

Star of the *Sea*

May 2024



**THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST. MARY THE VIRGIN FELPHAM**

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St Mary's Felpham

THE CHURCH . THE CENTRE . THE HUB

Services

SUNDAY

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 8.00am | Said Eucharist |
| * 9.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| * 11.00am | Family Eucharist |
| 6.00pm | Evening Prayer |

TUESDAY

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| 10.00am | Said Eucharist |
|---------|----------------|

***Please be aware that these services are live streamed**

*Pew sheets are available to view on our website
www.stmarysfelpham.org/st-marys-stream*

Details of events can be found on our website
www.stmarysfelpham.org/what's-on

Thank you to this month's contributors:

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Star of the Sea is a free magazine but donations are always welcome.

It is also available on line at <https://www.stmarysfelpham.org/>

Reflections from the Rectory



Part of me is still holding the thought that Easter day will be on the 20th April next year. In other words, if I were writing this next year, it would be Holy week. It never ceases to surprise me how Easter moves. In 2025, post-Christmas will be very long and many of the flowers will be past their best for next year's Easter. More bluebells than daffodils! Bluebells should be found in May in my book, but they look fabulous right now. If Easter is later, then so will Pentecost be, but I wonder what you think when you hear the words "Pentecost" and "Holy Spirit"?

Perhaps it conjures up images of those strange, not-very-British sort of Christians who get a bit carried away with this whole faith business. Perhaps if I said it was "Whitsun" that I am talking about, you would feel more comfortable.

The thing about The Holy Spirit is that it is just the same as Jesus – just as loving, powerful, gentle, challenging, gracious, and life-changing – there is no difference in character or goal, nature, or mission. I am bordering on talking about the Trinity here, but they are one and the same. There seems to be some great myth or worry that the Holy Spirit is something that cannot be known or understood, or is a bit left of field of God and Jesus. You know the old advert about Ronseal wood stain..."It does what it says on the tin"! Well, what we see in Jesus is what we get in the Holy Spirit.

The only difference is that when Jesus was physically here, he was limited in the number of people who could see and hear him, who could learn from his teaching or be healed by him. He could only be in one place at a time. Only a limited number of people could have a deep relationship with him, which is why, out of all his followers, he chose twelve, and out of the twelve he was especially close to Peter, James and John.

But, with the Holy Spirit, everyone can have a relationship with Jesus. Wherever, whenever, all of us can know Jesus and be known by him. Because instead of staying here in one limited body, Jesus returned to his Father and sent us his Holy Spirit to be his presence with us. That's why Jesus said, "I tell you the truth: it's for your good that I am going away."

So, the Holy Spirit isn't a strange, weird, optional extra for super-Christians, or something that only Charismatics get worked up about. The Holy Spirit stands in perfect continuity with Jesus and opens us to a relationship with him. Without the

Holy Spirit we can only know about Jesus, as someone who lived a long time ago and a long way away. With the Holy Spirit we can know Jesus as a friend, someone very close to us, because He's Jesus's Spirit living in us and with us. And that is what we will be celebrating at Pentecost on Sunday, 19th May 2024 and on 8th June 2025.

It still never ceases to surprise me how Easter moves but also how the Holy Spirit moves through us and that is something to really celebrate!

Fr John

St Mary's Tea and Chat April 2024 Easter

There was a spring-like festive atmosphere at our last meeting with an Easter-inspired raffle, 2 quizzes, brilliant singing and piano accordion player, Peter French. As usual there was more food than we could eat and the raffle was very well supported.

The quiz was won by a table of Gateway Lodge

residents – and they also scooped up most of the raffle prizes!

Thanks to our team of helpers and to Peter French who, I am delighted to say, will be back playing for us during the August Senior Holiday Club.

Next month Thursday 9th May Bingo and a table quiz.

Reminder for your diaries This year's Senior Holiday Club will be held on Wednesday afternoons in August, 2-4pm for cream tea and activities.

Joan Bull



ST MARY'S CENTRE

In the heart of the village

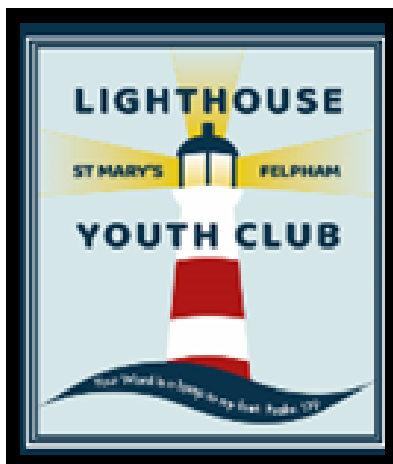
Arun West u3a



That's Rhythm
ISTD ASD

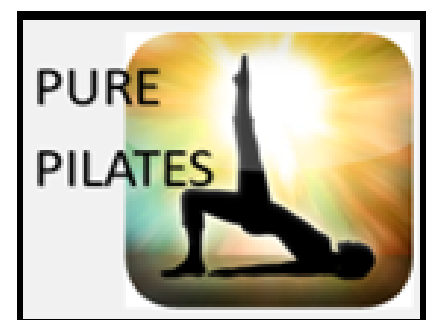
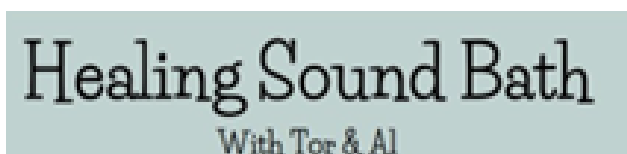
Ballroom, Latin,
Line Dancing &
Wedding Dances

All Ages 4-104



Fitness for 50+

Exercise can be fun - so come and have some.



