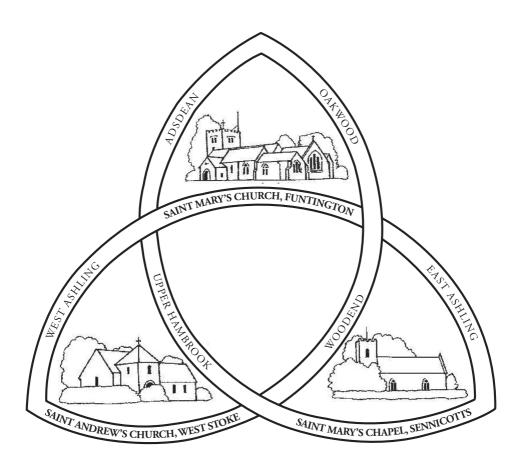
FUNTINGTON

Parish Magazine



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574514

Letter from Father Andrew, Priest in Charge

After Judas had betrayed Jesus and had taken his own life, it was decided that someone should be appointed in his place. The new apostle would need to be a witness to everything that Jesus had said and done and, most importantly, a witness to the resurrection. He would need to have been a follower of Jesus from the day of his baptism by John to the 'day when he was taken up from us'. Matthias was one of two men put forward for consideration. He was chosen by the drawing of lots (so that the choice could be made by God and not by people). The events of the day of Pentecost are reported immediately after this appointment, so Matthias was among the apostles who received the Holy Spirit that day and was inspired and strengthened for his ministry.

In our reading from Isiah, God tells the prophet to challenge Shebna, a dishonest and arrogant steward in the court of King Hezekiah of Judah. Another man, Eliakim, a faithful and trustworthy servant of the Lord, is to replace Shebna.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples that they are friends and no longer servants. He says this is because 'the servant does not know what the master is doing', and continues, 'I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father'.

All three of these stories involve people taking on new roles that bring with them additional responsibility. It must have been challenging for Matthias to step into the limelight and assume the responsibility of the position of the twelfth apostle, or for Eliakim to replace Shebna, or for the disciples to stop behaving like servants of Christ and start to learn how to be his friends.

We sometimes think of friendship as a passive thing, but that's the childish view of it. It's often said that privilege carries with it responsibility, and being a friend to another human is a great privilege, which brings with it great responsibility. As Jesus says, it involves real knowledge of the other person. True friendship might involve being vulnerable to the other person, making a sacrifice or confronting a difficult truth. It might be said that friendship is not for the faint hearted!

Christians are often conflicted about confidence, confusing it with arrogance and egoism. But taking our place in the world, within the context of a friendship or, indeed, any relationship, requires us to believe in ourselves as children of God, and honour our divine kinship. As disciples of Jesus, we, like the original disciples, are invited to step up and be his friends.

We might think we're safe in the background but, who knows, like Mathias, Eliakim and the disciples, we might be called to step forward and take on a new role. And our existing relationships and friendships can almost certainly be deepened and enriched by our understanding of ourselves and our friends as children of God and friends of Jesus. with all that entails.

So, in our prayers today let's ask God to show us that we are indeed powerful, brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous – as we were created to be.

Father Andrew

The New Singing Group at St. Mary's Funtington

St Mary's, Funtington has formed a new singing group. It is early days, but so far, they have sung at two services; a Taize chant called Jesus, Remember me on Palm Sunday, followed by My Lord, What Love is this by Graham Kendrick and The Lord's my Shepherd by Stuart Townend on Easter Sunday.

The intention is to introduce more modern and varied music to our services and in particular, the Family Service on the first Sunday of the month. It became clear however, that without singers or a choir who have already rehearsed the music, that it was going to be a slow process, hence the formation of St Mary's Singers! Currently, we have 2 basses, 2 Tenors and 5 Sopranos, but no Altos as yet, so there is room for more if you feel like joining us, give me a call. At the moment, we meet on a Friday afternoon at 4.00 for about one hour, but this could change. Some ability to read music is helpful, although not essential. Contact Paul on 07973 358314 or paul@wren47.plus.com

St. Mary's Church Flowers

Thank you to all the flower arrangers who once more made our Church look wonderful, your work is greatly appreciated. A big thank you also to the people who donated money for the Easter flowers. To know that our efforts are appreciated makes it all worthwhile. With thanks. **Denise Foster**

FUNTINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2023

The copy deadline for the June edition is Friday 19th May 2023

Please send copy to editorfuntingtonmag@gmail.com

News from the PCC.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on March 29th at St Mary's Funtington. 25 members of the electoral roll attended to hear of the activities of the three churches during 2022. It was heartening to hear of the success of the PV panels and roof repairs and of the surplus electricity generated going back to the grid. It was also encouraging to hear news of the weekly Sunday School and the regular attendance. The accounts had been approved by an independent examiner and, whilst the finances are well-monitored, the church is operating at a deficit.

