



Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

Spring 2019

£1.00



Parish Contacts

St Mary Magdalen Church

Rev Betsy Gray-Hammond 01273 601 854

Lay Reader

Marian Framroze 01273 686 981

Churchwarden

John Phillips 01273 683 835

Jerry Docherty 07526 455 302

Treasurer

John Phillips 01273 683 835

Hall Secretary

Sue Docherty 07526 455 302

Magazine Editor

John Phillips 01273 683 835

jrp44bevendean@gmail.com

Easter Services 2019

Sunday 31 March	Mothering Sunday 10.00 a.m. at St Mary Magdalen
Sunday 14 April	Palm Sunday 9.30 a.m. at St Mary Magdalen
Monday 15 April	Holy Nativity service at 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 16 April	St Andrews service at 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 17 April	St Mary Magdalen at 10.00 a.m. Agape Meal at St Andrews 7.30 p.m.
Thursday 18 April	Maundy Thursday service at St Mary Magdalen at 7.30 p.m.
Friday 19 April	Good Friday service at St Mary Magdalen at 2.00 p.m.
Saturday 20 April	Easter Saturday service at St Andrew at 7.30 p.m.
Sunday 21 April	Dawn Service for Easter Morning St Mary Magdalen at 5.00 a.m. Easter Sunday 10.00 a.m. at St Mary Magdalen.

A Message from Rev Betsy

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

May I begin by saying this; YOU ARE AMAZING! Thank you so very much for your kind donations we now have nearly enough to buy our new cooker. This is a truly lovely community and I hope that we are working together for many years to come.

There have been so many people supporting the fundraising and I cannot name all of them individually, and some donations have been anonymous. However, I can thank publicly The Coldean Residents Association and the East Brighton Trust, thanking Warren at the Bevy for his help in securing a donation from them. So, the cooking will not cease, charity fundraising lunches, Messy Church bacon rolls, Christmas dinner and festivities will be able to offer hot and freshly cooked food again! Thank you.

Working together, supporting one another is vital to the fabric of society. We should all be able to appreciate and feel compassion for others when things are not going quite as they should. Even if we only lend a sympathetic ear, a cup of tea and a chat or a prayer made from the heart, this all goes to strengthen individuals, families, and yes, whole communities.

We may not always agree with each other, we may fall out on occasion; it is in these moments that we need to seek reconciliation. Because if we don't bitterness can eat away at our inner spirit, hardening our hearts towards others and damaging the rich tapestry that is our shared lives.

If just one person falls by the wayside, a thread of that great tapestry, created by God, is lost and the picture is no longer complete if that thread is never restored then it is, we who have prevented God's work from being completed.

As we approach the most important time of the Christian calendar it would be good if we could pause and consider those who may have slipped out of our life, reflecting upon why this may happen and thinking of ways in which we could make repair.

We are loved each and every one of us by a heavenly Father who gave his only Son that we may receive forgiveness, that we may be reconciled. As we walk with Christ over the next few weeks we will have a chance to reflect on our faith, our reconciliation, and our

salvation, I suggest that we also remind ourselves of this; Jesus told us shortly before his crucifixion to “love one another” as he loved us, warts and all; which means forgiving others in the same way that we would like to be forgiven.

We are a small community, but the way in which we live as friends and neighbours could help to change this world, our positive actions could ripple through this world dysfunctions and help to bring order and peace. Wouldn't we all like to have a hand in that, I know I would!

This year our Easter Vigil will be for the very first time held as dawn breaks, symbolizing the move from darkness into light, for Christians this is a pivotal moment, for all of us, regardless of faith or tradition, living outside of the shadows of fear, poverty, hatred and in the light of love, peace, and goodwill is something that we all hope for, pray for.

If you would like to join us as we welcome the Easter light you will be more than welcome, you will be in a community, loved, respected and held dear. The service will begin at 5 a.m. (for those who prefer a later start we will celebrate at 10 a.m. as well but, not with the first light!) following the early service we will have Orange juice... in the form of Bucks fizz and a lovely breakfast celebration, including I hope the famous Messy Church Bacon rolls, croissant's and more.