St Mary's Tea and Chat

Run in partnership with our neighbours,
Gateway Lodge

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

Elsie Lauren Robinson 19th May 2024

Isla Florence MacDonald 26th May 2024

Weddings

Suzanne Rees & Simon Oliver 11th May 2024

Recently Departed

Jean Holland Peter Jones

May they rest in Peace

St Mary's Coffee Morning

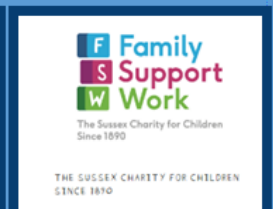
Run in partnership with **Family Support Work**

St Mary's Centre
**3rd Thursday of
the month**
9am to 11am

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES
COME ALONG
WITH OR WITHOUT
YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN
ALL AGES WELCOME

TEA AND COFFEE
TODDLER CORNER
FOOD TO TAKE HOME
PEOPLE TO CHAT TO

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PER FAMILY



New Junior Choir Member?

For those of you who attended church at 11 o'clock on Sunday 14th April, I thought I would explain the little man who joined the choir. This was my grandson Ezra who was staying with John and me over the weekend.



Dressed in a red T-shirt and his dribble bib he was able to blend in with the choir members. Whilst he sings non-stop at home, he was a little in awe during the service. I apologise to Fr John if the congregation were distracted from his sermon watching Ezra study and drop the hymn book numerous times.

Jo McCarthy

Thought for the Month



“Christian love, either towards God towards man, is an affair of the will.”

C.S.Lewis

FSW April 2024 update



Dear Friends,

It hardly seems any time at all since my last update to you. With Easter well and truly behind us we are focussing on the core work of FSW – our one-to-one family visits, as well as planning a busy summer schedule.

We were delighted to welcome Michelle Stokes to the team at the start of April– Michelle is the new assistant family support practitioner for Midhurst, Petworth and Storrington. Michelle will be assisting the practitioners in these areas with group activities, family outings and general support which will enable us to work with more families and increase our offering in these areas. Our Worthing practitioner, Lydie, retired from FSW at the end of April – we are so grateful for her caring support of so many families over the years, particularly her work with refugee families, and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Last week we received a message from a young adult whose family we supported for many years. The young person was a teenager when we first started supporting the family, and had some very challenging experiences to deal with. The family is no longer on our client base but she and her practitioner remained in touch. We wanted to share her message with you as it really shows the value of our long-term support:

“I just want to say how grateful I am to you for helping me through life. It’s been a long journey and a scary one too but I think I’ve nearly made it. I wouldn’t have been able to do it without you. You mean so much to me and mum so I just want to say thank you for believing in me.”

Our events schedule is now in full swing, although unfortunately the recent bad weather meant the cancellation of the first open gardens of the season in

early April. We would love to see you at any of the events, details of which can be found on our website. We do hope that you will particularly support our new Cuckmere Pilgrim walk on 30th May, which promises to be a really special event.

March's work in numbers

242 individual visits and 1202 calls with families supporting 290 adults and 179 children

44 supported meetings with other agencies

44 group sessions held supporting 669 parents and 250 children

89 food deliveries made

Prayer points

Give thanks for Michelle, our new assistant family support practitioner, and pray that she will settle in to her role quickly

Pray for good weather for all of our outdoor events over the coming month

Give thanks for Lydie and all she gave to FSW, and pray for a long and happy retirement

Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing

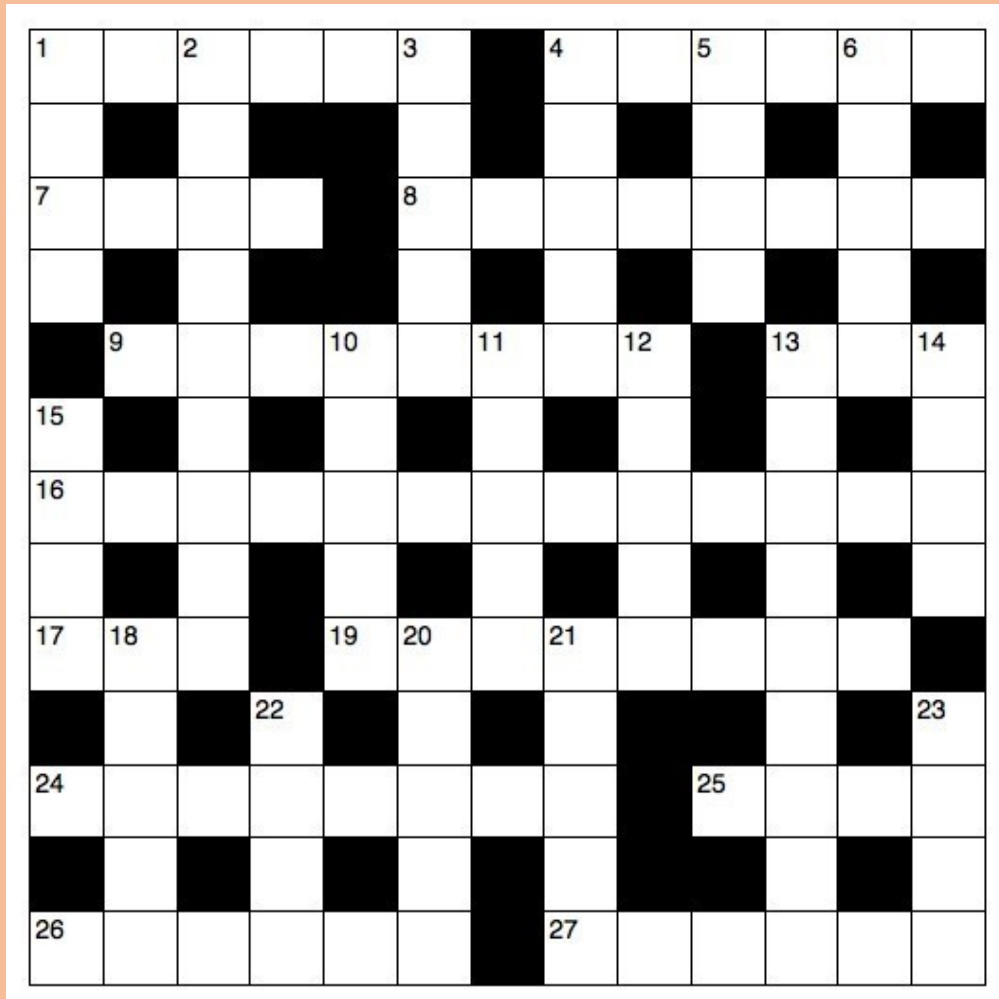
Prayer for the Month

Lord, give me a spirit of wisdom and love, so that I may be an instrument of peace, first in my home and then in my parish. *Amen*





COFFEE BREAK



Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)

- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)



Bishop Tufnell Primary School

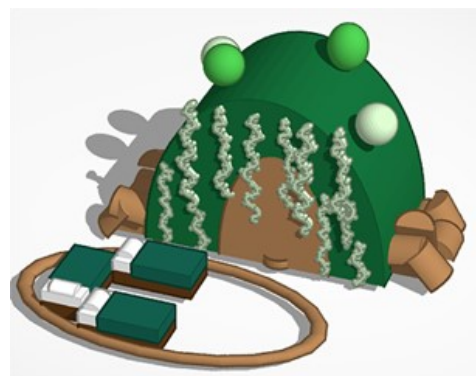
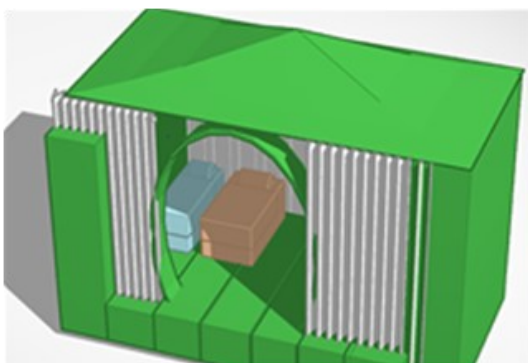
The children in Year 6 have been learning about World War Two.

Our learning began with the introduction of our new topic 'As the Siren Sounds'. Our journey took us back to the time of the Blitz, where the children used a range of artistic skills to create some amazing blackout work.



We moved on to creating our own timeline of key historical events. We looked at the Allies and Axis countries and plotted them on European maps, adding in coloured keys for impact. We listened to Neville Chamberlain's speech to the nation, and discussed how that would have felt for the people at the time. We used modern technology to create our own 3D models of air raid shelters and then brought them to life through modelling making.

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We complete our journey by learning about life in our own county. What was it really like in Felpham and Bognor Regis during this time? The children used google maps, looked at the Mulberry harbour and Tangmere air field, just to name a few.

"It was amazing and I found out more than I ever knew before" claimed both Olly and Ethan.

Mrs Cook (year 6 leader)

Jest to Make you Smile



Choir Chuckles

Next Thursday there will be a try-out for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

At the evening service tonight the topic of the sermon will be "What is Hell." Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, 'Break Forth into Joy'.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



St Mary's Felpham
THE CHURCH . THE CENTRE . THE HUB

FOOD TABLE
THE COMMUNITY HELPING THE COMMUNITY

**St Mary's Centre
Grassmere Close
May 16th**

**9am to 11am and 3pm to
5.30pm**

Answers to the crossword

D	E	B	T	O	R		S	H	A	K	E	N
E		E			E		W		G		L	
A	C	H	E		L	E	A	V	E	N	E	D
F		A			I		R		D		C	
	O	V	E	R	C	O	M	E		E	T	C
S		I		A		C		X		P		A
T	R	O	U	B	L	E	M	A	K	I	N	G
E		U		B		A		L		C		E
P	A	R		I	G	N	A	T	I	U	S	
	C		F		A		N			R		F
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E		M	E	N	E
	E		I		D		N			A		A
A	S	T	R	A	Y		D	I	N	N	E	R



Dementia Support in Felpham

Local charity 'Dementia Support' is running friendly local sessions for those living with dementia, carers and those seeking social companionship. These including singing, creative activities, chair-based exercise, and lots of chatting over refreshments.