The Churchwardens of Funtington and West Stoke volunteered for another year of service: Paul Wren & Pippa Kerr (St Mary's,) Caroline Noble (St Andrew's.) The PCC now comprises: Rev Andrew Birks (Chairman,) the three churchwardens and: Gwynne Oakley-Smith, Neil Watt, Tricia Dry, Andrew Lillie, Tony D'Alton, Carolyn Watt, Deborah Hughes, Andrew Hughes, Gill Boote, Claire Hoare, Kay Knowles, Denise Foster, Ed Platt, Jo Wergan, Judy Meeke, Eloise Rank.

Fr Andrew thanked all those PCC members who had served last year, as well as those who had contributed so much to the life of the parish.

Carolyn Watt

Magazine Subscriptions - Final Reminder!

Thank you very much to all those who have already paid their subscriptions. You have been brilliant. If you haven't paid yet, please don't forget!

Please make a payment of £10 for the year (£18 for postal subscribers). Account name is Funtington PCC, Account number 0014478 sort code 40-52-40 Please could you use your surname and first line of your address as the reference so that we can identify you more easily.

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Anna D'Alton

Coronation Quiche Recipe

The Coronation Quiche has been chosen by the King and Camilla in the hope that it will be the 'centre piece' to many a coronation 'Big Lunch'! Here is the recipe – good luck!

Serves 6 and includes double cream. Use 1 x 20cm flan tin

Pastry

125g plain flour and pinch of salt 25 g cold butter diced 25g lard 2 tablespoons milk

Filling

125ml milk

175ml double cream

2 medium eggs

1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon

Salt and pepper

100g grated cheddar cheese

180g cooked spinach lightly chopped

600g broad beans or soya beans

Make pastry: rub in fats until feels like sandy breadcrumb texture. Add milk at little at a time and bring ingredients together into a dough. Cover and allow to rest in the fridge for 30 -45 mins.

Roll out pastry and line tin. Rest in fridge for further 30 mins. Preheat oven to 190C (180C Fan)

Line pastry case with greaseproof paper, add baking beans and bake blind for 15 minutes before removing paper and beans.

Reduce oven temperature to 160C.

Beat together the milk, cream, eggs, herbs and seasoning. Scatter half of the grated cheese in the blind baked base, top with the chopped spinach and broad beans and herbs and then pour over the liquid.

Sprinkle over the remaining cheese and place into oven to bake for 20-25 minutes until set and lightly golden.

On the Farm in 2022

Harvest 2022 was awaited with trepidation after the exceptionally hot and dry spring and early summer. We finished in record time, 31st July, and the results were surprisingly good. What little rain we had had must have come at just the right time for the wheat and rape crops since yields and quality were good but unfortunately at the wrong time for our oats and spring peas. We had struggled to find harvest help but struck lucky by employing a Turkish taxi driver who was great. He has returned home to help with the aftermath of their awful earthquake and we are waiting to hear if he will be back this summer.

Agricultural input price inflation ran at over 30% pa for several months last summer. This was at the time when we were buying fertiliser and other inputs for this season. Grain prices also went up significantly but not by so much and have now fallen back. Our break-even prices for this harvest are uncomfortably high. Of course we have all been hit personally by the hike in energy and food prices and some food shortages. Post Brexit, post pandemic and with the continuing war in Ukraine it feels like the world has changed. The turmoil created by international politics and climate change means that local food security may go up the government's agenda.

Back on the farm the crops are looking good, so far this season. However the local fallow deer continue to munch through our rape crop south of the footpath between East and West Ashling. Some of our neighbours have erected fencing around their crops which has pushed the problem along, so I expect we will follow suit. For the last umpteen years we have grown quality bread making wheats but with the high price of fertiliser this year we are trialling a 'barn filler' aimed at the animal feed market. This has a lower grain specification and so should be cheaper to grow but the price is also lower and so it needs to achieve its high yield potential.

My apologies for the awful smells that sometimes emanate from our fields for a few days around September. This happens when we spread organic manure (local pig muck / digestate or processed sewage sludge) which we aim to incorporate into the soil within hours to minimise the odours. Organic manures are an important source of 'natural' fertiliser and minerals and help maintain the organic content of our soils in the absence of animals. Farmland also now plays a vital role in disposing of such wastes which cannot be pumped into the sea. If it is any consolation, the field next to our house is due to have sewage sludge this year before it is planted with rape.

I guess you've noticed something a little strange with Dad? It's okay, I'm still Dad!

It's around this time of year that newbie bee-keepers will be anxiously staring into the dark abyss of their first beehive, wondering what they are going to find in there and, almost certainly, what on earth they have got themselves into. Kitted out in the finest bee-keeping suit and armed with a shiny new hive tool, they head out the house to the applause of their watching family to go do their first solo inspection. They will have been shown what to do in the association training apiary, sat through half a dozen lectures in the local village hall, been glued to YouTube all winter watching know-itall's make it all look so easy, but nothing really prepares them for that first summer of bee-keeping.

One's reason for getting into this mess in the first place varies; some to 'save the bees', some to make their fortune from honey (good luck with that!), some will have been intrigued when a swarm arrived in their garden the summer before. But in scenes reminiscent of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, all will find themselves strangely drawn to the same village hall to be taught the art of keeping honeybees.

