



# Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

Spring 2023

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## **SPRING** (*Acrostic Poem*)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,

Petals of every colour and hue,

Rain and sun caressing the earth

Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view

Now is the time of new beginnings

Giving us pleasure all season through.

*By Megan Carter*

## **Letter from the Vicarage - March 2022**

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Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I had a great deal of help drafting this article from my 17 week old Grandson. How you may be asking? Well, it was by walking away from my laptop and going over to the window.

And whilst looking out I began to describe everything I could see and I realised that for once I was looking at things properly. Not just a cursory glance, I was studying everything I could see so that I could tell him all about it. All of a sudden, the colours appeared brighter and the wind blowing in the trees reminded me that power and glory were visible in this world but, are not of this world.

I looked toward this little one in my arms and I realised that he had no fear of the future and he had complete trust in us that we would care for him, feed him and keep him from harm. It made me think deeply about my faith and I realised that I was lacking. Why did I spend so long each day wondering what tomorrow would bring? When I had no need to because just like baby Oliver, I too can rest assured that my heavenly Father will nurture me, feed me and keep me safe, all I had to do was stay close to Him and trust in him.

But as a child grows and learns we must do the same. As an infant we are fed on milk but, as we grow our diet becomes more solid, harder to ingest (lots of chewing). However, if we stayed purely on milk we would not thrive, we would not grow stronger and more resilient to everything that life has to throw at us.

It is the same with our faith, we could stop going to church, listening to God's word and teaching as soon as we are old enough to persuade our parents or carers that we can be left at home. We could stay on our easy to digest milk diet or we could continue to grow in faith, weaned from our gentle milk diet we could begin to understand the extent of the sacrifice made by Christ for all of us.

When you receive this magazine, it will be the beginning of Holy Week, the most important week of the year for Christians all over the world. We were not born of Christmas we are Easter people born from the Cross and the resurrection of Christ.

If you have not been to church in a while, it would be the perfect time to come back as we journey with Jesus from His entry into Jerusalem through to that Glorious Easter Morning. You will be welcomed with open arms and hearts at St Mary Magdalen Church, whether you are returning or exploring you are welcome.

Perhaps it is no surprise that Easter occurs in the spring, a time of birth, growth and hope. Look at the world through a child's eyes and rediscover the mystery.

I look forward to greeting you.

Love and Prayers,

*Rev. Betsy*

### **Holy Week Services at St Mary Magdalen Church 2023**

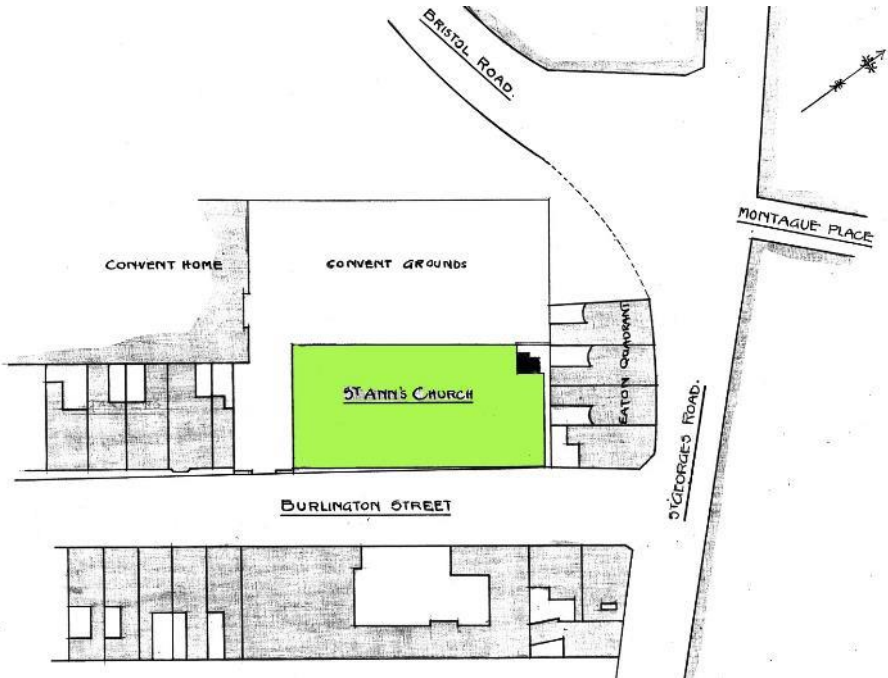
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Monday 3 Apr	5.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 4 Apr	9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	7.00 p.m.	Requiem Mass 7 pm
Wednesday 5 Apr	9.15 am	Morning Prayer
	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Maundy Thursday 6 Apr	7.00 p.m.	Mass and washing of feet, and vigil at the Altar of repose
Good Friday 7 Apr	10 a.m. to 12 noon.	St Mary Magdalen Children's Activity
Good Friday 7 Apr	1 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
	2 p.m.	Veneration of the Cross and Mass
Holy Saturday 8 Apr	9.15 a.m.	Morning Prayer followed by preparation for Sunday
Easter Sunday 9 Apr	5.30 a.m.	Service of Light (dawn service)
Easter Sunday 9 Apr	10.00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Mass followed by egg hunt

