiritual level churches together in Wadhurst gathered at the Sacred Heart church for a Sacred Space service. Organised by Clare Kent, the theme was ‘The Promise’ reminding us that the birth of Jesus was the fulfilment of the Old Testament promise of a Redeemer.

On December 18, surrounded by her loving family Lottie Vine received her First Holy Communion. Lottie often accompanied her late husband Colin to Mass and we warmly welcome her into the Church and into our parish.

Astrid Gibson

The children’s Nativity screen

WADHURST

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STORY and picture Robin Olivier

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The Virgin Eye
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The Virgin Eye by Robin Daniels inspires us to see the world anew through the innocent eyes of a child, so as to become more aware of God’s presence in everyday life and encounters.

This book is a treasury.
Andrew O’Brien, Parent, BBC’s Stately Homes & Coronation Street

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Rev. Fr. John, Parish Priest, Bishop of Shrewsbury

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S. V. Horton, Director of the Avea Centre

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