Starting is the easy bit, you just need a relatively secluded back garden, a few hundred quid, and a couple of hours a week going spare. It helps if you know someone who can guide you, but if you train with the local association you will be buddied up with a mentor. Your first colony of bees can be purchased locally in April, but most put their name down on the 'swarms wanted' list and patiently wait for a call that one has been collected nearby and it's their turn. Of course, sitting there with an empty hive is super easy, it's when it's full of bees that it gets tricky. But soon enough we all get hooked on the wonder of it all.

There's something intriguing about the controlled randomness, the realisation that us humans don't actually rule the world and that despite all the training and the YouTube heroes, mother nature has her way of putting us back in our place. Coming to terms with that and working with the ebbs and flows of the seasons, understanding how each builds into the next, is what makes it so fascinating.

It's also at this time of year that second year bee-keepers get to practice what they learnt about swarm control the year before. Beginning in April, the four-month swarming season puts us all on high alert so that we don't lose our only means of honey production nor have to apologise to our neighbours for ruining their BBQ. It's been a cold spring so far, but as soon as things warm up our bees will be itching to expand and swarm so we are now well into the swing of doing weekly hive inspections. And at the end of this month the rapeseed will stop flowering and the job of proper honey-making begins!





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On Monday May 8th we will be organising a volunteer's day, including litter picking and tidying up around the parish, please contact Jane Mottershead for further details - ibmottershead@aol.com

Elegy for a River: Whiskers, Claws and Conservation's Last, Wild Hope by Tom Moorhouse (Penguin Books £9.99)



Anyone who's read *Wind in the Willows* will remember Ratty, a water vole. They have been here since the last ice age and are born survivors. They have to be, as they would make a good meal for anything that preys on the small and squeaky: herons, foxes, stoats, weasels, owls, or pike. They have excellent anti-predator strategies. If chased by a fox, stoat or weasel they run for their burrows, which have escape tunnels low down in the bank, leading to the river. If chased by a heron or pike, they find an underwater burrow entrance and head up into the safety of the tunnels. When *Wind in the Willows* was written there were countless thousands of them. But now 98.7% of all British water voles have vanished. The cause is predation by mink. Water voles' anti-predator adaptations, which had served them well for 14,000 years, were worthless against a creature equally at home on land or in the water.

Tom Moorhouse's book explains how a North American animal came to be rampaging across this country. In the 1920's there was a fashion for fur coats and mink were brought over for farming. Some of them escaped (it always happens). They took a while to establish but then expanded exponentially. Mink and water voles cannot exist side by side, and, as it's virtually impossible to eradicate wild mink, the few remaining British water voles are on life-support.

Another case is the introduction of signal crayfish. Some escaped – they always do. Once out, they established quickly. Crayfish farming became unprofitable with no domestic demand, but the damage was done. Signal crayfish eat everything, including fish eggs, fish fry, frog and toad spawn. They undermine flood-defence works with their burrows. There is literally nothing about them that is good for our ecology.

Unbelievably, most crayfish in supermarket sandwiches is imported from China, as dismantling a crayfish requires human labour and such labour is expensive.

This captivating story of ecology and fieldwork is both funny and furious. Dr Tom Moorhouse is a conservation scientist who has spent years studying the unintended consequences of introducing invasive species. Despite everything, he remains an optimist, in that awareness of the importance of the environment is increasing and we are beginning to understand that clean air, pure water and unadulterated food are not nice-to-haves but absolutely fundamental to human health and happiness. A fascinating, but uncompromising, read.

Book Review by Bob Money

Funtington Flora, May 2023

This month the hedgerows and verges start to become abundant with wild flowers.

The first buttercup species to flower is Bulbous Buttercup. You can recognise it by the way the sepals (the green outermost part of the flower) are folded right back against the stem. This buttercup often prefers slightly damper grassland. Meadow buttercup and creeping buttercup flower a little later. There are bulbous buttercups in the wild flower bank in East Ashling.

Ragged Robin is in the Campion family, with elegant, thin, divided pink petals. You can find it in damper ground such as on Fishbourne marshes.





Garlic Mustard, also known as Jack by the Hedge is in the Cabbage family, with the family resemblance of four petals in each flower, in the crowded flower head. It grows in woods and hedgerows in slightly when crushed.

Helen Dignum

Local Raptors

Raptors which are probably more familiarly known as 'birds of prey' are often a good watch and locally we have good numbers of these birds. These birds however are often seen as silhouettes in the sky as they spend a great deal of their time searching for prey. When they are perched up because of their heightened senses of sight, hearing and smell they usually detect us before we see them, and are up and off into the air space before we even get a chance to appreciate them. Locally there are a number of raptors which are reasonably easy to see and some of the more uncommon species also will occasionally put in an appearance.





The Common Buzzard is a large bird of prey which usually be can seen circling in the thermals if one looks up on a fine day, one's attention often drawn to it by its high pitched mew. It is a broadwinged bird with medium sized tail which is

usually fanned when soaring. Its plumage varies considerably, some birds being very dark and others being quite pale, but when seen soaring one can usually make out the 'mayoral chain' marking around its neck which is preserved in most forms.