Thank you again for being a caring, generous and supporting community.

I hope to see you all very soon,

Love and prayers to you and those you love.

Revd Betsy

New Church Roof Crosses

On Saturday, 8 December the Bishop of Lewes blessed two ceramic roof crosses which had just been installed at opposite ends of the main church roof of St Mary Magdalen Church in Coldean.

The crosses on the church roof were purchased with money donated from the funeral of Sam Verrall. She was 26



years old when she passed away on the 10th April 2012 only 9 months after being confirmed in the church.



She lived life to the full and made the most of the time she had. Sam's mother said that she is missed by everyone and this cross will be a lovely tribute to her that will last for many years to come.

These crosses replaced a wooden cross which had to be removed in 2010 as it was letting water through the roof.

We were unable to hire a cherry picker so that the Bishop could be raised up to reach the crosses and instead he stood on a wooden bench and sprinkled water into the air in the direction of the crosses while members of the congregation stood round him and watched.

The Bishop was accompanied by the Archdeacon of Brighton. Fortunately the rain held off while we were outside for the blessing of the crosses.

The service was followed by a party to celebrate the return of a cross to the roof of the church. The cross at one end of the church is illuminated at night and can be seen when you drive down Coldean Lane towards the Lewes Road in Brighton.

Fr Martin Powell – Priest in charge of Moulsecomb

Fr Martin Powell was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Moulsecomb during a Eucharistic Service conducted by the Right Reverend Richard Jackson, Bishop of Lewes on the evening of Tuesday 18th December

2018. The Venerable Martin Lloyd-Williams, Archdeacon of Lewes performed the Induction.

The congregation were pleased to welcome The Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Dee Simson to the service.



A congregation of over a hundred people attended the service which was followed by a party in St Andrew's Church Hall. Unfortunately there was very heavy rain during the evening; however, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who attended.

Fr Martin has provided the following biographical information. He has been ordained for 18 years spending 13 of these in Southwark Diocese, 10 years as Vicar of New Addington, near Croydon. He came back to Chichester Diocese (where he was born and raised) 5 years ago and until his appointment to Moulsecoomb was the Rector in a parish with three busy churches. He has two daughters Katie and Lyra and enjoys cycling, brewing beer, losing himself in a good book, watching films, cooking and walking across the Downs. He is looking forward very much to meeting the people of the parish and the beginning of a new phase in his ministry in Moulsecoomb, Coldean and Bevendean.

St Mary Magdalen Church Activities for April to July

- 12 May 2019 Charity Lunch St Mary Magdalen for Christian Aid - 12.30 p.m.
- 18 May 2019 Line Dance at St Mary Magdalen - 7.00 p.m.
- 08 June 2019 Quiz Evening St. Mary Magdalen - 7.30 p.m.
- 16 June 2019 FSW Funday Street Party at St Mary Magdalen
- 06 July 2019 Summer Fair at St. Mary Magdalen - 12 noon - 3.00 p.m.
- 14 July 2019 Lunch or Barbeque St. Mary Magdalen - Mind in Brighton - 12.30 p.m.
- 22 July 2019 St Mary Magdalen - Patronal Festival - 7.30 pm.

Charity Lunch for the Alzheimer's Society

The charity lunch held at the church in February raised £300 for the Alzheimer's Society.

Dementia is the broad term used to describe a number of different conditions affecting the brain, including Alzheimer's disease. While looking on the internet, I discovered that daffodils can be used for treating Alzheimer's Disease.

Fields of daffodils growing in the heart of the Black Mountains, in Wales may soon yield a cost effective drug, Galantamine, for use in the treatment of the early stage of Alzheimer's disease.



Galantamine is not a synthetic compound but rather an extract from the daffodils growing in the Black Mountains, Wales.