You can also chat to one of the Wayfinders from Sage House, for expert advice and support.

Drop into Felpham Memorial Village Hall (PO22 7DZ) and join our FREE sessions every Friday 10:30am – 12:00pm, There is no charge and no need to book, although donations to the charity are welcome. We can't wait to see you there!



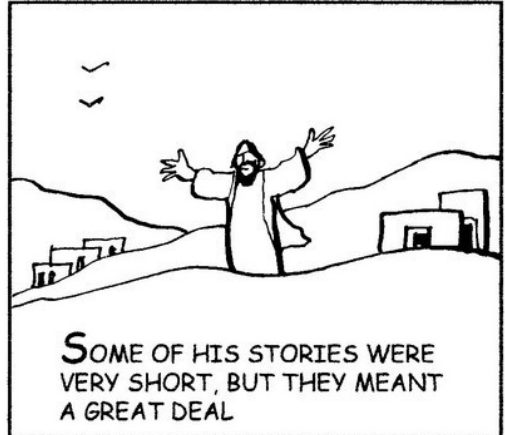
To find out more about Dementia Support and what we do, please visit: dementiasupport.org.uk

Imogen Sleep

Children's Page

The tale of
the
Mustard
Seed
& the tale of the
Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE
VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT
A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

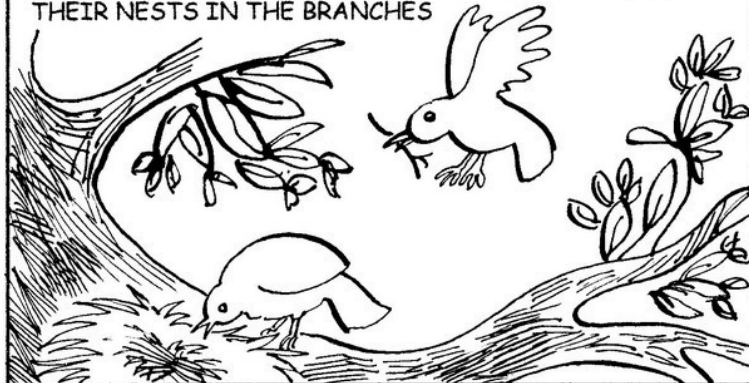


IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST
OF SEEDS....



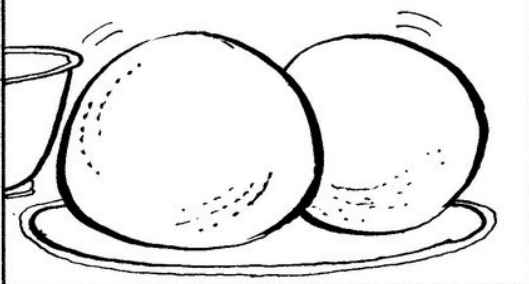
BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS
THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS COME AND MAKE
THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES



JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT,
WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR,
THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE
HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A
HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES
OF OTHERS.

Pentecost

Pentecost is an important feast day in the life of the church. Celebrated 50 days after Easter, it celebrates the birth of the Christian church with the coming of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples of the risen Lord.



“In the New Testament, there are two main stories of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The story of the Acts of the Apostles is centred on the day of Pentecost. Long before Jesus was born, Pentecost (or *Shavout*) celebrated the first fruits of the corn harvest. During rabbinic times, it became a celebration of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, fifty days after Passover. Over the course of centuries, the prophets recognised that God had something more in store for His people than the observance of the 613 rules of the Torah (i.e. the Law). In the sixth century B.C. and at a time of foreign invasion, Jeremiah declared that, *‘the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they will be my people.’* (Jeremiah 31v.31,33)

The day of Pentecost described by Luke the Evangelist is a fulfilment of the prophecy (Acts 2, v.1-11). By the grace of the Holy Spirit, the

disciples experienced both a new intimacy with the risen Christ and the energy to proclaim the good news of salvation.

The other story of the Holy Spirit....is from the Gospel according to John. John links the gift of the Spirit with the cross and resurrection. It is on the evening of the day of resurrection that the risen Lord appeared to the ten apostles in the upper room (John 20, v. 19-31). He greeted them with peace, showed them his wounded hands and feet and breathed on them and imparted the Holy Spirit....

John's account includes the story of Thomas's incredulity. He was not present on the evening of the day of resurrection and he had declared that, unless he would see the marks of the nails in the hands of Jesus and put his finger in the mark and his hand in his side, he would not believe (John 20, v.25). Eight days later, Thomas was present when Jesus appeared. Jesus invited him to touch his wounds, and the climax of the fourth Gospel is Thomas's response, "My Lord and my God." (John 20, v.28)

I think this is what happens every time we receive Holy Communion. Like Thomas, we stretch out our hands to touch Jesus's wounds, the sacramental Body and Blood of Christ, and, in this encounter, we not only experience "the peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4, v.7), but we are renewed by the Spirit of him who enables us to be his servants of healing, compassion and reconciliation."