The Red Kite is probably familiar to most people because it is such a stunning and entertaining bird. When I was young this bird was on the verge of British extinction with only a few pairs surviving in central Wales. However after a successful re-introduction project where birds from Spain were introduced in the Chilterns these bird have now made it across the Downs and are seen frequently in our West Sussex skies. There is a particularly large roost up the Lavant valley. This bird is unmistakable if seen well. It is a large, long winged raptor with a beautiful red-brown plumage and a deeply forked tail. It is mainly a carrion eater and has done so well because of the abundance of road-kill. This bird's characteristic lazy flight style with its acrobatic twists and turns is very watchable and makes it a memorable bird to see.







Another long winged bird of prey which has a slow lazy flight pattern seen locally is the Marsh Harrier. We are lucky to have this uncommon bird breed locally, and have quite good numbers in the region. This bird likes the marsh and reed beds habitat and can be found at Pagham RSPB, Thorney Island and a little further down at Farlington. This bird can be seen flying languidly low over the reeds looking for its prey. It is similar in shape to the Red Kite, but it has a long unforked tail and the male has a pale head.

A more common raptor which is actually declining in numbers is the Kestrel. This is a

small falcon and so the wing shape is very different. They have thin pointed wings and a long tail. It is a smallish bird compared to the raptors above and can usually be easily identified by its characteristic hovering. This bird is often seen hovering





over a field or at the edge of a road looking for small rodents. The male is a very smart bird with a chestnut plumage, a densely spotted chest and a grey head. The female is much more of an overall brown.





The other falcon which one has a good chance of seeing locally is the larger Peregrine Falcon. This has a similar shape to the Kestrel but is a lot larger and bulkier, an altogether much more powerful bird

and is greyer in colour. This bird can be seen particularly in the winter around Church Norton and Pagham where it takes advantage of the abundant water fowl and small waders during that season. There is also a pair which nest in Chichester cathedral each year and can be viewed on a local webcam set up to monitor them. This can be found on YouTube. In June the cathedral has a couple of open days to see the birds.



The last common raptor locally seen is the Sparrowhawk. This bird is the most likely one to be seen in your garden, and it is not uncommon to see them hanging around bird feeders where they will take small birds. It is a similar size to the Kestrel but is much bulkier and broader winged with a barred chest and a longer tail. Its preferred habitat is woods and is very adept at flying fast in and out of the trees where it is most often seen.

Owls are also raptors and the Tawny Owl is reasonably common, but being a night hunter is more often heard than seen. There are several Barn Owls residing at Pagham RSPB and Medmerry RSPB which can often be seen hunting just before dusk. These are unmistakable as their pale appearance makes them look ghost-like in the evening light.

Most winters we do get migrating Short-eared Owls which take up short term residence on Thorny Island, Farlington and sometimes Pagham RSPB. These owls will hunt during the day and so can be seen if





you are fortunate enough to get the timing and weather conditions right. This winter there have been three regularly seen over at Farlington.

Locally we are lucky to have several other raptors the pick of which are the Goshawk and the White-tailed Eagle. We are fortunate to have a small population of the large impressive Goshawk in West Dean Woods. This is a shy bird that is not often seen, and these woods have often attracted birders from some distance to look for this elusive bird. This bird seems to be doing well and numbers are increasing over the country but it is still a good find. The other local star is the re-introduced White-tailed Eagle. This program started in 2019 from the Isle of Wight when young birds were reintroduced to the area. Over the years these young birds can be seen in the skies above us if you look upwards! If seen they can't be mistaken, they are enormous birds with wing spans twice the size of the Common Buzzards and are describes as looking like a 'flying barn door'! A pair of the youngsters are often seen at Pulborough Brooks RSPB and have established a roost on the Amberley Brooks where they can usually be seen sitting in their favoured oak tree viewed from distance at the Rackham woods view point.

Kevin Tarrant

News on the Grapevine



It's been nine months since our harvest. SO that means those plump grapes we snipped into our buckets are nearly readv to bottle. The long hot summer last year made for significantly better vintage than 2021.

Whilst some young vines suffered due to the dry conditions, more established vines thrived. The winemakers were really pleased with the lovely ripeness and lack of disease, resulting in some lovely fruit flavours coming through in the wines. 2022 wines are definitely worth looking out for!

The Rose was bottled mid-April and the Bacchus later in the month. The Chardonnay and the Pinot Noir are due to be bottled in May, so do pop in to have a glass or two.

The chefs have been using their creative talents too. Our new Nettle Bhaji with nettles foraged from the estate have been going like hot cakes, whilst our orchards are becoming a great source of ingredients to make our chutneys. With our meat supplied from the guys at Adsdean farm and a rabbit terrine on the menu shot on the estate you can't get more locally sourced then us.

We have a few tickets left for our Kings Coronation shindig Monday May 8th at 1pm, please visit our Events page on the website for more details https://ashlingpark.co.uk/events/ Hope to see you in the sunshine.

