



Coldean

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Letter from the Vicarage - September 2021

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

September has always been a mellow month. Harvests are over and we begin to look around at the autumnal jobs in the garden and home getting ready for the next season. But in thinking of September in this way we are in danger of missing the beauty of the month, yes, even when it is raining, the colours, smells of early autumn, fresh apples, hazelnuts and the last of the Blackberries, all waiting to be enjoyed. My great grandmother Bessie Cooper and my Gran Trudy, loved this time of year, loads of jam already shining like jewels in the larder and chutney underway all to be savoured later in the year.

For most of us it has not been the summer that we had dreamt of, trips abroad were postponed as the authorities made up their minds which country was safe (Covid wise) and which were not. I know many people who resigned themselves to armchair travel for another year and others who have spent a fortune on a British break. I spent a lovely two weeks in a little village called Coldean just pottering around and getting on with carving a path at the back of the church to enable the tiles to be repaired ready for winter.

The Church of course is always busy and September is certainly not a quiet month. There is Harvest to prepare for, a bit later for St Mary's this year in October, the SANDS memorial service, All Saints, All Souls and another new church year.

Living as I do on the site of the old farmyard, I often reflect on the toil that must have taken place here, harvests would have been gathered by hand, horses would have helped to plough the land and the seed would have been expertly scattered by hand, some will grow, others will not. Some will be fruitful others less so the old hymn "we plough the fields and Scatter" would have been understood back then because this was part of life, being at one with the seasons, and with the land, caring for God's "All Things Bright and Beautiful" knowing that our care would reap rich rewards. I believe over lockdown we almost returned to life then, in the sense that many people returned to grow you own, neighbours swapped or gave away excess vegetables and fruit so that everyone had something and could enjoy fresh produce.

It would be no bad thing if we began, before it is too late, to enjoy God's creation and work with it rather than against it, fruit and veg in due season, locally grown would make a big impact on our carbon footprint and help to repair the damage we have done to all things bright and beautiful and in doing so offer our apologies to God for the problems we have caused.

But I don't want this to be doom and gloom, we need to celebrate and work towards a brighter future and an equality that has been beyond our reach. We are all children of God and as such we have much to be happy about. Come and join the rest of the family, sing aloud of the beauty around you and pray that we can and will bring the light into the darkest of corners.

If you haven't been to the church for a while, or perhaps you have never been, just come in, you will be assured of a warm welcome and Covid allowing a cup of tea and a biscuit. Come and sing like you have never sung before, as the Hymn say's "Lift up your heart, lift up your voice, rejoice again I say rejoice"

See you very soon I hope.

Every good blessing,

Revd. Betsy

Travelling back in Time

During this year I have had the opportunity to go back and rediscover part of my growing up which has proved to be very interesting. Firstly I visited my Birth place, Waldron, part of the Weald in East Sussex and the church of All Saints which dates back to the 12th century where my parents were married in 1941, I was christened and confirmed there, several of my relations are buried there including my grandparents and parents and I have many fond memories of this historic place of which they say, all roads lead to Waldron.



All Saints Church at Waldron

I then went to Uckfield where I lived in the 1950s attending Primary school and then a brand new Secondary school which was very modern having science laboratories, a music room, gymnasium and large hall where we attended before going to classes. There were classes for girls, cooking, learning knitting and sewing, the boys had metalwork, woodwork, and gardening, there was a very large field for sports. I also joined the Boy Scouts which had been reformed after the war.

Whilst walking around I discovered that the Fire Station was now out of use and was manned by volunteers, the water mill and laundry now converted into offices, over the years there have been many changes.

Other places of interest I was able to visit, which is part of my background on my father's side, was in Surrey, Tongham, Seale, Ash and Ash Green; my Grandparents and Great Grandparents lived in this area and the school where my father and his brothers and sister attended still stands but is now used for other purposes. In Ash there is a Chapel of Rest which is now a museum. It has beautiful stained glass windows and was built in 1889 at a cost of £540; these places of great interest are situated very close to The Hogs Back.



Stain Glass window
in Ash Museum

It gave me great satisfaction in visiting these places and it does help sometimes to put things to rest.

Reg Neville

Wednesday Lunch Club

Every Wednesday a freshly cooked meal is available at the United Reform Church Luncheon Club in the Lewes Road (over the Doctors surgery) next door to Saunders Park.

Easy access if required is by a slope on the left hand side.

The meal costs just £5.00

Time 12.30 p.m. for a meal at 1 o'clock.

Why do I go to Church?