Ven. Keith Dean-Jones OGS

The Book Corner



This month I'm reading ... the poetry of Edward Thomas.

As I write, rain lashes against the window, the hedge is drowning in an enormous puddle and the road runs with glistening rivulets. Along the bypass, the ground is still so waterlogged as to resemble a Wildfowl and Wetlands site. What better time to anticipate drier, warmer days by revisiting the poetry of Philip Edward Thomas and his evocative descriptions of rambling walks in the countryside?

I was introduced to Thomas's work during literary criticism lessons at secondary school. I have fond memories of sitting hunched over a well-thumbed text in an airless classroom, accompanied by the occasional blast of a whistle from the PE lesson in the playground and raised voice of the student teacher next door, struggling to manage a previously well-behaved class.

Surroundings faded as our happy band of teenage sleuths delved into the land of the past to investigate a selection of over 140 hypnotic poems composed in the second decade of the twentieth century. Our teacher was Linda Newbery, later an award-winning author. Indeed, she used Edward Thomas's poem "Lob" as the inspiration for one of her heartwarming novels.

Within Thomas's portrayals of rural England we observed scenes we might have expected: Manor Farm with its steep roof entertaining the midday sun, a man sitting amongst boughs of the fallen elm as a ploughman halted for a few words when the horses turned, haymakers leaning on their rakes. Yet, there were also less obvious but no less fascinating portrayals: dust on tall nettles in the corner of the farmyard, fifty faggots standing on end by a hedge, February sun on a cluster of celandines. In "The Unknown Bird" Thomas proclaims that he alone hears the song but never catches sight of the feathered creature that dwells in the great beech wood throughout May and June. The sound haunts him, bringing a lightness of heart and brief escape from a battle with depression.

Thomas's love of the natural world and fear that through war everything would be lost is so poignantly portrayed that even those of our tender age could not fail to appreciate his intricate phraseology. We explored metaphors, similes, rhythm and rhyme until the harsh bell sounded for the end of the lesson, signalling our return to whitewashed corridors, concrete stairways and temporary common room in the science lab. Perhaps some of us were still on that steam train in our minds, halting for an unscheduled stop at the tiny Cotswold station of Adlestrop on an idyllic summer's day in June 1914, six weeks before the country was torn apart by the First World War.

Thomas's early life was not the obvious start for developing skill as a poet. Born to Welsh parents in Lambeth in March 1878, he attended St Paul's School, where he met journalist James Ashcroft Noble, who encouraged him in his writing. Whilst studying at Lincoln College, Oxford, Thomas married Noble's daughter, Helen. Following his marriage, he wrote steadily as a literary critic and biographer. In 1906, he and his growing family moved to Steep in East Hampshire. He began writing poetry at the end of 1914 at the age of thirty-six after prompting by American poet Robert Frost and was initially published under the pen name of Edward Eastaway.

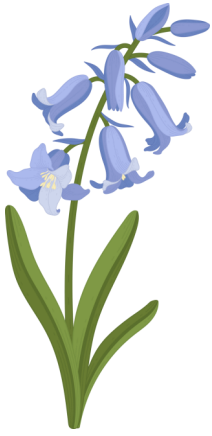
Although too old for the military, Thomas enlisted in the Artists' Rifles in July 1915 and served as a map reading instructor, where he could have remained. However, he began training in the Royal Garrison Artillery, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and volunteered for overseas service. He left England for France in January 1917 and was killed by a shell blast in the first hour of the Battle of Arras on 9th April. He is buried in Agny military cemetery. The Edward Thomas Fellowship was founded in 1980 to perpetuate his memory.

Thomas's poetry is often quoted as a prime example of the genre. Richard Harries includes "The Glory" within a collection entitled *Hearing God in Poetry*. Harries points out that glory is a key word in the Bible, referencing it shining in the face of Christ, seen by Peter, James and John, as well as the glory in nature that Thomas portrays. If we are fortunate enough to appreciate a mere fraction of "the glory of the beauty of the morning" as Thomas did, we will not be disappointed.

Sue Birch.

The Bluebell Wood

Sue Birch (after Edward Thomas)