## St Ann's Church – Burlington Street

St Ann's Church was described as a handsome and striking example of modern church architecture. This was due to the skill of the architect Mr. Benjamin Ferrey and the first incumbent under whose personal supervision every ornamental item was introduced. The church served one of the more prosperous areas of east Brighton.

The plans for the church began when Mrs. Maria Cook of Charlotte Street, Brighton, wished to build a church in the area to the memory of her son the Rev. Churchill Cook who had died in Malta. She willed



a sum of money to produce an annual income of £167. 13. 4d which was augmented by a further sum on the death of her sister, Mrs. Weiton.

The site chosen was at the north end of Burlington Street on grounds belonging to a Convent.

Dr. Gilbert, at that time the Bishop of Chichester, asked the Vicar of Brighton, the Rev. Dr. H. M. Wagner, to find someone who would

undertake to build a church and to be the first Vicar. This priest chosen was the Rev. A. Cooper who began raising money by personally contributing the sum of £2,000. The Vicar of Brighton gave £2,200. To make a total of £5,059.0.1d. The remainder of the cost was raised by special sermons and an annual appeal.

The Foundation stone was laid Monday 16th June, 1862 and the church consecrated on Saturday 13th June 1863 by the Bishop of Chichester, Dr. Gilbert.

The church when built was ready for Divine Worship, but was very bare by comparison with what it became later. There was no carved reredos, the pulpit was made of wood and the Vestry was in a corner where the font was later sited.



A photograph of the church c1915 showing the columns and arches which supported the roof.



The photograph here is thought to have been taken in the 1920s or early 1930s.

The Church consisted of nave, two side aisles, a chancel, with two chancel aisles, and an organ chamber which was a later addition. Also, there was a bell turret containing a single bell.

There were two entrances to St. Anne's, both from Burlington Street, the building being accessible to the public only upon its eastern side.

The main door was at the south-east angle of the Church, and the choir door at the southern extremity of the east chancel aisle.

When the Church was first opened, although finely

proportioned and well built, it was comparatively bare.

During the following 100 years much was done to enhance the interior of the building.

## **The Sanctuary**

The oak altar rails were gifted by visitors as was the oak Sedilia [three seats]. The Alabaster walls and further decoration of the Reredos and the Walls of the Sanctuary, were the gifts of the Parishioners and friends".

## **The Altar with Reredos**

This occupied the entire width of the Sanctuary, and had an inscription in gilt "Do this in remembrance of Me". The centre recessed panel represented the Last Supper and showed our Lord standing with the Apostles seated. The altar was carved from a single piece of Caen stone decorated with carvings of delicately sculptured running vine patterns.

## **The columns**

The capitals were carved with various designs of flowers, fruit and foliage.