Gail Gardner

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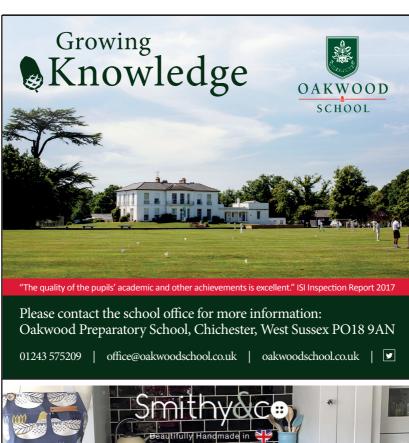
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Funtington Parish Magazine - Help Needed!

Advertising and Marketing. We are urgently looking for additional people to help with the monthly production of the magazine. Initially we are looking for someone to take over the responsibility for the advertising and marketing. We currently have 15 people who advertise annually and this really helps us to keep the costs down. We could do with a few more. So the job would involve finding a few more people to take an annual advertisement and then invoicing everyone once a year. It is not a very onerous or even time consuming job, but it would just be a tremendous help to us to have an extra pair of hands.

Magazine Production Is there anyone who has 'Word' experience who thinks they could put copy into a template (and for no reward!). If you know what I am talking about you might be the right person and please would you give me a ring! We need someone else to share this with us!

SEW4FUN



If you enjoy sewing, crafting, crochet or knitting come and join us on the second Thursday of each month. 10am – 1pm at West Stoke Village Hall, PO19 9BGFor further information phone Sue (07974 875782) or Kim (07752 012931)

Visit to Japan and my Tokyo Marathon in aid of Dementia Support

Apart from putting in the training - I follow a 17-week programme of about 600 miles in total - getting to the start of a marathon (26.2 miles) can be a bit of a logistical nightmare but in a Country I had never visited before and with language I didn't understand it seemed an especially daunting prospect. Also, Japan had only recently relaxed its restrictions



to foreign visitors after the pandemic and the organisers of the Marathon had set up a series of health related checks before runners were even allowed to pick up their running number, let alone enter the start area. Masks had to be worn at all times in Japan except when eating, drinking, sleeping and actually during the race.

In the event, the long flight to Tokyo (14 hours), emigration, customs, race registration and health checks were greatly facilitated by the Japanese staff and volunteers who were without exception courteous, helpful and in most cases spoke enough English to resolve any difficulties. I obtaining entry to the Tokyo Marathon by going through a specialist sports tour company who also booked my accommodation - a hotel with 2 towers each of 30+ floors - conveniently situated near the Marathon start. In this hotel alone I saw groups of runners from Britain, USA, France, Germany, Italy and Brazil. Apart from walking in a local park I used the 3 days before the Marathon to rest and adjust to the time-zone (GMT + 9 hours).

Race day (5th March) dawned and I made it to the start line. Tokyo is a modern city with many high-rise buildings and roads that weave over and under each other to keep the traffic flowing. The race start was near a park which allowed the 38,000 runners to be gathered in 10 corrals before being joined into one long column. I was surprised they set off all the runners at once without any gaps between the corrals. Being in the 4th corral I faired quite well and wasn't held up by the 10,000 or so runners ahead of me. In theory it doesn't matter when you start as runners are timed from their start

to the finish by a 'chip' tied to one shoe but runners in later corrals I understand were held up owing to the density of runners.

For an event of this size roads are closed to traffic and I guess to make best use of the expense of doing this a lot of the course ran out on one side of the road and back on the other. You can't cheat because there are timing mats at the turning points to ensure you have not jumped over the central reservation! I did manage to look at the cityscape as I plodded along and noticed some fine buildings and an impressive tower. Crowds were out to cheer the runners, not as noisy perhaps as similar western events but plenty of encouragement. The weather was ideal, cool, and my run went particularly well in that I was able to keep to a fairly constant pace from start to finish, which is always my aim. The only down side was that I had to stop a couple of times and the toilets were some way of the course, adding to the distance run, and were insufficient in number to avoid queueing. This cost me around 8 minutes and pushed up my time to 4 hours, 1 minute; I had hoped to be well under 4 hours.

It interests me to see how I do against others of a similar age and in this race I was 28th out of 562 in my age category (70-74); I hoped I might do better but realised that Japan has an ageing population, one of the oldest in the world, over 1 million 100+, so the high number is not surprising. Also I read that Japanese are very accomplished runners. In fact 22 of the 27 ahead of me were Japanese. I was 6th of the foreigners and 1st of the other 5 UK runners in my age category. All in all it was a successful day for me with some niggles about the organisation but also some personal achievements. Many thanks to all who have contributed to my fundraising for Dementia Support:

justgiving.com/fundraising/john-miles30

Kyoto tours

I had decided to take a 3-day extension package to Kyoto - a previous capital of Japan - offered by the Sports Tour company. On the day after the Marathon a party of 30 of us went by the Shinkansen (aka the Bullet Train) to Kyoto a distance of about 500 miles, it took just 2.5 hours. On arrival we were immediately ushered into a tour bus by our Japanese guide and visited a Castle and two Temples that afternoon. These sites contained



some stunning buildings dating from hundreds of years ago. In the following two days we visited a park with tame deer and a building housing the biggest wooden Buddha in Japan, a Shrine with a long walk through characteristic Japanese orange-red 'gates' and finally a Bamboo Forest where we also saw some early cherry blossom.

