



St. Patrick's Church

Broad Green/Cowley Drive Woodingdean BN2 6TB

St. Patrick's Newsletter



Our Lady of Lourdes

Whiteway Lane Rottingdean

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Our Lady of Lourdes See website: <https://www.ololandstp.org/>

MASS is streamed live from Our Lady of Lourdes : 09.30 Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri this week, preceded by Adoration; **Vigil Mass Saturday 18.30** ; **Sunday Mass: 4th Sunday of Easter 10.30**

Church open for Private Prayer: Tues, Fri: 10-10.30 (Divine Mercy on Friday)

St Patrick's – Mass on Sunday 25th April 9.00 am – Good Shepherd Sunday

EASTER BLESSINGS, ALLELUIA!

Welcome to the twenty-eighth "apart but together" e-newsletter (25th April 2021)

"Because where two or three have come together in my name, I am there among them." Matt 18

On Being a Good Shepherd

Barbara Bond

"The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep" (John 10)

Every Sunday evening since last March, there has been a family Zoom meeting linking my mother to the family. For the past couple of weeks one of my nieces, who lives in the Scottish Borders, has been missing – she has been in the lambing shed supporting her friend, a farmer's son, who has been fully immersed, working day and night to look after their flock. Apparently this strapping six foot 17-year-old has lost 8 kilos and countless hours of sleep during lambing. This is quite an image to have in your mind as you hear today's Gospel.



The part of the story in John's Gospel that most resonates with me is when he says that the good shepherd knows his sheep and they know him – it is a beautiful reminder of a mutual bond of love and intimacy. Pope Francis reminds us that only the Risen One is the true shepherd who gives us life in abundance, and that he not only guides us but he accompanies us – he walks with us.

The idea of willing self-sacrifice is challenging. Our current culture, even since the pandemic, has an emphasis on self-love, ensuring you meet your own needs before you think about others. "You can't pour from an empty cup", the cliché goes. And a tiny bit of me can't help thinking of the risk assessment involved, in leaving the ninety nine to look for the one lost sheep!

**Good Shepherd,
who lays down His Life for His sheep,
nourish Your people with the Bread of Life,
that we may reflect Your likeness
and enjoy the spring of Living Water
that never ends**

My conclusion is that it is not laying down our lives in a dramatic, literal way that most of us are called to do. Maybe that is just as well as I seriously doubt that I would measure up. Brian Pierce asserts in his book *We Walk the Path Together* that there is not a lot of romance in loving God. It's pretty mundane. But maybe those small day-to-day sacrifices we make are indeed a daily miracle – our shepherding of each other, those we know and those we don't, in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd.

The newsletter appears fortnightly. For the next issue, please send contributions by 7th May (just before 6th Sunday of Easter) to Barbara Bond: bond_barbara@ymail.com

CAFOD: Cancel the Debt



Cancel Debt >> Fund Vaccines >> Save Lives



Why does CAFOD want to cancel the debt?

In 2018, low- and middle-income countries owed a total of \$7.8 trillion in debt to other countries and institutions like the World Bank, as well as private banks and hedge funds.

These countries often have to spend more on paying back their debts than on healthcare, education or welfare. And at the start of 2020, 34 countries were in debt default (not being able to pay off their debts) or at high risk of being so.

What is CAFOD asking for?

We are calling for debt payments to be cancelled immediately for all countries that need it until the end of 2021. This must include all low- and middle-income countries in such need, going beyond the 77 poorest nations already identified by the G20 as being eligible for debt relief. Debt cancellation should not be seen as a question of mercy or forgiveness, but as a question of justice and survival.

What is the effect on lower-income countries?

Attention is often paid to the needs of the 77 poorest nations. CAFOD believes that debt relief needs to go further to include all low- and middle-income countries that are struggling with debt payments so that they can meet the urgent needs of their citizens.