## **Windows**

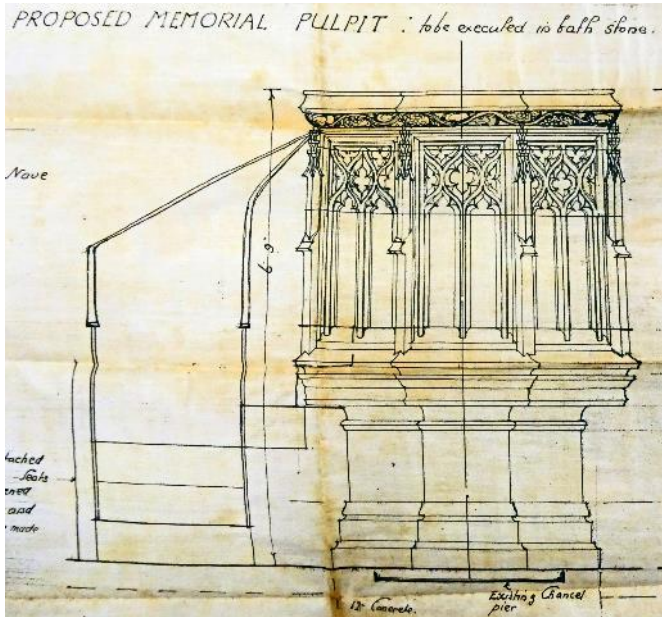
The stained-glass windows were commissioned as memorials to family members.

The Vicar, the Rev. A. Cooper who resigned the living in 1909 saw many changes during his incumbency. From a parish of comparatively wealthy residents, it change into a parish of boarding houses.

The Rev. T. J. James, Senior, was appointed by the Vicar of Brighton to succeed the Rev. A. Cooper, and in the six years after 1909 much was done to the Church and parish, thanks to the many kind friends, however much more remained to be done.

In 1916 there was an excellent band of workers and a devoted and united congregation, consequently the parish had become the centre of great spiritual and social activity.





A faculty for erecting a new pulpit was granted on 16 September 1919, above is the Architects sketch for the construction.

During the life of the church a number of Faculties were granted for alterations and additions to the

church.

### **The Bell Turret**

A small bell turret was built at the northern end of the church when it was originally constructed.

On 12 October 1964 a faculty for the demolition of the bell turret was granted as it was considered unsafe. Then on 19 October 1966 a faculty was granted for the disposal of the bell.

### **The Organ and Choir Stalls**

These were installed in 1874 and rebuilt in 1923 at a cost of £1,450. The choir stalls were not the original.

### **The War Memorial**

A War Shrine to the memory of those killed in two Great Wars, also included Civilians who were members of this church. The window beside this was unique as the faces of the figures were of those to

whom it was dedicated, two young officers, the Cotterell brothers, aged 18 and 22, who died in the battles of the Somme and Ypres.



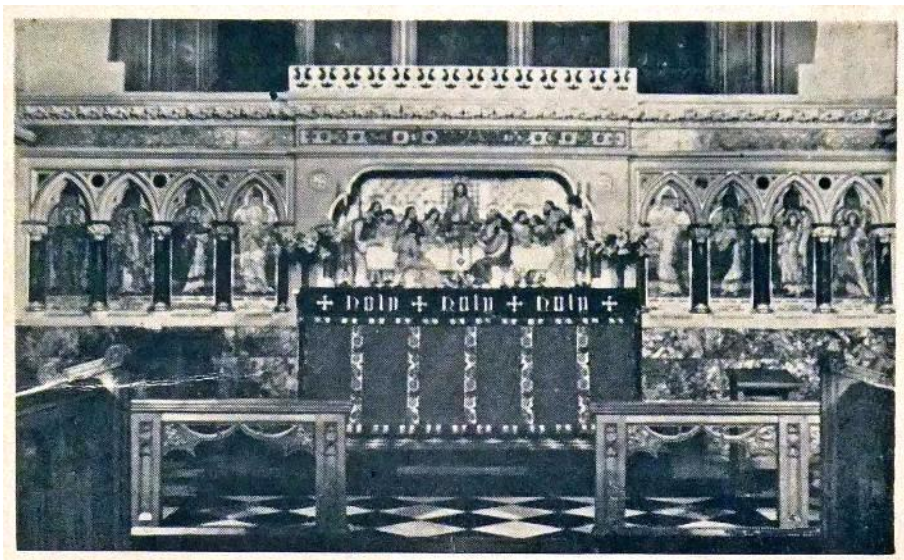
St Anne's Church in Burlington Street in Kemp Town c1930.