Although these plants have been used as traditional medicine since ancient times it has only recently become a commercial proposition.

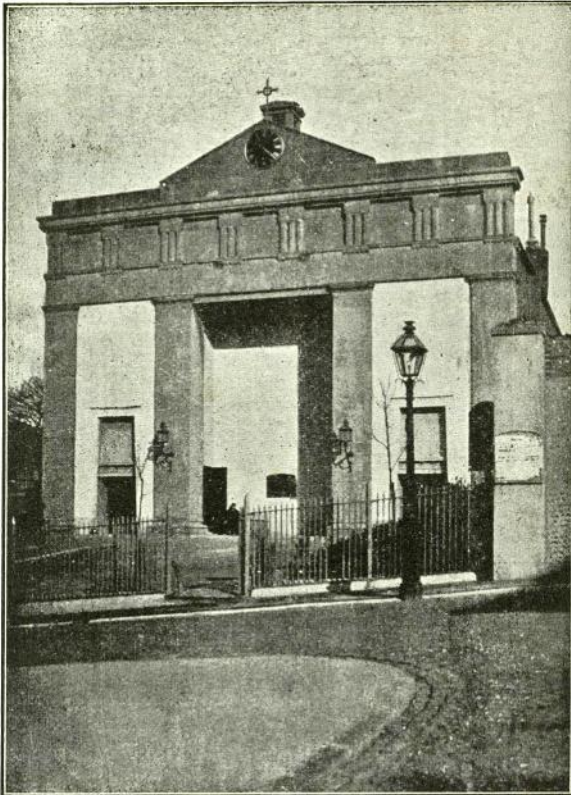
The symptoms of dementia might include memory loss or difficulties with language or concentration.

Dementia is caused by diseases which damage the brain by causing a loss of nerve cells and is progressive.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia.

St John the Evangelist Church in Carlton Hill, Brighton

Another Lost Brighton Church



St Johns the Evangelist Church in 1902

This is the third church built by the Rev. Henry Michell Wagner, who was the Vicar of Brighton between 1824 and 1870. It was built to serve Brighton's poorest slum district of Carlton Hill.

The Vicar of Brighton and the clergy of the town recognised the need in the district for a church. A piece of ground on the north side of Carlton Hill, near the top, was soon secured at a cost (including law expenses) of £908, and as subscriptions flowed in liberally, the work was quickly commenced and was completed by the beginning of 1840. The building contract was for £3,752, making the total

cost with fittings, site, and everything, approaching £5,000 of which all but £450 had been raised when the church was opened.

The building fund was swelled by a grant of £1,000 from her Majesty's Commissioners for building new churches, and by liberal subscriptions from the Rev. H. M. Wagner and other residents together with visitors, who also contributed largely to the endowment. The general interest taken in the erection of the new church was amply proved by the fact that congregational offertories in aid of it were taken amounting to £1,000.

The architect employed was Mr G. Cheeseman, junior, and the church was built in the Grecian style.



Interior view of St John the Evangelist church
showing the gallery on 3 sides

The building, stood back from the road, and the enclosed space in front was covered with pebbles and gravel. Outside, the church is fairly plain being rectangular in shape, having the appearance of a meeting-house rather than a traditional church. Inside there is no chancel, but a little bit of a recess where the altar was placed, and near it, there were choir stalls placed in the position which they would occupy if there were a proper chancel. The organ is also near the choir, having originally been in the gallery. The pulpit is not too high, but is only a plain, simple, preaching box. The seats were originally erected as high pews, but later had their tops cut off, so that when the congregation knelt in prayer they were not utterly lost to view.

A vast gallery runs right round the three sides of the church available and with the ordinary house-like appearance of the windows, adds to the meeting-house look of the building.

There was a nice little font. Everything consistent with the means at their disposal was done by the clergy and wardens of the church, to

make it comfortable for worshippers, and provide for the decent and orderly celebration of Divine worship.