For example, Ghana – with a population of 29 million people – was in deep debt distress even before Covid-19 hit. Ghana is due to spend \$3.8bn on external debt payments in 2020. It is currently spending almost four times more on servicing its external debt than it is on public healthcare for its people.

Likewise, in Central African Republic – where there are only three ventilators in a country of almost five million people – the country is due to spend \$25 million on external debt payments in 2020.

What does coronavirus have to do with it?

Coronavirus is having terrible economic consequences across the world – our own country is no stranger to this. But many countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis as they respond to the threat of the virus whilst also being under pressure to pay back spiralling debts. Deciding whether to spend money on vital healthcare or paying back debt during the coronavirus emergency shouldn't have to be a choice for these governments.

What does Pope Francis say about it?

Pope Francis has spoken out on the injustice of debt, saying: "It cannot be expected that the debts which have been contracted should be paid at the price of unbearable sacrifices. In such cases it is necessary to find... ways to lighten, defer or even cancel the debt."

Find out more at a **CAFOD webinar 20th May 5.30 – 6.30.**

Sign up: cafod.org/cancellingthedebt

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Debt-and-coronavirus>

"My eyes yearn for your saving help, and the promise of your justice... I am your servant, give me knowledge; then I shall know your will." Ps 119: 121-128

Visiting Trudy

Helen Day

Wednesday 14th April... Mum (Teresa Ford) and I (Helen) were finally able to visit Trudy Shepherd at Dean Wood Care Home.

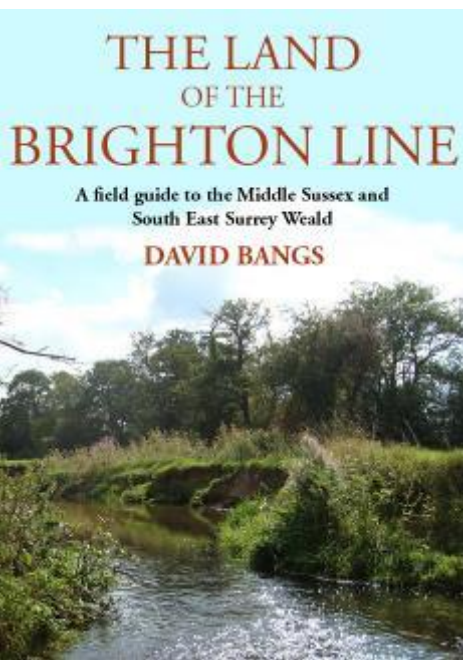
It was a lovely day and Mum and I arrived in plenty of time at Trudy's to 'do' the COVID test!! Sticking the swabs down throats and up noses as per requirement and the inevitable choking and sneezing!!!

We had brought our own coffee and sandwiches and happily sat in the car waiting for the result to show. Both negative.... yippee.... we then had to register the test online.

Finally we were ready to be escorted to the outside door of a lovely little lounge area, where Trudy was being brought in through an inner door. Trudy looked Fab, having just had her hair done that morning.

We were allowed to hold hands but No Hugging!!

Trudy has a beautiful room with lovely sea views (we were told about it but not yet allowed to see), she was joking with her nurses and we had a very happy half hour with her. It seemed so short but so lovely to have a visit.



Lord, since you exist, we exist. Since you are beautiful, we are beautiful. Since you are good, we are good.

By our existence we honour you. By our beauty we glorify you. By our goodness we love you.

Lord, through your power all things were made.

Through your wisdom all things are governed.

Through your grace all things are sustained.

Give us power to serve you, wisdom to discern your laws, and grace to obey those at all times.

Saint Edmund of Abingdon (Edmund Rich), 1180-1240

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: A Field Guide to the Middle Sussex and Southeast Surrey Weald, by David Bangs

This part of the rural Weald is one of the most intact, beautiful, and biologically rich areas of countryside in England. Yet it is profoundly threatened by the hyper-development of our region. This book is an essential tool for all who love this countryside and its wildlife and want to help defend and nurture the area's wildlife, geology, and landscape history. There are chapters on its forests, woods, ancient trees, archaic grassland and heath, rivers and waterlands.