### **The Baptistry**

This was in the south west corner where the first Vestry stood. The font was of Caen stone and immediately beneath it were three sculptured heads Queen Victoria faced the Chancel: an Archbishop faced East; and a Bishop faced West. The cover for the Font was given by the children of St. Anne's in 1910.

### **The Lady Chapel**

The Lady Chapel was a memorial to the Rev. S Thomas (Priest) and to Dr Bright (Church Warden). It was finely constructed with an oak floor and altar rails, a solid oak table with frontal and canopy. The four gilt angels at the head of the posts were given by Mrs Dalton who also presented the Lectern, the whole of which is made of wood with a carved figure of Christ set in the front of it.



The church celebrated its centenary in 1963 when the photograph above of the sanctuary, altar and reredos were taken.

St Anne's Church Hall was built in St George's Road about 1912 as a memorial to John Nixon, and was later used as a community centre known as Kempton Pier.

It was located on the corner of Crescent Place in St Georges Road which was close to Burlington Street. it was converted into flats and a shop in 2002.

By the late 1970's a dwindling congregation forced the closure of the church, and the parish was joined with that of St. George and St. Mark.

The Bishop of Lewes conducted a confirmation service on the 2nd of July 1974

The last marriage in St Annes Church took place on the 26th of March 1983, and the last baptism took place on the 10th of April 1983.

St. Anne's church was finally demolished in 1986 and a block of flats called St Anne's Court now occupies the site.

## **British Restaurant in WW2**

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British Restaurants were communal feeding centres created in 1940 during the Second World War to help people who had been bombed out of their homes, had run out of ration coupons or otherwise needed help. By 1943, there were 2,160 British Restaurants serving 600,000 very inexpensive meals a day. They were disbanded in 1947. The Labour Party saw them as a permanent solution to equalising consumption across the class line and guaranteeing a nourishing diet to all.

Originally called "Community Feeding Centres", the name British Restaurants was chosen by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. They were set up by the Ministry of Food and run by local government or voluntary agencies on a non-profit basis. Meals were sold for a set maximum price of 9d (equivalent to about £2.60 at 2023 prices). The meals were restricted to one serving of meat, game, poultry, fish, eggs, or cheese. For one in ten of the restaurants the meals were prepared at central cooking depots. Schools and churches were often used because they had dining halls and kitchens. In London, mobile canteens delivered meals to air raid shelters and on the street in the aftermath of air raids.

By contrast, ordinary private restaurants continued in operation and were not subject to rationing. They had some restrictions: for instance, no meal could be more than three courses and the maximum price for a meal was five shillings.

By mid-1941, over two hundred British Restaurants operated in the London County Council area. A Wartime Social Survey conducted in 1942–43 showed that they were more popular in London than in the rest of the country.

Some smaller places did not qualify for a British Restaurant, but, instead, had what was termed a "Cash and Carry Restaurant" with meals being delivered from a nearby British Restaurant.

Brighton Council set up a Communal Feeding Committee to supervise the scheme for Emergency Feeding of very large numbers following heavy bombing raids.

By 26 May 1941 four centres were proposed for this purpose each with a capacity of 300 meals a day. By May 1941 three centres had been identified and it was planned that they would start operating during the first 3 weeks of June.

St. Wilfrid's Hall was to provide meals for people living in the Elm Grove Area, Moulsecoomb. Hall for the Moulsecoomb Estate and the Boys' Club to cover the Edward Street Area.

The fourth British Restaurant was setup in Patcham after negotiations for the use of the hall could be agreed.

#### Typical Menus

Roast Beef, Roast Potatoes, Peas

Gooseberry Tart and Custard      8d

Cup of Tea                              1d

The Feeding Committee Chairman decided that the name of the establishments should be "Brighton Restaurants"; and the School of Art was asked to design sign-boards embodying this title which were then exhibited uniformly outside these and other places.

Health was also a concern, as the meals were supposed to provide diners with "one third of the day's energy needs". The dieticians were especially concerned with Vitamin C intake. Due to the war efforts and rationing, fruit intake was extremely limited. Vegetables such as cabbage, which has a high percentage of Vitamin C, was a staple vegetable

Further sites for Brighton Restaurants were identified. They were the Methodist Hall, the Chapel Royal Hall, St. Ann's Hall and premises in Patcham as additional Civic Restaurants.