Yes, I still remember the bluebell wood,
Two acres of ancient land at the end of
The cul de sac along Scrubbit's Park Lane.
'Stay on the path,' Granny whispered. 'If you crush
The bluebells the fairy folk won't have hats to
Keep them safe and dry when it rains.'
I placed my new red shoes with popper buttons,
Little footsteps imprinting the dark, damp soil,
Soft child hand clasping hers, gnarled with arthritis.
Step. Step. Always on the path, never stray.
'Inhale that sweet fragrance,' she said, pausing where
The carpet was thickest with delicate
Violet bells, arching stems, narrow leaves.
I breathed deeply, simply to please, not knowing
How scents linger down decades, illusive,
Fleeting but never quite lost to memory.
She reached to draw me into a tender hug,
As each birch, holly and ash reached and merged root
And branch in peaceful harmony. Nature's church.
Communion of trees, spires stretching skyward.
'God is here.' Granny's wrinkled face lit with joy.
'Where?' I spun, eyes searching, not finding.
'All around us and within us,' she replied.
'Never forget, He loves you and always will.'
'Like you love me, Granny?' I asked, smiling.
'Even more than that, Sweetheart. Much more.'
We stood beside a shading oak, watched thrush,
Blue tit, robin, listened to male blackbird
Perched on a bough, singing in language we
Would never share but always seek to learn.
Did she sense she would fade, as bluebells fade,
Before summer heat scorched the world and these
Same trees gave shade for those wise enough to seek?
'Time for tea,' she said, turning homeward.

We retraced our route along the sunlit path,
Lengthened stride on hard pavements, hungry
For sandwiches and Madeira cake laid
On delicate china. White embroidered cloth.
Next morning, Granny did not come.
‘Where is she?’ I asked.
‘Gone to the great wood in the sky,’ Daddy said.
‘Can I go and see her?’
‘One day, when we all meet again.’
Chainsaws with harsh noise and violent intent
Invaded that cool, quiet sanctuary.
Did God cry out in anguish as diggers ripped
Through saplings that screamed in silent torment?
When each white bulb, nurtured by tender earth
Of centuries, was crushed unnoticed by feet
In uncaring hobnail boots with steel toecaps?
Who heard blackbird shriek in fear before seeking
Refuge in another place that was not home?
Houses replaced that secluded sanctum.
Poorly built. Tiny gardens. High fences.
Since then, I have followed many pathways,
Some in sunshine, some mottled with shadow.
Avenues trod with light heart and joyful stride
Or rutted tracks that challenged endurance.
Crossroads and shrouded bends, prayer and faith
The only guide and promise of safe passage.
Paths that dwindled, despite the opposite wished.
Regret at vanished byways not taken.
Sudden stops.
Dare I trust each brief reminiscence or
Is it self-deception, designed to comfort?
No one paces the same path but all will reach
That identical, final destination.
Will God be waiting to take our childlike hands
And lead us along a trail where no footsteps
Leave their mark?

Save Our Village Post Office

The Campaign to Save Our Village Post Office has reached over £151,000.00 including donations and promissory notes – AND RISING. That is wonderful. From the Friends of Felpham, a BIG thank you.

But we can't stop there. We have made it through the first stage of Government Grant Application and are now facing the tough requirements for the second stage. The more money we can raise, the more the Government will match it. If we can hit £200,000 in the next few weeks that would be tremendous. Please go to friendsoffelpham.org for a link to our gofundme page or for details of our bank account. You can also donate by cheque, make it out to Friends of Felpham CIC, and leave it behind the post office counter in an envelope with your name and address.

PLUS – as part of the terms of qualifying for this grant we need to prove our lovely Felpham Community supports, values and needs the essential services of the Post Office. Small businesses and organizations are very kindly producing letters of support. If you spot our petition clipboards around the village, PLEASE, spare a minute to sign, it could make all the difference. Or sign the online petition, see link on the main page of our website – friendsoffelpham.org

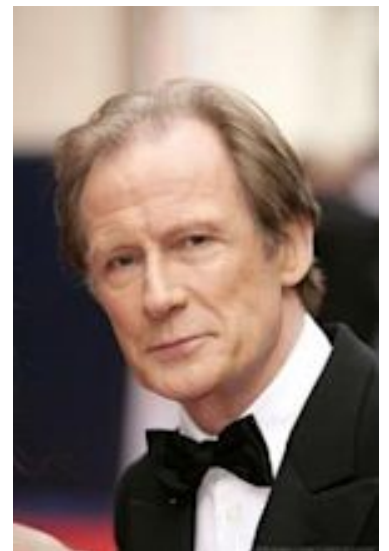
NOW EVEN MORE EXCITING NEWS –

We are delighted and honoured to have two internationally renowned personalities who are generously giving their time and support for our Campaign to Save Our Post Office. These are extraordinary gestures of faith in our fight.

AN EVENING WITH BILL NIGHY

Tuesday May 14th, 7pm, St Mary's Centre, Felpham PO22 7NU. Bill will be talking about his career and answering pre-submitted questions from members of the audience.

Bill Nighy is an award-winning actor of the stage and screen whose extensive filmography illustrates an amazing career. Amongst others, he has received a BAFTA Award, a London Film Critics Circle Award, and an Evening Standard



British Film Award. Nighy is perhaps best-known to international audiences for his memorable performance as washed-up pop singer Billy Mack in *Love Actually*, which won him a BAFTA. He has also made appearances in many major franchises. Recently he starred in the acclaimed movie, *Living*, and the television series, *The Man Who Fell to Earth*.

AN EVENING WITH CHRIS WATSON

Tuesday June 11th, 7pm, St Mary's Centre, Felpham PO22 7NU. Chris, the world's leading wildlife sound recordist, will be talking about his life, accompanied by images and sounds from his prodigious career.