This book focusses on the unknown and little known green spaces of this countryside — for what the eye does not see, the heart will not grieve over. The book has nearly 400 pages, 100 maps, and many photos; has taken a decade to compile; and is based on 55 years of walking the Weald.

£10 — contact Patrick Bond for a copy: patrickgbond@yahoo.co.uk, 07425-011341. Very highly recommended by me!

"I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. Glorify the Lord with me: together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free." Ps 34

St Patrick’s Sale Table this weekend after Sunday Mass 25th April –

Scilla peruviana growing bulbs and lily of the valley – both outdoor and flower in May

Sweet William, Cape fuchsia, Cerinthe major, calendula, house plants, chives, thyme, Gardener’s Delight & other tomatoes, courgette, lettuce, rocket plants

Produce to cook and eat: purple sprouting broccoli, leeks, rhubarb stalks, and mixed salad leaves cut washed spun and bagged

Individual choc hazelnut cheesecake gluten free

Damson, marmalade and other jams and some kitchenalia



Tulips from above – I overdosed on tulip bulbs from Holland before Christmas, knowing it will be the last year I can acquire them directly and easily

Woodingdean carnival Saturday 24th July

I am until 3pm. Decision to be made about the feasibility of this in June, meanwhile we have booked a virtual table –unpaid for.

Rottingdean Village Fair committee decided earlier to cancel the fair this year because of uncertainties.



St Patrick’s Weekly Zooms

There will be a Thursday 30th April 8pm Zoom, will send link to known zoomers and anyone who asks icgreen@ntlworld.com

Will email to all the zoom link for Thursday 6th May, in due course.



White blossom of pear in the grounds at St Patrick’s. The pear variety is Doyenne du Comice. It originated in the Loire valley, 1840s. We get pears every year, but it should have a pollination partner!

Bible Study online has completed 3 out of 8 of its free courses.

<https://comeandsee.org/gallery.html>

It is very worthwhile, clear and focussing on the narrative books of the bible. I am learning a bit more about the “why” though fear I won’t remember the family names from Genesis once we’ve progressed further. Depressingly, my husband can tell me all the old testament names from his Protestant public schooling in N. Ireland. My convent school – no old testament studies as far as I can remember.

“The Lord turns his eyes to the just, and his ears to their appeal. They call and the Lord hears, and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.”

Food for Thought

The Way of Death – in Ireland

Irene Green

The majority of my family live in the US, some were Irish immigrants since 1845 (Irish famine). In Ireland I have two sets of cousins on my mother's side.

My cousin Michael Quinn died on 12th April and was buried on 14th April in Co Monaghan. Rapid burial is typical for all of Ireland. In olden times, on the two days from death to burial the family held a "wake". The meaning of this word is morphing a bit but it originally refers to the family staying awake with the body of the deceased usually in the house.

Every neighbour and friend arrived and were served food and drink, day and night, close neighbours helped massively in the kitchen. This and funeral attendance is an absolute must in the social structure of Catholic Ireland, and there were also free loaders, no one could be refused. Two days was about as long as grieving people could bear in financial, health and sleep deprivation terms.

In lockdown Ireland the funeral Mass rules allowed only TEN members of the family to be present, as well as an organist and singer. We watched it all via the church link. Would otherwise have had to jump on a plane and get there.