Woolmore Street British Restaurant 1942 - Ministry of Information Photo Division

It was also proposed to establish a Central Kitchen at the White House, Patcham, using solid fuel cooking apparatus with a daily capacity of 2,500 meals per day.

The Brighton Feeding Committee arranged with the Eldorado Ice Cream Company to purchase insulated containers with a total capacity of over 900 gallons for transporting cooked food from either the Pavilion Kitchens which were originally used and then from the new Central Kitchens when completed to whatever Civic Restaurants were open.

Moulsecoomb Hall Civic Restaurant prices and opening;

1st Course Small (child's) portion	3d
Adult's portion	5d
For consumption off	4d
2nd Course Small (child's) portion	2d
Adult's portion	3d
For consumption off	2d
Tea per cup	1d

Meals to be supplied from 12.15 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. each day, except Sunday.



Members of the public enjoying a meal in one of the British Restaurants during the Second World War in London c1943. - By Ministry of Information Photo Division Photographer, Smith Jack.

The food in British Restaurants was said to be filling and of good quality. For 9d, customers could get a three-course meal. Traditionally, customers wanted a meal of meat and two vegetables. Generally, there were choices of five meat dishes, five vegetables, and five desserts and in more populated areas even more options. Popular dishes included roasts and potatoes, which acted as a substitute for bread. The foods served in British Restaurants could be prepared in large quantities, which made them good options for feeding an abundance of people. The preparation of food was industrialised, which also helped with inexpensive, commercial food preparation. For example, volunteers sliced potatoes with machines, rather than by hand.

A fleet of small vans were acquired to take the food from the Central Kitchens to the Brighton Restaurants. Vehicles were also earmarked for delivering fuel to the central kitchens as needed.

The committee also drew up a list of bake houses which were independent of gas or electricity supplies. The nearest one to Moulsecombe was Grout and Sons Bakers in Coombe Road.

Cooking depots were constructed on the Avenue Green at Moulsecoomb and by the side of Valley Drive in Westdene.

By the end of September 1942, the maximum varied output of the Moulsecoomb and Valley Drive Cooking Depots were available at 6,000 per day

A Civic Restaurant was provided in St. James's Street capable of feeding 500 people with another in London Road for 750 people and the one at Moulsecoomb feeding 150.

School Feeding Centres were also set up at Patcham, Park Street, Ditchling Road and the intermediate school by York Place.

After 1947 some restaurants were converted, under the Civic Restaurants Act, into civic restaurants run by the local council.



## Memories of a Vicars Daughter at Moulseccomb

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Jenny Money

I was born in Wimbledon in 1949.

My earliest memories of Moulseccomb were of having my own bedroom for the first time in my life! Ali Barber playing the church organ which I helped to pump up! An old lady fainting in church, which scared the hell out of me and has left me with a phobia of fainting. One of the curates rode a motor bike (I think that his name was Stan?) Someone giving my parents an old car which neither of them were qualified to drive. They both tried and failed to pass their driving test!

As a child I did not play out around the estates, or in the Wild Park or in the local fields. That was strictly forbidden! I was only allowed to play in the Vicarage Garden.

I attended Varndean Grammar School for Girls. I was very insecure and unhappy at school and was frequently teased and ridiculed.

When we moved to Moulseccomb, I was 13 so my sister would have been 8 and I think she went to Bevendean school and then to Westlain School.

The Vicarage at Moulseccomb was a lovely house to live in although when we first got there, there was no central heating just an old Aga instead of a cooker.

My father was the Rev Jack Money was the Vicar of Moulseccomb and he was the head of the team ministry covering Bevendean, Coldean



Fr Jack Money with Alison Phillips in 1975

and Moulsecoomb from 1963 to 1975. He succeeded the Rev Ronald Newton.

My father and mother, my younger brother Duncan, my little sister Mary and I lived in the Vicarage together.

Moulsecoomb seemed very urban to me!

The family made use of the garden. My mother was a very keen gardener and spent quite a bit of time cultivating the flowerbeds. Dad's role was to cut the grass! I can remember being with my mother at the shops in the Avenue when someone said to her 'Is that your son up that tree?' Effortlessly my brother had climbed to the top of one of the very tall fir trees at the front of the garden and my mother nearly had a fit.