Watson went from influential 1970s band Cabaret Voltaire to recording sound for David Attenborough's wildlife documentaries. His television work includes many programmes in the Attenborough 'Life' series, including 'The Life of Birds' which won a BAFTA Award for 'Best Factual Sound', the BBC series 'Frozen Planet' which also won a BAFTA. Chris has recorded and featured in many BBC Radio 4 and World Service productions, including 'The Wire', which won him the Broadcasting Press Guild's Broadcaster of The Year Award, 'Springwatch' and 'Tweet of the Day'.

Tickets for these events are available from the Post Office or go to our website **friendsoffelpham.org**

We're not alone in understanding the value of preserving local services. Much has changed in this village since we started this campaign: car parking meters in our car parks, the axing of the 600 bus, changing it to an hourly service stopping in South Bersted.

The fight to Save Our Post Office is one we will not lose!

Lizzie Mickery



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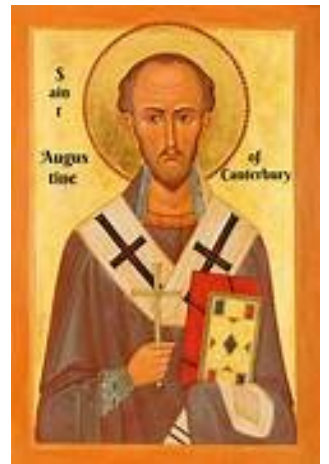
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Some Holy Days - May

26th May – Augustine of Canterbury, apostle to the English
(as Trinity Sunday falls on 26th May the feast where celebrated would be translated to Monday 27th May)



Augustine, a 6th century Italian prior, holds a unique place in British history. He became the 'apostle to the English,' although with great reluctance.

In 596 Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory to head a mission of monks whom he wanted to send to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. Augustine was not a bold man, and by the time he and his band of priests reached Gaul, they wished to turn back. But Gregory would not hear of it, and he bolstered their confidence by sending some more priests out to them, and by consecrating Augustine bishop. Finally, the little party, now 40 in number, landed at Ebbsfleet, Kent in 597.

It would be fascinating to have a detailed description of that first meeting between Bishop Augustine and Ethelbert, powerful King of Kent. Whatever Augustine said, it must have been effective, for Ethelbert granted the 40 priests permission to stay in a house in Canterbury. He even allowed them to preach to his people, while he himself considered their message of Christianity. His wife, Bertha, was a Christian princess from Paris, but she does not seem to have played any role in the conversion of Kent.

By 601 Ethelbert and many of his people had been baptised Christians. The mission to the English was well underway. More clergy, some books, a few relics and several altar vessels arrived from Rome. At Gregory's wise urging, Augustine decided to consolidate the mission in one small area, rather than try and reach all of Kent. So, Augustine stayed in Canterbury, where he built the cathedral and founded a school. He left only temporarily to establish a see in London.

Also, at Pope Gregory's wise urging, Augustine did not destroy the pagan temples of the people of Kent, but only the idols in them. In this way, familiar rites were taken over and used for the celebration of the Christian feasts. Meanwhile, before his death in 604, Augustine helped Ethelbert to draft the earliest Anglo-Saxon written laws to survive – and so influenced British law for centuries to come.

Trinity Sunday 26th May

St. Augustine of Canterbury (early 6th Century - 26th May, 604) is not to be

confused with St. Augustine of Hippo (354 – 28th August 430) who I will now mention in relation to the Holy Trinity. St. Augustine was Bishop of Hippo (now Annaba, Algeria) from 396 to 430. A renowned theologian and prolific writer. He is one of the Latin Fathers of the Church and, in Roman Catholicism, is formally recognized as a doctor of the church.

His written works include **De Trinitate** (On the Trinity) which took him 16 years to write. A 15th century book of saints' lives by Jacobus de Voragine, called *Legenda Aurea* or The Golden Legend included a supposed meeting by chance of Augustine and a child at the seashore. This legend was well-known in the Middle Ages but has no grounding in anything that Augustine himself wrote or preached.

The legend became locked in my brain when I heard (and I recorded for a podcast) the sermon given by the late Fr. Roger Calder who had been priest in charge/vicar of St. Wilfrid's Bognor 1995-2004 and was invited to return and preach on Trinity Sunday, 2010 – one of many special services celebrating the centenary of the church dedicated in 1910. He joked how the vicar likes to hand the sermon for explaining the Holy Trinity to visiting speakers or the curate or whoever, and now he was caught in the same boat!

The scene Fr Roger explained was the seashore, where there was a small pool, a little boy with a seashell, and a sandy beach on which St. Augustine, clad in his religious robes, was walking, pondering with difficulty the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. "Father, Son, Holy Spirit; three in one!" he muttered, shaking his head. As he approached the little boy who was running back and forth between the sea and the pool with a seashell of water, Augustine craned his neck and asked him: "Son, what are you doing?"

"Can't you see?" said the boy. "I'm emptying the sea into this pool!"

"Son, you can't do that!" Augustine countered.


The boy replied, "I will sooner empty the sea into this pool than you will manage to get the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity into your head!" Upon saying that, the boy, who was an angel according to legend, quickly disappeared, leaving Augustine alone with the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity.