The most singular fact in connection with St. John's is that the entrance is at the side of the Church. What appears to be the front is only the side.

The church provided 1,225 seats, of which the unusually large number of 650 was declared free when it was opened, and later due to the efforts of Dr. Hannah all the seats became free. This was a boon for the people who lived and worked in a poor district, in many churches in the 1800s there was one part for the rich, and one for those who could not afford to pay the seat rents.

The endowment of the church was not neglected at the time it was built, and a sum of £900 had been raised towards it when the building was opened. Afterwards the sum was raised to £2,995 11s 6d, comprising £1,400 given from the Royal Bounty Fund, and the remainder by voluntary contributions.

The gross income accruing from the capital sum was £93 7s 1d, which was all the endowment the clergy had to depend upon, until the church was made the head of a parish and thrown open, when, by an Order in Council, an augmentation grant of £200 per annum, accruing from May 1st, 1873, was added to it.

The church was made free from January 1st, 1873, and, by an Order in Council, the district was constituted into an independent parish in August 13, 1872.

The consecration of St. John's took place on January 28th, 1849, performed by the Bishop of Worcester and former Vicar of Brighton, Dr James Carr.

The facade was altered in 1957 by L. A. Mackintosh whose monogram, topped by a crown, lies to the left of centre; the eagle motif to the right is the emblem of St John and a stone crucifix carved by Joseph Cribb was placed in the centre.

The panelling surrounding the High Altar was a 1914-18 War Memorial, and forms a handsome setting for the Crucifixion scene attributed to Cipriani.

In the 1950s and 60s the side aisles were furnished as Chapels. The north Chapel (left as you faced the Altar) was dedicated in honour of

Our Lady; the statue coming from All Souls Church which formerly stood in Eastern Road, and the south to Our Lord under His title of Christ the King - hence the robed and crowned figure on the altar-cross. The Chapels were used regularly for Holy Communion on weekdays. The Blessed Sacrament was reserved constantly in the Sanctuary from 1945 with the mystical Presence of Christ being indicated by the white light burning above.



The facade of St John's Church in 2010

The church, with seating for 1,200 worshippers and with large galleries, never attracted a large congregation and closed in 1980.

The building was sold to the Greek Orthodox community in 1985, for whom it now serves as the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity.

The building received listed status on the 20th August 1971.

A surprise delivery!

It was a cold night in January, the day before my birthday. I was awakened by my mobile ringing at 12.33am. It was Paul. He said it was time so Alan & I jumped out of our warm bed, threw on some clothes and, after scraping the ice off the car, drove to my daughter's house in Bevendean.

The whole process took approximately 14 minutes.

We let ourselves in and I hurried upstairs to find Elaine kneeling on the floor by the side of the bed in the late stages of labour. She had made plans for a home birth and Paul had already 'Dextered' the bedroom in preparation with plastic covering the carpet & bin bags on the pillows!! (For those who don't know Dexter is a character in a TV series who covers a room in plastic before murdering his victim!) 😊

Elaine had already spoken to the on call Midwife at the hospital, who was concerned that she might not arrive in time for the birth and advised Paul to call 999 if Elaine felt ready to push. Subsequently, by the time I got there Paul was already on the phone to an Emergency Services Operator who was issuing him with instructions.

Elaine's waters had broken shortly before I arrived and her contractions were coming thick and fast. She was indeed ready to push. Eeek!

The Operator kept asking Paul to check if the head was coming and all of a sudden it was! I looked down and could see not only baby's head but his little hand coming out at the same time too!!

Paul reached over to the radiator for the warm towel to wrap around the baby and in that split second baby's body was born and I found myself catching him!

It all happened so quickly that it is hard to recall the exact details but I do remember feeling extremely relieved that baby let out his first little cry almost immediately. Phew!

Paul wrapped him in the towel and somehow we managed to pass him to Elaine and position him on her tummy. Between us, we had just delivered my first grandson, Rowan Thomas Edwards. The time was 1.02 am, just 15 minutes after we had arrived at the house!!!