I remember the Telephone boxes in Moulsecoomb, especially the one just up the road in Hillside, where I used to call friends that I didn't want my parents to know about. And where I used to meet up with a boy called Chalky White!

As far as I can remember my parents used the shops in the Avenue as neither of them drove a car.

Jenny on looking at a photograph of Alison Phillips being christened by Fr Jack Money at St Andrews Church on 6 June 1975 commented "that was my darling dad, he died so young aged 66".

The church was well attended as far as I can remember. On Christmas Eve, at the Midnight Mass, the local rockers would all turn up after the pubs closed and Dad would welcome them publicly. They always remained standing at the back. And I remember feeling very tearful when Dad and the choir processed around the church. Dad would always look over at me and give me a beaming smile and I was so proud that it reduced me to tears. I also remember Dad being friends with one of the presenters on Radio Sussex, who nicknamed Dad the hippy vicar, as he had a crew cut and wore open sandals! I can also remember him bringing our little Yorkshire Terrier into the church

once to illustrate something in one of his sermons. He also started the Jazz Masses which I think, were held, at Coldean Church.

I did not get involved with the church activities, as I recall, I just pumped up the organ from time to time.

I can remember watching my dad when he was up at the altar scabbling about with a vase of flowers. I said to him afterwards, "what were you doing". He replied "I dropped the cones of incense into the flowers and I had to put them in the thurifer so I was trying to find them and dry them on my Cassock.

The church hall was a lovely place. I went to the youth club there and watched Peter Field and his band playing! I also remember a group called The Motion.

Thinking about community events, I can remember the Gilbert and Sullivan productions which the choir put on, which my mother and Bernard Fennell, the choir master, organised. There were also Barn Dances which took place in the church hall.

I attended the youth club in the church hall and I went to confirmation classes with Tony Pannett again as I fancied a boy called Peter Swaffer who was following them!

We travelled in and out of the estate on the number 49 or 49A bus.

I used to babysit for Derek and Sally Hill who lived near where the premier express shop at the top of the Avenue. This was in the mid-1960s. That is about all I can remember about Bevendean.

I think that the biggest change in Moulsecomb over the years is that there are many more cars on the estate.

The best thing I remember about Moulsecomb was the lovely house we lived in and my friends who lived just along the road. I also remember jumping off the bus as it slowed down on the first bend in Hillside.

When my father moved from his post at Moulsecomb I moved to France, where I lived for 12 years.

I came back to live in Lewes in 1985 with a two-year-old son and went back to work at the University of Sussex; I was offered accommodation by a former colleague in Kingston.

I have many small memories, such as my father having to cycle at night to someone who was apparently dying but who then didn't do so. By the time Dad got home, the phone would ring again and Dad would have to jump on his bike again in the dark and go back to them! I also remember Dad being called to a home somewhere in Moulsecoomb where he found a child kept in a cage on the landing upstairs. And another time when he came home from conducting the burial of a child – he was in tears as he and the gravediggers were the only ones there.

Peter Field who became the Lord Lieutenant in 2008 was one of my dad's servers and I remember taking the mickey out of Peter Field when he was first made Lord Lieutenant. I had photographs of him playing on the stage in Moulsecoomb in the Church Hall and when he was in a band and I threatened to publish them. Peter Field retired as the Lord Lieutenant in 2021 and was succeeded by Andrew Blackman.

My mother and Bernard Fennell used to put on Gilbert and Sullivan productions and things like that. Bernard also put on Concerts in the church.

My mother and Bernard ran church choir camp in the 1970s near Hastings or Rye. Len Poulton was so amazing because he sang in the choir but he had only got one lung. Dear old Stan Wilson who did his own thing and was so funny.

Note: Rev Jack Money was a Curate at St Anne Church in Lewes from 1959 to 1963 before moving to become the Vicar of Moulsecoomb from 12 Jun 1963 to 7 Sep 1975.

When he left Moulsecoomb he moved to become the Rector of Heene in Worthing.