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Lent Course 2024

I love going to a house group because I always come away with something I didn't expect to. I do the reading before going (my former student self would hardly know me) and feel I understand it all; and then I discover I didn't notice something, or I missed the point, or I had never actually fully understood it. There are some lightbulb moments, which only come from being in conversation. It's not that conversation is pressingly hard going, it's always friendly and accessible, but it is the kind of talk that I don't experience anywhere else.

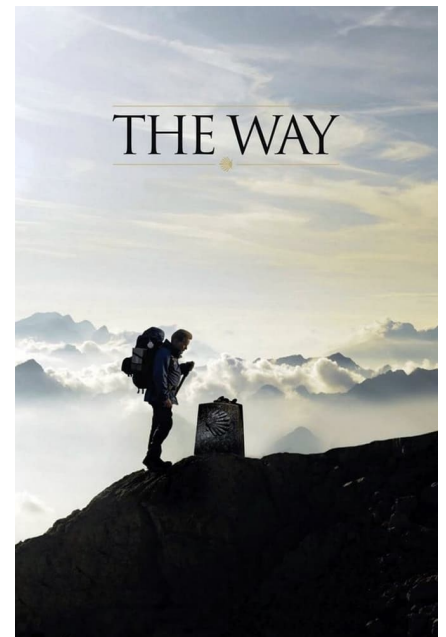
The film 'The Way' is deceptively light and gentle.

You could watch it and come away simply thinking - ah, that was lovely, but spending time re-watching specific parts, and then talking about it revealed its true complexity. I am truly grateful for the lovely people in my house group as I learned so much from listening to everyone.

As well as watching the film, we discussed aspects of salvation introduced in the book that accompanies it. Each week we read about different understandings or explanations for these aspects. I was relieved to find out that there are a lot of unanswered questions, that there are different interpretations, and that there isn't necessarily one neat and easy answer. But in talking about the different ideas I did find myself leaning in one direction. So, although I can't tick the box to say I understand everything completely, it did allow me to distinguish between things that don't ring true for me and things I feel an intuitive understanding for. I have just made myself chuckle as this all sounds a bit vague, but sifting through fairly complex theology - which it is for me - is a bit like panning for gold. A lot falls away but if you keep paying attention there's that one bit of glinting gold to hold on to.

I really do recommend joining a house group. It may feel like a brave step, or a chore to commit time, or something you're not sure you need - but I don't think you'll regret it. You don't have to be an expert; I'm a good example of a complete novice - I don't even know what I don't know.

I am truly grateful for the lovely people in my House group as I learned so



much from listening to them.

I am looking forward to the next house group based on 'The Great Divorce', by C.S. Lewis, even if I'm not entirely sure I like him but I do know there will be something different and unexpected for me by the end of the course. And, apparently, there's going to be cake!

Rachel Hutchins

PAWS FOR THOUGHT

LENT GROUP

A small group of ladies, including me, met at St. Mary's Hub for our six week Lent course, led by Rev. Tracey Flitcroft.

After getting my bearings and a good sniff around, I found a comfortable spot for a sleep on my warm blanket. I could hear the kettle boiling and the rustle of biscuits, so I hoped maybe I might be allowed a doggy treat.

In preparation for the course, the group had to watch a film called, "The Way", or the Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James.

The Way follows the main character, Tom who travels to France to collect the remains of his son who was killed during his walk on the Camino.

Driven by his grief and wanting to understand and learn about his son, he decided to undertake the pilgrimage himself.

On the way Tom encounters many situations and meets up with three characters who all have various problems to sort out and think about. By the end of the journey they are all firm friends.

Each week we discussed the thoughts, words and actions of the main characters and the historic churches and shrines and many other people from all over the world who were looking for greater meaning in their lives.

I miss those Saturday morning outings and the warm spot for a good sleep (although I really am on duty), the comfortable and safe feel of my surroundings and the sound of chatter and laughter mixed with quiet reflective moments.

I am told if you haven't already watched "The Way" you should put it on your to watch list, even to enjoy the music.

Best woofs, Bobbi G.D



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From the Editor

Wow! This month Jo McCarthy and I celebrate the first anniversary of our taking up the challenge of producing your Parish magazine, and I can't believe how quickly the time has flown. Speaking for myself, I admit it is a bit of a daunting task but one I hugely enjoy; I hope you get the same pleasure from reading our Star of the Sea as I do.

Our thanks as always to our regular contributors. I hope Sue Birch's brilliant poem encourages you to look up the poetry of Edward Thomas who inspired her. And, hopefully, we will never again confuse St. Augustine of Canterbury and St. Augustine of Hippo, thanks to Peter Green!

Housegroups are getting under way again and should prove most interesting. Hopefully the reviews this month of the Lent course will inspire some of you to join a Housegroup, not just for study to improve our Christian life but for companionship ...and fun!

Our thoughts and prayers as ever are with Bunty Simmans who is settling comfortably into new home.

Do, please, continue to support us with your articles and your comments; we are always happy to listen to new ideas and suggestions. So, till next month, happy reading....

The deadline for articles in the June edition is 13th May

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	Geoffrey Walker	Tel 07970 479304
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