Our guide was a Japanese lady called Mayuri Sakaguchi, aka Lily (thank goodness), who spoke good English and French (there were 3 French in the party) and had a good sense of humour. She was a mine of information about everything we saw and Japanese life, history, culture, etc. and made the tours most enjoyable. The weather was warm with constant sunshine.

John Miles





News from the WI

At our April meeting we welcomed Richard Mornay to talk to us about Scams. He worked for the Sussex Police before working as a Community Warden for Selsey. This change came about when the Police were getting a lot of scams being reported by the public. So many people get caught up in Scams, not because they are stupid or foolish but the Scammers are so clever. For instance a call from someone pretending to be the Police makes people feel nervous so they go along with it. Callers only need 1-2% of people responding to make money. There is a very good book published by the Sussex Police called find The Little Book of BIG SCAMS. To out more www.sussex.police.uk. Here you will find all you need to know about Scams and what to do about it. A lot of information about Scams, more than I can write about here. An interesting evening was rounded off by our usual excellent tea and cakes and sandwiches. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th may at 7pm. This will be our Resolutions Meeting. Jan Dunnett

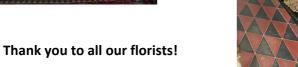
Easter at St. Andrew's West Stoke











Easter Flowers at St. Mary's









Thank you to all the flower arrangers who once more made our church look wonderful, your work is greatly appreciated.

Denise Foster

Funtington Parish in the Past - The Longest Incumbency at Funtington Parish Priests of St Mary's Funtington





Canon Norman Dunlop

I have been looking at the names of the Funtington Priests during the last 850 years on the board in the church which was given in memory of Rev Norman Dunlop. I remember Rev Norman Dunlop well. He was the vicar here for 44 years including the five years when he was a prisoner of war In Germany.

I wondered if his was the longest incumbency. The penultimate name is that of Christopher Huxtable who sadly died of motor neurone disease and I also wondered if his incumbency of three years was the shortest. However I found that the adjacent names of **Rev George Bliss** and **Rev the Hon Thomas Alfred Harris** in the 1800s record the longest and shortest incumbencies. They were the last curates at Funtington and they were followed by vicars. (1)

Rev George Bliss (1808-1856)

George Bliss arrived in Chichester in 1808 as a newly ordained priest from Oxford. He was appointed as the Canon of Highley or the head of the Cathedral School, the Prebendal School as it is now known. With the choir boys under his care in West Street, Chichester I wondered how he had time to take services in Funtington.

However, the parish registers show that he managed to conduct almost all of the weddings and baptisms during the next 16 years. I imagine that he would have travelled backwards and forwards by horse and trap or did he ride a horse? In 1824 he moved into Funtington Vicarage with his young wife where he lived for a further 32 years until he died in 1856.

However Rev George Bliss was accused of spiritual negligence when he fell out with Charles Baker who proposed to build Sennicotts Church as a Chapel of Ease for those who lived in the east of the parish. In response to this proposal, George Bliss offered to hold one of the two Sunday Services at Sennicotts. The disagreement became more acrimonious when the Bishop of



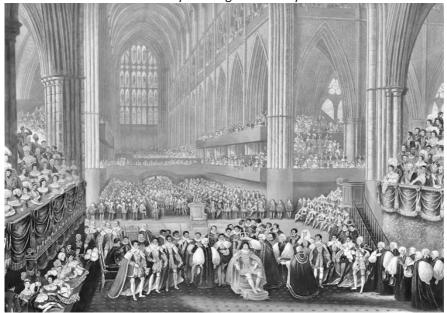
The Memorial to George Bliss in Funtington Church. Chichester and the Church Commissioners took Charles side. Baker's George Bliss was ordered not to enter Sennicotts Church and a separate curate was appointed there. George Bliss wrote a pamphlet to explain his side of the story.(2).

His memorial in Funtington Church is partially hidden behind the organ and it reads "For pious zeal and indefatigable earnestness in his Master's cause, kindness of heart, gentleness of manners, he was beloved by all who knew him."

The Rev the Hon Thomas Alfred Harris (1806-1808)

The Rev the Hon Thomas Alfred Harris, the younger son of the first Earl of Malmesbury, lived at Hurn Court, Bournemouth. He became curate at Funtington in 1806 and then in 1808 he became the Rector of Hartley Westpall a small parish in Hants, where he received the parish tithes.

In 1795 George, Prince of Wales, the future George IV sent Thomas' father, Earl Malmesbury, a very successful diplomat, to Germany to marry Princess Caroline of Brunswick by proxy (3) and bring her to England. For once the Earl's diplomatic skills seem to have failed him; confronted with Caroline's bizarre manner and appearance, he sent no advance word to the Prince, who was so shocked by the sight of his future wife that he asked Malmesbury to bring him brandy.