On the day of the funeral, mourners were allowed to line the roadside and village streets between the farm and the church to see the funeral procession make its way. Outside the church were various 'guard of honour' groups from the Rotary club, Pony club and many other interests from this generous man. Cousin had quite a big farm by Irish standards (600 acres) his first and enduring interest was dairy cattle, he bred Holstein Friesian cows. His sons carry on farming including to supply commercial demand for mushrooms, poultry and meat and the family are keen on horse riding, show jumping and golf. We often dined on the nearby Castle Leslie estate with them and visited stables. He and his wife organised Meals on Wheels for years, kind, generous, rich, wonderful memories, so sad.



irishtimes.com

News Sources and new TV Channel — Getting Fresh Perspectives

Irene Green

Most people who want to know what is really happening in the UK listen to news from other countries or read foreign newspaper reports on UK. Other countries have excellent reporters in the UK. I subscribe to the NY Times to learn more about what is happening to COVID every day, not just in the US but world wide.

Different regions of the UK are producing their own Byline Times news articles, well researched, peer reviewed, revised, accurate. Husband Michael has written for the Sussex Byline Times. We have also subscribed to Byline TV <https://byline.tv/> where we can watch more in-depth reporting on topics which are crucial but ignored or glossed over by channels like BBC. An example is N. Ireland's precarious truce. Bigotry is back with a vengeance. We all knew it would happen. This is not hindsight.

Quotations Trivia Interlude – Various: Who said, or wrote: – (see p.8 for answers)

1. There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics.
2. "He would, wouldn't he?"
3. I don't wish to sign my name, though I am afraid everybody will know who the writer is: one's style is one's signature always.
4. I am sitting in the smallest room of my house. I have your review before me. In a moment it will be behind me.
5. I have made this letter longer than usual, only because I have not had the time to make it shorter.
6. Dear 338171 (May I call you 338?)

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord: Lord hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you." Ps 130

I watched *The Tablet* webinar “**The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor: Seeking God’s Justice in a (not yet) post-pandemic World**”.

I also saw, live, the US Minneapolis announcement of the verdict, in the trial of policeman Derek Chauvin who killed George Floyd.

Both have racism at the centre of their story.

The church is universal and diverse but is dominated by Roman and Western ways of thinking.

God created everyone equal. Think about how human beings are presented in the bible. Tradition in many cultures is to look after the ‘foreigner’. The international Refugee Council in 1951 in Geneva declared it was illegal to send refugees away. How Christian are we? How racist are we? We need to see the face of God in all people.

Ireland is a very white nation. When I grew up I saw little diversity until I went to University. But my mother bought all the church publications – *The Far East*, the *African Missionary* and others. I read all the articles and truly felt that we were all brothers and sisters.

Creation is the revelation of God. The world is for everyone’s enjoyment. Damage to the planet can last centuries, we are killing habitats, we need to look at creation and the planet first, thereafter people and religions can thrive.

The pandemic has shown the world that people can adapt fast – e.g. working from home, connecting, socialising, learning using the internet. Remember the awful lie ‘there is no money tree’ – that was a particularly inaccurate statement as government finance is nothing like private household budgeting. The pandemic showed that money can be found (printed) in most countries to save society.

We also appreciated key workers, courageous people serving their community. Although there are also scammers, coronavirus has revealed care and solidarity in ordinary people.

Churches can look at their own parish and see if or what they can share.

We must create hope. Sadly billionaires made loads of money out of the pandemic. Large corporations and billionaires need to fund vaccination world wide – we were never so globally interdependent.

In Brighton there are enormous numbers of volunteers in the TIDY UP TEAM, keeping public spaces clean and pleasant for all to use.

At St Patrick’s in our small way we are using the fruits of the earth to make money for the church, and we are maintaining our fruit trees and natural area in the grounds. What can you do locally or globally? Donate to Christian Aid, Cafod, the Kanji project?



Oz Dechaine’s photo of training flight view over Woodingdean and looking down to the Marina, posted on Woodingdean Community Facebook page on Thursday 22nd April

“Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” Phil 2: 6-11

Seeds and Actions

Stanmer Park Visit – Irene Green

We finally got a space in the new parking in Stanmer Park. It is pay parking. I used my “PayByPhone” phone App, you can also ring a number to pay or use one of the rare meters which will deliver a ticket (like the one in Rottingdean at the cross roads). Don’t know whether it takes coins or only card. The walled garden area has been redesigned very well. It contains demonstration planting, a garden centre, Plumpton student base for some specialities, a shop and a couple of attractive eating places. Worth a visit but time it well, don’t go at 11am on a Sunday – teams playing sport have used car parking and the car parks are rammed with visitors.