Shortly after this miraculous, every day event, (Not for me!!) 4 paramedics piled up the stairs and I vaguely remember them putting a little woollen hat on baby's head and providing some other coverings for baby, one of which we used to cover Elaine's modesty!



The Paramedics would, of course, have continued with Elaine's care but their arrival was quickly followed by two midwives and they were more than happy to hand over (in their words) to the experts! They did however stick around in case Elaine and baby needed to be taken to hospital and they all came into the bedroom when Elaine had been cleaned up to offer their congratulations and to meet baby Rowan properly.



The whole experience was surreal but I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Elaine was amazing and did all the hard work, Paul was unbelievably calm and organised throughout and I just happened to be in the right place at the right time!

It will certainly be a night to remember and was the best early birthday present that I could have received. 😊 Mary

Have You Always Been A Christian?

WHEN DID YOU FIRST COME TO FAITH?

I attended Sunday School from an early age, before joining the Boys Brigade and being Confirmed. I was Christened when I was 3 - 4 months old. I was confirmed at 13 years of age.

DO YOU THINK THAT SOMEONE CAN BELIEVE IN GOD BUT NOT ATTEND CHURCH?

In these busy, hectic days, some people don't have the opportunity of attending Church for a variety of reasons. So, Yes I think that people can believe in god without attending church regularly.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOOD IN BEING PART OF A CHURCH COMMUNITY?

For me, it's the sense of belonging and the camaraderie. Which St Mary Magdalen's is great for.

WHAT BIBLE STORY HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST?

Jesus gathering his disciples. I like the idea of Teamwork which is necessary in life and in the church today.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PRAYER?

The Lord's Prayer. To me it says everything we need.

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE IN SOMETHING YOU CANNOT SEE?

Our faith is based on belief, so, without it, what is the point of our existence.

DOES GOD ANSWER PRAYERS?

God answer our prayers, but not necessarily how we'd like them answered.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT HAVING FAITH IN GOD?

The comfort of being watched over.

HOW HAS GOD HELPED YOU GET THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES

I have had a lot of "tough times" over the years, especially losing family members, so the thought of being, someday, reunited with them, keeps me going.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD ABOUT YOUR OWN CHURCH?

Yes. Having spent all of my teenage years growing up in Coldean and coming from a very loving family, means I've finally come home, especially as the congregation are so warm, caring and welcoming.

Paul Simmons

Memories Made because of a Cold Cot

Around 10:00 on New Year's Day I received a phone call from my youngest daughter to ask for a lift to the hospital for a check-up as they hadn't felt their baby move for the last hour. The trip in the car to the hospital was very quiet and as the coast road was clear we got there quite quickly. They left me in the car and went up to level 12. Ten minutes later Phil rang but it wasn't him but was a female Doctor at the other end of the phone who asked me to come to level 12, immediately my heart sank. When I arrived at level 12 I was greeted by a smartly dressed lady who led me to room and on route I noticed a group of student Doctors consoling each other sobbing in a side room. Once in the room she told me that my precious Grandsons heart had stopped beating. I had to pull myself together almost instantly because I was then taken into the room where Hannah and Phil were and seeing them hurt was beyond belief. It was at that moment that a big part of me died. We just hugged and cried. A short time later another senior Doctor came into the room to scan Hannah once again and the sentence no one should ever hear was uttered "Sorry there's no heartbeat".

During the course of the afternoon other members of the family had gathered including Phil's parents from Birmingham. To be honest the afternoon had become a blur from sheer emotion, Doctors and Nurses were in and out with information for Hannah and Phil of what to expect over the next few days and specifically appointments for Hannah to receive daily medication to bring on the birth naturally and pain free. It was late evening we all left the hospital and came back to our house. Both Hannah and Phil didn't want to go back to their flat as like most first time parents to be, they had all the baby furniture setup. None of us really slept that night. So, the following day at 3pm Hannah had an appointment at the hospital for her first tablet to help her body to induce the baby.