The Coronation of George IV in Westminster Abbey with an empty chair for Queen Caroline

George IV spent just two nights with his wife and later attempted to divorce her with a special bill. However he and the bill were so unpopular and Caroline was so popular with the masses, that the bill had to be withdrawn. The King then barred Caroline from his coronation in July 1821. Queen Caroline fell ill in London and died three weeks later.

Both Rev George Bliss and Queen Caroline seem to have been unfairly treated by history. Perhaps this would be a good time to remember them more favourably.

- (1) Vicars are represented by a V and curates by a C.
- (2) Google George Bliss A Statement of some extraordinary proceedings
- (3) Under English Common Law if a proxy marriage is valid by the law of the place where the marriage was celebrated then it will be recognised **Geoffrey Boys**

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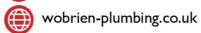
WILLIAM O'BRIEN

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Ashling Cricket Club

We are not sure when Ashling Cricket Club was formed, but we have records of games going back to the 19th Century. Our clubhouse walls are adorned with pictures of teams from the past and present, the earliest of which is dated 1905. A particularly interesting picture is one of the Ashling Ladies team, undated but clearly Edwardian. We play on a lovely scenic ground in Down Street, West Ashling.

We play every Sunday afternoon from early May to mid September, and have a run of eight 20/20 midweek fixtures through June and July. We do not play league cricket, being a club in the village tradition playing other villages and Sunday teams in a spirit which is competitive but never losing sight of the traditional values of cricket. Sunday games are usually 2pm to about 7pm, and midweek games are 6pm to about 8.30pm. We do our best to support the brewery industry at local hostelries after the matches, and meet up for other social occasions such as curry nights.

In recent years we have struggled for numbers and we are always on the lookout for new members. The usual response from potential new players is "I haven't played since University / school / the armistice", and I have to explain that we are more interested in enthusiasm, enjoyment, good company and commitment than competing with Sussex County Cricket Club for talent. No kit is required as the club will supply everything needed on the day such as bats, pads, helmets (rarely required at our level but compulsory for under 16s) and gloves. You can start off with any old white shirt and track suit bottoms and if you enjoy yourself you might then want to invest in some whites if you don't already have some. Any ages from 14 to 80 are welcome.

If you are interested in giving it a go we will be at the ground on the 22nd and 29th April to prepare for the new season and have a net session, and we will also have a presence at the West Ashling childrens' party on Sunday May 7th to celebrate the coronation of Charles III which also takes place on the cricket ground (the celebration not the coronation!) Just stroll up and say hello! Alternatively email me at stephen.harvey@virgin.net

Steve Harvey Hon Sec, Ashling CC

Social Activities

Parents and Toddlers Group

Every Monday during term time from 10 - 12 am starting again in September. Grannies most welcome too! Toys, teas and coffee plus biscuits of course! Please contact Julie Morrow on $01243\ 575356$.

or juliemorrow7@gmail.com for further details.

Let's Dance (for the not so young!)

Monday afternoons (term time) 2.30pm 'til 3.30pm St. Mary's Church Room, Church Lane, Funtington PO18 9LH Contact: Kathryn Wignall at Kathryn.wignall@tiscali.co.uk

Wednesday Coffee Morning, St. Mary's Church Room

Everyone welcome to come and join us for coffee and biscuits at 11am in The Church Room. A good time for meeting others, sharing and laughter.

Funtington and West Stoke W1

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 19th April at 7pm. Our speaker will be Richard Mornay on 'Scams'. If you think you would like to join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, please call Sue Nicholson on 01243 574722.

Bosham Chidham & District Horticultural Society

Saturday 13 May 10.00 - noon

Bosham Village Hall

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning

Please contact the Secretary (<u>rbrad10308@aol.com</u> - 07740120004) if you have any spare plants (flowers and veg)

Funtington Bridge Club

The club meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Room, Funtington. Rubber Bridge from 1.30pm until 5pm £3 per person including tea, coffee and biscuits. Contact Roger Freeguard for details 01243 576650

Solution to Crossword 22 (compiled by Paul Pridmore)

ACROSS:

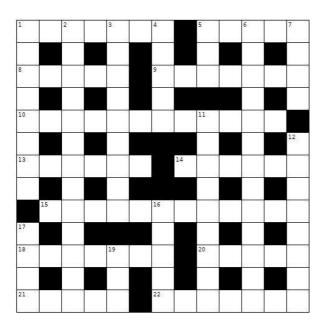
1 Palette 5 Ducks 8 Voter 9 Inertia 10 Marmalade cat 13 Narrow 14 Adhere 15 Easter Island 18 Overdub

20 Oldie 21 Metro 22 Sterner.

DOWN:

1 Pavement 2 Literary agent 3 Turnabout 4 Evita 5 Dye 6 Cottage garden 7 Scat 11 Eddystone 12 Headgear 16 Rebus 17 Poem 19 Duo.