THEY DID IT!

Thanks to the generosity of family, friends and Kanji supporters, Flora and Hannah, the intrepid 10-year old litter-pickers of Eastbourne, have reached their target of £1,000 (£1,099 to date).

Flora's most recent litter pick was a rather disgusting collection of ready-meal containers, empty and half-empty cans of drink, discarded photographs, a tin opener and food wrappers, all dumped at the back of some flats.

Flora and Hannah intend to keep litter-picking in Eastbourne until they've filled 100 black bags - only another 81 to go!

To track Hannah and Flora's progress and to see the photos of the latest litter-pick, go to their JustGiving page - simply click on the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/floraandhannahlitterpickup>



The Kanji Project is a small UK charity run entirely by volunteers. We raise funds to give poor children in Tamil Nadu, India, the chance of a good education and a safe place to live.

<https://thekanjiproject.org.uk/>

COVID Crisis in India

Indian hospitals say their patients are dying because of a shortage of oxygen as cases and deaths reach new highs

The government is despatching special trains and flights to send oxygen supplies to the hardest-hit areas

India has recorded nearly a million infections in just three days, with

346,786 cases overnight into Saturday

Source: BBC News 24/4/21 15.37

“I rise before dawn and cry for help, I hope in your word. My eyes watch through the night to ponder your promise. In your love hear my voice, O Lord; give me life by your decrees.” Ps 119: 145-152

Afterthought

Blossoming of Faith

Patrick Bond

Another day of brilliant, unbroken sunshine! Of course, the wind is blowing at Force 7 from the east (“neither good for man nor beast”, as my father used to say), but spring is still coming on, even if at a half-frozen pace. We have had ice in the birdbath every morning for a week, here in our Lewes frost-pocket, but today it did not quite freeze.

As I look over towards the railway embankment, I see ash and



sycamore trees still grey and leafless like a rough blanket across the earth. Yet today the sun is reflecting off the leaf buds on the high stems; they are now swelling up and only waiting for a bit more warmth. The little flashes of reflected sunlight make the branches look as though they have been stitched to the blue sky with silver thread.

Today (Saturday) is the National Trust’s

“Blossom Watch Day”: you can share images via social media using the hashtag #BlossomWatch... (Or you can if you are tech-savvy and young...) Here are some images from my cherry tree.



Today’s reading at Mass, from John 6, depicts some of Jesus’ followers getting fed up and leaving because they cannot stomach some of the things he says. Jesus challenges his disciples, asking if they want to leave too. Peter instantly replies, “Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe.”

I think that is how the cherry blossom speaks to me, of life and beauty in abundance, so mysterious and so wonderful that I cannot possibly turn away or doubt it. In tomorrow’s

reading from I John 3, John says, “My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed”. In other words, everything may look just the same as it usually does, but with the eyes of faith I know that I am seeing God’s love in the cherry blossom, and that one day I shall “see him as he really is”.

Trivia answers

1. Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) attributed to Disraeli in Mark Twain’s *Autobiography* 1924. 2. Mandy Rice-Davies (1944-2014) in *The Guardian*, July 1963; on being told that Lord Astor said her allegations were untrue. 3. Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) Feb. 1891. 4. Max Reger (1873-1916) Responding to a savage newspaper review of his music. 5. Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) *Lettres Provinciales* 1657. 6. Noel Coward (1899-1973) Letter to T. E. Lawrence 25th August 1930.

“Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: to him I cried aloud, with high praise ready on my tongue. If there had been evil in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened, he has heeded the voice of my prayer.” Ps 66