The next trip to hospital for Hannah was the 4rd January at 09:00 to start the procedure for Hannah to be induced.

Both my Husband and I accompanied Hannah and Phil for that appointment where we met Tasha the assigned midwife for Hannah and Phil. She showed us to room 35 'The Butterfly Room'. Over the next few hours the hospital bereavement team headed by Hayley Stevenson came to talk to them about the next steps and she had some good news for them. The good news was that they would have access to a cold cot which will allow them to have their baby for up to 5 days in the room with them to make memories.

The labour was very slow to start with; her body just didn't want to give him up. Hannah's sisters and Phil's family visited to help time pass. We took it in turns to go and get food or just to stretch our legs. We photographed the highs and cried together at the lows. We decorated the room with bunting, some other things from Hannah and Phil's home to make it more comfortable and homely and a radio quietly playing in the back ground. Hannah and Phil grew very close to the midwives that were assigned to them.

With the help of Tasha and Beth, Hannah gave birth to Dexy Jude Pontillo at 20:08, 7lb 11oz and 22ins long. Born sleeping. He was 36 weeks and 5 days and arrived in to this world with love and sorrow. He was wrapped in a blanket and placed in to Hannah arms. The love in both Hannah's and Phil's eyes for their son was mixed with tears of sadness. Tasha took him away and dressed him in a 0-3 month outfit which only just fitted him.

He looked beautiful and snug. He was like any other baby fast asleep with stunning ruby red lips.



After an hour or so most of the family had left and my husband and I stayed as Hannah wanted help from me to shower whilst Phil and my husband (Colin) tidied the room and made sure everything was ready for them for the long night ahead. Hannah had just finished dressing when she haemorrhaged, The midwives were called and helped her get back into bed whilst a Doctor was called and the decision was made there and then that they operated in the room or she could die on the way to theatre. They were brilliant, they saved my daughter's life. All this time Colin and I were looking after Dexy Jude on Hannah's orders and keeping out of the way. It took a few hours before Hannah to understand what had happened as she was pumped with drugs and fluids to replace her blood loss. As soon as things became clear to her wanted to see her precious son. He had been in the cold cot now for at least four hours which meant he was able to go on the bed next to his Mumma for a cuddle and quality time. Phil had crashed out on the floor from exhaustion, but we woke him up as we thought he'd love to see Mumma and son together. He did.

The next day Heidi and Hayley and their partners, Great grandparents (Raymond Bond from St Mary Magdalen Church) and friends visited meeting this wonderful little boy who we all longed to meet. Hannah and Phil had arranged to get Dexy's hand and



footprints and charity called 'Remember My Baby' came to photograph them as a family. The photos were stunning. Colin and I were allowed a cuddle with Dexy Jude early Saturday evening as he'd been in the cold cot for a few hours. We never thought for one second we would ever be able to do this. During this time, he got a little nose bleed which Hannah confidently dealt with. She said it was her Mumma duties. Bless her.

We said our goodbyes to our gorgeous grandson and left Hannah and Phil smiling and chatting to Dexy Jude like any other couple with a new born baby. All three of them watched a film cuddled altogether on the bed and then placed Dexy in the cold cot and they all slept soundly. The midwives as promised kept an eye on him while they were sleeping, they knew they had as his toys were moved when they woke. Sunday, they prepared themselves to say goodbye as by now his little body was



telling them it was his time to leave. They said their agonising final goodbyes and left him at 19:00 Sunday evening. It was one of the hardest things they've ever had to do.



Without the cold cot none of these memories would ever have been possible. Hannah wouldn't have met her son properly.

Hannah and Phil were overwhelmed by the gifts they received from People, a memory box from 4Louis Charity, and two teddies (one for Dexy Jude and one for Mumma and Papa) from Aching Arms, a cold cot quilt made by one of the midwives Mum (They had forgotten to pick their one up from their home so they were so grateful) and some other items, too many to list.



