



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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MASS is streamed live: 09.30 Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri; church open for Adoration/Private Prayer from 08.55 Mon, from 08.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri (on Fri, Divine Mercy from 10.00); **Vigil Mass** Saturday 18.30;

Sunday Mass: 10.30

St Patrick's – Mass on Sunday 4th July 9.00 am – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to the thirty-third “apart but together” e-newsletter (4th July 2021)

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

On Being Vulnerable

Barbara Bond

“For It is when I am weak that I am strong” 2 Corinthians 12 v. 10
One of the patients I look after lives in the High Weald, down a lane that has me fearing that my little Nissan Micra will recreate the scene from Vicar of Dibley when Geraldine steps in a puddle and disappears.

The other day we received a message from the family to say that a tree had come down and we would not be able to access the property. On my subsequent visit the tree trunk had been cut on either side of the track leaving us to drive through the centre of the fallen tree trunk.

Trees have been a big part of the past week. I was required to lead a mindfulness meditation about trees which I started by describing an ancient oak tree, possibly eight centuries old in a Hereford spot, very special to us.

I moved on to a willow tree, so strong but also flexible and able to move and respond as it needs to in the wind, and I began to reflect on the strength in the ability to yield.

I so often hear people telling me that they do not want to be a bother to people, finding it very hard to accept help. Being vulnerable is a very scary place to be. When Mother Teresa said “no man is an island”



White Willow: www.treeguideuk.co.uk

maybe this is what she was talking about – we share our strengths and our challenges.

Knowing, as St Paul reminds us, that “my grace is enough for you”, we can be like that willow tree, bending in the wind in the faith that we will not break.

A Familiar Stranger

*I saw a stranger today; I put food for him in the eating place
And drink in the drinking place, and music in the listening place
In the Holy Name of the Trinity, he blessed myself and my family
And the lark said in her warble; Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise*

Celtic Rune of Hospitality

The newsletter appears fortnightly. For the next issue, please send contributions by 16th July to Barbara Bond: bond_barbara@ymail.com

St Anne's Remembered!

Frances Low

Seeing Bernadette's article in the last newsletter brought back memories for me of the convent of St. Anne's in Lansdowne Road, Hove.

For over thirty years a large number of children were cared for by a Catholic order of nuns, The Poor Servants of the Mother of God. The nuns relocated there from 49, Buckingham Place when that building was bombed in the 2nd world war.

Both girls and boys were cared for at St Anne's Home for Children, which was for them more like a big family unit from which they used to attend nearby schools just as any other local child. This use of the premises continued until there was a change of County Council policy in 1983 in favour of relocating such children with foster families.

Despite this, St Anne's Home did not close down. From the mid-1980s it was used for residential care for people with learning difficulties, and work with the homeless. The 'soup' kitchen remained.

I attended St. Mary Magdalene's Primary School in Brighton and it was there that the children from the home used to come. They were escorted in a large crocodile every morning and then collected after school! They seemed very jolly and happy although I am sure some had great sorrows. I remember one girl named Janine who was very much bigger than us and we girls were scared of her – I do not know why! The boys all stuck together and were very lively in the playground!

During my teacher training, I did a temporary holiday job there. Assisting the staff on outings and with entertainment! The children were there for the school holidays of course. Many were orphans, or their families could not look after them for many reasons – ill health, poverty. I know we took a large group on the bus to Saltdean Lido one day and had a great time. They were lovely children and enjoyed all the special activities laid on for them. The nuns seemed kind and homely. There were rules of course but it all seemed quite 'laid back' for those days.

When the home closed the sisters realised a need for help for homeless people in Brighton, and eventually they decided to open a centre for food and assistance called 'First Base'. The nuns bought smaller premises for their convent. First Base was the forerunner of the Brighton homeless centre still there and it showed the way for others to help those who cannot help themselves.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, 45)



The sisters finally retired from their work when they were in their eighties and the centre moved eventually to St John the Baptist in Brighton. A fire caused the demise of that facility and so St. Mary's Church in Kemp Town came to the rescue! Now we have come full circle. The St. Anne's Day Centre carries on the work.

The children's home was put on the market once the sisters had moved out. While unoccupied, the old buildings were taken over by squatters who caused a great amount of damage before they left after being served with an eviction notice in 1995. However, in 1997 the premises were once again restored to good order when they were purchased for their current use as the Bodhisattva Kadampa Meditation Centre.



"The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy... For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong is his love for those who fear him." Ps 103

Below are some quotes on the 'My Brighton' website from children who grew up at St. Anne's.



"Was at St Anne's in the late 60s with my two brothers and older sister, our baby sister wasn't allowed as the convent didn't at that time take babies. I became good friends with two sisters called Anna and Veronica, I was particularly close to Anna, perhaps being abandoned by my mother had something to do with this? The nuns were great and fun, my young brother was very close to Sister Loretta, she wore white habits most of the time. My brother used to stay with her during the night as he was inconsolable, cried all the time."

"I have many happy memories of St Anne's children's home/convent, and was in the film 'Oh What a Lovely War'. I was taken out to the pictures by a family who were acting as aunts and uncles, was taken to see Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, when I returned the gates had been locked and I had to climb the smaller side gate with my acting uncle and walk up the long drive in the dark to the main door knocking and ringing the bell until one of the nuns opened the door, only to hear 'forgot you were out'."