## **Confirmation Service at St Mary Magdalen Church**

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A confirmation service was held on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December when four members of the church were confirmed by The Bishop of Chichester at the Sunday morning Eucharist.

At the end of the service Bishop Martin invited the candidates and clergy to line up with him so that members of the congregation could take photographs.



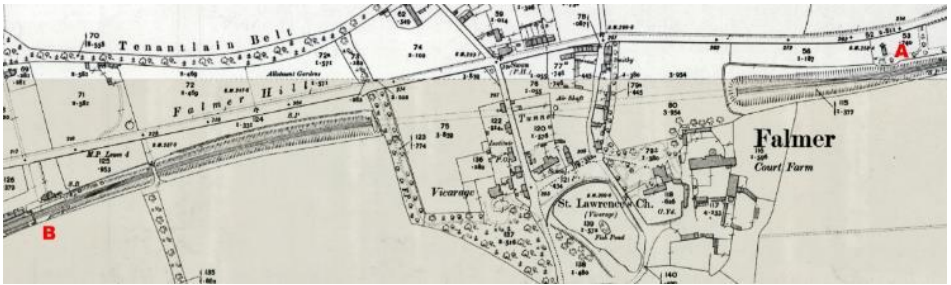
In the normal Coldean tradition a cake was baked to celebrate the event.

This rounded off a memorable year for the church at Coldean with the Jubilee Celebrations in June followed by the Consecration of the church in July on the day we celebrate our Patronal Festival.

## Falmer Station was moved in 1865

The railway line from London to Brighton opened on 21 September 1841. The line to Lewes opened on 8 June 1846 with a stop at Falmer, originally situated on the eastern side of the village where the Old Station Cottage still stands.

On the 1st August 1865 it was reopened at its present site 1.0 km west of the original site. Falmer Station was rebuilt in 1890 with the stationmaster's house integrated into the station building.



The original site of Falmer station was at A and is now at B.



Falmer station c1890 showing the stationmaster and an old man.

## **Is A Private Hospital Necessarily Any Better?**

### **You Can Be The Judge by Mary Violet**

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At the beginning of last year, I was diagnosed with a Dupuytren's Contracture which was pulling my ring and little finger into my palm on my left hand.

My GP referred me to the hand clinic and I waited 8 months for an appointment with a clinician who had to examine me and determine if my condition was severe enough to warrant an operation.

This appointment finally came in November 2022 and I was told that I would probably get an appointment to see the surgeon in February 2023 and that the NHS procedure was currently being carried out at the private Montefiore Hospital in Hove.

This made me very happy as I assumed that I would get much better treatment at a private hospital even though it was the same surgeon.

I was originally offered an appointment with a Specialist Hand Surgeon on 19<sup>th</sup> December which was a very quick session for him to see my hand and approve surgery. I was then given 12.00 noon on 1<sup>st</sup> February as my operation date which I was very pleased with. Prior to this I had 2 other appointments.

The first was a face to face one with a nurse to ask various health questions, which I had already sent to them in an online questionnaire, and for them to take a MRSA swab from both my nose and my groin.

The second was a telephone appointment to ask the same questions again and to see if I had any questions. I was then told to expect a phone call on 31<sup>st</sup> January at around 4pm to either confirm or change the time of my appointment. I received the call, as expected, and my appointment time had been changed from 12 noon to 2pm. Fair enough.

However, later in the day, I received another call to say that my appointment was at 12.30pm. I queried this change, as I had

obviously already been given a later time of 2pm, but I was assured that this was my new time.

Fast forward to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. I arrived at around 12.20pm and reported to the reception area. My husband, Alan, was going to wait downstairs for me as I had been told that my procedure would only take approximately 20 minutes.

Being realistic, we had paid for 2 hours parking right outside the hospital but had hoped to be out within 1 to 1 ½ hours. After a short wait, I was invited to go to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and book in so all looked promising.

Unfortunately, the first thing the nurse said to me was “Oh...you're not due until 2pm!!!” Arghh! I told her that I hoped that wasn't the case as I had queried the change of time when I received the second phone call. She asked me to take a seat and went off (presumably to ask someone) but when she came back to the floor, she did not come straight back to me so I texted Alan to let him know that I was waiting to find out about the time.