Why do I go to church? The simple answer is, I am a Christian and believe God sent down his only son Jesus Christ to save the world from sin. By going to church, I have a regular teaching from the priest to help maintain my faith and knowledge of God's world. I receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ through the communion given by the priest, this I believe cleanses and replenishes my soul through the Holy Spirit

of God. By being part of the congregation, I have the opportunity to pray the Lord's Prayer and give prayers in mass to Our Lord. I also get to pleasure to worship by singing songs about the love of our Lord. There are many benefits of going to church and the church also has a duty to help its community. But without Holy Communion, Gospel and Scripture readings, as well as the praying of the Lord prayer, church wouldn't be church for me. Of course, how we lead our Christian life outside church is just as important. We need to read the Bible daily and pray to God through Jesus Christ. Having a personal relationship with Christ is everything we should hope and pray for. But without going to church, I would find being a Christian harder, if not impossible! When I returned after a short break away from church earlier this month, I had never realised this so much!

Burial of the last farmer from Bevendean in Falmer Cemetery

My Grandmother and Grandfather Allcorn lived at Lower Bevendean Farm from 1908 until 1942. Although the farm had a Brighton postal address it was in Falmer parish to start with and my grandparents worshiped there for many years. (I believe the postal address was Brighton 3. A very early post code.)

My grandmother died in 1949 and wanted to be buried at Falmer. The Rector said it would cost £50.00, a lot of money in those days. Being close to Brighton many people wanted to be buried in this picturesque spot. My Grandfather complained to the bishop, but the only concession was that he could be buried in the same plot so he had



Grave of Edith Lucy and Frank John Allcorn in Falmer

to pay up.

Ten years later he joined his wife.

The text on the headstone reads:

‘In loving memory of Edith Lucy Allcorn,
Died 7th January 1949, aged 72 years,
“Loves Last Gift – Remembrance”
Also of her husband Frank John Allcorn,
Died 9th January 1962, aged 84 years,
“Reunited”

The plot is just inside the gate of the new cemetery which was opened in about 1900.

Norman Allcorn

“Little Hell Village against Rector.”

By a Herald Reporter.

"Puffing a cigarette, a Sussex village rector said yesterday," they have been trying to get rid of me ever since I came here but I have been here for 11 years now." And he roared with laughter.

The Rev. Joseph Hanbury Wykes Ashdown, 65 year old ex-missionary, was little disturbed by the fact that some of his 500 parishioners in Falmer are thinking of petitioning the Bishop of Chichester.

"They want him replaced chiefly on the grounds that there is now no Mothers Union or Sunday School in the parish. But they have not forgotten that once the rector told them a bomb would do the village good. In fact that is when it all started."

No 'Nursemaid'.

Complained Mrs Wall of Moulsecombe, a little further along the road. "As soon as he arrived he shut the Sunday School saying he was not going to be a nursemaid to children while their parents took a nap.

"He let the Mothers Union die out and once called us swine from the pulpit."

Mr Ashdown, 65, an ex-missionary answered his critics in the garden of his rectory. "I did say something about a bomb" he said.

“It was towards the end of the war and I thought it would wake them up to the fact there was a war on. I went through the First World War and sometimes my language is not what they expect from a clergyman.

I once told them they had made a little hell for themselves and were worshipping the devil and were all little devils themselves.

Not bad eh?

Not Quite True.

It is not quite true that I called them swine, One Sunday I took as my text; 'Cast not your pearls amongst swine'. I am too busy to run a Sunday School single handed and no one will help me. A Mothers Union is usually run by an enrolling member and when ours resigned no one would take on the job.”

Grinning widely he continued, “I had a burglary last Tuesday, he was not much of a thief, he scooped all the cake and left a bottle of whisky”.

Editor note: The Rev. Joseph Hanbury Wykes Ashdown was the vicar of Falmer from 1939 to 1952.

This report is from the Daily Herald on 5th September 1949.

Summer Days

Nymans is one of our grandchildren’s favourite National Trust gardens. They enjoy rolling down the bank of the sunken garden, and running round and round the central flower urn. When we visited the flower borders were beautiful, a mass of colour visited by bees and dancing butterflies which the children tried to photograph, above.



At Pulborough



At Nymans

Running through the portal from another world, that is what Dylan said he was doing.

Dylan had been bird watching at school so we visited the RSPB reserve at Pulborough. Unfortunately it was not a good time of year to see lots of different birds but good for a walk and a picnic. There was a play area so the children had a great time after our walk.



Pond Dipping at Arundel

We made a visit to the Wild Fowl and Wetland Trust at Arundel. Here the children spent some time pond dipping finding lots of tiny water creatures. Surprisingly they did not get wet. We walked around the wetlands and were lucky to see a kingfisher.