"I remember St Anne's Convent in Brighton – my sister, Elizabeth and I (then known as Muriel) used to take out two young sisters from Ireland – I can't remember their names now – this must have been in the 1950s. They had a young brother too. We used to take them on outings and take them home to have tea with our family – they were very fascinated with our bathroom as they had to share bathrooms at the home. They also used to keep a little of the afternoon tea that we gave them to take back for their younger brother. I believe that their father eventually married again and was able to take them home to Ireland."

"I remember the soup kitchen and a queue of hungry souls waiting for soup and bread, served from the hatch round the back of the building. We used to prepare our own food in the kitchen, it was usually followed by Bird's Angel Delight!"

Two Sussex scenes from 23rd June: Seaford Head, and the Ouse by Southease, with pyramidal orchids in the foreground – Patrick Bond



"I will thank you, Lord, among the peoples, among the nations I will praise you, for your love reaches to the heavens, and your truth to the skies." Psalm 108

Would you like to generate easy money for our parish?

- a) – make sure you gift aid your contributions to the church!
 b) – let us know whether you are interested in online shopping via a site giving a small percentage of your spend to the parish. Diocese recommends

Easy Fundraising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>



as a good portal to use as it allows parishes to have their own account. Let us know if you would go to your online shopping site via Easy Fundraising if we set up an account.

- c) – Would you like to fund raise for our parish?

Can you provide plants and baking on **Saturday 24th July** for us to sell outside St Patrick’s? Let us know if you can provide sale items or help us at the stalls on the day.

The Woodingdean Food Hub

is in operation at Holy Cross Church, Woodingdean on Friday mornings. Customers go there, food is not delivered.

If you wish to provide one-off support, or regular small donations please note:

Cash, labelled for Food Hub, to Fleur (secretary at Holy Cross) Mon - Thurs 9 - 12

BACs to Woodingdean Community Association, Acc 21278600, Sort Code 09 01 55, also clearly referenced for Food Hub

Food donations welcomed and placed in the box in the church porch or the wire basket outside

Recycling and re-using

Irene would like one pint milk cartons (for elder-flower cordial, for fund raising). Cordial is made, it’s frozen in large quantities.

If you can provide one pint cartons please bring to St Patrick’s, I machine wash them. Many thanks. icgreen@ntlworld.com



Elderflowers: greatbritishchefs.com

Covid – Thought for Today

Having a high number of COVID cases in an increasingly vaccinated population favours mutation of the virus to vaccine resistant forms.

It also gives more people with long COVID a future big health issue.

The UK has the highest number of cases in Europe or the U.S., per 100,000 population. Holiday destinations are now more worried about British visitors. The delta variant is sweeping through the country. Brighton is a hot spot, 1500 active cases. Hoping we reach a plateau of cases soon. Not confident that the government is promoting the data rather than the date!

“Nobody should be looking for his own advantage, but everybody for the other man’s. Whatever you eat, what ever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.” 1 Cor 10: 24, 31

People must think of us as Christ's servants, stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God – 1 Cor 4:1



The English summer continues in a more “traditional” way, with thick cloud, rain, and bursts of sun which feel tropically hot – “camping weather”!

Our garden features two cotoneasters in the back hedge, which have been loaded with white blossom this year. On the blossom, when you get close, are whole armies of flying and crawling insects, from tiny pin-head-sized black beetles, to shiny green “Swollen-thighed beetles”, to flies of all sizes.

Above all, butterflies – I counted four Red Admirals at once, on a day when the sun shone; – then, to my utter amazement, a butterfly which I had never seen before, a White Admiral, which is black with white



markings on the upper side, and rich browns and creams on the underside. It felt like an epiphany!

A visit to Southease, on a day with a severe north-easterly wind, when I expected very little at eight o'clock in the evening, still brought fifteen species



Green Woodpecker: RSPB

under heavy skies; it was gloomy even two hours before sunset. Yet half a dozen swifts were coming low over the river, starlings were swirling like whirlwinds in little groups across the meadows, and a green woodpecker flew up from a field just over the hedge, with its characteristic “bouncing” flight.

In the far distance, over a wood, what I thought must be rooks coming together for their night roost, made a black dance like midges in the sky. I think there were easily five hundred, maybe more.

Finally, as I lingered by the car at 9.30, on the brink of going home, I turned the binoculars and a barn owl flew into view, hunting just ten feet above the ground, wings level and round white face poised. Not content with just flying past, he (or she) did a pivot and a turn, showing off the brown upper side patterning on the wings, then dropped into the grass to capture its prey.



Mia McPherson: On the Wing Photography

On another visit to Southease, I caught one of those frustrating glimpses through binoculars – where the bird is flying directly away from you, into a bright sky which makes it silhouetted, hence



ephotozine.com

completely black. The magnification cannot help if the bird is being uncooperative! It seemed about the size of a pigeon but moving faster, more streamlined. But I did think the wings were odd: they seemed flat not curved (seen from behind), and they dipped very low below the body. On getting home I checked the book, and it was a cuckoo (which we have heard very often at Southease); their wings do indeed dip well below the line of the body, and not very much above; and the rate of flapping is quite rapid, hence my thought that

the wings seemed flat.

Unusually, a second evening visit brought us into contact with four other birdwatchers, standing on the bridge or on the farm track. All were there for the Barn Owl! One was a young lad of about fifteen, equipped with a camera and a long lens, who was there with his father. We got chatting, and the lad was a complete birdwatcher, utterly serious about photographing the birds, extremely knowledgeable, and with years of experience. We both thought that nature might survive, despite everything, if there are young people like him in the world.

“My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all his blessings.” Ps 103