If she had come back and confirmed that they had made a mistake and I was not expected until 2pm I would have left and returned in 1½ hours, but they didn't.

Instead, when she did return to me she said that they were working on finding me a room and offered me a hot drink and the sandwich menu to choose from for after my surgery, so I, incorrectly, assumed that I had been booked for the earlier time and let Alan know.

I then waited until I was shown to a cubicle on the ward. A nurse came and took my blood pressure and oxygen levels and left me a gown, dressing gown and socks to put on prior to my op. She also told me that the surgeon would come and see me shortly. Sometime later he arrived, got me to sign a consent form and marked my left wrist with an arrow. Before he left, I asked him if I needed to change into my gown and he said not yet as it would be quite some time!!

After a while the nurse came back and asked me to get changed and gave me a hospital identity bracelet. She said that there were 2 other



patients before me but that the surgeon was very quick and based on the 20 minute timescale that I had been previously given I assumed that I would be seen within approximately 40 minutes and advised Alan the same.

Unfortunately, whilst trying to extend the parking time, my mobile phone threw a wobbly and decided to shut down completely leaving me unable to contact my husband to let him know to move the car or give him any further updates. Being worried, I explained to the nurses that my mobile had stopped working and I was unable to contact my husband and asked if I could phone him. I didn't know his mobile number off by heart but they had it on file and said that they would phone him and let him know on my behalf.

After a further wait of over 1½ hours I was eventually called to the theatre for my operation which took approximately 5 minutes after the anaesthetic.

Afterwards I was wheeled back to my cubicle and was brought a nice cup of tea and the Coronation Chicken sandwich that I had previously ordered which arrived on a plate cut into triangles with some side salad and a fork. (I must admit that I was expecting a packet sandwich!) I was still worried about the amount of time Alan had spent waiting downstairs and after getting dressed, I asked how soon I could leave. The nurse said she was just preparing my paperwork and she would be with me shortly. After having a sling fitted and being discharged, I went downstairs to find Alan but he was nowhere to be seen. After searching around, I turned towards the door and he appeared saying he had just had to move the car for the THIRD time and that as I hadn't responded to his texts that he had rung home to check that his phone was working OK. At this point I asked if he had received a call from the nurses station and he said NO!

So, although my operation was carried out successfully (Thank you NHS!) and I benefited from 2 nice cups of tea and a delicious sandwich, the wait time was unnecessarily much longer than expected and I was disappointed that I was not given correct

information regarding my appointment time and that Alan was not informed of the situation as was promised.

## **Children's Nativity Service at St Mary Magdalen Church**

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For the first time in three years we were able to hold the traditional Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve, Covid having restricted what we could do during the last two years.



The church was full of children and their parents with hardly a seat to spare.

The children acted out the traditional Christmas story with some of the adults assisting.

## **Foodbank at St Mary Magdalen Church**

The food bank is going from strength to strength it has literally tripled in size. We are helping at least 50 families some of which are very large and some are especially vulnerable. Due to some lovely volunteers these people are still able to get their food delivered. We have a few very faithful people that donate every month without fail, and without these we really wouldn't be able to keep going.

We are so grateful for anything we are given, however small, and there is nothing nicer than giving the occasional treat. With lots of donations of money and food we were able to make a lovely Christmas food parcel for each family with all the nice things like tubs of sweets, biscuits, cheese and crackers and much more. We were also able, with help from the family support, select a Christmas present for every child we support. I really have had my eyes opened everywhere and just love doing what we do. Thank you so much to all those volunteers that give their time and work so hard with me every week! You are absolutely brilliant.

Erica Verrall

### **Hire the church hall for your events**

The hourly rate is £18.00

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

Commercial Organisation rates are £25.00 per hour

Reducing to £18.00 after 4 hours

Telephone: Debbie Annells

07508 625 667

e-mail: [office4stmm55@btinternet.com](mailto:office4stmm55@btinternet.com)

# Christopher Stringer

## Funeral Directors

Christopher has been in the funeral profession for over 30 years, serving the local community of Rottingdean and beyond across Brighton & Hove. He is a committed Christian and a Church organist. He has a special understanding to the needs of fellow Christians.

Funerals can be arranged in the privacy of your own home.

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



**C.P.J. Field.**

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