Crossword no. 22



ACROSS

- 1 Board for mixing paints (7)
- 5 Birds that dismay batsmen (5)
- 8 One of the electorate (5)
- 9 Lethargy (7)
- 10 Garfield and Orlando are fictional examples (9,3)
- 13 Not broad (6)
- 14 Stick (6)
- 15 Rapa Nui, famous for its moai statues (6,6)
- 18 To add sound layers to a recording (7)
- 20 Familiar classic song (5)
- 21 Urban train system (5)
- 22 More strict and unrelenting (7)

DOWN

- 1 Footway (8)
- 2 James Bond? Authors need one (8,5)
- 3 Volte-face (9)
- 4 Musical about iconic Argentinian (5)
- 5 Is it fast as well as colourful? (3)
- 6 Where you may see Funtington flora (7,6)
- 7 Wordless jazz singing (4)
- 11 Lighthouse built in 1699 (9)
- 12 Hats, helmets, etc. (8)
- 16 Picture puzzle for Rankin's detective (5)
- 17 e.g. Venus and Adonis (4)
- 19 ... or Bonnie and Clyde (3)

ST MARYS CHURCH FUNTINGTON MAY SERVICES AND ROTA

Day	Service	Flowers	Brass	Elements	LaMoCs	Intercessor	Sidesperson	Readers
Sunday 7 th May	10 am					Ol	Liz	Mini Elliot
Easter 5	Family		Maggie	ı		Borbonne	Lancaster	Acts 7:55-60
	service		Webb					Neil Macauley
	White JM							John 14.1-14
Sunday 14 th May	10 am						Denise	Denise Foster
	Eucharist				Kay	Nigel	Foster	Acts 17.22-31
Easter 6		Sue Sims	Phyllis		Knowles	Brown		Claire Hoskins
	White AB		Goulding					1 Peter 3.13-22
	10 am					Liz	Anne	Anne Maddock
Sunday 21 st May	Eucharist				Liz	Lancaster	Maddock	Acts1 .6-14
Easter 7					Lancaster		Neil Watt	Neil Watt
								1Pet 4. 12-14
	White AB							5.6-11
	10 am					Clergy	David	Andrew Hughes
Sunday 28 th	Eucharist				Nigel		Callum	Acts 2 .1-21
May		Denise	Ann		Brown		Pippa Kerr	Deborah
Pentecost	Red	Foster	Jones					Hughes
	Canon DN							1 Cor 12.3-13
Sunday 4 th June	10 am							Jo Borbonne
	Family					oſ	Claire Hoare	Isa40.12-17,27-31
Trinity Sunday	Service				ı	Borbonne		Claire Hoare
	White JM							Matt28. 16-20
Sunday 11 th June	10 am	Rachel	Miriam			Anne	Jimmy	Jimmy Faure
Trinity 1	Eucharist	Hammond	Callas		Kay	Maddock	Faure	Hosea 5. 15-66
	Green AB				Knowles		Nick La Hive	Nick La Hive
								Rom 4.13-end

Please arrange your own cover if you are unable to help on the day you are rostered

Parish Services May 2023				
		S WELCOME TO ALL CHURCHES, SE		
Day Weds 3 rd May	10.30 am 11 am	Eucharist and Healing Coffee (all welcome)	St Mary, Funtington Church room	
Saturday 6 th May	16. 00	The Coronation of King Charles III Celebration Bell ring	St Mary, Funtington	
Sunday 7 th May Easter 5	10 am 10 am 12-1800	Family Service Eucharist Cw2 The Funtington Parish Party	St Marys, Funtington West Stoke, St Andrew West Ashling, Cricket Pitch	
Monday 8 th	a.m.	Volunteer Funtington village clean up	10 a.m. outside Richmond arms	
Weds 9 th May	10.30am 11 am	Eucharist and Healing Coffee	St Marys, Funtington Church room	
Sunday 14 th May Easter 6	10 am 10 am	Holy Communion BCP Eucharist	Sennicotts St Marys, Funtington	
Weds 17 th May	10.30am 11 am	Eucharist and Healing Coffee (all welcome)	St Marys, Funtington Church room	
Thursday 18 th May Ascension Day	10.30 am 18.30pm	Eucharist Eucharist	St Marys Chidham Westbourne	
Sunday 21st May	10.00 am	Morning Prayer	St Andrew, West Stoke	
Easter 7	10.00 am	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington	
Weds 24 th May	10.30am 11 am	Eucharist and Healing Coffee (all welcome)	St Marys, Funtington Church room	
Sunday 28 th May	9.00am	Morning Prayer	Sennicotts	
Pentecost	10.00am	Eucharist	St Marys, Funtington	
Weds 31 st May	10.30am 11 am	Eucharist and Healing Coffee	St Marys, Funtington Church room	
Sunday 4 th June Trinity	10.00 am 10.00am	Family Service Eucharist Cw2	St Marys, Funtington West Stoke, St Andrew	

New Parish Website for information & updates www.funtingtonweststoke.org.uk