In March Hannah worked with the bereavement team from the hospital who deal with the after care of baby loss parents. Hannah didn't have any midwife care and became very ill from an infection five weeks after giving birth to Dexy. The meeting was also to outline there was no six weeks check-up and a few other things beside this. She felt things had to change and wanted to do something about it. She writes a blog on her new life journey and supports newly bereaved parents

on their new journey. Phil has fully supported Hannah with her blog, so much so that he has helped her create a Dad's Grieve Too forum on her blog to provide somewhere for dads to discuss subjects not openly talked about.

They also wanted to provide some form of comfort help for parents who are about to go through the same painful journey as they had and decided that providing cold cot quilts/blankets would be a lovely and comforting idea. In the last magazine Betsy mentioned that I'm collecting quilts/blankets for the hospital. I am overwhelmed by the response already. My Quilting group are also helping by making little quilts as well. Each quilt/blanket has a Baby blue ribbon and a Butterfly attached with a 'FOREVER BLANKETS' card on it. This has a contact which the parents can get in touch if they wish to, Hannah felt this was so important as she knew no one to talk to or ask for guidance or even to chat to who had gone through a stillbirth.



Hannah had felt alone with the taboo around stillbirths and through

many hours searching via Google she came across a chap named Chris who put her in touch with a lady named Elle who invited her to get involved in the baby loss community. Since that conversation she has never felt alone and is driving hard to remove the taboo around miscarriage and stillbirths.

www.HannahPontillo.com

On Instagram [hannahpontillo](#) and [dadsgrievetoo](#)

What's the point of Easter?

As we celebrate Easter, it raises the question:

What difference can the Resurrection make to my life?

My past is forgiven:

Have you ever been half-way through a project and wanted to start again? In life we all have regrets about things we have done, said or thought. The good news is that Jesus died to forgive these things: *'All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's cross.'* (Colossians 2:14, The Message). The resurrection is the guarantee that we can know Jesus' pardon and forgiveness. Do we need to let go a load of guilt and un-forgiveness that we are carrying?

My present is under control:

How often do we say *'My life is out of control.'* We can't control life, but God can! The *'incomparably great power at work for those who believe'* is the same power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:20). God promises us the power that we need to face any situation, as we trust Him: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13).

My future is secure:

Death is the great certainty, *'one out of one dies!'*. Yet Jesus overcame death by the resurrection, that we might experience the life of heaven, both now and for eternity. *'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by*

believing in Me will never die'. (John 11:25, 26). We don't need to fear death; but if we are to really live, we have to be ready to die! How does the resurrection affect our view of death?

'The best news the world has ever had comes from a cemetery near Jerusalem: the tomb was empty!'

Recollections of a Stanmer Farmer c1985

As related to C. W. Yeates by Mr Albert West, whose family, and his father before him have farmed Stanmer since the beginning of this century, first at Cold Dean Farm - whose barn is now Coldean Church - and then as a tenant farmer at Stanmer Farm formerly farmed by the Earls of Chichester under a bailiff.

Very great changes have taken place during this time. Farming methods, stocking and land usage today contrast dramatically with the method of Mr West's boyhood. Herds were far less in numbers and milked by hand. Ploughing and harvesting were carried out with teams of horses. It seems remarkable that in 50 years such changes could have occurred. In those days the road from Lewes to Brighton was a narrow dusty lane, flint-surfaced, with tall hedge-rows on either side; a country road as far as Preston Barracks. On Mondays the cattle, sheep and pigs from Lewes Market were driven down to Brighton slaughter house 'on the hoof, with drivers and their dogs in attendance. Only the valleys and lower slopes were then ploughed as arable land, the hills were still thickly covered with blossoming gorse and grazing sheep; flocks of Southdowns, then a familiar sight with shepherd and dog; the sweet ringing of their bells carrying across the valleys. The conditions and methods prevailing then were fundamentally unchanged for the previous 200 years.