Again the children also enjoyed the play areas especially the climbing things one of which involved crawling along a plank in a rope tunnel.

Dylan enjoyed the fireman's pole to slide



Bird watching

down from a tree.



Crawling along a plank between two trees

At the end of the summer holiday we looked after the children for two days as their parents were both working but their schools were closed for staff training and preparation for the new term.

Chloe got up on both mornings and packed her own rucksack including her picnic lunch and was ready to go by 7.30am.

The first day we took the children to Washbrooks Farm near Hurstpierpoint, which was nothing like the farm I had visualised but full of activities for the children to play on. Chloe is two years younger than Dylan but anything he can do she can do as well which meant many heart stopping moments when she climbed, swung and bounced the same as Dylan, she has no fear and is very agile.

A less active day out was a visit to Bignor Roman Villa. Dylan was very interested and read all the information notices asking questions if he didn't understand. He likened the tesserae of the mosaics to pixels in



Going round one of the mazes at Bignor

digital pictures and was fascinated by the length of the North Corridor. The mosaic here is 24 metres long but was originally three times that length.

The children enjoyed playing hopscotch and we found the centre of two mazes, without cheating, of course Dylan got to the centre first.

On one of the days we came home via the farm shop at Falmer.

This provided an opportunity for the children to feed the ducks.

Some of them are tame enough to take food out of a hand.

John and I were quite exhausted when we got to the end of the week.

Marjorie Phillips



Feeding grain to the ducks at Falmer

Smallpox in Brighton in 1950

Brighton has seen a number of health crises prior to the present coronavirus pandemic. The current health crisis is a reminder of the huge challenges facing local authorities when dealing with the spread

of infectious diseases. Seventy years ago, the swift and decisive action of Brighton's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Rutherford Cramb and his deputy Dr. William Shepherd Parker averted a potential smallpox epidemic.

The first indication came on 27 December 1950 when two in-patients at Bevendean Isolation Hospital began displaying unusual symptoms; one was a telephonist, the other was her father, a taxi driver, and both were diagnosed with smallpox. An RAF serviceman, who had returned from India in November, had stayed at their home and had felt unwell for most of his leave. At the time, it was thought he was suffering from malaria, but he was subsequently diagnosed with smallpox and was detained in Brighton.

Dr. Cramb moved quickly to ensure that anyone who had come into contact with the infected man was vaccinated and given medical attention, and a vaccination programme was put into effect throughout the town which treated nearly 86,000 people, including hospital staff and patients. Arrangements were made for tracing contacts of all three people, and a circular was sent to local GPs.

By 28 December, routes for the spread of infection were traced, including the isolation hospital, the telephone exchange, the taxi that the serviceman had taken from Brighton station, and other social contacts, two of whom were later found to have contracted smallpox.

In total, 29 people were confirmed as having contracted the disease, but only 10 of them died. The prevention of an epidemic was attributable to the rapid action taken by Dr. Cramb and Dr. Parker.

Marjorie who was 4 years old, at the time, still remembers her father who worked at the Royal Sussex County Hospital vaccinating her in the kitchen when she lived in Nesbitt Road.

St Andrews Church Hove

Why are there two churches dedicated to St Andrews in Hove?

The church in Church Road which today is referred to as St Andrews old church was established in mediaeval times, possibly around the 12th century. The original building was replaced with a simple

Norman-style church with an aisled nave and a tower. By the 13th century a chancel had been added.

This church functioned as the parish church of Hove until 1531, when the parish was united with that of Preston (to the northeast) and became the parish of Hove-cum-Preston.

Although its parish church status remained, a declining population was unable to maintain it. By the 18th century the nave and chancel were crumbling; parts of the roof were removed; and the tower fell down in 1801.



St Andrews Church in Waterloo Street

The area between Brighton, to the east, and the ancient centre of Hove, to the west, was farmland until the 1820s, when Brunswick Town was developed in response to the success of the Kemp Town estate in Brighton—a planned estate of high-class houses, servants' quarters and other buildings, all in the Regency style. Architect Charles Busby planned and built the Brunswick Town estate, which (together with other nearby residential development) helped the population of Hove to rise from 100 in 1801 to 2,500 in 1841.

The only church nearby was St Andrew's, the ancient parish church; which was some distance away. The curate of the (now demolished) St Margaret's Church in Cannon Place, Brighton, Rev. Edward Everard, owned some land near the former Wick Farm, on which the Brunswick Town estate had been built. He was aware that there was no plan to build a church in the estate, so he decided to build a proprietary chapel on his land.

In 1827 a new St Andrew's Church was started on the East side of Waterloo Street in the prosperous area of Brunswick in Hove and dedicated on 5 July 1828. The architect chosen by Rev Everard was Sir Charles Barry the architect of St Peters Church, the County Hospital and the Houses of Parliament.

Construction started in April 1827. Everard was granted an Act of Parliament on 3 April 1828 giving him and his successors ownership of the church, the right to appoint a curate for the next 40 years, and two-thirds of income from pew rents and other sources. Everard himself acted as the first curate, from the church's consecration on 5 July 1828 until 1838, one year before his death.

The church was built in the Romanesque style, the interior of which shows free use of the Italian motif. The best feature of the interior, the Altarpiece, disappeared when the present ambitious and splendid Chancel was added in 1882 from the plans of Charles Barry, R.A., and son of the original architect. Fortunately the very fine illuminated fresco of the Cross with the suggestion of Jerusalem in the distance was not destroyed. It has been cleverly incorporated into the new Sanctuary and does not fail to attract the attention of all those who look up towards the Altar.

St Andrew's immediately became popular with the fashionable set, helped by the regular presence of members of the Royal Family and the aristocracy. Among the many Dukes and Duchesses to worship there in the mid-19th century was the elderly Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, who often made loud and sometimes eccentric comments and remarks during services. Between 300 and 350 people regularly worshipped at the church in 1851 according to a census taken during that year; there were 420 pews, 340 of which were subject to pew rents.

The Reverend Dan Winham, entered upon his Incumbency in 1868, and did a great deal to enhance the dignity and beauty of the Church. He remained at the church for about twenty-five years.



St Andrews Church viewed towards the altar

Originally the walls and ceiling were cold and bare but thanks to him the ceiling, in both the Chancel and Nave, were adorned with bold and artistic paintings—the walls too were decorated. The whole of this work was done by one Conrad Schmidt, of Munich. Many other internal improvements were also made, in addition to which a magnificent

three manual organ by Bishop was installed. The congregation gave the latter.

The stained glass windows throughout the church were the work of Hardman Powell, of Birmingham.

The church was always unparished, having been built as a chapel of ease to St Andrew's in Church Road.

St Andrew's Church in Waterloo Street is the only church in Hove to have burial vaults beneath it. Space for burials was restricted in the Brunswick Town area by the time the church was built, because of the rapid residential development, and the churchyard at St Andrew's on Church Road was difficult to get to. Lord Charles Somerset, an M.P. who later became Governor of the Cape Colony in South Africa, was the first person to be buried in the vault, in 1831. A court order in 1854 prevented any more burials being made, and the vaults were used as air-raid shelters during World War II.



St Andrews painted Dome

The church remained in use until the late 20th century, but was declared redundant on 14 February 1990 because of declining attendance at services. The decline had set in several decades earlier, and the Diocese was considering demolition; the granting of Grade I listed status on 24 March 1950 as the

building was designated of “outstanding architectural or historic interest”, meant this could not happen.

The Churches Conservation Trust now owns and maintains the building. Squatters caused damage during the 1990s, but restoration work in 2001 and 2002, costing more than £100,000, allowed the building to be reopened for occasional services, special events and community activities.

Day out in Portsmouth

Earlier in June of this year when lockdown was slowly being lifted, I managed to visit one of the places I have been meaning to visit again, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. It has been over forty years since my last visit. My parents still have the photo of me and my brother posing in front of the very famous 'Victory' boat, the flagship of the British Royal Navy made famous at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.



HMS Victory in 1982

Building of the dockyards started in 1495, before the keel of the Mary Rose (bottom ridge of a boat), was laid there in 1510. Two years later the dockyards were officially appointed the building centre for the King's ships. Sadly, no trace of the medieval dockyard remain. During a period of almost continuous naval warfare in the 18th and 19th centuries, the dockyards became the largest industrial complex in the world. It was a town in its own right, with houses, churches, schools, a mortuary, shops, surgeries, and its own fire station. As the innovation movement in ship design from sail to steam progressed in the 19th century, the dockyard went through some dramatic changes. The

construction of a huge steam basin with three dry docks led to a crowd of 15,000 people watching Queen Victoria open the new complex in 1848.

By the early 20th century, the process had become very advanced, and the great battleship Dreadnought was constructed in 366 days. This generated worldwide interest and sparked a ship building race prior to WW1. During the Second World War the dockyards became a prime target for the Germans, who caused the dockyards severe damage. Post-war brought a reduction to the Navy, but the yards still had a major role in modernising the fleet into the nuclear and missile age. It also played a huge part following the outbreak of the Falklands war, working round the clock to refit the task force. The Portsmouth dockyards continue to be of prime importance to the Royal Navy with 60% of the fleet based there.