The following items were listed on a farm in 1750 and could well have still been in use in Stanmer at the turn of the 20th century,

Pitch Prongs	Dirt Boards	Turnwrist Plough
Flint Spuds	Sundry Harness	Nine Tine Scarifier
Road Hoes	Whippances	Clod Crusher
Dung Drag	Rick Borers	Hay Tedder
Hay Rakes	Bushel Measures	Wood Hames
Scythes	Milking Stools	Bull Lead

Faggin Hooks Knaves and Fellses Dibbles.

This pastoral scene, probably unchanged for centuries, ceased abruptly with World War II when the open downs were cleared of gorse, ploughed up and made to produce about two tons per acre, more than twice the yield of 50 years before. Gone are the days of his Lordship's invitation pheasant shoots to tenant farmers; the rook shoots, and the hares and pheasants left at farmhouse doors.

Some of the people of those days still live on in the memory of Mr West and others of his generation, bringing back to mind Stanmer towards the end of its role as a gentleman's country seat. Here are a few;

Lady Elizabeth and Lady Prudence riding horseback through the Park.
Mr Feast, the groom, busy in the stables.

Mr Wood, the game-keeper, feared by little boys but loved and respected by all who knew him. His stories and exploits themselves are worthy of a full chapter in any book on the Sussex countryside.

Mr Wilson, the wood reeve, living at the Lower Lodges on the Lewes Road. He cared for the trees with a group of farm men,

Mr Jones, the estate foreman, lived in the cottage next to the shop until one night it got burnt to the ground.

Mr Turner, the chauffeur, and engineer to the electricity plant and pump house,

Mr Mason, in charge of the gardens, whose daughter writes her recollections on another page.

Mr Ellis, the postman, who lived in Stanmer, and went daily to Falmer Station to collect the mail. He then set off in all weathers, upon his deliveries, a journey of 10 to 12 miles which included Stanmer, Standean, Piddingworth, High Park and Mary Farm. In the afternoons he laboured in the woods, probably to prevent him from idling away his time!

The reader will have observed the great changes which have taken place in one man's life-time. Today we see the six furrow plough drawn by a high powered tractor, the harvest gathered in a few hours compared to as many days, and today local schools regularly visit the farm on educational exercises to see modern dairy farming. The farm its animals, and general activity are a great attraction to visitors as well as to the children. It is a sobering thought to recollect that this land has

been farmed from prehistoric times and that the same thin layer of soil still produces crops with the help of more modern methods in more and more abundance. Each spring Mr. West, as he turns the soil, sees the same stones roll, over as did his predecessor of 2,000 years ago.

Hire the church hall for your events

The hourly rate is £17.00

Concessions apply for Electoral Church members
(Regrettably 18th Birthday Parties are excluded)

Commercial Organisation rates are £25.00 per hour

Reducing to £17.00 after 4 hours

Telephone: Sue Docherty 07526 455 302

e-mail: sdocherty55@gmail.com

Mark Boase Plastering

**For all your plastering
and small building works**

Free estimates

no job too small.

 **07917 154 241**



CHRISTOPHER STRINGER FUNERAL SERVICE

Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons

Funerals can be arranged in the privacy of your own home. Christopher is a committed Christian and a Church organist. He has a special understanding to the needs of fellow Christians.

Pre Paid Funeral Plan

Many people are paying and arranging for their funeral in advance. We offer a pre paid funeral which allows for the funeral service of your choice.

If you would like to discuss any requirements that you may have, please call Christopher.

...with quality of service and care, we are
a shoulder to rely on

67 High Street,
Rottingdean, Brighton
BN2 7HE

49 Barcombe Road,
Moulsecoomb, Brighton
BN1 9JQ

Tel: 01273 306000 Tel: 01273 691704

Email: christopher.stringer@cpjfield.co.uk



SELECTED
Independent
FUNERAL HOMES®
Member by Invitation