The two new Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers were partly constructed in the dockyards and are now also based there. We were lucky enough to see one of the carriers, HMS Prince of Wales on a harbour boat tour, as its sister ship HMS Queen Elizabeth had left a few weeks earlier to start a world tour.

The dockyards are now also a museum to some impressive ships and boats of our Royal Navy. The Victory which is probably the most famous of all ships in the Royal Navy, is based in the dockyards. The 104-gun first rate ship started being built in 1759 and was first launched in 1765. Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson was her most famous sailor, but she actually went into battle six times in total before her fighting career ended in 1812. She was 47 years old on retiring, the same age as Lord Nelson when he died. Victory was then used as a training ship for the Navy and after a national appeal in 1922 was placed in her dry dock for the world to admire.

Other ships in the historic dockyard to admire are the Mary Rose, the only 16th century warship displayed in the world. Built for Henry VIII in 1510 and fought many battles against the French for over 30 years. She capsized off the coast of Portsmouth on 19th July 1545 during the battle

of the Solent, sadly some 500 sailors also went down with her. Rediscovered more than 400 years later, the Mary Rose was raised from the Solent on 10th October 1982. She is now housed in a very impressive museum that uses large air ducts to help keep the ship from decaying. The Mary Rose Museum also has over 19,000 items that were recovered when raised. These include musical instruments, leather shoes, two-ton cannons and the skeleton of the purser's dog.

Other ships on display are HMS Warrior and HMS M.33. HMS Warrior is a 40-gun steam powered armoured frigate, built between 1859 and 1861. With her sister ship HMS Black Prince; they were the first armoured plated, iron-hulled warships ever to be made. She had a crew of 705 and a top speed of 14kn and spent forty years in service. HMS M.33 is one of only two Royal Navy warships to survive from the First World War and the only one from the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey. She was built in just seven weeks in 1915 on the orders of the First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. HMS M.33 conducted many duties and gained the nickname 'Lucky Ship' as she never lost any crew in action. Having various duties in her long career, her naval life finally ended in 1984.

Portsmouth Historic Dockyards are a fantastic day out for all ages and definitely worth a visit if you can. Learning about our past naval history to our modern navy is extremely interesting and one I, along with my family thoroughly enjoyed.

Marc Boase

Secondhand Books

A stall selling second hand books and watercolour paintings will be held every Thursday between 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. in St Mary Magdalen Church.

Books priced from 20p to £1.00 in aid of church funds.



Water Catcher in Stanmer Park



Rain Water Catcher after vegetation had been cleared c2015

A Rain Water Catcher was built between 1870 and 1875, on the slope behind Stanmer House to provide the residents and visitors to Stanmer House with good quality drinking water. It also meant that they were able to enjoy some of the country's first flushing toilets.

The Water Catcher is now a Grade II listed Victorian construction and is thought to be only one of two remaining in the UK. It provided gravity-fed water to the house, walled gardens, stables and village through a series of complex underground tanks and pipes.

The Water catcher is approximately 70 metres long and approximately 12 metres wide. It was built to the design of Thomas Jones, the estate foreman, and enlarged to the west in the 1890s. Concrete was laid on top of large flints with bricks, cement and a mixture of tar and sand being used in the construction. The surface was coated with tar and sand in the 1930s. There are occasional breaks, acting as channels, with a continuous gully to one side and a brick break marking the boundary of the first build, approximately 25 metres from the west.

There is a brick and cement tank at the east end, to the full width of the catch and approximately 1 metre deep, with an overflow at the north-east corner and the remains of the filter system to the south end.

The picture on the right is of the rain water collecting channel and filtering tank at the bottom of the slope.



Rainwater Collecting Channel
© 2015

Brightons Water Supply.

In July 1872, under the terms of the Brighton Corporation Waterworks Act, the corporation purchased the Constant Service Water Company. By 1900 Brighton Corporation had acquired three more water suppliers. Pumping-stations were constructed at Patcham in 1889; Mile Oak in 1900; Falmer in 1904; and the first electric station was built at Balsdean in 1936.

A pumping station in the Lewes Road was closed in 1903 and demolished due to contamination of the ground water.

The corporation proceeded to purchase farmland surrounding the town to prevent further pollution of the water supply. Bye-laws eventually extending to over 30,000 acres were made and vast areas of Downland were acquired to prevent contamination of the water supply.

Bevendean Farm and other land owned by Steyning Beard were purchased in 1913, and the Brighton Corporation purchased other farm land between the sea and the Downs when it became available.

The council bought Stanmer Park in 1947 for £225,000, to safeguard the city's water supply.

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